



**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)<sup>1</sup>**  
**PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT**  
**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEFTF**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Project Title:</b> Governance Strengthening for the Management and Protection of Coastal- Marine Biodiversity in key ecological areas and the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)			
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Argentina	<b>GEF Project ID:<sup>2</sup></b>	5112
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	FAO	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	619220
<b>Other Executing Partner(s):</b>	Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS) and Federal Fisheries Council (FFC)	<b>Submission Date:</b>	15 January 2013
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b>	BD	<b>Project Duration (months):</b>	48 months
<b>Name of parent program (if applicable):</b> • For SFM <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Agency Fee:</b>	335,805

**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-1	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	Output 1.2. At least two (2) new protected areas with coverage of 1 to 1.5 million hectares (10,000 to 15,000km <sup>2</sup> ) of unprotected ecosystems.  Output 1.3: Two (2) Sustainable financing plans.	GEF TF	1,050,000	4,230,000
BD-2	Outcome 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation.	Output 2.2: Four (4) national and sub-national plans incorporating biodiversity and valuation services of ecosystems	GEF TF	1,717,786	10,216,463
BD-2	Outcome 2.2: Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulatory frameworks.	Output 2.1. Two (2) policies and regulatory frameworks for production sectors.	GEF TF	600,00	2,000,000
Subtotal				3,367,786	16,446,463
Project Management Cost <sup>4</sup>			GEFTF	167,000	1,366,743
<b>Total Project Cost</b>				<b>3,534,786</b>	<b>17,813,206</b>

**B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK**

**Project Objective:** To strengthen management capacities and protection of coastal-marine biodiversity in key ecological areas, by creating new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) including in existing management plans of MCPAs.

Project Component <sup>5</sup>	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing <sup>a</sup>

<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.

					(\$) a	(\$) b
1. Strengthening the governance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	TA	1.1 Improved management effectiveness of two new MPAs and transition zones established outside the 12 miles Territorial Waters zone conserving threatened marine ecosystems (Increase in protected area management effectiveness score as recorded by Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool –baseline and target to be set during full project preparation).	<p>1.1.1. One consolidated network of 5 research organizations, 6 governmental agencies and 2 NGOs with capacities enhanced and working together on sharing of scientific analysis on coastal marine biodiversity and threats to its conservation and best management practices for improved management effectiveness of MCPAs (Women representing at least 30% of participants)</p> <p>1.1.2 Two (2) new MPAs created, covering 1,000,000-1,500,000 hectares (10,000 to 15,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of previously unprotected marine ecosystems;</p> <p>1.1.3. Two (2) sustainable financing plans for the new MPAs, designed and implemented</p> <p>1.1.4. Two (2) Participatory Management Plans (PMPs), developed and implemented in 2 new MPAs. Each PMP includes a Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring Strategy (women representing at least 30% of participants).</p> <p>1.1.5. Harmonized regulatory framework for the management of MPAs and transition zones, with the participation of 5 governmental agencies (local, provincial and national), and 3 CSOs (women representing at least 30% of participants).</p>	GEFTF	1,000,000	4,080,000
2. Mainstreaming the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) into the regulatory frameworks and national policies for coastal and marine fisheries management.	TA	2.1 The normative framework and legislation that regulate the fishery sector have been harmonized under the EAF informed by suitable technical data and promote good fishery practices (i.e.: reducing specific inter- and intra- pressures on marine biodiversity and communities).	<p>2.1.1. The Federal Fisheries Council has improved its guidance to decision-makers on EAF implementation through a biennial report validated with local stakeholders and CSOs.</p> <p>2.1.2. Fifty (50) people from at least six (6) institutions (INIDEP<sup>6</sup>, PNA<sup>7</sup>, National Under-Secretariat of Fisheries and equivalent provincial authorities, and provincial environment agencies) have developed capacities in the practical implementation of EAF, with a gender perspective and involving young people and options for sustainable fisheries certification such as the MSC<sup>8</sup> Standard. (Women representing at least 30% of participants).</p> <p>2.1.3. EAF has been mainstreamed in the national and provincial normative frameworks and legislations that regulate the fishery sector (in the provinces involved in the project), with FAO technical support;</p>	GEFTF	2,267,786	12,066,463

<sup>6</sup> The National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development, INIDEP for its name in Spanish "Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero"

<sup>7</sup> The National Naval Prefecture, PNA for its name in Spanish "Prefectura Naval Argentina"

<sup>8</sup> Marine Steward Council Fisheries Standard

		<p>2.2 EAF has been mainstreamed into fishery management plans covering 150,000-300,000 ha of production seascapes of the Argentine Sea</p> <p>2.3 Control and surveillance mechanisms, have been strengthened</p>	<p>2.1.4. One (1) monitoring and evaluation system of the progress in and outcomes and impacts of the implementation of the EAF in the Argentine Sea area operating providing systematic feedback and resulting in continuous improvements in EAF policies, plans, and techniques and adaptive management in key biodiversity and fisheries areas</p> <p>2.2.1. EAF tested in at least one (1) selected area, along with INIDEP and fisheries stakeholders (private sector, institutions, academia, and scientific sector). Each pilot case has generated 4 sub-products:  i) One (1) EAF Management and Action Plan agreed, implemented, and validated through a participatory process;  ii) Three (3) tested capture methods, fishing techniques, or selectivity devices, that minimize the impact on non-target species, validated through a consensual and participatory process;  iii) Assessment of options and incentives for sustainable fisheries certification such as the MSC Standard  iv) One (1) monitoring system of the outcomes of the implementation of the EAF Management Plan including indicators capturing interactions between biodiversity and fisheries.</p> <p>2.2.2 National evaluation that assessed: i) the efficiency of fishing techniques and selectivity devices; ii) the mitigation of impacts of these techniques and devices on un-intended by-catch species; iii) the inclusion of recommended actions for EAF implementation in the Argentine Sea. Findings of the evaluation have been mainstreamed into the inter-institutional management mechanisms for the fishery sector in the Argentine Sea.</p> <p>2.3.1. Fishery-related implementation authorities (National Under-Secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, provincial fisheries agencies) have improved capacities in management, control and surveillance mechanisms (satellite system, landing controls)</p>			
3. Project progress monitoring and information dissemination	TA	3.1 Project implementation based on results-based management and application of project findings and lessons learned in future operations, facilitated	<p>3.1.1 Project monitoring system operating providing systematic on-progress information related to project outcome and output targets</p> <p>3.1.2 Mid-term and final evaluation conducted and project implementation and sustainability strategy adjusted to recommendations</p>	GEFTF	100,000	300,000

		3.1.3 Project-related “best-practices” and “lessons-learned”, published			
		3.1.4 Website to share the experience and information dissemination.			
Sub-total				3,367,786	16,446,463
Project Management Cost			GEFTF	167,000	1,366,743
<b>Total Project Costs</b>				<b>3,534,786</b>	<b>17,813,206</b>

### 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	Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS)	In-kind	820,824
National Government	Argentinean Naval Prefecture (PNA)	In-kind	572,082
National Government	National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP)	In-kind	2,623,074
National Government	National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP)	grant	2,000,000
National Government	National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET)	In-kind	915,332
National Government	National Sub-Secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture	In-kind	324,027
National Government	National Park Administration (APN)	In-kind	76,888
Local Government	Fisheries and Environment Provincial Agencies	In-kind	2,378,833
Local Government	Fisheries and Environment Provincial Agencies	Grant	600,000
Others	Federal Fisheries Council (CFP)	Grant	600,000
Others	University of Buenos Aires/ University of La Plata	In-kind	154,737
National Government	National School of Fisheries - Argentinean Navy	In-kind	114,416
Private Sector	Fishing enterprises	Grant	5,598,810
Private Sector	Fisheries, Transport and Tourism enterprises	In-kind	100,066
Private Sector	Fisheries Transport and Tourism enterprises	Grant	83,000
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Grant	651,117
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	In-kind	200,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>17,813,206</b>

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

<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:**

The proposed project is consistent with the GEF Biodiversity focal area strategy objective 1 and 2.

Component 1 will address the Objective BD-1 Outcome 1.1 (*Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas*) by supporting the creation of 2 new MPAs (including their sustainable financing plans and participatory management plans) securing the coverage of marine ecosystems outside the 12 miles Territorial Waters Zone not currently covered in the Patagonia region under the existing MCPAs which are all established within the 12 miles Territorial Waters Zone. These areas identified for conservation are not only important for marine mammals and birds biodiversity but also for conservation of ecosystems important for fisheries resources and are as such linked to the activities of component 2 of the proposed project. Further, at the MPA network level the project will support capacity building of all partners, including research institutions, on sharing of and improving scientific analysis on marine biodiversity and threats to its conservation as well as best management practices for improved management effectiveness of MPAs. Finally,

the project will support the harmonization of regulatory frameworks for the management of MPAs and transition zones outside the Territorial Waters Zone between the national, provincial and local levels.

Component 2 will be focused on Objective BD-2 (*“Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors”*), outcome BD-2.1 (*“Increase in sustainably managed seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation”*) and outcome BD-2.2 (*“Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulatory frameworks”*) by mainstreaming the EAF into the regulatory frameworks and national policies for coastal and marine fisheries management, and into the fishery management plans covering 150,000-300,000 ha. of seascapes in the Argentine Sea. The EAF Management and Action Plan will include biodiversity friendly capture methods, fishing techniques, or selectivity devices that minimize the impact on non-target species. An assessment of options and incentives for sustainable fisheries certification such as the MSC Standard will also be supported to sustain the EAF management approach in the medium and long term through added market value for biodiversity conservation efforts. Likewise the EAF mainstreaming will be sustained through enhanced capacities in fishery authorities (National Under-Secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, provincial fisheries agencies) in management, control and surveillance mechanisms and instruments (satellite system, landing controls).

#### **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.:**

The project proposal is consistent with the Fourth National Report (FNR) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), submitted by the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS) in August 2010. The project is aligned with the FNR priorities as follows:

- Key biodiversity areas are protected (Goal 1.2). Component 1 will enhance the governance and management of threatened marine ecosystems in the Argentine Sea not currently included protected.
- The rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats has been reduced (Goal 5.1). Component 1 is proposed to create 2 new MPAs to conserve unprotected ecosystems in the Argentine Sea.

The project is also consistent with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) that contains the priorities identified by Argentina in the framework of its obligations to the CBD (Resolution 91/03), in particular with the following sections:

- Section 1: Objective 1 (*to establish a political-institutional framework that enables and enhances the conservation of biological diversity, and to ensure sustainable biodiversity uses, on the basis of provinces' competences over natural resources, as well as of existing regulations and policies*); and Objective 2 (*to issue and adequate national and provincial normative in order to implement effectively the Convention on Biological Diversity*);
- Section 2: Objective 3 (*to promote strategic planning processes at regional level<sup>9</sup> to achieve sustainable use and preservation of biodiversity in aquatic environments*). Strategic Orientations 3.4 (*to improve fisheries management systems in marine and freshwater aquatic environments, on the basis of resource conservation and sustainability of the exploitation modalities*), and 3.5 (*to promote the integrated management of coastal areas*);
- Section 3: Objective 4 (*to plan the integrated management of coastal and marine areas*); Strategic Orientations 4.1 (*to prioritize knowledge development in coastal and marine areas*), and 4.2 (*to implement management plans in these areas*);
- Section 5 (*Increasing knowledge on biological diversity*): Objective 3 (*to improve management capacity and to establish a broad dialogue with diverse funding sources - to set support mechanisms to research and knowledge management for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use*), Objective 6 (*to develop and promote research and work lines tending to update and complete biotic resources inventory and comprehension, and to determine and monitor their use and conservation*). Strategic guidelines 6.4 (*to establish monitoring systems for tracking, early detection of problems, and prediction of biodiversity components evolution*);

The project is also in line with national legislation as detailed below:

- The Act 24375 (CBD Ratification), enforced by the Regulatory Decree 1347/1997 that created the National Advisory Commission for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity

<sup>9</sup> “Regional” is referred to regions that are defined by ecological criteria in the country (ecoregions, watershed units, among others)

(CONADIBIO). CONADIBIO's mission is "to establish mechanisms that facilitate the adequate participation of governmental and non-governmental organizations, whose skills or actions are directly related to the environment and the economic and social variables" CONADIBIO also contributes to the implementation of the Coastal Marine Ecosystem Approach (CMEA) "by itself and through plans and national programs for the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity".

- The Act 22344 (Ratification of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora); Act 22584 (Ratification of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources - CCAMLR); Act 23918 (Ratification of the Convention on Migratory Species-CMS);
- The Act 26107 (Ratification of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels), which seeks to coordinate actions to avoid incidental catch in longline fisheries. It aims at obtaining reliable data to determine the nature and extent of interactions of birds marine with fisheries, and minimize incidental lethal and nonlethal catch of marine birds;
- The Act 26600 (Ratification of the Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles), based on FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries that recognizes that sea turtles migrate over extensive marine areas and their protection and conservation require cooperation and coordination between States within the distribution area of such species, and urges for taking measures to protect and conserve marine turtles and their habitats.

The project is also consistent with national normative established by the Federal Fisheries Council (FFP):

- The National Action Plan to prevent, discourage and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU PAN) (Resolution FFP 8/2007);
- The National Action Plan for the conservation and management of *chondrichthyes* (sharks, rays and chimaeras);
- The National Action Plan to reduce bird interaction with fisheries (Res FFP 3/2010).

At regional level, the proposed project will be in line with the Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) that intends to: a) *Promote and support the joint development of biodiversity stocktaking, seeking to reconcile and assess systematically the methodologies adopted for its implementation such as structuring a coordinated system of records of species, with special emphasis on endemic species and on those which are threatened or endangered and on invasive exotic species, especially in border areas and shared ecosystems*". States Parties are committed to encourage "the development of instruments and the establishment of joint measures in order to promote the recovery of degraded ecosystems and biodiversity components, particularly the shared ones."

## **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

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

Argentina is the eighth largest country in the world by extension (2,780,400 km<sup>2</sup>), and has a population of 40,117,096 people (Census 2010). It is organized as a federal, representative and republican system of government with the territory divided in 23 provinces and one autonomous city: Buenos Aires. Its 5,117 km long Atlantic Sea coastline goes through 5 provinces: Buenos Aires, Rio Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz, and Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Atlántico Sur. The eco-region "Argentine Sea" is the sea within the continental shelf off the Argentine mainland. It is located in the South Atlantic Ocean extending from the approximate latitude of Montevideo, Uruguay, southward to Tierra del Fuego to about 800 km north of Antarctica. The Argentine Sea has a surface of 1,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is one of the largest seas in the world. It is composed of: i) a coastal or littoral area including fluvial littoral zones (in the Rio de la Plata) and sea littoral zones (Atlantic Ocean); and ii) an external or Atlantic Ocean shelf.

The coastal area extends south of the Colorado River, and is influenced by strong maritime currents. Its sedimentary dynamics contributes to the presence of rich marine biodiversity. The Atlantic Ocean sub-region is influenced by the confluence of the warm current from Brazil and the cold current from Malvinas Islands (which are the border with the South Atlantic Ocean basin). The Confluence of the warm and cold stream causes the lower waters to flow towards the surface with tons of nutrient which allows for the development of phytoplankton, zooplankton, and algae organism in the warmer surface water serving as the first link in the food chain for a rich biodiversity of larger animals. As such, the large marine ecosystem of the Patagonian

shelf features favorable conditions to house highly biodiverse ecosystems, including also cold water corals, with one of the highest biological productivity in the world. It has global important breeding, feeding and reproduction areas for a variety of species of which some are globally threatened including birds (i.a. black-necked and grey cormorants, Giant Petrel, Magellan penguin, Southern Rock hopper Penguin), fish (i.a. white salmon, Patagonian and black toothfishes), sea turtles (three of the world's seven species of sea turtles are nesting in the Argentinean coast) and marine mammals (i.a. orcas, dark dolphin, Southern Right Whales, South American fur seal, Elephant Seal) of which some are migratory coming from distant areas. Marine biodiversity is composed of over 200,000 species, mostly invertebrates and planktonic organisms. In the coastal areas of Chubut, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Atlántico Sur, marine vegetation is highly developed, forming sea grass beds made of a wide variety of green, red and brown algae - lying on the bottom of the sea. The high concentration of phytoplankton and zooplankton also results in an important high productivity of fishery resources including an estimated 450 fish species, of which 60 are relatively common and 40 are commercially fished but with only 7 representing over 70% of the total catch<sup>10</sup>.

### **Biodiversity threats**

**Conservation gaps.** Even though Argentina has made significant progress in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems the last decades IUCN estimates in its Red Book of Endangered Species, 2006, that out of some 100 species evaluated in the area of the Argentine Sea 40 are under some form of threat according to the IUCN criteria. Out of the 38 protected areas, included in the Federal System of Natural Protected Areas (SIFAP)<sup>11</sup> covering 3,683,995 hectares, only 4 covering 208,000 hectares are marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs). In addition to these MCPAs there are 34 provincial MCPAs and 5 municipal MCPAs covering an additional 1,406,033 hectares. Two completed projects, supported by GEF (ID 459) and IBRD *Coastal Contamination Prevention and Sustainable Fisheries Management* (concluded in 2008) and GEF (ID 205) and UNDP *Consolidation and Implementation of the Patagonia Coastal Zone Management Programme for Biodiversity Conservation* (concluded in 2009), have made important progress in strengthening institutional aspects of the effectiveness of the MCPA network. However, the management effectiveness of the provincial MCPAs is varying and many still lack management plans involving in particular the fisheries sector benefiting from the MCPAs and/or operating in the buffer zones causing threats to the coastal marine biodiversity. The GEF (ID 459) and IBRD supported project also identified important conservation gaps in the MCPA network. Among other gaps, Argentina has not yet established any marine protected areas outside the 12 miles Territorial Waters Zone leaving the large marine ecosystem of the Patagonian shelf crucial for the sustainability of fisheries resources and global important marine biodiversity, including migratory species unprotected.

**Unsustainable fisheries.** The existing MCPA buffer zones and the Argentinean coastal marine areas in general are affected by four main sectors impacting on coastal marine biodiversity namely; fisheries, marine transport, hydrocarbon and tourism cruise ship sectors. In particular the fisheries sector, which is an important export sector in the Argentinean economy<sup>12</sup>, depend on and impact coastal marine biodiversity mainly because of overfishing, un-intended impacts on seabirds and mammals, and discharge of un-intended by-catch of juvenile of commercial species and other species important in the marine food-chain undermining future fisheries resources and biodiversity. Fishing activities are developed in 2 types of environment: i) *coastal*, affected by coastal dynamic and river mouths, and ii) *marine*, where deep sea fishing is practiced by medium and large enterprises. Currently 740 vessels have a national fishery permit and in addition come the vessels with only a provincial permit. Despite the rich diversity in fish species the Argentinean fisheries is concentrated on few species<sup>13</sup> some of which (the hake) are under an allocation of individual quota management system established after the risk of collapse of the commercial species in the nineties where the number of vessels where drastically increased (by 108% between 1990 and 1995) to the current capacity. However, even though the quota allocation system, supported by satellite surveillance and areas with closures, seems to be recuperating the captures, the sustainability of this capture and the fish stock as such is still questionable since at the same time the percentage of juvenile hake in the captures has gone up to between 35-40 %. This could indicate that the gain is only short term. The overall increase in fishing effort has not only jeopardized the main commercial species, but also others such as corvina and cartilaginous fish (rays), all of which shows clear signs of decline. Further, by-catch (estimated to 25-30% of the catch in Argentinean fisheries) constitutes a concrete threat to the structure, function and services of marine biodiversity. The shrimp trawl fisheries

<sup>10</sup> Map III "Joint regional fisheries in the Atlantic Coast, Argentine Sea" (Annex I of this PIF) illustrates the different ecosystems and related joint regional fisheries, based on the report "Ecosystems in Argentine Sea, sectors and joint regional fisheries" (INIDEP, 2001)

<sup>11</sup> Including National Parks (NPs), Strict Natural Reserves, and Natural Monuments

<sup>12</sup> Annual export value of fisheries products was USD 1.3 billion from 561 tons of fish in 2008

<sup>13</sup> The fish species Argentinean hake, Southern blue whiting, and Pollock represents 57% of total captures and Squid represent 26%

recorded the highest rates of by-catch, with a significant impact on juvenile hake, other juveniles and invertebrates. Finally, the increase in fisheries in particular in the Patagonian region has increased the interaction with marine mammals and birds. Under the above mentioned completed GEF (ID 459) and IBRD supported project a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the fisheries sector were conducted a strategic action plan were prepared which recommended integrated actions in fisheries management moving from a species-by-species conservation approach to a more ecosystem based approach integrating in particular the role of MCPAs in fisheries management and conservation of marine biodiversity. However, this strategic action plan yet has to be implemented. Further, the project established an information systems on marine biodiversity and mapping of environmental sensitive areas improving the information base for decision making in biodiversity conservation and fisheries management.

### Baseline projects and initiatives

The SIFAP is managed by an Executive Committee composed of 6 provincial representatives (one for each region of the Federal Environment Council -COFEMA) elected by the Assembly, one representative of the National Parks Administration (APN) and one representative of the National Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS). The PAs included in the SIFAP are managed by the National Government, independently of their geographic location while Provincial Reserves are areas under provincial jurisdiction and administration. In addition to national and provincial MCPAs both the national and provincial governments have declared non-fishing areas (NFAs) within which strict protection of species and sustainable management of some resources under exploitation are imposed. In addition, the Federal Fisheries Council (FFC) has created an area of total fishing ban in the Burdwood Bank south of the Malvinas Islands, in order to protect the integrity of benthic vulnerable ecosystems, such as cold water corals<sup>14</sup>. To address marine ecosystems conservation gaps, recently the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina has initiated the processing of the Bill creating the "Marine Protected Area Namuncurá Bank - Burdwood", which will be the first MPA in the South Atlantic Ocean in the Exclusive Economic zone of Argentina. The MPA will be established in accordance with the provisions of Section 56 1a) and 1b) II and III, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, adopted by Argentinean Law 24,543.<sup>15</sup> The bank interrupts the flow of water from the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, generating a high concentration of nutrients, high productivity and the presence of endemic benthic species. The area is therefore of particularly importance for the conservation and study of the biodiversity of the seabed of the Continental Shelf. This is an important part of the baseline for the proposed project component 1. To address other urgent conservation need of particular threatened marine species the SAyDS has taken the lead on the preparation of the *Conservation Plan for Giant Petrel Specie* (to start implementation in late 2012) and the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Marine Mammals* (which will be implemented from early 2013). Both these initiatives will complement component 1 of the proposed project. The former will provide enhanced knowledge about the distribution, breeding and feeding sites of bird species to identify marine areas of biodiversity importance, and conservation needs. The latter will be setting an institutional and normative framework for managing marine and coastal ecosystems.

INIEP has also budgeted funds for the next year for the provision of technical and scientific assistance to the fisheries authorities in the state of exploration and management alternatives of fisheries resources amounting to USD 2 623 000 for the southern fisheries resources for the next 5 years. This baseline initiative is an important baseline providing scientific data and technical analysis of fisheries resources both for component 1 activities improving fisheries conservation objectives and measures of the two new MPAs as well as for component 2 activities preparing EAF strategies and mainstreaming in policies and local EAF Management and Action Plans

To address the threats from unsustainable fisheries the fisheries regulatory and management framework has been organized by the Federal Fisheries Regime, which includes the Federal Fisheries Council (FFC) and the National Fisheries Fund (FO.NA.PE). The FFC is integrated by: a) One representative from each coastline province, b) the National Under-Secretariat of Fisheries, c) one representative from the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS), d) one representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, and e) 2 representatives appointed by the National Executive. The functions of the FFC are to determine: i) the national fishery policy; ii) the policy for fishery research; iii) the total allowed catch by species, considering the maximum sustainable yield of each as set by the INIDEP; iv) the annual catch quotas per vessel, by species, by fishing area and by type of fleet; and v) the national fisheries development plan. This federal framework, implemented by Act 24.922, establishes the regulatory framework

<sup>14</sup> CFP Act 18/2008 and Disposition of SSPyA 250/2008.

<sup>15</sup> The Convention establishes the "Rights, jurisdiction and duties of the coastal State in the exclusive economic zone", including "conservation and management of natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters, superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and subsoil of the sea, marine scientific research and conservation of the marine environment".



for fisheries management. FO.NA.PE has been established to finance, among other needs, capacity building of staff working in public and private fisheries sector. An estimated USD 600 000 will be provided from this baseline initiative to support the capacity building in EAF under component 2 of the proposed project. To further address the threats on biodiversity from unsustainable fisheries the INIDEP has taken the lead on preparing a number of action plans which will be implemented over the coming years constituting a solid baseline for the proposed project component 2. These include: a) The *Plan to Reduce Mammal Interaction with Fisheries* (to start implementation in late 2012) which will identify ecologically important sites to implement both the Plan's and the proposed project activities regarding species conservation and protection. This Plan is based on the EAF that recommends limiting fisheries/wildlife interactions to a minimum; b) The *National Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Chondrichthyans* (USD 100 000 per year), is already under implementation. The Plan is based on the EAF that recommends limiting fisheries/*Chondrichthyan* interactions to a minimum; and c) The *National Action Plan to Reduce the Interaction of Birds with Fisheries* (USD 100 000 per year), which is also already ongoing and will identify ecological areas of biodiversity importance and implement measures to limit bird/fisheries interactions applying the EAF. In addition to these action plans INIDEP baseline initiatives also include the *National Fisheries Census 2012*. INDEC<sup>16</sup> and National Under-Secretariat of Fisheries are collecting data of all fishery facilities engaged in extraction or processing of activities. The Census will provide economical, social and gender information that will be baseline for preparing and implementing the EAF Plan proposed in Component 2. Finally, the baseline for component 2 includes the USD 651 000 FAO supported project *support for the Fisheries Federal Council for the formulation of the policy of fisheries research and its technological application in the fisheries* (UTF/ARG/018/ARG, FAO) (see description in section C.1).

#### **Barriers in the baseline scenario that the project will seek to address**

**a) Conservation gaps and barriers for management effectiveness of MCPA:** The MCPA network is still not covering all types of ecosystems and habitats for global important marine species. In particular no oceanic park exists. Most MCPAs are established under provincial governments to create areas where marine mammals and sea birds can breed, feed and rest. Even though, the MCPAs have a medium level of management the increasing pressure from in particular fisheries activities in the buffer zones (i.e.: coastal-land and coastal-marine habitats) without surveillance is demonstrating<sup>17</sup> that the MCPAs by their own will not suffice to recover or maintain biodiversity and sustain fisheries. The lack of participatory management plans for the MCPAs involving the fisheries sector operating in the buffer zones have become a more important barrier for the management effectiveness of MCPAs. Further, the lack of an integrated approach for research projects does not allow for an ecosystem approach to the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the management plans for MCPAs and their buffer zones. In particular the knowledge on the wider marine shelf, the continental slope and adjacent areas is fragmented and limited while coastal ecosystems are more covered. The lack of scientific information is preventing scientifically supported decision-making in particular for fisheries management in the MCPA buffer zones.

**b) Barriers for sustainable fisheries management:** The species-by-species approach for the management of commercial important fish stocks has shown limitations in achieving medium and long-term sustainability in the recovery of fish stocks and reducing fishing efforts. There is a lack of a direct economic valuation method for the impacts caused by the "recruitment overfishing", discards and by-catch, at the ecosystem level undermining the medium and long-term sustainability of the sector and conservation of marine biodiversity. In general the species-by-species fisheries management approach based on allocation of quotas is well understood and implemented in Argentina but actors at all levels and in the private as well as the public sectors lack capacities and knowledge in the ecosystem implications of fisheries management preventing the transformation of the fisheries management to a more long term sustainable EAF. There is a need to develop and pilot EAF management and action plans and establish a monitoring and learning system to support further up scaling and mainstreaming of the approach and biodiversity friendly fishing techniques in fisheries policies, regulations and management. Finally, the lack of positive incentives, such as added market value, for sustainable fisheries (complementing surveillance and control measures of compliance with regulations) is preventing fishing companies active participation in EAF management.

**d) Policy and regulatory barriers:** Coastal natural resources are managed by provincial governments, while marine natural resources are under responsibility of the national government. In addition, there is a lack of Minimum Environmental Standards for coastal-marine protection, a poor harmonization of regulatory and legal frameworks between the national and the provincial level, and a poor inter-institutional coordination. The

<sup>16</sup> National Institute of Statistics and Censuses

<sup>17</sup> As analyzed by Lubchenco et al., 2003, Hilborn et al., 2004, Sale et al., 2005; Pauly, 2008.

absence of inter-linkages between sectorial regulations increments the threats generated by economic sectors operating in the coastal marine environment and increases conflict of interests resulting from contradictory space uses. These policy and regulations harmonization and coordination issues affect the management effectiveness of the existing MCPAs in particular in relation to the fisheries sector as well as the possibility of establishing the EAF for fisheries management. Although the Federal Fisheries Law has created the FFC, in some cases there is still a lack of an inter-jurisdictional integrating system for initiatives. There is a need of strengthening political agreements between national and provincial authorities, to apply a set of technical tools and human resources that cover the whole territory in the management of the fisheries sector and its impact on biodiversity conservation.

**B. 2. INCREMENTAL REASONING: DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL ACTIVITIES REQUESTED FOR GEF FINANCING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT:**

The objective of the proposed project is to: To strengthen management capacities and protection of coastal-marine biodiversity in key ecological areas, by creating new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) including in existing management plans of MCPAs.

The incremental activities to be financed by GEF resources and project co-financing have been grouped into two technical components and a project progress monitoring and information dissemination component as follows:

**Component 1: Strengthening the governance of Marine & Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs)**

The incremental activities to be financed under this component will include support to the creation of two new MPA securing the coverage of marine ecosystems not currently covered in the Patagonia region outside the 12 miles Territorial Waters Zone. One of the new MPAs will be Argentina's first oceanic park to be established in the Burdwood Bank in the Exclusive Economic Zone. The other marine area for conservation will be identified during the full project preparation. The GEF resources will be incremental to the baseline investments in establishing the parks by financing the preparation and initial implementation of their sustainable financing plans and participatory management plans to conserve LME global important biodiversity. Beyond maintaining essential ecological processes and conserving biodiversity, protected ocean areas are sites of excellence for trial research and permanent monitoring. The results of these investigations can be transferred to biodiversity management and technology development. The absence of human activities converts them in controlled areas, enabling comparison with areas subjected to disturbance. Further, at the MCPA network level the project will support enhancement of management plans for existing MCPAs in the Patagonia region with specific emphasis on the management of the buffer zones with the participation of the fisheries sector operating in and using biodiversity services of these areas. These activities and the support to the management of the new MPAs will be incremental to specific species conservation strategies lead by the SAyDS and the MPCA management undertaken by the NPA mentioned under the baseline projects and initiatives above. The co-financing contribution including also staff time and travel will be USD 820 824 from SAyDS, USD 76 888 from NAP, and USD 2 000 000 from INIDEP.

To address scientific knowledge gaps in particular on marine biodiversity and ecosystems the project will support an increased networking and capacity building of all partners, including science institutions, on sharing of scientific analysis on coastal marine biodiversity and threats to its conservation as well as best management practices for improved management effectiveness of MPAs. These activities will be incremental to the baseline scenario in coordination, systematizing and facilitating an effective use of the on-going disperse scientific research making sure that knowledge gaps are filled and the research is supporting decision-making in MPCA management. The activities will be co-financed by research institutions with an indicative amount of USD 1 000 000.

Finally, the project will support the harmonization of regulatory frameworks for the management of MPAs and transition zones between the national, provincial and local levels.

**Component 2: Mainstreaming the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)<sup>18</sup> into the regulatory frameworks and national policies for coastal and marine fisheries management.**

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<sup>18</sup> The overarching principles of EAF are an extension of the conventional principles for sustainable fisheries development to cover the ecosystem as a whole. They aim to ensure that, despite variability, uncertainty and likely natural changes in the ecosystem, the capacity of the aquatic ecosystems to produce fish food, revenues, employment and, more generally, other essential services and livelihood, is maintained indefinitely for the benefit of the present and future generations. The FAO Technical Guidelines on the ecosystem approach to fisheries (FAO 2003) define EAF as follows: "An ecosystem approach to fisheries strives to balance diverse societal objectives, by taking into account the knowledge and uncertainties about biotic,

The incremental activities to be financed under this component will include support for mainstreaming the EAF into the regulatory frameworks and national policies for coastal and marine fisheries management, and into the fishery management plans covering 150,000 - 300,000 ha of seascapes in the Argentine Sea. To support the mainstreaming in regulatory framework and policy framework a Consultative Technical Commission for Fishery Policy Orientation will be created to advise decision-makers on adjustments and updating of national and provincial normative frameworks in order to mainstream the EAF implementation and selection of areas for EAF implementation in consultation with local stakeholders. The mainstreaming work and the activities on monitoring the progress in EAF implementation and national assessments mentioned below will be co-financed with indicative amounts of USD 2 600 000 from the INIDEP and USD 324 027 from the National Sub-Secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Further, technical staff from national and provincial fisheries authorities will be trained in: a) the steps and processes involved in implementing the EAF approach; b) options for sustainable fisheries certification such as the MSC Standard; and c) management, control and surveillance mechanisms and tools (satellite system, landing controls). The Federal Fisheries Council (through FO.NA.PE) will provide USD 600 000 in indicative co-financing of these training and capacity building activities.

The EAF Management and Action Plan will include biodiversity friendly capture methods, fishing techniques, or selectivity devices that minimize the impact on non-target species. An assessment of options and incentives for sustainable fisheries certification such as the MSC Standard will also be supported to sustain the EAF management approach at the medium and long term through added market value for biodiversity conservation efforts. The pilot areas for the implementation of EAF management and action plans might be implemented in gulf ecosystems (San Matías, San Jorge, Golfo Nuevo) and continental slope, to be confirmed during the full project preparation. Private fisheries enterprises participating in the implementation of the EAF management and Action plans will provide an indicative amount of USD 5 598 810 in co-financing from the use of coastal and marine fishing vessels participating in project activities

Further to capacity building of fisheries authorities the EAF mainstreaming will be sustained through: a) the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system of the progress in and outcomes and impacts of the implementation of the EAF in the Argentine Sea area providing systematic feedback allowing for continuous improvements in EAF policies, plans, and techniques and adaptive management in key biodiversity and fisheries areas; and b) a national evaluation that assessed: i) the efficiency of fishing techniques and selectivity devices; ii) the mitigation of impacts of these techniques and devices on un-intended by-catch species; iii) the inclusion of recommended actions for EAF implementation in the Argentine Sea.

The incremental activities supported in this component facilitating a transformation from a mainly species-by-species approach to fisheries management to a EAF approach will be complementary to and coordinated with the action plans lead by INIDEP, mentioned under baseline initiatives and project above, for improving fisheries interaction with important marine species.

The Fisheries and Environmental Provincial Agencies of the five coastal provinces will also support component 2 with a total indicative co-financing of USD 3 000 000.

The proposed project will through its two technical components in particular built new capacities in the management of Oceanic MPAs which has not been done previously in Argentina and in EAF, which has only been piloted so far in Argentina. The built capacities will be sustained through the ownership of SAyDA and the Federal Fisheries Council of the project, which has been jointly proposed by these two important institutions for the conservation of marine biodiversity and fisheries management. Further, the capacities will be sustained through the participation in capacity building activities of research institutions, the private fisheries sector and NGOs which are not impacted by staff changes with changes in governments. Finally, the built capacities will be sustained by government resources also providing important co-financing to the proposed project.

**Expected Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs):** The proposed project will generate the following GEBs: i) reduced direct pressures on coastal marine biodiversity from the fisheries sector and increased sustainable use<sup>19</sup>; ii) fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants sustainably managed and harvested<sup>20</sup>; iii) a legal supported and applied ecosystem approach, that avoid overfishing and adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems initially in 150,000-300,000 ha; v) 1,000,000-1,500,000 ha. of marine areas outside

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*abiotic and human components of ecosystems and their interactions and applying an integrated approach to fisheries within ecologically meaningful boundaries"* (Source: FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, <http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/13261/en>).

<sup>19</sup> In line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Strategic Goal B)

<sup>20</sup> Following the Aichi Targets (Target 6)

the Territorial Waters Zone of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services under conservation and effective management; vi) the MPCA network strengthened in relation to interaction with the fisheries sector resulting in the adoption of sector targeted conservation measures and MPCA integrated into the wider seascape<sup>21</sup>; vii) more resilient marine ecosystems through the implementation of the EAF and conservation measures in two new MPAs; viii) lessons learned, risk analysis and good practices that might be included in the regional strategy of MERCOSUR, reducing the vulnerability of Southern Cone marine and coastal ecosystems; ix) ecosystems services restored in systems previously mismanaged or overexploited.

**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."**:

Many sectors of local population living in the coastline of the five provinces are dedicated to tourism<sup>22</sup> (receptive tourism, eco-tourism in national parks and protected areas of Patagonia). Therefore, the creation of two new MPAs outside the 12 miles Territorial Waters Zone and the improved conservation and sustainable management of MCPAs and buffer zones in relation to the fisheries sector will generate socio-economic benefits and jobs generation in small- and medium-scale local initiatives. They will also provide socio-cultural benefits related to leisure, recreation and outdoor spare time.

Implementing the EAF and enhancing governance of the fisheries sector will produce socio-economic benefits in the fisheries sector by generating fewer uncertainties, scenarios of consensus with the business sector, greater predictability for the operation of fleets and processing plants on land. It is important since the fishery sector is bringing huge revenues to local economies: in 2010, 750,526 tons of national fishery products were traded in the Argentine Sea ports, and the sectorial exports reached 456,000 tons, corresponding to USD 1 321 million.

The project will pay special attention to women and youth participation in all components implementation. Women and young people play an important role in tourism and “marine wildlife watching<sup>23</sup>” activities offered to visitors. Women are also employed by formal and small-scale fisheries processing plants. The project will involve them in the participatory processes based on a gender equality principle. At decisional levels, women have managerial roles related to fisheries activities in local, provincial and national institutions, research centers and NGOs. Their participation in training and consensus processes will be ensured by the 30%-rule detailed in Table B above.

**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:**

See below the risks and mitigation actions detected. Further detailed risk analysis will be conducted during full project preparation:

RISK	PROBABILITY	MITIGATION ACTIONS
Difficulties in conciliating multiple stakeholders’ objectives in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)	Medium	Participatory and consensus processes made with negotiation and mediation experts to develop the EAF. Participation of stakeholders from all sectors. Identification of activities features, effects and potential interactions between activities. Overcoming geographical and political barriers (see B1). Providing regulatory frameworks, management tools and funding their implementation.
Lack of access to necessary information	Low	The consensus process and the agreement on pre-established inter-agency interactions generate parties’ commitment for information-sharing and integrated research work.
Stakeholders geographical dispersion reduce their effective engagement	High	Consensus and awareness-raising workshops will be held in the provinces and will involve multiple stakeholders since the beginning of the project

<sup>21</sup> Following the Aichi Targets (Target 11)

<sup>22</sup> “In 2010, receptive tourism in Argentina generated revenues by USD 4.752 million, equivalent to 6.6% of the total earnings of national exports of goods and services that year. 50% of visitors were on holiday and nearly 30% of tourists chose natural environment areas” (Source: Federal Tourism Plan Argentina 2016).

<sup>23</sup> Such as whale watching in Peninsula Valdes (World Heritage site by UNESCO)

RISK	PROBABILITY	MITIGATION ACTIONS
		implementation. This action will support stakeholder's mobility while reducing geographical barriers.
Lack of coherence between ecosystems borders and jurisdictional organization	High	Consensus and awareness-raising workshops in the beginning of the project implementation. Creation of a Consultative Technical Commission for Fishery Policy Orientation (see Table B) will facilitate coordination and will help select areas to apply EAF along with stakeholders.
Lack of funding resources to implement EAF actions	Medium	Engagement mechanisms among stakeholders to generate a fund that will support EAF objectives after project implementation will end. Inspection charges, additional taxes and trust funds setting will be assessed as pathways during the full project preparation.
Climate change negative impacts on LME biodiversity and fisheries resources. Data and scenario analysis on future climate change impacts on the Patagonian shelf and coastal areas are still poor. However, there are indications that the temperature increase happens a lot faster close to the poles than elsewhere and it may cause changes in the Atlantic Currents which again may reinforce changes in sea temperatures and precipitation with important impacts on LME ecosystems and biodiversity.	Medium	Climate change impact scenarios for the Patagonian shelf and coastal areas will be improved through project output 1.1.1 and mitigation measures will be incorporated in the MPA management plans output 1.1.4 and the EAF Management and Action Plans output 2.2.1

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

The lead executing partners will be the SAYDS (Working Group on Aquatic Resources) in close coordination with the Federal Fisheries Council as co-executing partner. FAO will participate as the GEF implementing agency. In addition, the provincial governments of Buenos Aires, Rio Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz, and Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Atlántico Sur will play a key role in the project implementation at local levels. At sectorial level, the project will involve the fisheries and environment institutions of the National Government (Under-Secretariat of Fisheries, National Parks Administration, SENASA), the five provinces, and federal committees (COFEMA, CONADIBIO). Last but not least, national scientific and technical institutions - INIDEP, CONICET, the Argentine Institute of Oceanography (IADO), the National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE), the Argentine Centre of Oceanographic Data (CEADO), the Research Centre of the Sea and Atmosphere (CIMA), the National Commission on Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf (COPLA), the National Antarctic Directorate (DNA), the Argentine Antarctic Institute (IAA) - and regional centres - the Institute of Marine Biology and Fisheries Almirante Storni (IBMyP), CENPAT, CADIC) - will provide information, research data and will participate in project activities.

A technical advisory and project coordination committee will be set up with technical staff from key national and local project partners. The Committee will validate project activities and selection of intervention sites, oversee project progress, and facilitate coordination and synergies with other related initiatives.

*In situ* control of marine and coastal areas will be implemented along with PNA, responsible for patrolling the zones. The Hydrographic Service (Ministry of Defence) will contribute with charts, navigators services and weather information, markings and oceanographic data (physical, chemical, bathymetric, and marine currents).

Civil society will play an active role during the project, through the participation of NGOs (Fundación Vida Silvestre, Aves Argentinas, Fundación Patagonia Natural) and local level associations to be further detailed during full project preparation. The involvement of local, provincial and national media will contribute to awareness-raising and support of EAF implementation.

The Table 2 illustrates stakeholders' role and implementation arrangements, to be confirmed during the full project preparation.

**Table 2: Stakeholders, roles and interest in the project**

	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Interest</b>
	SAyDS	Executing partner	1, 2 and 3	To strengthen its institutional and managerial skills for the application of the General Environmental Act
	Federal Fisheries Council	Co-executing partner	1 and 2	To contribute to mainstream the EAF into fisheries management and production
	FAO	GEF Implementing Agency	1,2,3 and 4	To implement the EAF and to promote sustainable fisheries management in the country.
Fisheries and Environment Institutions of the National Government	National Under-Secretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture	Partner	1 and 2	To reinforce its institutional capacity to meet the claims of the Federal Fisheries Act
	National Parks Administration (APN)	Partner	1	To enhance the management of MCPAs and to create new MPAs covering threatened LME ecosystems
	SENASA	Partner	1,2, and 3	To improve and certify health and quality of fisheries.
Fisheries and Environment Institutions of the Provinces	Agency for Sustainable Development of the Province of Buenos Aires	Local partner	1,2 and 3	To strengthen their institutional capacities to cope with environmental and fisheries challenges at provincial level
	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development Control of the Province of Chubut	Local partner	1,2 and 3	
	Secretariat of Environment of Río Negro.	Local partner	1, 2 and 3	
	Secretariat of Environment of the Province of Santa Cruz	Local partner	1, 2 and 3	
	Secretariat of Sustainable Development and Environment Agency of the Province of Tierra del Fuego	Local partner	1,2, and 3	
	Under-Secretariat of Fisheries Activities of the Province of Buenos Aires	Local partner	1 and 2	
	Secretariat of Production of Río Negro	Local partner	1 and 2	
	Secretariat of Fisheries of Chubut	Local partner	1 and 2	
	Under-Secretariat of Fisheries of Santa Cruz.	Local partner	1, 2 and 3	
Research centers and institutions	Ministry of Science and Production Technology	National partner	1	To contribute to inter-link databases about marine sciences and to use them for marine ecosystem conservation and fisheries management
	INIDEP	National Partner	1 and 2	To improve existing research programs through the streamline of EAF
	CONICET, IADO,	National and	1, 2 and 3	Oceanic protected areas are sites of

	Institution	Role	Component	Interest
	CEADO, CIMA, COPLA, DNA, IAA, IBMYP, CENPAT, and CADIC	provincial partners		excellence for permanent testing, research and monitoring. The results of these investigations can be transferred to the management of biodiversity, development and technology projects
	National School of Fishing	National partner	2	To adopt sustainable use of fishing gear
	Fisheries associations	Private sector – local beneficiaries	1 and 2	To implement sustainable fisheries management through the adoption of EAF to benefit the fisheries sector and to increase sector predictability.
	Trade unions	CSOs – beneficiaries	2	To implement sustainable fisheries management through the adoption of EAF to benefit the fisheries sector and to increase sector predictability.

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

The present project will take lessons learned from the two GEF-financed concluded projects mentioned in section B.1 *Biodiversity threats* and those listed below. It will also coordinate actions with on-going GEF projects in Argentina:

- The regional project *Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Plata River Basin with Respect to Variability and Climate Change*<sup>24</sup> (Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Paraguay y Uruguay) will provide key information about the integrated management of the Plata River Basin regarding the effects of climate change and variability;
- *Strengthening fisheries governance to protect freshwater and wetlands biodiversity*<sup>25</sup> (Argentina): aimed at strengthening the governance framework developed across the provinces to ensure the effective protection of freshwater fisheries and wetland biodiversity in the Parana and Paraguay River wetlands. It will provide lessons learned to the proposed project on synergies between enhanced governance and biodiversity protection while involving the participation of provincial governments;
- *Establishment of incentives for the conservation of globally relevant ecosystem services*<sup>26</sup> aims to overcome existing barriers for the implementation of ecosystem services payment programs in Argentina, by testing mechanisms and developing systems that will enable replication to ensure protection of ecosystem and their services in Argentina;
- *Interjurisdictional System of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (ISCMPA)*<sup>27</sup> (Argentina), intends to enhance protection and ensure biodiversity conservation in Argentinean coastal and marine region. Since the ISCMPA project is aimed to unify criteria and capacities for strengthening the management mechanisms of protected areas, but without dealing with regional or oceanic issues, it is complementary with Component 1 of the proposed project. In particular the integration of EAF in MCPAs management plans as part of the implementation of local EAF Management and Action Plans (output 2.2.1) will be strictly coordinated with this project. The ISCMPA's lessons learned will serve as inputs to design and implement the EAF. The SAYDS, which is one of the two proponents of the proposed project, is a member of the management group of the ISCMPA and will therefore insure strict coordination of activities executed by both project to insure complementarities and facilitate the transfer of lessons learned to maximize synergies between the two projects.

The proposed project will incorporate findings and lessons learned, and will coordinate actions with national initiatives:

- FAO project *Review of systems, methods and assessment models for hake (Merluccius hubbsi) used by the INIDEP* (UTF/ARG/016/ARG), focused on creating compatibility between the fishing capacity of the affected fleet, the effort applied to each fishery facility, and the processing capacity of the catch, with the most sustainable exploitation yield in the Argentine Sea. The UTF analyzed economic, social and environmental management measures and actions to be implemented for this application. It will feed the project proposal through: i) validated models elaborated by INIDEP (including systems,

<sup>24</sup> GEF ID 2095. It is being implemented by UNEP.

<sup>25</sup> GEF ID 3862. It is being implemented by UNDP

<sup>26</sup> GEF ID 3623. It is being implemented by UNDP and UNEP

<sup>27</sup> GEF ID 3910. It is being implemented by UNDP

methods, resource assessment, and results, applicable to hake analysis), ii) pathways proposed to strengthen those systems, methods and resource assessment, and models.

- o FAO project "*Supporting the Federal Fisheries Council in the development of fisheries research policy and its technological application*" (UTF /ARG/018/ARG), which is starting in middle 2012. It is based on the need of having an explicit policy of fishery research to address the increasing complexity of fishing and aquaculture production in Argentina. It aims to expand the multidisciplinary approach to fisheries research by incorporating into fisheries research policy some clear interdisciplinary goals, subjected to ex-post evaluation. This UTF will complement Component 2 of the proposed project by providing information on restraints for the application of EAF in the Argentine Sea.

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

FAO is the GEF implementing agency with UN mandate to support the development of the fisheries sector. The guidelines of the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* integrate international agreements and concepts related to the precautionary principle which recognize that "*undesirable changes in fisheries systems, such as the depletion of certain populations, regenerate slowly*" (FAO, 1996) and that "*the absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason to postponing or failing to take conservation or management measures*" (FAO, 1995).

FAO has extensive experience at global, regional and national level in promoting and delivering assistance for the sustainable management of fisheries resources. A major global milestone was the creation of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. FAO promotes the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), which has spread widely, and provides with capacity building for diverse groups and stakeholders - including producers and governments. This experience is key for the implementation of this project. The Organization is an active member in inter-agency groups in the United Nations GESAMP (Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution) and has created inter-governmental groups like Conservation of Aquatic Genetic Resources.

FAO has several Fisheries Commissions in all regions of the world, including South America, where it is oriented to research, sustainable use and shared management of marine resources. In this region, FAO has well-known experience of delivering technical assistance and acting as GEF agency in sustainable fisheries projects in countries like Uruguay.

At the three organizational levels (Headquarters, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile), and Representation in Argentina) FAO counts with technical officer with long expertise in implementing projects of responsible fisheries management, EAF, and marine protected areas, with extensive knowledge of the project influence area. In Argentina, FAO has provided technical assistance and support for institutional strengthening for the last decades, by accompanying the development of fisheries institutions and the strengthening of institutions such as the National Institute for Fisheries Development.

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

FAO will provide USD 200 000 in-kind co-financing and USD 651 117 in grant co-financing through the Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) project, as detailed below:

- UTF/ARG/018/ARG *Support for the Fisheries Federal Council for the formulation of the policy of fisheries research and its technological application in the fisheries*, that will be implemented in 2012-2014. Expected outcome: A national system of fisheries research strengthened in its disciplinary components and having interdisciplinary objectives explicitly formulated in the policy of fisheries research and technological implementation, recognized as a fundamental instrument for the sustainable development of fishing activities in Argentina. Expected outputs: A) Technical document containing the proposal of strategic policy framework fisheries research and technological application in Argentina; B) Scientific and technical staff related to the fishing industry in the national and provincial bodies and agencies, trained in the contents of the Strategic Framework of the policy of fisheries research and technological application and in the implementation of the objectives of interdisciplinary order of the Strategic Framework.

### **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:**



The project addresses the Strategic Objective SO-C of FAO "*to manage and sustainable use fisheries resources and aquaculture*"; Organization Result C2 "*governance of fisheries and aquaculture has been improved through the establishment or strengthening of national and regional institutions, including ORPs*"; Organization Result C3 "*more effective organization of marine and inland fishing by Member States of FAO and other stakeholders has contributed to improving the situation of fish stocks, ecosystems and their sustainable use*"; Organization Result C5 "*safety, technical and socio-economic efficiency, environmental compliance and enforcement of standards at all levels of fishing activities, including the use of vessels and fishing gear are increased*". The project is also aligned with the Area of Cooperation 1 "*Productive and Sustainable Development*" of the United Nations Assistance Framework for Development (UNDAF), by promoting the sustainable development of fisheries in national waters.

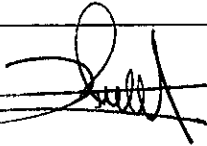
The FAO Representation in Argentina (FAOAR) has extensive capabilities to implement and monitor the project in the field. It is staffed with professionals with sound experience in marine environments and fisheries as well as in project management and supervision. The team involves directly the Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer who is based in Santiago, Chile and who has a long experience working in national and international fisheries, aquaculture and marine conservation projects, including GEF projects. Also, the team includes a senior advisor based in Buenos Aires, who has long experience working on ecosystem services economics; marine and coastal legislation and several aspects related to marine biodiversity conservation, particularly along the Patagonian coasts. Local staff also includes three senior professional officers (one of which is specialized in fisheries policy and economics) and a National Programs Officer, with long experience in management and supervision of large-scale national and regional projects including several projects on fisheries (see the last ones in B.6). Administration support will be provided by junior professionals and administration assistants, each with more than five years experience in management and accounting systems. The in-country support for the execution of the proposed project provided by the FAOR will be backed by an interdisciplinary technical task force and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit in FAO Headquarters in Rome.

**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).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (Month, day, year)
	OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT	SECRETARIAT OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	
ING. Graciela B. Conesa	GEF Operationsl Focal Point	Ministry of Environemnt and Sustainable development	JULY 16, 2012

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

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.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Laurent Thomas Officer-in-Charge Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla (00153) Rome, Italy <a href="mailto:TCI-Director@fao.org">TCI-Director@fao.org</a>		15 January 2013	Alejandro Flores	+54 11434919 76	Alejandro.Flores @fao.org
Barbara Cooney FAO GEF Coordinator Email: <a href="mailto:Barbara.Cooney@fao.org">Barbara.Cooney@fao.org</a> Tel: +3906 5705 5478					

# ANNEXES

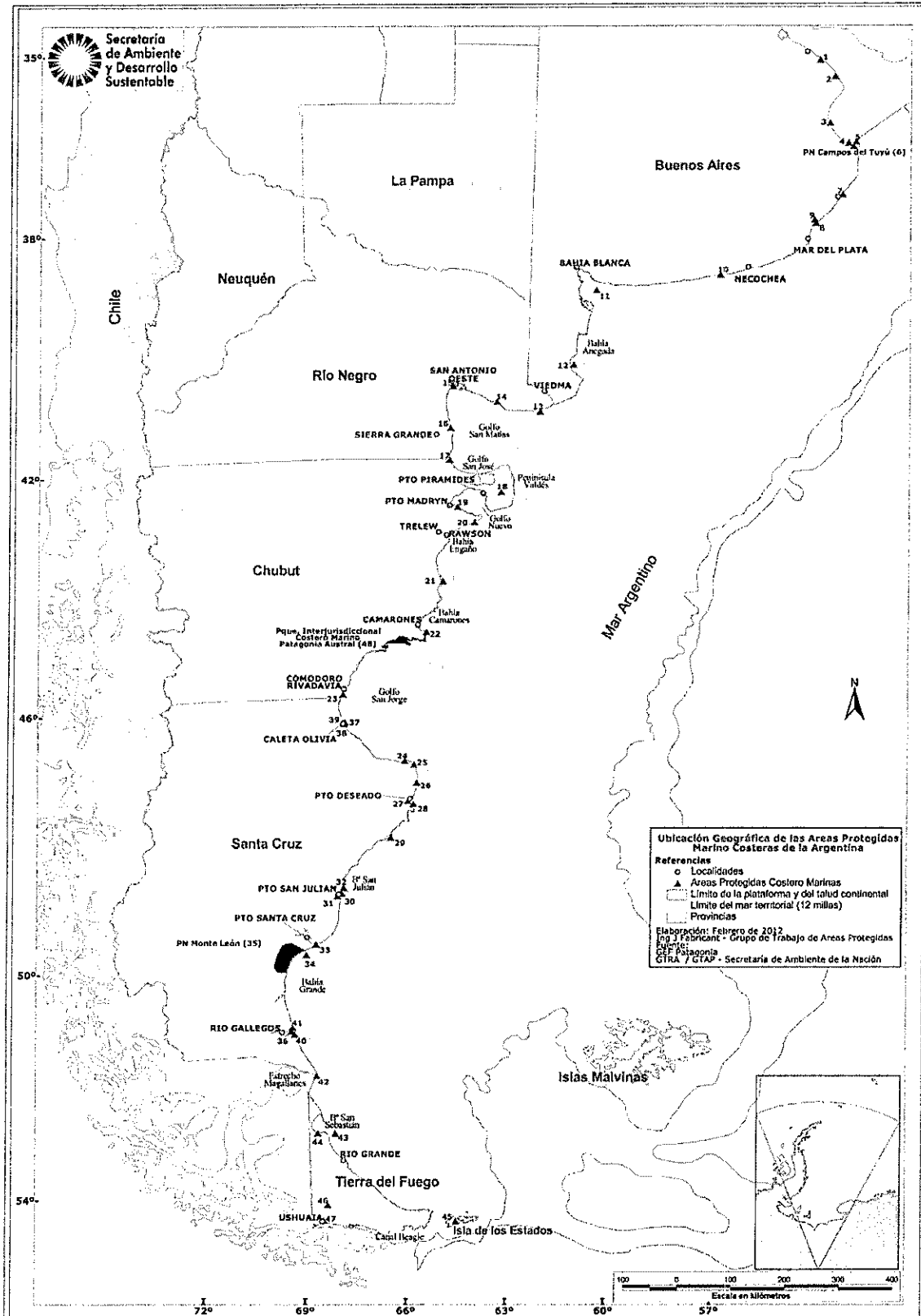
**Table II: Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in Argentina**

Province	Name of the Protected Area	Jurisdiction	Marine Area (in km <sup>2</sup> )	Terrestrial Area (in km <sup>2</sup> )
Buenos Aires	Faro Querandí	Municipal	0	5,575
	Mar Chiquita	Provincial	4.600	50.400
	Parque Atlántico Mar Chiquita	Municipal	n/a	n/a
	Arroyo Zabala	Provincial	1.200	800
	Pehuén Co – Monte Hermoso	Provincial	0	n/a
	Bahías Blanca, Verde y Falsa	Provincial	180.000	30.000
	Bahía San Blas	Provincial	235.000	80.000
Río Negro	Punta Bermeja	Provincial	2.000	1.000
	Caleta de los Loros	Provincial	3.000	2.690
	Bahía San Antonio	Provincial	9.900	5.600
	Complejo Islote Lobos	Provincial	3.150	850
	Puerto Lobos	Provincial	31.500	1.000
Chubut	Punta Buenos Aires	Federal	0	8.406
	P. Valdés (incluye Golfo S. José)	Provincial	250.000	360.000
	El Doradillo	Municipal	0	7.500
	Punta Loma	Provincial	0	1.707
	Punta León	Provincial	150	150
	Punta Tombo	Provincial	0	210
	Cabo Dos Bahías	Provincial	0	160
	Patagonia Austral	Nacional & Provincial	60.000	15.000
	Punta del Marqués	Provincial	8	12
Santa Cruz	Barco Hundido	Provincial	n/a	n/a
	Humedal Caleta Olivia	Municipal & Provincial	n/a	n/a
	Caleta Olivia	Municipal	n/a	n/a
	Monte Loayza	Provincial	0	1.740
	Cabo Blanco	Provincial	0	737

	Ría Deseado	Provincial	10.000	1.500
	Isla Pingüino	Provincial	0	2.000
	Bahía Laura	Provincial	0	600
	Bancos Cormorán y Justicia	Provincial	0	64
	Bahía San Julián	Provincial	25	0
	Península San Julián	Provincial	0	10.450
	Isla Leones	Provincial	0	115
	P. N. Monte León	Federal	0	62.168
	Isla Monte León	Provincial	0	50
	Isla Deseada	Provincial	0	49
	Aves Playeras Migratorias	Provincial	0	1.900
	Costera Urbana Reserve	Municipal	0	1.300
	Cabo Vírgenes	Provincial	0	1.230
Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Is. del Atlántico Sur	Costa Atlá. de Tierra del Fuego	Provincial	7.200	21.400
	Isla de los Estados	Provincial	0	52.000
	Playa Larga	Provincial	0	24
	Tierra del Fuego National Park	Federal	0	63.000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>822.708</b>	<b>791.899</b>

Source: <http://www.patagonianatural.org/areas-protegidas-siapcm/43-areas-protegidas.html>

**Map II: Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in Argentina**



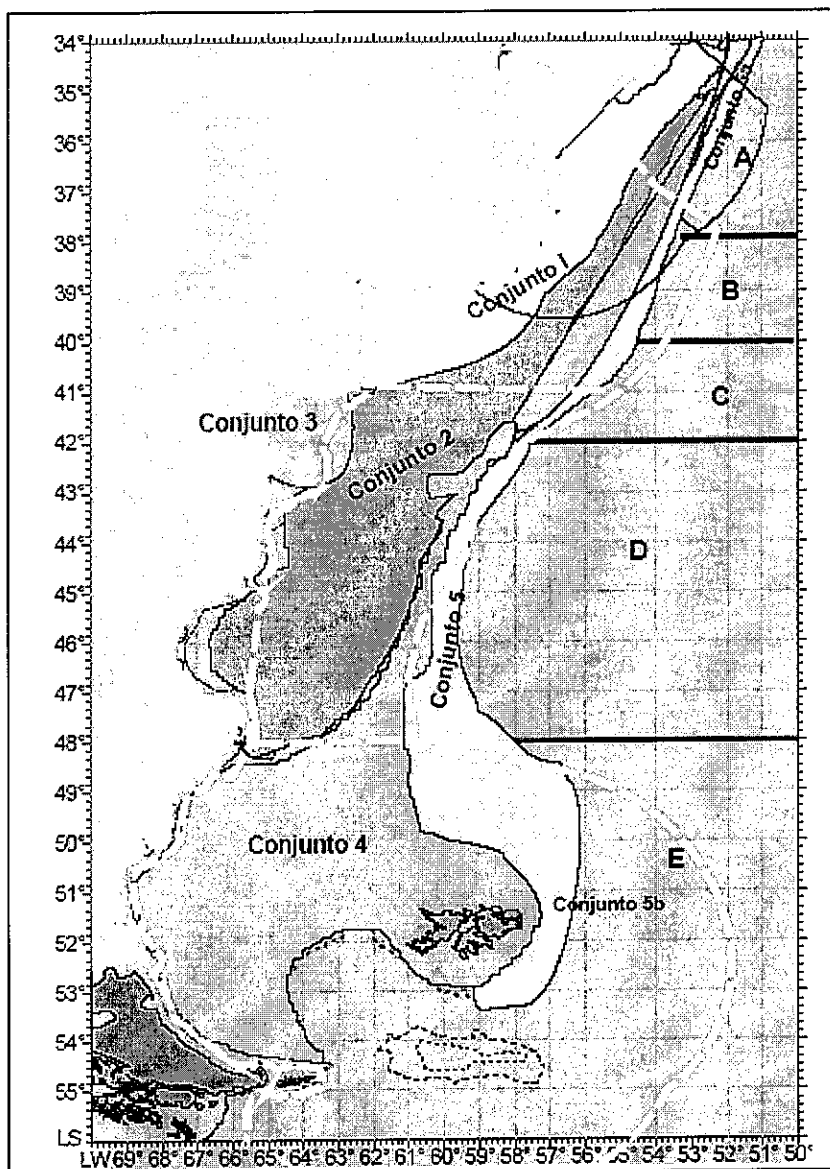
**Table III: References of Map II**

Nº	Marine & Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in Argentina
1	Costero del Sur Provincial Park (Wildlife Refuge, Biosphere Reserve)
2	El Destino Private Reserve (Wildlife Refuge, Biosphere Reserve)
3	Integral Nature Reserve Samborombón Bay (Wildlife Refuge, Wetland of International Importance)
4	Integral Nature Reserve Rincón de Ajo (Wildlife Refuge, Wetland of International Importance)
5	Biological Station Punta Rasa (Wildlife Refuge, Wetland of International Importance)
6	Campos del Tuyú National Park
7	Faro Querandí (Municipal Nature Reserve)
8	Atlántico Mar Chiquito Provincial Park (Wildlife Refuge, Biosphere Reserve)
9	Mar Chiquita Integral Nature Reserve (Wildlife Refuge, Biosphere Reserve)
10	Arroyo Zabala (Natural Reserve of Multiple Use)
11	Bahía Blanca, Verde y Falsa (Natural Reserve of Multiple Use)
12	Bahía San Blas (Natural Reserve of Multiple Use, Wildlife Refuge)
13	Punta Bermeja (Protected Natural Area)
14	Caleta de los Loros (Protected Natural Area)
15	Bahía San Antonio (Protected Natural Area, International Shorebird Reserve)
16	Islote Lobos Protected Natural Area
17	Puerto Lobos Protected Natural Area
18	Península Valdés (Protected Natural Area, World Natural Heritage)
19	Punta Loma (Touristic Nature Reserve)
20	Punta León (Touristic Nature Reserve, Biological Research place)
21	Punta Tombo Biological Station
22	Cabo Dos Bahías (Nature Reserve of Integral Objective and Tourism)
23	Punta Marques (Touristic Nature Reserve, Biological Research place)
24	Monte Loayza Provincial Reserve
25	Cabo Blanco (Intangible Nature Reserve)
26	Cañadón del Duraznillo (Wildlife Refuge)
27	Ría de Puerto Deseado (Intangible Nature Reserve)
28	Isla Pingüinos Provincial Reserve
29	Bahía Laura (Intangible Nature Reserve)
30	Península San Julián Provincial Reserve
31	Islas Cormorán y Justicia (Scientific Use Area under Special Protection)
32	Bahía San Julián (Limited Use Area under Special Protection)
33	Isla Leones (Limited Use Area under Special Protection)
34	Isla de Monte León Provincial Reserve
35	Monte León National Park
36	Isla Deseada (Scientific Use Area under Special Protection)
37	Barco Hundido Provincial Reserve
38	Caleta Olivia (Provincial Wetland Reserve)

39	La Caleta (Municipal Nature Reserve)
40	Provincial Reserve for Migratory Birds, International Shorebird Reserve
41	Río Gallegos (Municipal Coastal Reserve )
42	Cabo Vírgenes Provincial Reserve
43	Tierra del Fuego Atlantic Coast (Natural Coastal Reserve, Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve, Wetland of International Importance)
44	Dicky Wildlife Refuge
45	Isla de los Estados (Provincial Historical, Touristic and Ecological Reserve)
46	Tierra del Fuego National Park
47	Playa Larga Natural Cultural Reserve
48	Patagonia Austral (Inter-jurisdictional Coastal and Marine Park)



**Map III: Joint regional fisheries in the Atlantic Coast, Argentine Sea**



**References:**

- Conjunto 1:* Coast of the Buenos Aires Province
- Conjunto 2:* Internal and external platforms of Buenos Aires and Patagonian sectors up to 48°S.
- Conjunto 3:* Sector of the three-Patagonian Gulfs.
- Conjunto 4:* Southern Sector of the Patagonia-Tierra del Fuego-Islas Malvinas platform.
- Conjunto 5:* Continental slope area – deep waters sector.

Source: INIDEP

## ACRONYMS

IAA	Argentine Antarctic Institute
APN	National Park Administration
PAs	Protected areas
MCPAs	Marine and Coastal Protected Areas
CADIC	Austral Center for Scientific Research
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Climate change
CENPAT	National Patagonian Centre
CIMA	Research Center of the Sea and Atmosphere
CN	National Constitution
COFEMA	Federal Environment Council
CONADIBIO	National Advisory Committee for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity.
CONAE	The National Commission on Space Activities
CONICET	National Council for Scientific Research and Technical.
COPLA	The National Commission on Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IADO	The Argentine Institute of Oceanography
IBMyP	The Institute of Marine Biology and Fisheries Almirante Storni
INIDEP	National Institute Fisheries Research and Development
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
NS	National Strategy
NSIAS	National Strategy about Invasive Alien Species
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEB	Global environment benefits
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAGyP	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
PNA	Argentine Naval Prefecture
SAyDS	Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development
SBW	Strategy Ballast Water
SENASA	Health National Service and Agrifood Quality
SIFAP	Federal System of Protected Areas