PROJECT DOCUMENT
FAO/GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

PROJECT TITLE: STRENGTHENING THE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF COASTAL-MARINE BIODIVERSITY IN KEY ECOLOGICAL AREAS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES (EAF)
PROJECT SYMBOL: GCP/ARG/025/GFF

Recipient country: Argentina

Resource Partner: Global Environment Facility (GEF)

FAO Project ID: 628442 **GEF Project ID:** 5112

Executing Agency: Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS) and *Consejo Federal de Pesca* (Federal Fisheries Council - CFP)

Foreseen start date: July 2015

Foreseen end date: June 2019

Contribution to the FAO Strategic Framework

a. Strategic Objective / Organization's achievement: SO2 (20202)
b. Outcome / Regional Priority Area: Support is rendered for countries to strengthen their national management frameworks to foster sustainable agricultural production and natural resource governance.
c. Results of country Programming Framework: Thematic Area C – Environmental protection, sustainable natural resource management and climate change

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity

GEF Strategic Objectives: BD-1, BD-2

Environmental Impact Assessment Category (insert a √): A B C√

Financial Plan: GEF contribution:	USD 3,534,786
Co-financing:	
Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development	USD 1.266.666
Ministry of Security	USD 4.716.871
National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET)	USD 822.000
National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP)	USD 2.194.000
Under-Secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture	USD 2.380.000
Pampa Azul Project	USD 289.800
Federal Fisheries Council	USD 635.361
Ministry of Defense	USD 3.076.922
Private Sector	USD 240.000
FAO	U$D 200.000
Co-financing Sub-total:	USD 15.821.620
Total Budget:	**USD 19,356,406**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Argentina Continental Shelf is one of the largest in the world. The high productivity of its waters turns this marine zone into a shelter for globally important species.

The geomorphology and climate varies greatly along the coastline which includes globally relevant biodiversity. This ecosystem lodges important colonies of marine birds and mammals, cetacean breeding grounds (whales and dolphins), sites of international relevance where migratory birds rest and feed, crustacean and fish spawning areas, algae, sub-tidal banks of mollusks, etc.

Many of these marine organisms regularly move between coastal areas and the ocean. For instance, some marine birds and mammals make frequent feeding journeys between their breeding areas on the coast and their feeding zones in the high seas. On the other hand, many fish and invertebrates travel between these areas throughout their life cycle.

Fisheries, considered one of the main human activities interacting with biodiversity, are regulated by the Federal Fisheries Regime (Law 24,922/2009). Management measures that were established by the Federal Fisheries Council, in fulfillment of the provisions of the above-mentioned Law, include total allowable catch for commercial species, closed seasons, minimum capture length, maximum catch for a species or series of species per fishing trip among others. Nonetheless, there are still a number threats and problems to biodiversity conservation in the Argentine marine area.

The main direct threat of fisheries to marine biodiversity is by-catch of unwanted species and the violation to the minimum capture length. Except for the squid fisheries, bottom trawling is the main fishing method. There is little or insufficient knowledge about the impact of these fisheries on the seabed. A few studies have been carried out on the benthic fauna associated with the fishing of the Patagonian scallop (*Zygochlamys patagonica*) and the Argentine red shrimp (*Pleoticus muelleri*). It is however necessary to systematize information gathered and assess the impact of fishing practices on biodiversity. So far, only certified fisheries have made important progress with regard to knowledge on the impact of the activity on by-catch and there are still a number of uncertified fisheries whose impact is not yet known. Another important threat is the impact of target fisheries mortality on the rest of the trophic chain, thus having an ecosystem approach. This is seldom addressed by fishery research and is thus an important knowledge loophole.

In order to address these problems, the Argentine Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS) has requested FAO's support to access GEF funds for a project that has the global environmental objective of strengthening management capacities and protecting marine biodiversity in environmentally significant areas, by creating new MPAs and applying the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). Its development objective is to enhance the knowledge on biological, ecological, social and economic aspects of marine ecosystems and their biodiversity, as a basis for key biodiversity areas management and also to minimize negative impact of fisheries on biodiversity by applying EAF.

Project expected outcomes are as follows:

Outcome 1.1: Improved protection of marine ecosystems with globally significant biodiversity in key areas by supporting the Burdwood/Namuncura Enforcement Authority for managing the MPA and its transition zones, and creating a new protected area, that extends beyond 12 miles of Territorial Waters.
Targets: **a)** A participatory Management Plan duly formulated; **b)** Technical and legal proposal for a new MPA along the Front Corridor of Chubut, duly formulated; **c)** A Management Plan approved by JGM, covering an area of 28,000 km^2; **d)** A document including a set of guidelines for the sustainable financing of MPAs in Argentina elaborated; **e)** Two sustainable financing plans formulated and included in the MPA Management Plans; **f)** At least fifteen (15) people (60% women) linked to the management of MPAs, trained in financial management; **g)** A document elaborated on guidelines on good environmental practices for the productive sectors operating within MPAs and the transition

zones; **h)** A list of proposed standards for approving Management Plans elaborated; **i)** Document on lessons learned and recommendations on methodological and operational guidelines for managing new MPAs; **j)** A set of GIS-based maps – with relevant fishing information elaborated; **k)** A web information system made available and operational; and **l)** 20 to 30 people linked to MPA management trained in GIS and the information system.

Outcome 2.1: EAF tested in a selected pilot fishery in collaboration with INIDEP, the private sector, CFP, SSPyA, MAyDS, and scientific institutions, to strengthen the sustainability of fisheries and protect marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Targets: **a)** An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Plan (EAFMP) for Patagonian scallop adopted; and **b)** At least three (3) good catch and fishing management practices validated for Patagonian scallop.

Outcome 2.2: Enabling conditions and institutional capacities built at the national level for effectively implementing the EAF.

Targets: **a)** CFP Resolution to adopt minimum EAF contents; **b)** An analysis of market incentive options; **c)** Fifty (50) people from at least six (6) fishery trade unions and public institutions duly trained on EAF (at least 30% women); and, **d)** Fifty (50) people trained and equipped to strengthen management, control and surveillance mechanisms.

Outcome 2.3: Information management and monitoring systems upgraded, including socioeconomic data and information on selectivity, good practices and mitigation measures to facilitate decision-making on the application of EAF in public and private environments.

Targets: **a)** Socioeconomic variables required for the application of EAF included in the information system on fisheries of SSPyA; **b)** A monitoring and information system to facilitate managerial decision-making on fishing policies, and regulations and sustainable fisheries management instruments duly formulated and validated; **c)** Experiences carried out will be mainstreamed in management measures to thus reinforce National Plans of Action (NPA for Birds and Sharks approved, NPA for Marine Mammals under assessment and NPA for Sea Turtles under preparation); and **d)** Selected fishing techniques and/or selectivity devices reduce incidental mortality and/or by-catch by 10%.

Outcome 3.1: Project implementation results-based managed, and project outcomes and lessons learned are applied to future operations

Project duration will be 48 months, with a budget of USD 3,534,786, from a GEF grant.

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AEEZ	Argentine Exclusive Economic Zone
Annual PIR	Annual Project Implementation Review
APN	National Parks Administration
ARA	Argentine Navy
AWPB	Annual Work Plans and Budget
CFP	Federal Fisheries Council
CONICET	National Council of Scientific and Technical Research
CP-EAF	Coordinator Pilot EAF
CTNP	Project National Technical Coordinator
DNP	National Project Director
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EAFMP	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FO.NA.PE	National Fisheries Fund
FONCyT	Fund for Scientific and Technological Research
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoA	Government of Argentina
GoP	Provincial Government
GTAP	Working Group on Protected Areas
GTCDB	Working Group on Biodiversity Conservation
GTRA	Working Group on Aquatic Resources
IBMPAS	Institute of Marine Biology and Fisheries “Almirante Storni”
INIDEP	National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development
JGM	Chief of Cabinet Ministry
LTO	Lead Technical Officer
LTU	Lead Technical Unit
MA	Ministry of Agro-industry
MAyDS	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development
MCPA	Marine and Coastal Protected Area
MINCyT	Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MREyC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
OOB	Observers on Board
PA	Protected Area
PNA	Argentine Coast Guard
POB	Programme of Observers on Board
PPR	Project Progress Reports
MA	Ministry of Agroindustry
SENASA	National Service for Agri-food Health and Quality
SHN	Navy Hydrographic Service
SICAP	Overall Surveillance System of the Fishing Activity
SiFAP	Federal System of Protected Areas
SSPyA	Under-secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
USD	US dollars

SECTION 1. RELEVANCE

1.1. General context

1. The Argentine Continental Shelf is one of the biggest worldwide. The high productivity of its waters turns this marine zone into a shelter for globally important species. The Argentine coastal area stretches along 4,500 km, from the mouth of the Río de la Plata downwards to Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and the South Atlantic Islands, and includes five provinces (Buenos Aires, Río Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and the South Atlantic Islands). The area includes the lower, intermediate and upper layers of water up to the 40-meter isobath, and is characterized by the presence of vertically homogeneous waters due to wind and tides. There are few remarkable geographic features although some have a strong effect on water circulation (Valdes Peninsula, the north Patagonian gulfs of San Matias, San Jose and Nuevo, and the mouth of the Magellan strait).

2. The geomorphology and climate varies greatly along the coastline which includes globally significant biodiversity. This ecosystem lodges important colonies of marine birds and mammals, cetacean breeding grounds (whales and dolphins), sites of international relevance where migratory birds rest and feed, crustacean and fish spawning areas, algae, sub-tidal banks of mollusks, etc. It includes 80 marine bird species, around 50 marine mammals, and over 400 fish species. It temporarily lodges over half of the Magellan penguins (*Spheniscus magellanicus*), with over one million breeding pairs; more than 3,000 Southern Right Whales (*Eubalaena australis*), accounting for approximately 30% of the world's population; over 60,000 Southern Elephant Whales (*Mirounga leonina*), and around 100,000 South American Sea Lions (*Otaria flavescens*). Many of these marine organisms regularly move between coastal areas and the ocean. For instance, some marine birds and mammals make frequent feeding trips between their breeding areas on the coast and their feeding zones in the high seas. Similarly, many fish and invertebrates travel between these areas throughout their life cycle.

3. Marine environments are cut across by oceanic processes on a big spatial scale, with a great mobility of organisms and particles which go beyond political borders. Furthermore, the water is very deep, making it impossible to clearly mark the different sectors (UNEP, 1996). To understand this dimension, the Argentine Exclusive Economic Zone (AEEZ), in and of itself, covers approximately 1,529,585 km^2.

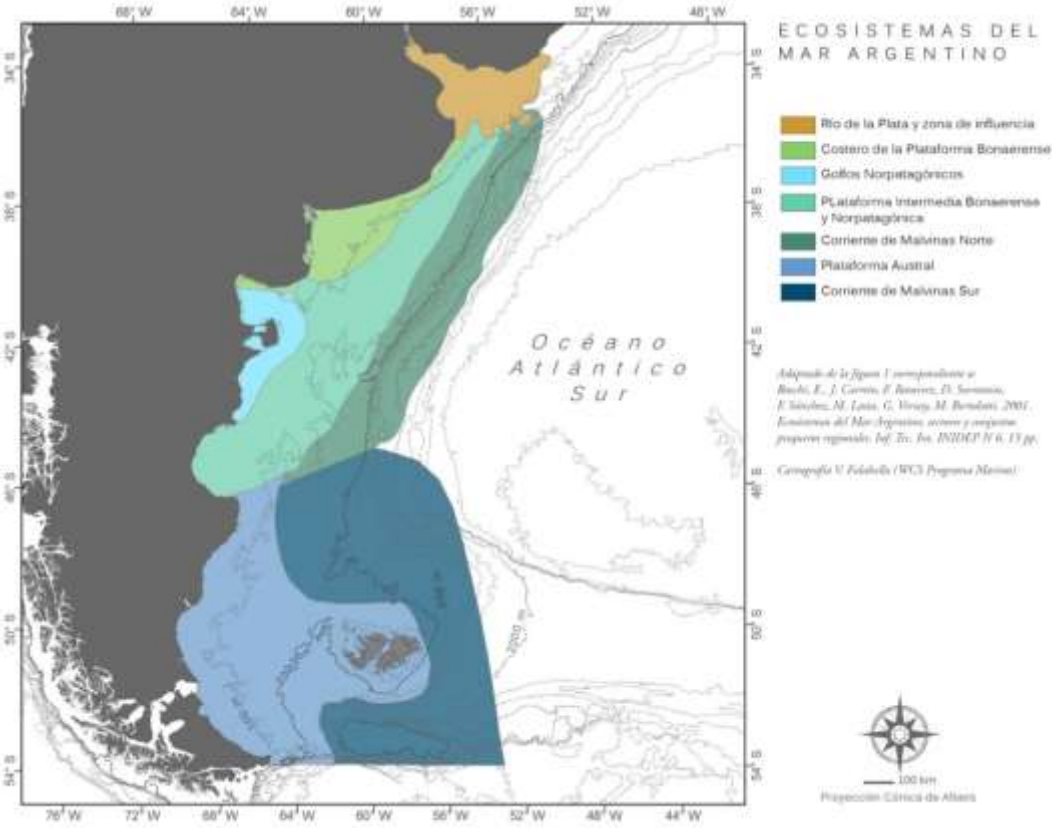
4. The ocean in the area of interest is influenced by two currents that determine its ecosystem function: one from Brazil (from the north, the warmest at a temperature of over 26°C on its surface, and poor in nutrients), and the other from the Malvinas Islands (from the south, colder, at a temperature of under 7°C, and rich in nutrients). These currents are restricted to depths of up to 1500 m and both converge at a given latitude, near the centre-north of Buenos Aires Province, called Atlantic Sub-tropical Convergence zone, which moves south in summer, and north in winter.

5. In the area of confluence, waters at a different temperature, salinity and level of nutrients, blend intensely. This biotope includes one of the biggest and more biologically important temperate seas on earth (Campagna *et al.*, 2005), determining physical –chemical gradients that favour a high concentration of nutrients and primary production. This area is very important for fisheries. Many of the marine bird and mammal species feeding on this ecosystem are those

that breed along the coastal area, forming big colonies in specific places to which they return year after year.

6. According to Argentina's eco-regional map (Burkart, et al. 1999), the marine sector is considered a single eco-region called Argentine Sea, including three sub-regions: Coastal, Atlantic and Antarctica. Boschi, et al., (2001) defined six marine ecosystems according to their potential for producing organic matter in the first trophic links: (i) Rio de la Plata and area of influence ecosystem; (ii) Coastal Ecosystem of the Bonaerense –Buenos Aires Province- Shelf; (iii) Intermediate shelf ecosystem – Buenos Aires Province and North of Patagonia; (iv) Malvinas water current ecosystems; (v) Southern shelf water ecosystem; and (vi) other ecological units.

Figure 1.1: Ecosystems of the Argentine marine environment



1.1.1. Context for marine biodiversity development in Argentina

Biodiversity protection

7. The Argentine Republic currently has 68 Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPA), covering approximately 4% of the Continental Shelf. These MCPAs are registered in the Federal System of Protected Areas (SiFAP, in Spanish). Except for the recently created Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank Marine Protected Area, all MCPAs are associated with coastal environments (Territorial Sea) and, overall, their main objective is to protect the breeding areas of marine birds and mammals, and the feed and rest sites for migratory birds. Out of the 68

MCPAs, only 23 are marine protected areas or include a marine portion, and the rest are located on land.

The fisheries sector

8. The fisheries economy and system in the Argentine Sea is mainly a primary, extractive activity, which entails appropriation of common goods. Furthermore, it is profoundly cyclical, with and peaks in production (in the period 2008-2013, an average of 780,000 tons were landed per year, with a grand total of 4.5 million tons), but also increasingly stabilized on a larger scale (drop in landing followed by periods of recovery).

9. The contribution of the fisheries sector in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased constantly from 0.5% in 2004 to 1.5% in 2013. Its contribution to the country's total GDP at market prices in the last few years has ranged from 0.32% in 2006 (peak in this period) to 0.14 in 2012 (valley in this period), recovering again to 0.25 in 2013. Its importance for the primary sector of the economy shows significant fluctuations in the period 2004-2009 but overall sticks to the same level.

Table 1.1: Development of Fisheries in GDP

Year	GDP at market prices in current billion US dollars	Fisheries In billion (current) US dollars	Contribution to GDP %	Contribution to Agricultural Gross Domestic Product %
2004	181.2	0.497	0.27%	3.46
2005	220.9	0.607	0.28%	3.70
2006	261.5	0.840	0.32%	4.73
2007	329.1	0.740	0.22%	2.91
2008	328.2	0.941	0.29%	3.70
2009	378.1	0.808	0.21%	3.93
2010	462.7	0.987	0.21%	n.a.
2011	557.5	0.845	0.15%	n.a.
2012	603.1	0.864	0.14%	n.a.
2013	611.7	1.519	0.25%	n.a.

10. Historically, and particularly since the 1990s, fisheries have had and continue to have a clear orientation to export markets. In 2013, exports of Argentine fisheries experienced a slight decline with regard to 2012 (9.7%), reporting a value of over USD 1.3 billion. In order of importance, "Argentine red shrimp" is the main export, amounting to USD 476 million, followed by frozen hake fillets (USD 185 million), and frozen whole hake (USD 77 million).

11. The main characteristics of the fisheries economy can be summarized as follows: (i) mainly export-oriented; (ii) since 1960 to date (modernization era), an increasing number of private-public initiatives have been introduced; (iii) it is an extractive, primary industry, similar to agricultural and livestock production; (iv) the business' idiosyncrasy entails less innovative practices, and it is very much targeted to fully harnessing profitability cycles; (v) it is strongly concentrated in a few key places: Mar del Plata, Puerto Madryn, Puerto Deseado and Ushuaia, as strategic clusters; (vi) the industry is based on three main species (hake, Argentine red

shrimp, and squid), although it is gradually incorporating other species (as per world market demands); (vii) the sector includes a well-defined chain of actors that coexist and complement one another, although they are asymmetric in their level of development; (viii) given the characteristics of the productive process, industrial and artisanal fishers coexist within the sector's management schemes; (ix) labor for the industry comes partially from migrants, be it fishing crew, fish processing manpower, engineers, technicians or scientists; (x) over the last 25 years, there has been a governance shift, from a self-regulation to one with thorough government regulation. This was reflected in the shift from an open access to an individual transferable catch quota system by species; and (xi) the introduction of "no-take areas" as an important stock protection mechanism tied to fisheries management, has been an important game changer.

12. An important characteristic of the Argentine fisheries is their significant level of development which has led to the reduction of the number of small-scale artisanal fisher folk in the country. Small scale fisher folk in Argentina can only be found in 22 ports, 14 of which are located in Buenos Aires Province[1]. These are small communities, each with their own difficulties linked to the species caught and provincial regulatory frameworks.

13. The Argentine marine fisheries have shown a slow but constant transformation over the last 25 years, gradually shifting from a conventional resource management approach to a an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), which is still incipient. Evidences of these changes include the establishment of a Program of fishing practices Observers on Board (POB) in 1994, the enactment of the Federal Fisheries Law in 1997, and the creation of the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP, in Spanish) in 1998; mainstreaming of different species-specific management criteria, including the implementation of the Individual Transferable Catch Quotas; enactment of the General Law of Environment (2002), restructuring of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS, 2006); creation of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT – 2007); upgrading of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to a ministerial level (2009); Law 26,875 that creates the Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank Marine Protected Area; and the Launch of the Pampa Azul Project (2014).

14. The fishing fleet is made up of around 1,000 vessels classified according to their size and cruising range into bay-class ships, coasters or high-seas vessels. According to their operating modality, the national fleet can be divided into trawlers (most of the Argentine boats) and boats equipped with specific and selective gear and elements (shrimp fishing vessels, jiggers, longliners, and trap setters).

15. In 2013, the Fisheries Under-secretariat of the Ministry of Agro-industry (MA), signed an agreement with INDEC to carry out the First National Fisheries Census. This is an important step forward to fill knowledge gaps regarding the essential operational characteristics of the sector's actors. Currently, the available estimates of the sector include some 30 thousand workers directly involved in the fisheries value chain, out of which 20 thousand can be found in Mar del Plata city.

1.1.2. Legal and institutional framework

[1] Turiansky, C.J. No date. *Estudio socio económico del grupo de pescadores artesanales encuestados en el litoral marítimo de la República Argentina.*

Legal and institutional framework for Biodiversity Protection

16. The **General Environment Law** (Law 25,675) spells out the environmental policy objectives, the principles thereof, as well as policy and environmental management instruments. The General Environment Law created the Federal Environmental System and established the Federal Environment Council (COFEMA, in Spanish) as the agency responsible for bringing all parties together and outlining a coordinated environmental policy. The above is a standing council on which national, provincial and Buenos Aires City authorities will sit. The Enforcement Authority of the General Environment Law lies with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS, in Spanish)

17. On the other hand, National Parks are regulated by Law No. 22,351 (4 November 1980) and the Enforcement Authority is National Parks Administration (APN, in Spanish), an autarchic central government agency with jurisdiction and capacity to act within the sphere of public and private law. The above Law regulates the way in which Parks are set up and their management categories, besides the powers vested in this authority. APN is a decentralized body, placed within the structure of the MAyDS. Apart from this Law, the Provinces have their own regulations for creating Natural Protected Areas.

18. The **Federal System of Protected Areas** (SiFAP) was created by MAyDS, APN and COFEMA in 2003. Its legal framework states that Protected Areas can be inland ecosystems (land or water), coastal/marine, or a combination of both, with defined boundaries or under a given type of legal protection –national or provincial- that competent authorities from the different jurisdictions voluntarily register. This registration does not affect their jurisdictional power. The SiFAP is managed by an Executive Committee comprising three members: the *President* –representing COFEMA; a *Coordinator* –APN: and a representative from MAyDS is in charge of the *Technical-Administrative Secretariat*.

19. The **SiFAP** brings together all protected areas (PA) in Argentina that have been created and are managed by national, provincial or municipal agencies, as well as by universities, the private sector, NGOs or Non-Profits. The information for each PA is recorded and registered with SiFAP *only by national and provincial agencies*.

Currently, MCPA fall under different jurisdictions: national MCPA fall under the jurisdiction of the APN (except for the Namuncurá MPA which reports to the Chief of Cabinet Ministry); inter-jurisdictional parks are jointly managed by the national and provincial governments; and provincial and municipal parks are jointly managed by the municipality and relevant province. In the case of inter-jurisdictional parks which require joint agreements between the National and Provincial Governments, measures are being taken to set up mechanisms allowing for their effective management as, for instance, the Inter-jurisdictional Park in Southern Patagonia – between APN and the Government of Chubut Province. These systems require formal mechanisms for their management, and well-defined roles and functions, taking into account the institutional capabilities of both parties. In this regard, it's important to establish a common long-term vision that must be accepted and shared by both jurisdictions.

20. MCPAs may be created under different legal instruments: municipal ordinances, as well as provisions, resolutions, executive orders and provincial or national laws and, in the case of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands, according to the Provincial Constitution. Finally, ten MCPAs have been recognized internationally as a World Natural

Heritage Site, Biosphere Reserve, site under the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and RAMSAR sites (based on SiFAP information).

21. The PROMAR Law (27.167) aims to strengthen the argentine presence in the sea, deepening scientific knowledge as a basis for conservation policies and management of natural resources, promoting technological innovations applicable to the sustainable exploitation of natural resources and strengthening maritime awareness of the national society. To do so, the law aims to effectively implement interdisciplinary plans that include basic research, conservation of species and marine environments, the use of renewable resources and development applicable to the sea and production technologies. The law also provides for the creation of the National Fund for Research and Innovation of the Argentine Maritime Spaces (FONIPROMAR), which will be devoted to the provision of human resources and infrastructure, recruitment of specialized staff; design and management of financing instruments for research activities; acquisition, repair and maintenance of equipment and research platforms; and training of human resources; among other purposes.

Legal Framework for the Fisheries Sector

22. The Federal Fisheries Law No. 24.922 was enacted on 9 December 1997 and is currently in force. It was inspired by the principles and recommendations of the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Law establishes two different domains: Provincial and Federal. The former includes the provinces with a maritime coastline and grants them jurisdiction up to 12 nautical miles, measured from the baselines recognized by national legislation for the purpose of exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of living resources populating their internal waters and the Argentine Sea adjacent to their coasts. The latter includes the AEEZ waters and the Argentine continental shelf starting from the 12-nautical-mile limit. As a coastal state, the Argentine Republic can adopt measures for the conservation of AEEZ and, in its adjacent area, for cross-zone and highly migratory resources, or those belonging to the same stock or stocks of species associated with the AEEZ.

23. The Fisheries Law mandates the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) as the agency responsible for formulating the fisheries, research and development policies. The CFP determines the Total Allowable Catch (TAC); allocates individual transferrable catch quotas by vessel, species, fishing area and fleet type; approves commercial and experimental fishing permits; renders advice to the enforcement authority for international negotiations; establishes extraction rights and regulates artisan fishing by establishing a reserve quota for this group managed by the provincial authorities.

24. The Law's enforcement authority is the MA. This Enforcement Authority conducts and applies the fishing policy, oversees TAC by species, issues fishing permits after having received CFP's authorization, and is in charge of follow-up, control and surveillance of fisheries, preparation of the sector's statistics, application of penalties, operation of the Fisheries Registry and collection of fishing fees.

25. Furthermore, the Law allows for a segment of the allowable fishing quota for the different species to be allocated by the Provincial Fisheries Administrations, and mandates Provinces to ensure social participation in the fisher management processes according to the fisheries policy. One mechanism to comply with this is the Commissions on Fisheries Analyses and Follow-up. Fishing in provincial jurisdiction requires a fishing permit issued by each jurisdiction and, therefore, must then abide by the administrative and control measures determined by the

provincial fisheries administrations. The main commercial species within Argentina's fisheries have an established TAC. In the case of annual or bi-annual life cycle species, there are specific management measures in place (e.g. squid, red shrimp).

26. The national fisheries administration aims to regulate fishing efforts, thus impeding the incorporation of new vessels, and only authorizing ships substitution or reformulation of fishing permits that do not entail increases in their fishing capacity. Subsequently, and through a process which ended in the effective establishment of a regime for Individual Transferable Catch Quotas, annual catch rates decreased at a sustained pace (a reduction of 19 % with respect to 2001 – 2009 average and 25 % with respect to 1990 – 2000 average), with a stabilization of total catch (for all species) at around 800,000 MT.

Institutional Framework for the Fisheries Sector

27. The above-mentioned Federal Fisheries Law 24,922 created the CFP as the regulatory authority for fisheries. This Council is made up of the Under-Secretary of Fisheries (council's chairperson), a representative from the MAyDS, a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religious Cults (MREyC), two Executive Branch representatives and one from each of the coastal provinces: Buenos Aires, Río Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and the South Atlantic Islands.

28. With a view to control marine fisheries, the Under-secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SSPyA) has implemented the Overall Surveillance System of Fishing Activities (SICAP, in Spanish), which includes: a) the Satellite Positioning System for the National Fisheries Fleet; b) satellite information about the whole area in which foreign fishing vessels operate outside the AEEZ, provided by the National Commission for Space Activities (CONAE); and c) control and surveillance by the Argentine Coast Guard (PNA), the Navy and Air Force, which have units for sailing the waters (coastguard cutters and corvettes) and an air fleet (aircraft and helicopters) to control illegal fishing. This information is supplemented with data on landings at port and documentary information on board.

29. The National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP, in Spanish) is a decentralized agency under MA. Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Fisheries Law No. 24,922, it renders advice to SSPyA and CFP in the rational use of resources, with the main purpose of preserving the marine ecosystem for future generations. It is in charge of planning and carrying out scientific and technical research with the provinces and other agencies or institutions, particularly as regards the evaluation and conservation of marine living resources. INIDEP's research is financed with national budget funds, and is also supported by the National Fisheries Fund (FONAPE).

30. INIDEP's scientific activities are coordinated by the National Research Bureau structured into three Directorates: Demersal Fisheries, Pelagic Fisheries and Marine Environment, and Information, Operations and Technology. These directorates are organized into programs and research cabinets.

31. INIDEP has three research vessels for carrying out fishing research trips: B/I "Dr. Eduardo L. Holmberg"; the "Capitán Oca Balda", equipped for exploring wide marine areas; and the "Capitán Cánepa", suitable for coastal areas. Information generated during these research trips is essential for evaluating resources since they provide estimates on abundance, allow learning about lengths, identifying stage of fish life cycle, among other fundamental biological variables. On the other hand, this information is supplemented with data obtained

from the fishing fleet's POB, by means of sampling (biological parameters of sampled individuals, by-catch, discarding of target species and/or incidental catch/mortality of other taxa groups (birds, mammals, turtles).

32. The national scientific system is coordinated by the **Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation** (MINCyT), which was created in 2007 and ensured ongoing financing of basic scientific research, through the National Fund for Science and Technology (FONCyT). There are other supplementary financing mechanisms such as the Argentine Technological Fund (FONTAR), which has projects for upgrading private sector productivity through technological innovation, and the Argentine Sectoral Fund (FONARSEC), with projects and actions targeted to building critical capacities in areas having a high potential impact on and permanent transfer to the productive sector.

33. In 2014, the launch by MINCyT of the Pampa Azul Initiative[2], was defined as the first national action at inter-ministerial level to reinforce scientific knowledge as the foundation for natural resource management and conservation policies in the Argentine Sea. It set forth the main areas of interest of the National Government in marine biodiversity research and the efficient management of fishery resources.

34. The **National Council for Scientific and Technical Research** (CONICET) is one of the autarchic entities within MINCyT for implementing and promoting science and technology in Argentina. Within this structure is the Unit of Hydrographic Vessels (UNIHDO), jointly managed with the Navy Hydrographic Service. UNIHDO has two research vessels: CONICET's Puerto Deseado ship and the Argentine Navy's Comodoro Rivadavia ship. There are four institutes carrying out marine research within the Council's sphere of action: National Patagonia Centre (CENPAT), Southern Centre for Scientific Research (CADIC), Institute for Marine and Coastal Research (IIMyC), and the Argentine Oceanography Institute (IADO).

35. Other institutions related to research in marine resources are the following: Institute of Marine Biology and Fisheries 'Almirante Storni' (IBMPAS, in Rio Negro Province), and the universities *Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Universidad Nacional del Sur* and *Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco*.

36. The following are also a part of the fisheries sector:

37. The **National Service for Agri-food Health and Quality (SENASA)**, the main purpose of which is to control and certify animal and plant products and by-products, and the related inputs. It carries out work related to prevention, eradication and control of animal diseases, including those transmissible to human beings. It drafts rules and checks compliance therewith, ensuring the enforcement of the Argentine Food Code, within the framework of mandatory international standards. It registers, authorizes and controls fish processing vessels and processing and preparation on land, transport and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, besides controlling federal traffic, imports and exports of fishery or farmed fish products and by-products.

38. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (MREyC)** is responsible for foreign policies as regards fisheries and the environment. It represents Argentina at international forums addressing this topic, with the participation of other government areas having concurrent

[2] www.pampazul.mincyt.gob.ar

jurisdiction in the matter. At the national level, it sits on the CFP council, for instance. Furthermore, it participates in the negotiation, interpretation and enforcement of international instruments regulating fisheries and those related to the environment.

1.1.3. Threats to marine biodiversity

39. Globally, many scientific publications, efforts by civil society organizations and international fora warn about the deterioration of marine ecosystems and their resources, given the increasing number of threats associated with human activities. It is known that all marine areas suffer the effects of mankind's actions. It is estimated that 41% of the ocean has been seriously affected (Halpern *et al*. 2008). The scale and severity of impacts on the marine environment calls for urgent conservation actions with a view to avoiding or at least minimizing an endangered species crisis in the oceans (Roberts *et al*. 2003).

40. In the case of Argentina's coastline, the threat of overfishing is less than in other parts of the world thanks to the management of resources through fishing permits based on TAC. Many stocks are now stable or on the upturn. Nonetheless, fisheries still poses some threats or problems that have an impact on the conservation of marine biodiversity along the Argentine coastline as described below.

Impact of fisheries on biodiversity (incidental catch and habitat modification)

41. The main direct threat fisheries entail for marine biodiversity is incidental catch or by-catch. Except for squid fisheries, bottom trawling is the main fishing method. There is little or insufficient knowledge about the impact of these fisheries on the seabed. A few studies have been carried out on the benthic fauna associated with the fishing of Patagonian scallop (*Zygochlamys patagonica*) and Argentine red shrimp (*Pleoticus muelleri*). It is however necessary to systematize information gathered and learn about the impact on biodiversity. Certified fisheries have made greater progress with regard to knowledge on the impact of the activity on by-catch than non-certified fisheries.

42. Despite regulatory and management efforts, incidental catch or by-catch cannot be completely eliminated. On the one hand, there is no evaluation on the loss of biodiversity due to incidental catch. It is worth mentioning that all catch, regardless of the fishers' intent (target or incidental), is taken into account in the evaluation models. On the other hand, and for certain fisheries, mandatory devices have been developed (by INIDEP or private companies and then tested by INIDEP) to diminish, for instance, the catch of hake juveniles. Anyhow such devices are not widely accepted.

43. Special attention must be paid to the incidental catch of Chondrichthyes (Sharks NPA) because these are vulnerable species, with a special conservation status for some species.

44. Interaction of fishing gear with birds depends on the kind of fishery. A study is being carried out on the interaction of birds with trawl nets, particularly because of birds colliding with trawl cables. Recently a pilot test was launched to use bird-scaring lines.

Impact of fishing the target species on the rest of the stocks

45. Another threat –although indirect- is the impact on the rest of the stocks of fishing the target species (trophic chain). This issue is seldom addressed by scientific fishery studies and

is thus an important knowledge loophole. The catch of squid, hake and Argentine anchovy is known to affect other species in the ecosystem. Studies were carried out recently on the average trophic level variations in landings within the Common Fisheries Area of Argentina and Uruguay.

1.2. Project Justification

1.2.1. Baseline initiatives and projects, including sources of co-funding and remaining barriers

Initiatives related to marine protected areas

46. The Law on the creation of a System of Marine Protected Areas in waters under national jurisdiction was only recently enacted. Its aim is to protect and preserve representative marine spaces for habitats and ecosystems included within the environmental policy objectives spelled out by the law. In the case of the Namuncurá-Burdwood MPA, the Chief of Cabinet Ministry was recently appointed as Enforcement Authority by Executive Order No. 720/2014, and the Governing Council is already operational as foreseen in the above law.

47. *Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina* (FVSA – Argentine Wildlife Foundation) carried out its "Marine Program in the Patagonia Ecoregion and Southwest Atlantic", which included activities to promote the creation of MPAs and support the effective implementation of existing MPAs. As a continuation of this program, it is now implementing the Program "Argentina, Antarctica and its Living Oceans". In 2013, FVSA and other organizations held the "First International Meeting on Marine Protected Areas in Oceans" and the report summarizing conclusions and recommendations is to be published.

48. Initially through the "Sea Model" project, and currently through the "Sea and Sky" project, the Wildlife Conservation Society and other institutions have been and are supporting local initiatives for governance and zoning arrangements for activities on the eastern part of the continental shelf and shelf break.

Initiatives to mitigate the impact of fisheries on the ecosystem

National Plans of Action

- "*National Plan of Action to Reduce the Interaction of Birds with Fisheries in the Argentine Republic*" was adopted by CFP Resolution No. 15/2010, within the framework of FAO, and following the objectives of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).

- It was prepared by SSPyA and MAyDS based on a document drafted by professionals from the Universities *Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata,* and CONICET. A pilot test of trawling/freezing ships was recently launched to put into practice the use of bird-scaring lines that diminish interaction of birds with the trawl cable.

- National Plan of Action to Reduce Interaction of Marine Mammals with Fisheries in the Argentine Republic. Approved by CFP Resolution No 11/2015.

- National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Chondrichthyes. It was prepared jointly by SSPyA, MAyDS and MREyC, based on the contributions made by provincial agencies, scientific and academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Approved by CFP Resolution 6/2009.

Certification Mechanisms

49. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) manages a program together with its partners, seeking to transform international seafood and sea product markets towards a model that rewards and promotes sustainable and responsible practices, consistent with FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Its standards for sustainable fisheries and traceability of sea products have the purpose of increasing the availability of fish and seafood resources well managed by the market. The MSC blue eco-label will facilitate the participation of all in the program since it offers consumers the option to easily support sustainable fishery practices. MSC certification principles and criteria establish that sustainable fisheries should be based on maintaining and re-establishing populations of the species to be caught back to healthy levels; keeping integrity of the ecosystem; preparing and maintaining an efficient fishery management system, taking into account biological, socioeconomic, environmental and trade dimensions. With a view to achieving the above, it is necessary to fulfill all national and local laws and regulations, as well as international agreements and treaties. Based on the MSC certification, approximately 400 improvements in MSC-certified fisheries were identified, and it has taken only three years on average to complete each improvement-related plan of action. In Argentina, three fisheries operating in national waters are currently certified by MSC: Patagonian scallop (since 2006 and recertified in 2012), Argentine anchovy (2011), and the longtail hake (2012), with INIDEP's institutional support. (http://www.inidep.edu.ar/).

50. The Certification for longtail hake includes 6 companies, with 11 (eleven) ships all encompassed by the certificate. In 2011, the annual catch for this species was 70,000 metric tons. These companies are responsible for over 50% of the total catch of hoki in Argentina.

51. As regards the certification for Patagonian scallop, two companies with 4 (four) fish processing vessels carry out all fisheries (there are no other eligible fishing businesses since the Argentine fisheries management authority, following the scientific advice of INIDEP, granted only four fishing permits in 1996 so as to avoid overfishing). This fishery sector landed between 45,000 and 58,000 tons of whole Patagonian scallop per year in its first five-year certification period.

52. Certification for Argentine anchovy (in Buenos Aires province) includes two companies with 5 (five) high-seas vessels cooled with ice. All told they landed approximately 10 to 15% of Argentine anchovy catch in Buenos Aires province (around 2,000 metric tons).

53. The certification of Patagonian toothfish is in the process of bringing together four companies with 7 (seven) ships, that have been assigned the Total Allowable Catch for this species in the Argentine Sea. Fishing is carried out all year round and TAC was established at 3,950 tons in 2014.

NGO Initiatives

- FVSA is implementing the Project on "Reducing incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels in trawling fisheries in the Argentine Sea". Its purpose is to: promote awareness-raising in the sector and responsible fisheries practices, a necessary step for preserving endangered species. Furthermore it aims at sensitizing vessel crews so that they effectively implement mitigation measures to reduce the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels, some of which are also endangered. INIDEP, *Universidad de Mar del Plata* University, and *Aves Argentinas* (Argentine Birds non-profit) also participate in this project.

- *Fundación "Aves Argentinas*". In partnership with the national government, provincial governments and other NGOs, universities and fishery companies, the Marine Bird Program carries out actions to mitigate the impact of fisheries on the above birds in the Argentine Sea. This joint action promotes the application of practical, effective mitigation measures to diminish the death of birds, without affecting fish catch; it also allows information to be obtained on bird mortality factors in different fisheries, disseminating potential solutions to the problem among different stakeholders. In this regard, different actions are being carried out, such as the participation in campaigns for placing rings on Southern Giant Petrels: identification, marking and monitoring of Important Areas for marine Birds, boarding of their own technicians to evaluate and reduce the incidental catch of marine birds by the commercial trawling fleet in Mar del Plata, and partnerships with national and provincial public entities to reinforce POB, among others.

Initiatives related to an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

Provincial initiatives following an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

Sustainable Fisheries Ecosystem (ECOPES)[3]

54. The Institute of Marine Biology and Fisheries "Almirante Storni", funded by FONCyT through the Ministry of Production of the Río Negro Province, and the *Universidad Nacional del Comahue* university, implemented a research and development project (PID-FONCyT) in the period 2004-2009. Its overall objective was *to provide ecosystem sustainability to the San Matias Gulf fishing grounds, through management and operational procedures guaranteeing a responsible use and management of the sea, its resources and ecological functions*, in line with the FAO ecosystem approach to fisheries. Its purpose was to achieve "sustainability" in the use of natural resources, to ensure **healthy, productive seas**. ECOPES was an initiative aimed at setting the conceptual and operational foundations for carrying out an ecosystem-based, sustainable management of fisheries. One of the project's outcomes was a Master Plan to formulate, adopt and implement the Ecosystem-based Management Plan (EBMP), for marine fisheries catch in San Matias Gulf (GSM). The Plan spells out the principles, general guidelines and procedures for preparing and implementing EBMPs for each of GSM fisheries.

55. In Chubut, two co-management experiences were carried out for two resources:

[3] *www.ecopes.org*

(i) **Patagonia scallop in San Jose Gulf.** It was formally launched in 2003 and there is now an approved Management Plan[4] (about to be applied) with regard to a dozen species of invertebrates and algae, with special emphasis on Patagonian scallop fishing by diving. It includes a Technical Group (TG)[5] that formulates technical recommendations for artisan fishing management. Recommendations and guidelines shall respect regulations in force; they are non-binding and are submitted to the fisheries and Protected Areas enforcement authority. Fishers participate in planning, developing and discussing the outcomes in the annual prospecting of Patagonian scallops, and in recommending the catch quota for which there is no formal decision-making rule. The EBMP includes the access regime, management measures, indicator-based evaluation, monitoring, control and surveillance. The Plan can be reviewed according to its performance. Conceptual parts of the EBMP are included in the decree regulating the Artisan Fisheries Law in Chubut Province, which clearly defines the consultative nature of artisan fisheries management.

(ii) **El Riacho** is an artisan fisheries area within San Jose Gulf, where intertidal bivalves and sandbar octopuses are manually collected. The main feature here is the application of the Exclusive Territorial Use Rights for Fishing, which is included within the above-described EBMP.

Tierra del Fuego Artisan Fisheries Cluster[6].

56. The project started in 2013, based on a request for funds from PROSAP (Program for Provincial Agricultural Services) managed by the *Universidad Nacional de Tierra del Fuego* university. Its purpose is to *develop strategies to guarantee good-quality products from artisan fisheries that add value and generate a genuine, sustainable livelihood for all artisan fishery stakeholders in Tierra del Fuego.* An *ad-hoc* civil association was set up for improving artisan fisheries through actions aimed at upgrading product hygiene and traceability, setting the baseline for the main fishery stock (king crab) so as to calculate the necessary size of infrastructure works (piers and processing/dispatch plants), training observers and following up on this fishery sector, and reducing the incidental fishing of mammals in coastal trammel net fishing. This project is underway with the idea of having an artisan fishing association set up, with legal personality, operational and capable of managing loans and meeting its members' demands.

Other initiatives regarding the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

57. *Regional Program for Sea Turtle Research and Conservation in Argentina* – PRICTMA NGO. This program sets forth objectives and strategies duly agreed upon, to optimize and reinforce the technical capabilities and logistics of each of its participants. Furthermore, PRICTMA enables a balancing of existing technical and logistic asymmetries, rendering

[4] Provincial Executive Order, Chubut Province, No. 1899/11, regulating Law XVII No. 86 (formerly Law 5585).

[5] The Technical Group comprises authorities and technical staff from the Artisan Fishing Area, Fisheries Secretariat, technical staff from the General Directorate for the Conservation of Protected Areas –Under-secretariat of Tourism and Protected Areas-, representatives from the ANP Administration at Valdes Peninsula, representatives from artisan fishermen's organizations with legal personality (APAPM and others), and researchers from CENPAT, who participate on an individual basis.

[6] competitividadprosap.net/competitividad/pesca/?page_id=9

assistance to the coastal areas that have the greatest needs under a co-op modality, thus homogenizing all efforts.

58. PRICTMA's immediate priorities are to increase monitoring efforts in the south of Buenos Aires Province, Rio Negro and north of Chubut, and to prioritize research regarding *Dermochelys coriacea*.

59. Argentina's long coastline is the greatest difficulty when it comes to turtle research and conservation in our country. Therefore, cooperation and integration between the different institutions at academic and logistic levels is the most important factor to ensure PRICTMA's success.

Sustainable Fishing and Aquaculture Development Program (Ar-L1159).

60. This is an IADB loan executed by the MA, through the Unit for Rural Change (UCAR). The program's objective is to contribute to the sustainable management of fishery resources in Argentina. Its objectives are to: (i) improve capacities for research, planning, administration, monitoring, and oversight in the management of marine fishery resources, from an ecosystem-based approach; and (ii) support the development of aquaculture.

61. Component 1 focuses on *an ecosystem-based approach* for *improving marine resource management capacity* (US$42.0 million). The objective of this component is to help improve the capacity for applied research regarding fishery resources (sub-component 1.1, entails support to INIDEP with the procurement of two small fishery research vessels to evaluate coastal resources; and creation of provincial INIDEP offices), as well as to reinforce the fisheries resource administration, planning, monitoring and oversight system (sub-component 1.2 – including on-board cameras and streamlining of the fisheries information system). The total estimated cost of the program is USD 55 million, out of which IDB will finance USD 30 million from its Ordinary Capital (OC), and the rest will come from local contributions.

62. In its capacity as Enforcement Authority, and as a result of CFP Resolutions 8/2007 and 1/2008 that adopt the National Plan of Action for Preventing, Discouraging and Eliminating Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing (NPA – IUU), SSPyA has implemented "SICAP" (Overall Surveillance System of the Fishing Activity). This mechanism allows the coordination of a series of tools, thus facilitating appropriate control and efficient oversight of the activity. The objective of this oversight system for the Argentine fishery activities is to ensure responsible fisheries among stakeholders during the extractive phase, so as to ensure the resource's sustainability and its rational exploitation.

Initiatives regarding marine biodiversity information management

63. MINCyT's strategic plan is the National Plan "Argentina Innovadora" (Innovative Argentina)[7]. It is a National Science, Technology and Innovation Plan which establishes the guidelines for the country's scientific, technological and innovation policies for forthcoming years. The idea is to ensure continuity to the growth and consolidation of these areas that are considered the strategic pillars of national development. The Plan has two main objectives: on the one hand, to continue strengthening the National Science, Technology and Innovation System, by providing high-quality training to human resources, increasing the wealth of

[7] www.argentinainnovadora2020.mincyt.gob.ar/

available knowledge and arousing the interest of children and youths with regard to scientific matters, so as to plan a future in which knowledge shall be a core factor for inclusion and the country's economic growth; and, on the other hand, promote the development of innovation and an entrepreneurial culture to produce high value-added goods and services that will increase the companies' competitiveness and help solve social problems. The Plan "Innovative Argentina" 2020 identifies 32 social and production clusters to guide sector-based or focused science, technology and innovation policies for the period 2012-2015. Among them, is the Production and Processing of Ocean Resources cluster which promotes further knowledge on Argentine marine resources from a production standpoint, with the commitment to carry out sustainable activities. Such activities include process development to add value to catch, and to foster mariculture.

64. Pampa Azul Initiative[8]. It was launched by MINCyT in April 2014 and established the main areas of interest of the National State regarding research in marine biodiversity, and the efficient management of fishery resources. It proposes research in the Argentine Sea that will help to provide more thorough scientific knowledge as the grounds for natural resource conservation and management. The initiative will promote technological innovation applicable to the sustainable exploitation of natural resources and to the development of sea-related industries, to reinforce marine awareness in Argentine society, backing the sovereignty of our country in the South Atlantic with information and scientific presence. It is a proposed 10-year plan.

65. Its priority scientific Targets are as follows: (i) Implement a plan to coordinate interdisciplinary projects including basic research, species conservation and marine environments, use of renewable resources, and development of technologies applicable to the sea; (ii) Build capacities to model/predict future scenarios within global climate change; (iii) Build capacities to detect and face extraordinary ocean-related events by collecting data in real time; (iv) Generate scientific inputs for adopting policies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources; (v) Move forward in the geological knowledge of the Argentine Sea, including the survey of oil basins; and (vi) Promote prospective research in genetic resources.

66. *Fundación Patagonia Natural* implemented a series of projects, from the "Integrated Management Plan for the Patagonian Coastal Area", Phase I (1993 - 1996), through to the Project on "Consolidation and implementation of the Patagonian Coastal Area Management Plan for biodiversity conservation" (2003 - 2009); and currently underway is the Project on "Inter-jurisdictional System for Marine Coastal Protected Areas (SIAPCM in its Spanish acronym), which started in 2011. The implementation of these projects has helped to learn about coastal environments in several fields of work: pollution, tourism and fisheries, implementation of MCPAs, training of staff in provincial administrations managing MCPAs, and setting up of communication and participation forums.

67. Despite the efforts of the National Government, Provincial Governments and NGOs, there are still barriers to achieving Global Environmental Benefits. Barriers to the effective conservation of marine ecosystems include:

- **Limited experience in managing marine protected areas.** The creation of Marine Protected Areas in the AEEZ has happened only recently, so there is little specific

[8] www.pampazul.mincyt.gob.ar

experience in the management and administration of MPAs at those institutions in charge of managing protected areas. It is still necessary to outline institutional roles and responsibilities for managing MPAs, and draft instruments for the enforcement and management of technical standards, guides for good environmental practices, and methodological and operational guidelines. The creation of MPAs is not enough to achieve the protection and sustainable use of marine environments if it is not supplemented by effective implementation and sustainable financing mechanisms to guarantee management effectiveness.

- **Low prioritization of important ecological and biological marine areas for their appropriate management.** Coastal marine protected areas within twelve miles have received more attention than MPAs and therefore have greater protection than areas outside that jurisdiction. Since many species of birds, mammals and fish make use of marine space outside the 12 miles (eg. for food or as migratory corridors), it is necessary to identify and protect priority areas for the effective conservation of species of global significance.

- There are deficiencies and **gaps in the knowledge about these marine ecosystems**, which have an incidence on and/or limit decision making. There is also little knowledge in the development of technologies allowing for appropriate management of marine protected areas.

68. In addition, the following barriers to the effective implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries also persist:

- **Lack of mainstreaming of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries**, involving all fisheries and stakeholders in the management of priority areas. The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries has not been adapted to the national fisheries context or adopted as a complementary tool for fisheries management. Although the regulatory framework for the fisheries management includes some ecological considerations, systematically does not include the EAF. Limited capacities for implementation of EAF among professionals in the fisheries sector (public institutions and fisheries associations).

- **Good fishery practices are not easily accepted by fishers.** To date a systematic analysis of market incentives and certification schemes for fisheries that adopt EAF is not available. There is not enough knowledge about alternative incentives for adopting good fishery practices, and a lack of a socioeconomic impact assessment that can lead to implementing good fishery practices, selectivity and mitigation methods.

- **Limited appropriate capacities** to ensure efficiency and optimum coverage in control and surveillance of fisheries. The personnel trained to operate the most modern mechanisms of control and surveillance and implementation of regulations on EAF is scarce.

- Lack of a **monitoring and information system** to bring together and systematize data on different fishery dimensions needed for implementing EAF (biology, economics and sociology). Lack of social and economic data duly systematized throughout time to help in decision-making under an EAF.

1.2.2. Incremental reasoning of GEF resources

69. With a view to removing the above-mentioned barriers, the project aims at reinforcing marine biodiversity management and protection capacities in areas of ecological importance, by creating new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and applying the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). The project is structured on the basis of three components.

70. Component 1 aims at improving the protection of marine ecosystems by reinforcing MPA governance. The project will thus enhance the area under conservation by creating a new MPA, improve management of protected areas by designing Management Plans both for the new MPA and for an existing one, and will support the formulation of sustainable financing plans. Furthermore, the project will support the strengthening and harmonization of the regulatory framework for MPA management, and reinforce inter-institutional coordination by creating a network of research organizations, government agencies and Civil Society Organizations for exchanging scientific information.

71. Co-financing for Component 1 includes a project coordinator, technical officers, investigation activities, ships, communications and travel costs. Project partners have committed co-financing so as to carry out the above activities.

72. MAyDS will make a contribution of USD 277,488 in cash and USD 281,555 in kind, totaling USD 559,043. The Ministry of Security will contribute USD 2,800,000 in cash and USD 147,000 in kind, totaling USD 2,947,000. The National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) will contribute USD 150,000 in cash and USD 522,000 in kind, totaling USD 672,000. The National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP) will contribute USD 251,000 in cash and USD 800,000 in kind, totaling USD 1,051,000. The Under-Secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture will contribute USD 60,000 in kind only. The Pampa Azul Project will contribute USD 147,700 in cash and USD 142,100 in kind, totaling USD 289,800. The Federal Fisheries Council will contribute USD 50,000 in cash only. The Ministry of Defense contribution will be USD 37,692 in cash and USD 2,819,230 in kind, totaling USD 2,856,922.

73. GEF incremental resources will be used to provide technical assistance for creating a new MPA, including all related biological, oceanographic and socioeconomic studies; technical assistance and support for the participatory formulation of Management Plans and sustainable financing plans for the MPAs included in the project; support for the drafting of good environmental practices guides for productive sectors, so as to reinforce the regulatory framework for managing MPAs. Furthermore, the GEF grant will support the development of a GIS and a related database to provide information with a view to improving MPA management efficiency.

74. Component 2 aims at reinforcing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) within the regulatory frameworks and national policies applicable to coastal and marine fisheries in the Argentine Sea. Within this component, the project will promote a pilot experience for introducing EAF in Patagonian scallop fisheries; it will help towards building the conditions and capacities for the effective implementation of EAF at the national level, and will moreover reinforce and improve information and monitoring systems for the Argentine fisheries sector, including biological, social and economic variables.

75. Co-financing of this component includes project coordinator, coordinator pilot, technical officers, sea control, airplanes, investigation activities, ships, communications and travel costs. Project partners have committed co-financing so as to carry out the above activities.

76. MAyDS will make a contribution of USD 162,587 in cash and USD 250,444 in kind, totaling USD 413,031. The Ministry of Security will contribute USD 1,533,333 in cash and USD 236,538 in kind, totaling USD 1,769,871. The National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) will contribute USD 150,000 in kind only. The National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP) will contribute USD 481,000 in cash and USD 662,000 in kind, totaling USD 1,143,000. The Under-Secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture will contribute USD 1,665,000 in cash and USD 655,000 in kind, totaling 2,320,000. The Federal Fisheries Council will contribute USD 336,984 in cash and USD 178,691 in kind, totaling USD 515,675. The Ministry of Defense contribution will be USD 20,000 in cash and USD 200,000 in kind, totaling USD 220,000. The Private Sector will contribute USD 240,000 in cash.

77. GEF incremental resources will (i) finance technical assistance and support participatory designing of a Management Plan from an EAF perspective for the Patagonian scallop fishing area, and (ii) the validation of good practices, which includes diagnostic studies, information surveying campaigns, workshops to agree on a plan with stakeholders, and procurement of inputs for the application of good practices. GEF resources will also be used to support those institutions connected with the fisheries sector to reinforce their capabilities for effectively implementing EAF.

78. The above includes technical assistance for mainstreaming EAF contents in the sector's regulatory framework, a study of market incentive options for applying EAF, building and strengthening of staff capabilities at the institutions involved in fisheries management and at fishery trade unions for putting into practice EAF, strengthening of the capabilities of the authorities linked to fisheries management so as to implement efficient management, control and surveillance mechanisms. GEF resources will also be used to reinforce fisheries information and monitoring systems. The project will render technical assistance to SSPyA for bringing in an information system on socioeconomic variables for applying EAF, besides financing the creation of a monitoring and information system for applying EAF in the Argentina Sea, fishing trips for preparing the National Evaluation on fishing techniques and selectivity devices. Based on the above, experts hired by the project will support the Government of Argentina (GoA) in mainstreaming these experiences in the Fisheries Management Plans and in National Plans of Action.

79. Component 3 will allow the monitoring and evaluation of the project's progress and its fulfillment of indicators, and the dissemination of information on this initiative.

80. Co-financing of this component includes project coordinator, technical officers, communications and travel costs.

81. Project partners have committed co-financing so as to carry out the above activities. MAyDS will make a contribution of USD 48,294 in cash and USD 187,690 in kind, totaling USD 235,984. The Federal Fisheries Council will contribute USD 57,484 in cash and USD 12,202 in kind, totaling USD 69,686. GEF incremental financing will cover the preparation of

a communication strategy to disseminate project-related information, and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities.

1.3. FAO's comparative advantage

82. The UN has commissioned FAO with the mandate of supporting development of the fisheries sector. The guidelines of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries are a part of the agreements and international definitions regarding the precautionary principle recognizing that "undesired changes in fisheries systems, like depletion of certain stocks, are usually only restored slowly" (FAO, 1996), and that "the absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation or management measures" (FAO, 1995).

83. FAO has broad experience at the global, regional and national levels in promoting sustainable management of fishery resources and rendering assistance in this regard. An important world milestone was the creation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. FAO promotes the application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), which is quite widespread, and provides training to different groups and stakeholders – including producers and governments. Such experience is central to the implementation of this project. The Organization is an active member of inter-institutional UN groups such as GESAMP – Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection.

84. FAO has several Fisheries Committees in all regions worldwide, including Latin America, where it aims at working in research and the sustainable use and shared management of marine resources. In the above region, FAO has renowned experience in rendering technical assistance and as a GEF executing agency in sustainable fisheries projects.

85. At all three levels of the organization (Headquarters, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Argentina Office), FAO has technical officials with long-standing experience in the implementation of projects on responsible fisheries governance, EAF, MPAs, with broad knowledge on the project's area of influence. In Argentina, FAO has provided technical assistance and support to institutional strengthening in the last few decades, in support of the development of fisheries institutions and the strengthening of such institutions, such as INIDEP.

1.4. Participants and other stakeholders

Participating government institutions

86. **Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)**. In its capacity as National Environmental Authority, MAyDS is the focal point for the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), for GEF in Argentina, and is thus responsible for coordinating the programming of GEF resources, and the supervision of the GEF project portfolio in Argentina, in cooperation with GEF executing agencies and project implementing partners.

87. The National Directorate for Environmental Governance and Biodiversity Conservation reports to the Under-secretariat for Environmental Policies and Planning. Within the directorate

are the Working Group on Aquatic Resources (GTRA); Working Group on Protected Areas (GTAP), and the Working Group on Biodiversity Conservation (GTCDB).

88. MAyDS will have the role of coordinating the project. It shall be responsible for project technical implementation, monitoring and financial planning. MAyDS will provide a National Project Director, who will be the direct supervisor of the activities and achievements of the project, and technical fisheries specialists.

89. **Ministry of Agroindustry**. The areas within this Ministry that will relate directly to the Project are the following:

- The **Under-secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture** (SSPyA) which directs and enforces national fishery and aquaculture policies, and is responsible for follow-up, control and surveillance of the above activities. SSPyA
- The **National Directorate for Fishery Planning**

90. **The National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP)** is a decentralized agency advising SSPyA, CFP and MREyC in the rational use of resources, with the purpose of preserving the marine ecosystem for future generations. INIDEP will provide research vessels to conduct campaigns in protected marine areas.

91. **The Federal Fisheries Council** is the agency responsible for: establishing national fishery policies; fishery research policies; TAC by species, and for planning national fisheries development. The Federal Fisheries Council, as the regulatory authority for fisheries, will be the setting where the minimum contents of the ecosystem approach to fisheries will be negotiated. These meetings will involve other institutional bodies and NGOs, the private sector and fishery associations.

92. **The Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT)** is the core of the national scientific system. It offers a wide range of financing instruments in support of innovative projects, technological undertakings, research in science and technology, and training and repatriation of human resources.

93. **The National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET)** is one of the autarchic agencies within MINCyT, and devotes its efforts to promoting and applying science and technology in Argentina. CONICET provides scientific research grants. CONICET will carry out campaigns for the Namuncura-Burdwood Bank MPA through its two research vessels.

94. **The Institute of Marine and Fisheries Biology "Almirante Storni" (IBMPAS)** is placed within the structure of the *Universidad Nacional del Comahue* University, and of the Production Ministry, Rio Negro Province. IBMPAS developed the ***ECOPES*** (Sustainable Fisheries Ecosystem) Project, which is the first ecosystem-based fisheries management plan in the country.

95. The **Playa Unión Photobiology Station (EFPU)**[9] carries out scientific studies on the effects of solar radiation on aquatic organisms to help understand the potential effects of climate change (e.g. increase in temperature, pH and CO_2 in these organisms, and the relationships of

[9] http://www.efpu.org.ar/

those that feed on one another) on productivity and biodiversity, as well as in the producer-consumer trophic interaction. Most of the studies are carried out along the Patagonian coasts.

96. For its operation, EFPU reports administratively to a non-governmental organization: the Playa Unión Foundation.

97. **The Argentine Coast Guard (PNA)** has policing powers and carries out direct monitoring actions, based on the registration of position and speed, and oversight at port of reported and effectively used fishing gear, and it can issue violation tickets that it submits to the SSPyA. It grants registration numbers to fishing vessels flying the country's flag. PNA will perform activities for control, surveillance and prevention of pollution in the Sea.

98. Additionally, PNA carries out ocean pollution prevention tasks, as a result of Argentina's accession to international treaties such as the *International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties* (INTERVENTION, 1969); *International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage* (CLC, 1969); *International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution* (FUND/71); *Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter* (LC 1972); *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea* (SOLAS 74); *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships* (1973) as amended by the 1978 Protocol (MARPOL 73/78); and *International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation* (OPRC, 1990)

99. **Argentine Navy (ARA),** through its **Directorate of Maritime Affairs** it is in charge of surveillance across the Argentine Sea by patrolling the area.

100. The **National Antarctic Directorate – Argentine Antarctic Institute**[10] is a specialized agency to provide guidance, as well as to control, direct and carry out technical-scientific research and studies on Antarctica. Its scientific, technical and administrative staff is part of a wide spectrum of national and international programs for gaining better knowledge on Antarctica.

101. The **National Hydrographic Service (SHN)**[11] ensures navigation safety in Argentina in interaction with other countries. SHN provides the Safety of Navigation service in fulfillment of the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea -SOLAS 74 and its 1978 and 1988 Protocols- that entered into force in Argentina when enshrined in Laws No. 22079, No. 22502 and No. 24213 respectively.

102. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (MREyC)** is responsible for foreign policies in the fields of fisheries and the environment. It represents Argentina at international forums addressing this subject, together with other Government agencies having concurrent jurisdiction in the matter. For instance, at the national level, it is part of the CFP council. Furthermore, it participates in the negotiation, interpretation and enforcement of international instruments regulating fisheries and the environment.

Private sector

[10] http://www.dna.gov.ar/

[11] http://www.hidro.gov.ar/

103. Fishery companies and organizations will perform survey and research tasks in tides and participated in discussions on the analysis of alternative market incentives for ecosystem approach to fisheries. In addition, it will participate in training, pilot and validation activities.

Participating Non-governmental Organizations

- ***Fundación Patagonia Natural*.** It provided inputs for gaining knowledge on coastal environments in its four fields of work: pollution, fauna, tourism and fisheries, as well as on implementation of MCPAs, training of provincial administration staff in charge of managing MCPAs, and on the creation of communication and participation forums.

- ***Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina* (Argentine Wildlife Foundation).** It developed its "Marine Program in the Patagonia Eco-region and Southwest Atlantic", which included activities to promote the creation of MPAs and support the effective implementation of existing MPAs. As from 2003, FVSA focused its efforts on strengthening initiatives promoted in the San Matias Gulf, one of the few examples worldwide of Ecosystem-based Management. In 2010, it handed over management of the portal to the San Antonio Oeste Tourism Secretariat and the *Universidad Nacional del Comahue* University.

- **Wildlife Conservation Society.** It supports local initiatives for governance and zoning of activities on the eastern part of the continental shelf and shelf break, through the project "Sea Model", currently the "Sea and Sky" project.

- **Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea and Areas of Influence**. It is a coalition of NGOs, not only from Argentina, that shares a vision on a healthy, diverse Patagonian Sea, meeting the needs, wishes and aspirations of human beings. It is made up of 17 NGOs. Within the framework of this forum, important contributions have been made to knowledge on marine environments, for instance: Summary of the status of conservation of the Patagonian Seas and the Forum's Lighthouses (*Los Faros del Foro*), publications harnessed by this project.

- **Global Penguin Society**. It is a coalition working on the survival and protection of all penguin species worldwide, promoting an integrated conservation of oceans through science, management and education. Within the framework of an agreement between the Secretariat of Tourism and Protected Areas of Chubut and the National Patagonian Centre (CENPAT – CONICET), it leads a project for designing an MPA next to the Punta Tombo penguin colonies, and for preparing a proposal of a Biosphere Reserve to be submitted to UNESCO, covering a broad coastal area in the centre of Chubut Province, in a marine zone from Isla Escondida as far as Puerto Visser, and up to nautical mile 12.

- **Centre for Sustainable Fisheries Development (CeDePesca**) is a Latin American non-governmental organization based in Mar del Plata, Argentina, whose mission is to work on sustainable and socially equitable fisheries in the region. With a view to

fulfilling its mission, CeDePesca implements dissemination, training, support and research projects. Among its strengths, it is worth highlighting that since 1997, it has been able to get media attention and that of local and national decision-makers with regard to a few important subjects.

- ***Aves Argentinas*** is a non-profit working to reappraise the bond between people and their natural environment, providing a forum for those who love nature, and carrying out conservation, research, education and dissemination projects and activities.

1.5. Lessons learned in the past and related actions, including assessments.

104. Hereunder are the lessons learned which were taken into account in designing the project's components set forth in Section 2, within the project's two areas of intervention.

1.5.1. Management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

105. The Project *"Consolidation and Implementation of a Patagonian Coast Management Plan for Biodiversity Conservation"* (GEF ID 205) was completed in 2009 and delivered the following lessons learned:

1. Having a baseline and developing a series of data on biodiversity is essential for decision-making.
2. The need to reinforce capabilities and provide technical assistance for implementing protected areas, particularly marine ones.
3. It is necessary to have a greater involvement of the private sector to ensure coastal resource sustainability, particularly in the oil industry, fisheries and tourism.
4. Although the above-mentioned project has worked along marine coastal areas, the same notions can be applied to MPA.

106. The project *"Inter-jurisdictional System of Coastal Marine Protected Areas (SIAPCM)"* (GEF ID 3910) had the global objective of preserving the globally significant coastal-marine biodiversity in Argentina. For this purpose, it designed a framework for the effective and financially sustainable management of an Inter-jurisdictional System of Coastal Marine Protected Areas (SIAPCM), to favour the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Argentina. The project ended in December 2014 and the lessons learned therein as well as the good practices will be taken into account during the implementation of this project.

107. In turn, the project "*Sustainable Management of the Shared Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions*" (GEF ID 1032) has confirmed what must be considered a legacy of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) as regards international waters in foundational projects. That is to say, the decisive role of four key elements in the project's success:

1. Project management. All projects need strong technical leadership and full-time commitment at the Project Coordinating Unit.
2. Adaptive management. The project showed its capacity to put into practice adaptive management, by efficiently interacting with other management bodies. Without such capacity to restructure and adjust to emerging situations, the project would have failed.

3. The blend of foundational and pilot work. This design feature of the project has become an essential supplement for TDA/SAP, providing for experimenting in potential mitigation measures, filling information gaps, consolidating the participation of partners, ownership and commitment, fostering synergies between partner agencies, catalyzing actions and impacts. The CLME project was able to overcome serious implementation problems thanks to the commitment of the countries and partners, generating a positive impact through project activities.
4. Partnerships. Seldom do GEF IW projects act in a vacuum; they instead carry out interventions in contexts that can sometimes be complex, but include pre-existing experiences and scientific knowledge, ongoing work, regional agencies, existing initiatives and plans, binding treaties and non-binding international law and practices. Therefore, projects must become development partners, fully consistent with the context, supporting regional traditions, consolidated experience and modus operandi. The CLME project, during its second half, was able to achieve said level of cooperation with all relevant actors to benefit general project outcomes and their future sustainability.

1.5.2. Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

108. For the purpose of this project, it is worth highlighting the following lessons learned within the Project on "***Prevention of Coastal Pollution and Management of Marine Biodiversity***" (GEF ID 459): (i) participatory consultation processes are vital in countries with federal governments; (ii) setting up a "Consultative Committee" made up of SAyDS, PNA, the Navy Hydrographic Service (SHN) and provincial governments provided an "organic and dynamic" institutional framework to mitigate the risks of normal institutional changes within democratic processes. The long-term incorporation of technologies and the training provided to key actors by the Project guarantees the sustainability of their Project Implementation Unit within SHN, PNA and MAyDS; iii) preferably the government should build capacities within its institutions so as to ensure continuity once the projects have ended; (iv) Public-private partnerships give added value to project implementation, although multidisciplinary work many times entails more difficulties because of the great number of collaborators, and PPP therefore call for the setting of clear rules and guidelines to allow satisfactory implementation within the established time frames; (v) scientific technical assistance in GEF-funded projects continues to be a key contribution to environmental management in Argentina.

109. Furthermore, the project will harness the experiences and lessons learned in other regions, FAO's experience, as well as that of other projects and at the local level (co-management in Chubut and ECOPES in Rio Negro).

110. The above can be summarized as follows: (i) the importance of an efficient participation of stakeholders and institutions representing the interests of different sectors, such as communities, local governments, non-governmental organizations and private companies; (ii) coordination in the management of GEF resources, as well as those from governments and the private sector to avoid duplication of efforts and be able to use inputs from prior intervention outcomes; (iii) consideration, to the greatest extent possible, of socioeconomic problems, helping to generate environmental goods and services leading to a better quality of life, particularly for those obtaining their livelihood from the resources; (iv) the importance of including dispute settlement mechanisms; (v) the need to permanently strengthen capacities of key stakeholders; (vi) the use of efficient, transparent feedback mechanisms among all

participants to promote responsibility and a type of project management that appropriately meets the needs.

1.6. Links to national development targets, strategies, plans, policies and legislation and to GEF and FAO's Strategic Objectives

1.6.1. Consistency with national development targets and policies

111. The Argentine Republic has carried out actions to help diminish uncertainties and improve inter-institutional interactions to upgrade the governance process and favour fishery sustainability. The turning point was the enactment and enforcement of Law No. 24,922 or Federal Fisheries Law (FFL), which besides including all fishery-related actors by creating the CFP, set forth clear guidelines to foster scientific and technical research in fisheries. In this regard, it conferred upon CFP the mission of establishing the objectives, policies and requirements of scientific and technical research concerning living marine resources, whilst INIDEP is in charge of planning and implementing scientific and technical activities with other provinces and agencies, particularly as regards the evaluation and conservation of living marine resources. The law also envisages INIDEP's cooperation with national and provincial agencies in research aimed at avoiding pollution. Furthermore, INIDEP manages fishery research vessels owned by the National Government so as to annually determine the maximum sustainable yield for the different species. The FFL states that those companies that extract living marine resources must provide all the required information for research work on such resources.

112. In order to support research, the FFL states that up to 25% (twenty-five per cent) of the National Fisheries Fund (FO.NA.PE)[12] can be used for funding INIDEP's research work. This Fund was also created by the above law and allocates 2% (two per cent) of the resources to financing training of fishery staff, through official institutions.

113. The GoA will start up a Program for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development[13] which is of interest to this project because it aims at improving research, management, control and oversight capacities for managing marine fishery resources. Its component on "Research on Ecosystem-based Fishery Management" (USD 40 million) is targeted to reinforcing INIDEP's capabilities for obtaining and analyzing primary biological information on fishery resources and relevant environmental factors, allowing for better scientific advice to the regulatory agency (CFP) in charge of fishery management measures. It will focus on three main aspects: i) improvement of quality and geographic coverage of fishery research in maritime areas by modernizing infrastructure and equipment, foreseeing the procurement of two vessels (USD 30 million); ii) expansion of services at INIDEP's headquarters in Mar del Plata; and iii) regionalization of INIDEP's services along the Patagonian coast.

114. Furthermore, the component on "Strengthening the management, control and oversight system" (USD 8 million) will reinforce SSPyA capabilities for fulfilling management measures established by CFP. It will focus on: i) improving the fisheries comprehensive information

[12] The National Fisheries Fund was created by Section 43, FFL 24,922 as a special account to be managed by the Enforcement Authority (SSPyA), with the participation of the Federal Fisheries Council, and to be co-shared between the National Government and the provinces having a maritime coastline.

[13] Programme financed with an IDB Loan of USD 30 million plus a GoA cost-sharing of USD 25 million.

system for monitoring fishery activities; ii) improvement of on-board control effectiveness; and iii) technical assistance and training of civil servants as inspectors.

115. The FAO-CFP project was designed with a view to identifying existing gaps, proposing a long-term strategy, providing an updated framework for staff training, and essentially, appropriate tools for outlining the fisheries research policy. CFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) signed an Agreement to jointly implement the project on "Support to the Federal Fisheries Council for formulating fishery research policies and applying technology to fisheries in the Argentine Republic".

116. The Pampa Azul Initiative is a strategic research program in the Argentine Sea. As mentioned in the above paragraphs, there is an important number of fishery and marine science researchers at different institutions. The evolution of methodologies and knowledge is dynamic, thus calling for an optimization of available capacities to provide appropriate answers in due time and format, requiring the establishment of formal and operational bonds between institutions. It is under this premise that "Pampa Azul" was set up in 2014, bringing together all government agencies working on the matter. It envisages a 10-year line of work and outlines inter-disciplinary scientific trips encompassing the five priority areas defined, using traditional platforms such as oceanographic vessels and manned submarine vehicles; remote sensing technological developments and other methods for environmental monitoring, management and protection of resources through on site and satellite automatic logs; and capacity-building to generate and maintain a database with ongoing, public recordings.

1.6.2. Consistency with the National Environmental Policy and Strategy

117. The Project is consistent with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2020, in particular with:

- Axis 1. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. Sub-Axis 3. Conservation Areas. In particular with the following priorities: i) To reach in marine PAs, covering 4% of the Territorial Argentinian Sea; ii) To improve the management to reach 50% of PAs effectively managed, including work on achieving an equitable distribution of costs and benefits that protected areas represent for neighboring communities; iii) To achieve the funding necessary for the proper management of at least 50% of existing and new PAs.

- Axis 4. Sustainable Production and Consumption Practices, which has among its general objectives to generate policies and actions that promote the development of sustainable production systems and their transformation into balance with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services

118. Finally, the recent enactment of Law No. 27,037, passed on 19 November 2014, to establish a National System of Marine Protected Areas for preserving marine wealth, spells out a regulatory framework to facilitate the development of a representative network of MPAs in which marine biodiversity conservation is compatible with the country's sustainable development. This regime is of utmost importance for the future development of MPAs in the Argentine Republic since it sets up a legal framework for the management and creation of MPAs; and also a governance structure to facilitate their management. The law highlights the need to work on the basis of an ecosystem approach and to have Management Plans for each marine area, with the purpose of controlling their status and progress achieved in establishing

a representative system of MPAs. Furthermore, the project affirms that Management Plans must be adaptive, reviewed every five years and published so that they can be accessed.

1.6.3. Consistency with the GEF biodiversity focal area strategy

119. The project is consistent with the GEF BD-1 strategic objective, Biodiversity Focal Area: *Improve sustainability of protected area systems*. The project especially seeks to achieve the BD Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas, by supporting the creation of a new MPA, the design of Management Plans for the new MPA and for an existing MPA, and the formulation of sustainable financing plans. The project will moreover support the improvement and harmonization of the regulatory and institutional framework for managing MPAs.

120. The project is also consistent with GEF BD-2 strategic objective, Biodiversity Focal Area: *Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes / Seascapes*, in particular with Outcome BD 2.1 and Outcome BD 2.2: *Measures for sustainable conservation and use of biodiversity mainstreamed in regulatory and policy frameworks: Increase sustainably managed landscapes/seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation*. The project will facilitate adoption by CFP of minimum EAF contents, mainstreaming of the EAF in national fishery regulatory frameworks, and will provide training to reinforce management, control and surveillance mechanisms for applying EAF.

121. The project will also promote the application of EAF in a pilot fishery, support the adoption of an EAF-based Management Plan in a Patagonian scallop fishing area, and facilitate the validation and application of good catch and management practices in Patagonian scallop fisheries.

1.6.4. Consistency with FAO Strategic Objectives

122. This project is in line with the FAO Strategic Framework (2014-2019), particularly with Strategic Objective 2 (SO2): Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner; Outcome 1 (OO1) and Outcome 2 (OO2): Member states reinforce management (policies, laws, management frameworks and institutions necessary for supporting producers and natural resource managers) in the transition to sustainable agricultural systems, leading to output (2.2.2): "Assistance provided to countries for reinforcing national management frameworks fostering sustainable agricultural production and natural resource governance".

123. Argentina has a United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) which was signed in December 2015. UNDAF has five cooperation pillars: 1) Inclusive and Economic Sustainable Development; 2) Protection and Universal Access to Essential Services; 3) Citizenship and Human Rights Promotion; 4) Environment; and, 5) Cooperation for Sustainable Development. This project will focus on Pillar 4.

124. FAO Argentina had a National Medium-Term Priority Framework (NMTPF) for cooperation in the period 2010-2015. Six priority thematic areas are identified therein: A. Rural development and rural poverty alleviation; B. Food security and education; C. Environmental protection, sustainable management of natural resources and climate change; D. Animal and

plant health – food quality and safety; E. Bio-energy and other renewable energy sources; and F. Institutional development and strengthening. The current project was placed within Thematic Area C. A new National Medium-Term Priority Framework will be soon prepared in coordination with the new authorities of the Government of Argentina.

SECTION 2. PROJECT FRAMEWORK AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

2.1. Project Strategy

125. Fisheries in Argentina are regulated by Federal Fisheries Law 24,922 (FFL) and its regulatory Decree 748/99. It is a federal law because it defines provincial and national jurisdiction over these resources, setting the limits for the consolidation of rights for both government levels: the provinces have ownership and jurisdiction over living resources populating inland waters and the territorial sea adjacent to their coastline up to a distance of 12 nautical miles, while the remaining areas within the exclusive economic zone are under the dominion and jurisdiction of the national government. The law appoints the MA (SSPyA) as the enforcement authority, and regulates exploitation, oversight and research and, furthermore, determines fishing gear. Individual catch quotas have been established according to this law and currently five species have this kind of management system (Argentine hake, southern blue whiting, longtail hake, Patagonian toothfish and Patagonian scallop).

126. The law created the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) which, inter alia, spells out the national fisheries policy, the fisheries research policy, TAC by species, and plans national fisheries development. As part of this Council it function the committees of analysis and follow-up that are integrated by the public sector, scientific/technical sector and private sectors.

127. Although fisheries analyses have historically been based on the target species, the environmental dimensions have slowly but continuously been mainstreamed in the last few years by bringing an MAyDS counselor into the CFP, and particularly, by having environmentally-friendly management measures in place (e.g. NPA for Birds and NPA for Sharks).

128. The above-mentioned NAP initiatives and joint work with MAyDS, SSPyA and CFP have set the grounds for preparing this project which will include biological, ecological and socioeconomic dimensions, aimed at drafting the minimum contents of the EAF. This project will moreover support the necessary capacity-building for implementing EAF and ensure feedback through a pilot EAF, using the information collected at MPAs and their buffer zones.

129. The project will focus on: a) a proposal to create MPAs, and preparation of Management Plans and their financial sustainability to protect marine biodiversity in environmentally significant areas; b) establishment of minimum EAF contents and their adoption by CFP, together with capacity-building for its effective implementation, including lessons learned from a pilot initiative and the evaluation of fishing techniques and selectivity device efficacy; and c) capacity-building for management and oversight of EAF application.

130. With a view to ensuring sustainability of EAF application, the Project will support identification and analysis regarding the viability of different kinds of economic incentives, whether market-based or not. This includes the possibility of generating or adjusting instruments that provide benefits from applying EAF, particularly focused on socioeconomic benefits, and on implementing measures consistent with the ecosystem approach to achieve greater market visibility.

2.2. Project Objectives

131. The project's global environmental objective *is to strengthen management capabilities and protection of marine biodiversity in environmentally significant areas by creating new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and applying the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).* The project's development objective is to enhance knowledge on biological, ecological, social and economic aspects of marine ecosystems and their biodiversity, with a view to managing the protection of key biodiversity areas and minimizing the negative impact of fisheries on biodiversity by applying EAF.

2.3. Expected Project Outcomes

132. The outcomes expected upon project completion are the following:

Outcome 1.1. Improved protection of marine ecosystems with globally significant biodiversity in key areas by supporting the Burdwood/Namuncura Enforcement Authority for managing the MPA and its transition zones, and creating a new protected area, established beyond the 12 miles of Territorial Waters.

Outcome 2.1. EAF tested in a selected pilot fishery in collaboration with INIDEP, the private sector, CFP, SSPyA, MAyDS, to strengthen the sustainability of fisheries and protect marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Outcome 2.2. Enabling conditions and institutional capacities built at the national level for effectively implementing EAF.

Outcome 2.3. Information management and monitoring systems improved, including socioeconomic data and information on selectivity, good practices and mitigation measures to facilitate decision-making on the application of EAF in public and private environments

Outcome 3.1. Project implementation is based on results-oriented management, and project outcomes and lessons learned are applied to future operations.

2.4. Project components and outputs

133. With a view to achieving project objectives and the expected outcomes, the project has been structured into three components as described in detail below:

2.4.1. Component 1: Strengthening the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAS)

134. The purpose of this component is to improve the protection of marine ecosystems by strengthening MPA management. In this regard, the aim is to reinforce the capabilities to

manage existing MPAs[14], create new MPAs and strengthen the related regulatory and institutional framework.

135. The project focuses on the most relevant areas for conservation and will result in a significant increase in the total protected area of the Argentine Sea. Planning and management tools will be developed for the existing and proposed MPAs, so as to achieve an effective implementation of the protected areas.

136. Introduction of technical and financial management tools for the strategic, participatory and adaptive management within an ecosystem-based approach, and training of personnel will be of crucial importance to ensure that the threats to biodiversity are effectively addressed. The fundamental elements are: coordination with national and local authorities, citizen participation, particularly NGOs, Research Institutes, Universities, State-run institutions, the private sector, among others; and the gender approach.

Outcome 1.1. Improved protection of marine ecosystems with globally significant biodiversity in key areas by supporting the Burdwood/Namuncura Enforcement Authority for managing the MPA and its transition zones, and creating a new protected area, established beyond the 12 miles of Territorial Waters.

137. In order to achieve the project's outcome, it will support:

- Creation of a new MPA along the so-called "Front Corridor of Chubut" covering at least 25% (9,250 km^2) of its total area (37,000 km^2).
- Evaluations carried out by national institutions (INIDEP, CONICET) on the status of conservation of important variables in the existing MPA, including a viability analysis of the conservation value[15], and the main threats and impacts affecting that viability. This information will be used for planning and management purposes. The process will include the formulation of biological, physical and socioeconomic indicators and the definition of benchmark values for each one of them. This will constitute the foundation for guiding the planning process and management strategy during implementation, thus allowing threats to be prevented and their impact to be mitigated.
- Preparation of the Management Plans for the new MPA and the Burdwood-Namuncura Bank MPA; the latter in coordination with the Chief of Cabinet Ministry. The Management Plans will be developed with the active participation of different organizations, in agreement with the procedure proposed in the Manual on Planning in Wetland Protected areas, which was prepared by MAyDS (2014). This procedure will be governed by three guiding principles: the application of an ecosystem-based approach, adaptive management and a broad participation of the related actors.
- Improvement of the MPAs financial sustainability, formulating tools for decision-makers to optimize the use of available funds and increase and diversify revenue. Support will thus be provided to develop sustainable financing plans addressing the potential and current limitations. Sustainable funding plans will be mainstreamed in

[14] A Marine and Coastal Protected Area (MCPA) is the area between the coast and the 12 nautical miles line. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are those located between 12 and 200 nautical miles, and Marine Ocean Protected Areas (MOPA) are those beyond 200 nautical miles.
[15] Viability is the ability of a species to persist throughout many generations or of a community or ecological system to persist for long periods.

management plans, ensuring the financial and operational implications are borne in mind in an overarching manner.

138. Activities will be carried out by experts hired for specific tasks and through letters of agreement with research institutions.

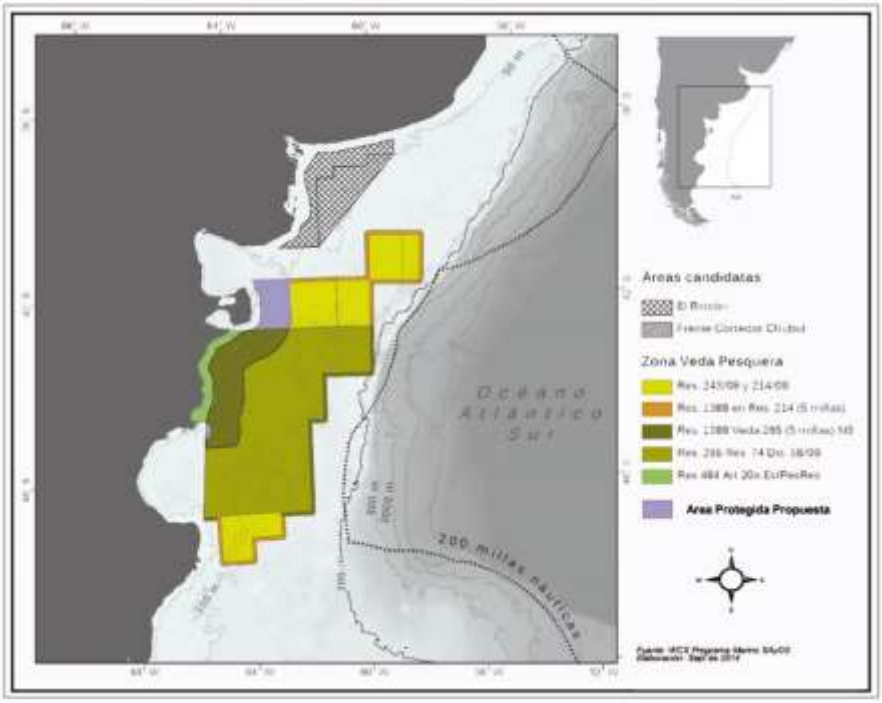
Output 1.1.1 One (1) new MPA defined, with its geographical boundaries duly drawn, and a proposed participatory Management Plan [16] along the "Front Corridor of Chubut", covering at least 25% of its total area (37.000 km2).

139. **Baseline:** MPAs (beyond the 12 nautical miles) are barely represented within the National Protected Area System. According to CBD criteria, the Front Corridor of Chubut was identified as the priority area for conservation in the Argentine Sea. At present most of the proposed zone is included in the area permanently closed to trawling. Adjacent to this coast there is a Biosphere reserve in provincial waters and one of the biggest and relevant provincial MCPA in Argentina: Valdes Peninsula. Figures 2.1 and 2.2 below show two proposed locations for the new MPA. The final location will be defined after project inception.

140. **Targets:**

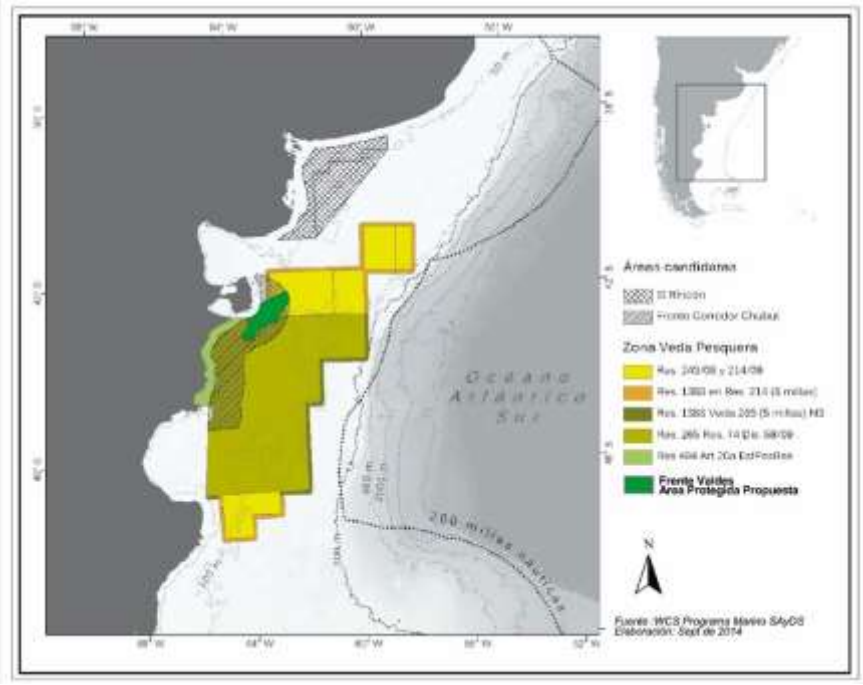
- A participatory Management Plan formulated.
- Proposal (formal instruments) for the creation of a new MPA in the Front Corridor of Chubut area

Figure 2.1. Possible location of the new MPA (between 12 and 200 miles) in interaction with Fishing ban areas. Approximately 1.254.773 hectares. (Purple area).



[16] Management plans will be implemented after the protected areas have been created by Law.

Figure 2.2. Possible location of the new MPA (between 12 and 200 miles)
in interaction with Fishing ban areas. Approximately 833.606 hectares. (Green area)



141. The above Targets will entail carrying out the following activities: In Year 1, the project will support negotiations to sign an agreement for creating the new MPA between the government of Chubut province, the Federal Government (CFP, MAyDS, SSPyA, SHN, MREyC, JGM) and the legislative branch, including feedback from local civil society. It will also draft a protocol for sampling and surveying during cruises, to be validated through a participatory process.

142. In Year 2, three oceanographic and seasonal biological cruises will take place, as well as a socioeconomic survey and diagnostic study of human intervention so as to have a better idea about issues faced by the MPA. Based on the surveyed data, the environmental and socioeconomic baseline document will be prepared and then used as the basis for outlining the Management Plan.

143. In Year 3, participatory workshops will be organized and attended by Civil Society Organizations, the government of Chubut province, and Federal Government representatives (from CFP, MAyDS, SSPyA, JGM). The above will allow the formulation of a bill to create the MPA.

Output 1.1.2 One (1) Management Plan for the MPA Namuncura – Burdwood Bank.[17]

144. **Baseline**: The Namuncura – Burdwood Bank MPA was created in 2013 as the first MPA in Argentina. Given its recent creation it still does not have a management plan nor is it effectively managed. The competent authority –Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers- was

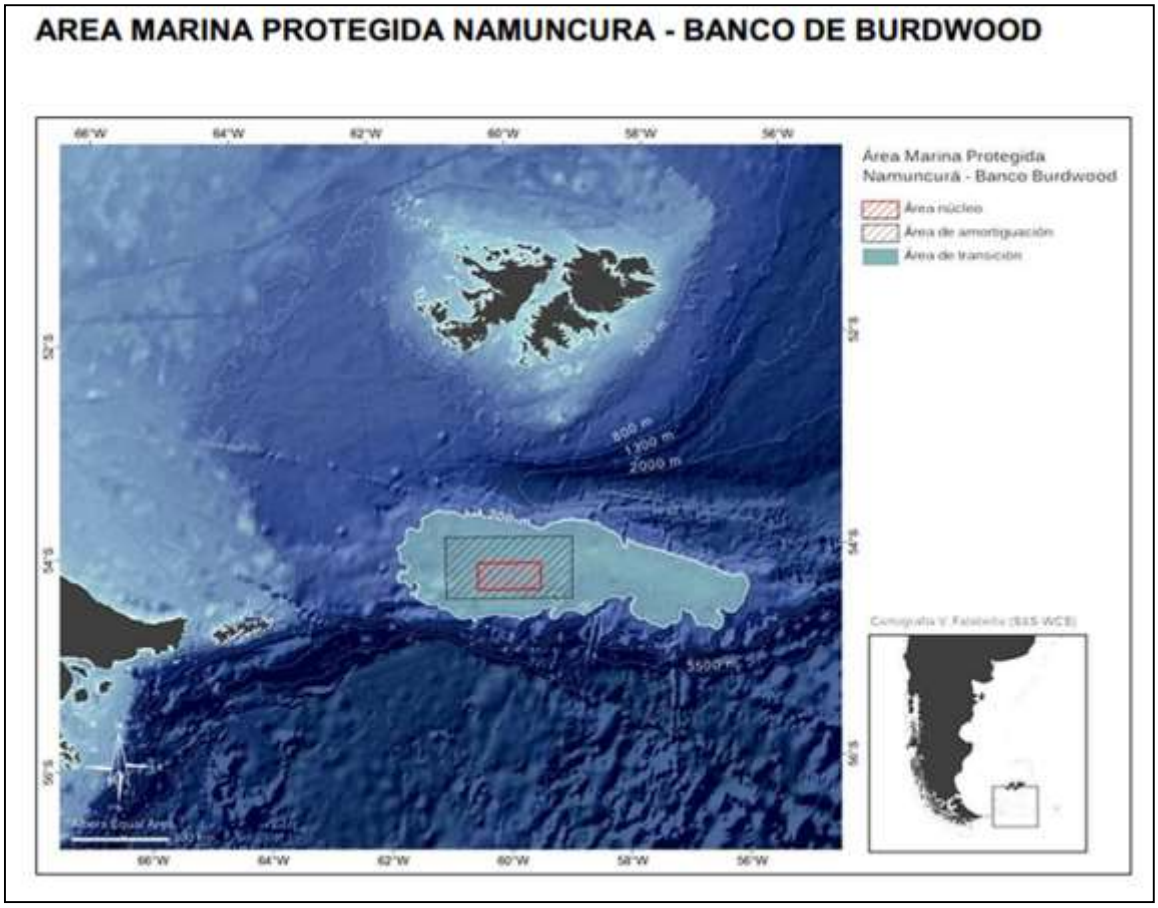
[17] This activity will be coordinated by the Governing Council set up by Law 26875

appointed in 2014. Specific oceanographic cruises have been carried out by INIDEP and CONICET but key elements and variables of this ecosystem still remain unknown.

145. **Target:**

- Management Plan adopted by the Chief of Cabinet Ministry (JGM), covering an area of 28,000 km2

Figure 2.3. Location of the MPA Namuncurá - Burdwood Bank



146. During Year 1, a document will be drafted with the ecosystem-based variables and the sampling protocol, which will be validated through a participatory process. A first oceanographic and biological cruise will be carried out. In Year 2, two additional oceanographic and biological cruises will be organized and an environmental baseline document will be prepared (oceanography, biodiversity and ecosystem-based services) for the Namuncura-Burdwood Bank MPA. In parallel a socioeconomic survey will be carried out in the MPA so as to determine the impact of human intervention on the area's biodiversity.

147. Year 3 will be devoted to formulating the MPA Management Plan, in coordination with the Namuncura Bank Governing Council. In this regard, participatory workshops will be organized and held for preparing the Management Plan document, which will be submitted to the approval of the Chief of Cabinet Ministry. The Plan will be supported by normative instruments to guide its effective implementation. Once these conditions have been fulfilled, an

initial implementation of the Management Plan will take place, and lessons learned from the process will be drawn and documented.

Output 1.1.3 Two sustainable financing plans designed for MPAs (Front Corridor of Chubut MPA and Namuncura-Burdwood Bank MPA).

148. **Baseline:** Some of the MCPAs have few possibilities of ensuring enough funding in the long term. Financing barriers limit the efforts to guarantee biodiversity conservation, as well as the objective of enhancing the areas so as to have a greater representation of the ecosystems. Sustainable financing strategies have not yet been consolidated for MCPAs in Argentina, least still for MPAs. There is a proposal to create a conservation fund for MCPAs in Chubut Province. COFEMA has approved the proposal.

149. **Targets:**

- Guideline document for the sustainable funding of MPAs in Argentina.
- Two sustainable financing plans formulated and mainstreamed in MPA Management Plans.
- At least 15 people (60% women) linked to MPA management, trained in financial management tools.

150. In year 1, a working document will be drafted, including guidelines for the sustainable financing of MPAs in Argentina, based on the different options and mechanisms identified. During the second year, these mechanisms and options will be submitted to the consideration of potential financers for the new MPA and for the Namuncura-Burdwood Bank MPA. A workshop will be held for each MPA.

151. In Year 2, using the above inputs, documents will be drafted with a characterization and quantification of a minimum budget for the operation of each MPA. The project will support a thorough analysis of programs that may provide financing to the management of the protected areas and develop strategies to access the resources available. Current and potential sources and flows of funds from competent authorities will be identified and quantified.

152. Finally, in Year 3, a financing plan will be drawn up for the Namuncura-Burdwood Bank MPA, to be mainstreamed in its Management Plan. In Year 4, the same process will be undergone for the new Chubut Front MPA.

153. The process will be completed (in Year 4) once the guidelines on the sustainable financing of MPAs in Argentina are completed and adjusted according to the lessons learned in both MPAs. A training course on financial management tools will be delivered to at least 15 people linked to the MPAs' management.

Output 1.1.4 Institutional, regulatory and operational capacity framework reinforced for the management of MPAs and transition zones.

154. **Baseline:** There are several enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over the sea. As regards MPAs, the recently enacted Law 27,037 created the National System of Marine Protected Areas. This is a fundamental contribution to ensure sound decisions since it spells

out the competences as well as formal and institutional mechanisms for their management. Anyhow, it is still necessary to outline institutional roles and responsibilities for managing MPAs and prepare application and management instruments.

155. **Targets:**

- Guidelines on good environmental practices for the productive sectors operating in MPAs and transition zones.
- Proposed standards for approving Management Plans.
- Document on lessons learned and recommendations concerning methodological and operational guidelines for managing new MPAs.

156. The following activities are scheduled for achieving this output: In Year 1, the contents and scope of the MPA Management Plans will be defined through consultations with relevant stakeholders, which will facilitate agreements on institutional roles and responsibilities for MPAs.

157. In Year 2, Guides on good environmental practices will be prepared for the productive sectors (fisheries, hydrocarbons, maritime transport) present and carrying out activities in the MPAs or their transition zones. These guides will be shared with the sectors involved to promote their implementation.

158. In Year 3 and based on the experience gained in the first two MPAs, a proposal will be prepared on standards for approving management plans, which can then be used by the authorities in charge as a procedure for approving the first two Management Plans.

159. Finally, during Year 4, a document on lessons learned will be prepared, including recommendations on methodological and operational guidelines to be included when managing new MPAs.

160. These contributions will help to consolidate the Regulatory Framework for managing the system of marine protected areas in line with the recently passed Law.

Output 1.1.5. One consolidated network of research organizations, governmental agencies and Civil Society Organizations with capacities enhanced and working together on sharing of scientific analysis on costal marine biodiversity and threats to its conservation and best management practices for improved management effectiveness of MPAs.

161. **Baseline:** Although there are several research projects and programs promoted by different research and academic institutions, and there is relevant information on certain species (those of commercial interest), knowledge about biodiversity in the Argentine Sea is insufficient, not very much applicable to management, and very segmented, with no ecosystem-based approach. Existing databases and bibliography at the different institutions cannot be easily accessed by decision-makers. A GIS was developed during project preparation as the basis for MPA management. An Ocean Database has started operating at MINCyT.

162. **Targets:**

- A set of GIS-based maps – with relevant fishing information.
- Information system available and operational on the Web.
- From 20 to 30 people related to MPA management duly trained in GIS and information systems.

163. The following activities shall be implemented to achieve this output: In Year 1, an inter-institutional agreement will be negotiated and established on the compatibility and integrality of the different databases in place nowadays. Rules for their use will be defined under the principles of metadata management, which will include recognition and respect for copyright. Among the projects and institutions involved are the following: Pampa Azul, SiFAP, SIB, GEF Project ID 4768, FREPLATA II, SIAPCM, AALO Project, Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea, INIDEP, CONICET and its institutes, which can access, exchange and feed data into the information system in a sustained manner. This information will be harmonized with that of the ocean database that operates at MINCyT.

164. In Year 3, a GIS will be built using information from the oceanographic and biological cruises supported by the project, and from the socioeconomic surveys, and will be enriched with existing relevant information; during the fourth year, GIS and related information bases will be installed and made accessible on the Web, for which the necessary inter-institutional agreements will be drawn up and formalized.

165. To make sure officials linked to MPA management and other stakeholders can efficiently use this geo-referenced information system, at least 50 people will be trained at GIS and database courses.

166. Furthermore, exchange and joint analysis of information capabilities will be strengthened among institutions involved in managing MPAs, and support will be provided to help improve efficiency in managing MPAs.

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

167. This component focuses on reinforcing EAF within normative frameworks and national policies for managing coastal and marine fisheries in the Argentine sea. To achieve this objective, the component was structured into three sub-components to help address EAF as supplementary lines of action:

168. The component will support the implementation of a pilot experience to introduce EAF, focusing on Patagonian scallop fisheries. This pilot experience will allow preparation of the first Management Plan using an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, and the validation of good fishery management practices, as well as the training of human resources through a practical pilot test.

169. Furthermore, the project will help build conditions and capabilities for effectively implementing EAF at the national level by focusing on the following:

- Establishing the minimum contents for the EAF to be proposed by CFP, for their mainstreaming in fishery management regulatory frameworks;
- Analysis of market incentive options for applying EAF;
- Capacity-building in the practical application of EAF for staff at the institutions involved in fishery management, provincial authorities and fisheries trade unions, including efficient management, control and surveillance mechanisms within EAF.

170. Under this component, the project also seeks to develop upgraded information management and monitoring systems, including biological, social and economic variables to better define EAF in Argentina's fisheries. These systems are expected to facilitate decision-making on EAF application in the public and private sectors.

171. The process for adopting the EAF will be supported and guided during project execution by the Technical Consultative Committee (TCC). This Committee will render advice to decision-makers on the adjustments and update of the national and provincial regulatory frameworks, with a view to mainstreaming the application of EAF (See Section 4 of this same document: "Institutional arrangements for project implementation").

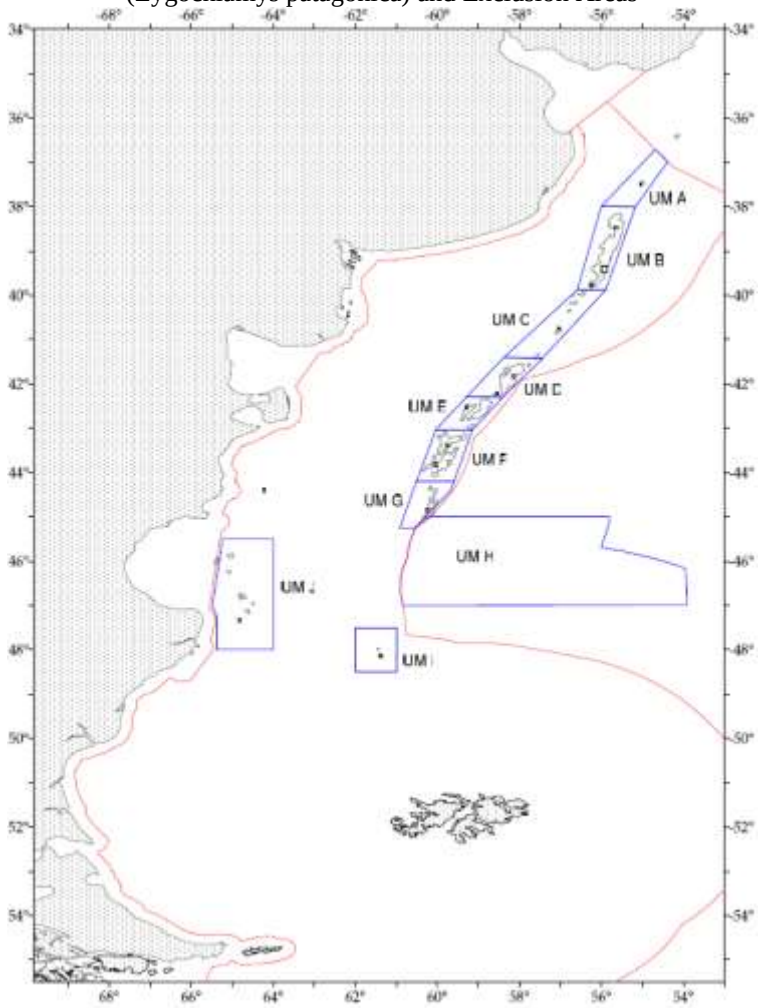
Outcome 2.1. EAF tested in a pilot fishery, in collaboration with INIDEP, the private sector, CFP, SSPyA, MAyDS, and scientific institutions, to strengthen the sustainability of fisheries and protect marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.

172. During the design phase, there was broad participation and consensus on the fact that only four fisheries (king crab, Patagonian scallop, mackerel and Argentine anchovy) meet the condition of having a limited number of actors, thus allowing coordination and validation during the project's life time of the three fundamental aspects of EAF: biological, social and economic. Patagonian scallop is the selected fishery for the pilot experience, which has baseline information available which shortens the time frame before implementation of the pilot experience. Furthermore, since it is a benthic resource, there is little uncertainty about mobile or migratory resources, and is thus a good option for developing EAF.

173. This fishery sector has a governance system in place to provide sustainability. It is managed under the Individual Transferable Catch Quotas. CFP annually establishes TAC for each of the Management Units (Resolutions 4/2008, 5/2009, and their amendments 15/2012 and other supplementary resolutions for each year and management unit). The characteristics of the management framework have allowed the Patagonian scallop fishery to be the first Argentine fishery (2004) and the first scallop fishery worldwide to be certified by MSC (and re-certified in 2012).

174. Besides the many biological-fishery studies, evaluations have been started on the specific wealth and composition of by-catch which includes many species of invertebrates from different taxa groups identified since 1995. Although there is information on trade and the macroeconomic impact, it is necessary to fill socioeconomic information gaps (similarly for all Argentine fisheries) to holistically develop EAF. This fishery sector has an Analysis and Follow-up Committee made up of national and provincial authorities, scientists and company representatives.

Figure 2.4. Management Units (MU) of the Patagonian scallop (Zygochlamys patagonica) and Exclusion Areas



The following are the expected outputs for this pilot experience:

Output 2.1.1. Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Plan (EAFMP) for the Patagonian scallop fishery adopted by all stakeholders (Patagonian scallop fishers and fishing companies, INIDEP, CFP, SSPyA, MAyDS, and science institutions)

175. **Baseline:** Management measures have already been adopted by CFP (defining caps by management unit, no-catch areas, total allowable catch by bank; Resolutions CFP 15/2012, 6/2014, 15/2008, among others) but there is currently no Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Plan for Patagonian scallop. The two Patagonian scallop fishing companies operating in the area are MSC certified and have a plan of action to implement management measures and good practices to keep such certification. There is an institutional framework set up by CFP for analyzing and following up on the evolution of the fishery -the Committee- which has been meeting since 2005.

176. **Target:**

- An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Plan (EAFMP) adopted for the Patagonia scallop fishing area

177. Actions to be carried out to obtain the output are the following: In Year 1, an initial diagnostic study will be carried out and agreements will be established among all stakeholders on the management objectives for Patagonian scallop fisheries, and the work plan for preparing the EAFMP.

178. A consensus-building workshop will be organized with the participation of the public and private sectors to establish information surveying protocols and variables for the ecological, biological and socioeconomic baselines, and the potential impact of current fishery practices on the pilot area.

179. In Year 2, four ecological and biological information surveying cruises will take place, and the information collected during these cruises will be analyzed to determine the impact of current practices on Patagonian scallop fishing. The protocols defined during Year 1 will be used to survey data and carry out the socioeconomic analysis of the Patagonia scallop fishery.

180. In Year 3, an EAFMP for the fishing area will be drafted and agreed upon by consensus with the stakeholders (Patagonian scallop fishers and fishing companies, INIDEP, CFP, SSPyA, MAyDS and scientific institutions). Observations and recommendations of the stakeholders will be included in the final version of the EAFMP for Patagonian scallop fisheries.

181. Finally, by Year 4, the EAFMP for the Patagonia scallop fisheries will have been approved by the competent fishery authorities and its implementation underway. Monitoring of the EAFMP will be launched using outcome indicators and, moreover, a review and update mechanism will be established for the Management Plan.

182. This EAF pilot test will include the participation and contribution of different technical-scientific actors (INIDEP, CONICET, Universidad de Mar del Plata university), the fishing companies, fishers linked to this species at the Mar del Plata port, CSOs and the SSPyA (connected with the control of fisheries and socioeconomic follow-up of the EAF application). With a view to achieving this output, there will be a team of three consultants (a biologist, an economist and a sociologist), who will work in close cooperation with INIDEP experts, with the supervision of professionals from MAyDS - GTRA and SSPyA.

Output 2.1.2. Good catch and management practices for the Patagonian scallop fishery, validated through a participatory process, including zoning and regulation of this activity, fishing techniques and selectivity devices which minimize the impact on non-target species and the benthic community.

183. **Baseline:** Catch methods, fishing techniques or selectivity devices to diminish the impact on biodiversity are being developed by INIDEP, but the private fishery sector must appraise them on site with their own fleet.

184. **Target:**

- At least three (3) good catch and management practices validated in Patagonian scallop fishing

185. The following activities are foreseen herein:

186. In Year 1, a participatory process with public and private actors will help identify and appraise good management practices for Patagonian scallop fisheries, so as to diminish the incidental catch of juveniles which are then returned to the sea; and also the best strategies, techniques or gear to diminish or prevent adverse effects on the seabed. The review of applicable good practices will include the zoning and regulation of fisheries at different times of the year, and of the practices necessary to maintain the international certification, and mitigate any adverse impact on biodiversity and the ecosystem.

187. In Years 2, 3 and 4, at least three good practices for Patagonian scallop catch and management will be progressively introduced for their validation.

188. In order to achieve the above, the project will provide appropriate equipment to carry out such experiences. Likewise, the Program of Observers on Board (POB) will be strengthened and funding for them to travel will be ensured. The private fishery sector will provide the necessary vessels, crews, gear, staff and their Observers on Board (OOB) for the above experience. INIDEP will provide technical and professional personnel, and MAyDS –GTRA will provide technicians to consolidate the information.

189. Before the project ends, a participatory analysis will be carried out to draw lessons learned, which will be documented and sent out to the CFP, different fishery Follow-Up Committees, and other public and private stakeholders.

Outcome 2.2. Enabling conditions and institutional capacities built at the national level for the effective implementation of EAF.

190. The project will focus its actions on the following to achieve the above outcome:

- Establishment of the minimum contents of EAF, adopted by CFP and mainstreamed in the regulatory frameworks for fishery management;
- Analysis of market incentive options for applying EAF;
- Capacity-building in the practical application of EAF among staff of the institutions involved in fishery management, provincial authorities and fisheries trade unions, including efficient management, control and surveillance mechanisms for EAF application.

Output 2.2.1. Minimum EAF contents established and adopted by CFP and mainstreamed in the regulatory frameworks for fisheries management.

191. **Baseline**: The regulatory frameworks include certain ecological, social and economic considerations for a number of fisheries but it is necessary to mainstream them in all management measures.

192. **Target:**

- CFP Resolution to adopt minimum EAF contents

193. During the first two years of project implementation, dissemination of the above notion among key stakeholders and authorities will have increased. Minimum EAF contents for

establishing frameworks compatible with the ecosystem approach to fisheries will have been identified through the initial outcomes of the pilot EAF initiative in Patagonian scallop fisheries and the two MPAs, as well as by using the international guidelines for EAF application (FAO particularly).

194. An enlarged CFP workshop is scheduled for the third year (CSO, private and scientific sectors) to present the pilot test experiences and to hold the first debate on minimum EAF contents. Additional meetings with the provinces that have a maritime coastline will lead, when necessary, to adapt contents to specific fisheries or fishing areas.

195. During the fourth year of project execution, a second enlarged CFP workshop will validate the proposal for minimum EAF contents. The final output will be a CFP resolution adopting the minimum EAF contents.

Output 2.2.2 Analysis of market incentive options (increase in business sector profitability) for applying EAF.

196. **Baseline:** So far there is no systematic analysis of accessible market incentives / certification schemes for fisheries adopting EAF.

197. **Target:**

- Analysis of market incentive options.

198. In year 2, the Project will carry out an analysis of market incentive options in the quest to identify internationally recognized certification schemes that can result in a higher value of fishery outputs at the fisheries applying EAF principles and practices; and an accurate outlining of minimum EAF criteria and contents required to obtain or maintain such certifications. Output appraisal criteria from fisheries applying EAF are not only restricted to price differentials but also to their market visibility (ecological labels) and guaranteed access to international markets where most of the Argentine fishery products are traded.

199. The outcomes of this analysis will be used at EAF training sessions for federal institutions, provincial authorities and fisheries trade unions (Output 2.2.3, year 3), and to guide the process for defining minimum EAF contents to be mainstreamed in the regulatory frameworks of the different fisheries.

Output 2.2.3. Staff of the institutions involved in fisheries management (INIDEP, PNA, SSPyA and equivalent provincial authorities and provincial environment agencies) and fisheries organizations have developed capacities in the practical application of EAF, including options for sustainable fisheries certification, from a gender perspective and with the participation of youth.

200. **Baseline:** So far training activities have been carried out in Río Negro Province within the framework of ECOPES (initiative for a sustainable fisheries ecosystem in this province).

201. **Target:**

- Fifty (50) people trained in at least six (6) public institutions and fisheries trade unions (at least 30% women)

202. During the first year, the project aims at creating a "critical mass" of fishery sector professionals and members of trade unions who are aware of FAO's EAF principles and their application to different ecosystems and fisheries. Training workshops (some of which will be held during the first year) will seek to disseminate the principles and scope of EAF, and how these principles can translate into specific measures bringing about environmental and socioeconomic benefits. Training could include the following topics: a) principles and different aspects of EAF application; b) management, control and surveillance mechanisms and tools (satellite system, landing control) of fisheries applying EAF; c) identification, use and description of the catch gear, fishing techniques or selectivity devices that reduce the impact on the environment overall (seabed, birds, mammals), and particularly on non-target species (by-catch); d) identification and initial appraisal of economic, social and cultural benefits stemming from EAF for fisheries in the Argentine Sea.

203. In the third year, the five workshops will be of a more practical nature and will focus on participatory approaches and processes for preparing Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Plans (EAFMP) using examples from the pilot experience (Outcome 2.1) and from other countries that have applied EAF to industrial-scale marine fisheries. Training will moreover include the different market incentive options for the products of those fisheries adopting EAF.

204. The two above training sessions will lead to training at least fifty people from at least six public institutions and private trade unions (there should be a 30% participation of women).

Output 2.2.4. Fishery-related implementation authorities (SSPyA, provincial fishing authorities, PNA) have improved capacity to implement efficient management, control and surveillance mechanisms (satellite system, landing control), by applying EAF.

205. **Baseline:** Control and surveillance of fisheries needs appropriate capacities to ensure greater efficiency and coverage, including minimum EAF contents.

206. **Target:**

- Fifty (50) people trained and equipped for strengthening management, control and surveillance mechanisms.

207. The starting point to achieve this output is the installed capacities for fisheries control. Such control is carried out remotely based on a Satellite Monitoring System of the Argentine Fisheries Fleet, using a device on board that emits a verifiable signal, and is structured into specific functions and roles. The Argentine Coast Guard (PNA) monitors directly and has policing power based on the position and speed log and, furthermore, they patrol and inspect on site using their aircraft/helicopters and vessels; the Argentine navy, through its Maritime Affairs Directorate patrols the high seas; INIDEP's and the province's POB follow up on the fishing vessels, with a view to obtaining the necessary information for the evaluation and management of ongoing fisheries to develop responsible fisheries; the information on landings generated at

the provincial and national levels is compiled with the information obtained at dock inspections. Additionally, PNA as an ancillary unit, controls declared and effectively used fishing gear.

208. SSPyA's permanent training system will be reinforced since within EAF it is necessary to take into account a broader range of ecosystem components, and also include different variables such as incidental catch, discards, interactions and social and economic variables. Based on the above, SSPyA will coordinate this GEF project with the IDB-supported "Programme for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development" (PDPyAS), which will strengthen the management, control and oversight system. PDPyAS will reinforce SSPyA's capacities for fulfilling management measures set forth by CFP, focusing on the following: i) improve overall fisheries information system (SIIP) to monitor fishery activities; ii) improve effective control on board; and iii) provide technical assistance and training to civil servants so they can act as inspectors.

209. The GEF project will supplement training actions to allow the integration of EAF variables in a holistic manner, promoting transfer to provincial authorities. These training sessions will progressively mainstream good practices and lessons learned in implementing Output 2.2.1 (minimum EAF contents).

210. In Year 2, around 20 people from the Federal Government, Provincial Governments and INIDEP will be trained in monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

211. In the third and fourth year, IT devices (tablets) will be purchased for OOB, PNA staff, Provincial Governments and SSPyA, and training and practical coaching will be provided so that 50 observers and inspectors are trained in EAF MCS, and 35 staff from PNA and the provincial governments will be equipped and trained in landing control under EAF principles. In order to support EAF MCS, a summary will be prepared to include, inter alia, rules, forms, protocols and the possibility of taking pictures on board to identify caught species.

212. A programmer will design an electronic reporting system on the Internet (compatible with the current SIIP system and its modernization, through the "Programme on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development") to help the trained people in the implementation and control of management measures.

Outcome 2.3. Monitoring and information systems improved, including data on selectivity, good practices and mitigation measures, to facilitate decision-making on the application of EAF in the public and private sectors.

213. Improving these systems will allow CFP and the Analysis and Follow-up Committees of the different fisheries to use complete information on ecosystem and socioeconomic indicators –compatible with EAF principles- in their decisions on fisheries management.

214. In order to achieve this outcome, the project will support the following:

- Mainstreaming of easily accessible and relevant socioeconomic variables to apply EAF within the current SSPyA fishery information system;

- First steps in the building and implementation of a monitoring and information system focused on impact on the ecosystem and ecosystem-based services related to fisheries, to guide EAF application in the Argentine Sea.
- A national evaluation of fishing techniques focused on the efficacy and application of selectivity devices and measures to mitigate the impact of fishery practices.

215. During project implementation, the Technical Consultative Committee (TCC) will establish a mechanism to disseminate information to INIDEP, PNA, SSPyA staff and equivalent provincial authorities and provincial environmental agencies, with the purpose of building capacities in the practical application of EAF, including Monitoring and Evaluation processes. Furthermore, during the project's last year and based on the lessons learned, the TCC will propose information dissemination mechanisms regarding monitoring and evaluation to allow the continuous improvement of EAF policies, plans and techniques, and the adaptive management of Argentine Sea fisheries.

Output 2.3.1. The SSPyA fisheries information system mainstreams easily accessible and relevant socioeconomic variables for applying EAF.

216. **Baseline:** The current SSPyA fisheries information system is focused on following up on fishing fleets, fisheries biological information and certain socioeconomic aspects. Economic information currently managed is limited to exports by product (tons and value in US dollars) published in reports issued every month by SSPyA, although there is no socioeconomic information included therein relevant for applying EAF.

217. **Target:**

- The SSPyA fisheries information system mainstreams socioeconomic variables required for applying EAF.

218. During the project's first year, critical socioeconomic information gaps will be identified, and the necessary variables for applying EAF will be defined. In coordination with the IDB-supported "Programme for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development" (PDPyAS), the necessary IT adjustments will be made to include priority information and socioeconomic variables in the SSPyA information system, to thus achieve homogeneity and integrality in data management. Socioeconomic information will be surveyed and its processing will begin during the project's second year of implementation to produce more overarching reports on the situation of fisheries. Such information will be included in the SIIP operated by staff from SSPyA's Directorate of Fishery Economics, who will be trained to carry out the task.

219. Consulting services will be hired to define the methods and instruments for collecting the data needed for mainstreaming the required variables and data.

Output 2.3.2. A monitoring and information system for applying EAF in the Argentine Sea.

220. **Baseline:** There is no appropriate monitoring system for guiding the application of EAF in the Argentine Sea.

221. **Target:**

- A monitoring and information system to facilitate managerial decision-making on fisheries policies and regulations, and sustainable fisheries management instruments

222. During the project's second year, the preliminary structure of the monitoring system would be defined (Topics, Monitoring Objects, and Indicators). In this regard, inter-institutional agreements will be established to encompass the generation and consolidation of information, as well as the determination of mechanisms and those responsible for communication of information to TCC. The TCC will propose requirements for establishing responsibilities, defining information outputs (social, economic and ecological, besides the biological information generated by INIDEP and other research agencies), interaction mechanisms and model structures for reports to be submitted CFP.

223. In the third year, and based on the lessons learned during the pilot test and participatory processes, the objects of monitoring actions and priority ecosystem-based and socioeconomic indicators will be validated to measure progress in the application of EAF, consistent with the minimum EAF contents (Output 2.2.1). The methodologies, sources of information and protocols will be identified to generate the values of validated indicators. Agreements will be entered into to appoint those responsible for the development and application of protocols for each of the indicators.

224. The monitoring system will be established during the project's fourth year. At least 50% of the monitoring and information system's indicators will have been calculated and recommendations will be formulated on the institutionalization and funding needed to ensure the system's sustainability. These will be presented to CFP and the follow-up committees.

Output 2.3.3. National Evaluation of: i) efficacy of fishing techniques and selectivity devices; ii) mitigation of the impact of these techniques and devices on the ecosystem; iii) inclusion of the recommended measures for the implementation of EAF in the Argentine Sea.

225. **Baseline:** There is no broad, shared vision of the level of application and difficulties in implementing mitigation and selectivity techniques which are necessary for an appropriate implementation of measures consistent with the ecosystem-based approach and a better market visibility.

226. **Targets:**

- The tested experiences mainstreamed in management measures will reinforce National Plans of Action (Birds and Sharks NPAs adopted, Marine Mammals NPA under assessment and Sea Turtles NPA –under preparation).
- The selected fishing techniques and/or selectivity devices will have shown a reduction of 10% in incidental mortality and/or secondary catch.

227. This national evaluation will provide key elements to help reduce the interaction of fisheries with other unwanted species, either with larger fauna (birds, mammals, and chondrichthyes), with smaller size individuals than permitted, and with the seabed, by analyzing and promoting the use of fishing techniques and mitigation or selectivity devices.

228. The catch methods, fishing techniques or selectivity devices that can be assessed are, inter alia: 1) Change in fishery practices (displacement of fishing efforts to other areas when incidental catch levels are considered too high; strategic dumping of waste); 2) Modification of nets (mesh size, type of mesh, mesh material, etc.); 3) Mitigation of incidental catch of mammals (acoustic alarms, passive acoustic reflectors); 4) Mitigation of incidental catch of birds (bird-scaring lines, measures diminishing time of exposure of fish hooks in the case of longliners, plastic cones on trawler warp cables; 5) Selectivity devices allowing juveniles and non-target species to escape.

229. The following activities will be carried out within the National Evaluation process:

230. The evaluation process will start in Year 1 with the drafting of a document presenting fishing gear and the level of application and difficulties in implementing selectivity measures, good practices and fishery mitigation measures. In order to select the fishing techniques and selectivity devices to be evaluated, it must be borne in mind that demersal trawl is what most of the Argentine fisheries use, and there are very few studies on the impact of these on the seabed and by-catch. Likewise, the mitigation measures suggested in the National Plans of Action approved by CFP will be taken into account. Other criteria are incidence of interactions according to the type of fleet and fishery.

231. This is a participatory, consensus-building process with the participation of INIDEP, SSPyA, MAyDS – GTRA, the private sector and other actors of the National Plans of Action, in which a fishery or fishing area, as well as the companies, will be selected to assess catch methods, fishing techniques or selectivity devices. This process will take place at an early stage of the project since it calls for broader consensus and agreements than those achieved during the design phase and, furthermore, requires an EAF conceptual framework which will be provided to stakeholders at project start-up. Once the selection has been completed, awareness-raising activities will be carried out as regards catch methods, fishing techniques or selectivity devices for at least 30 people that will continue to participate in the national evaluation process. These people will be selected among those carrying out the practical application (private sector, observers, INIDEP and CONICET), and those that, in view of their institutional responsibilities in fishery management, need such knowledge (SSPyA, GoPs, SAyDS – GTRA).

232. During the second half of the year, at least 15 of the trained observers will participate in the selected area/fisheries testing. Based on the test outcomes, the social and economic impact of the proposed selectivity and mitigation measures will be analyzed in the participating fishery fleets.

233. During the third year, at least 30 trained observers will be included in the testing process. Based on the outcomes obtained after a two-year test, a document will be prepared with proposals on fishing selectivity measures, good practices and mitigation measures agreed upon by consensus among participating institutions and fishery fleet operators. The document will contain information on the application of measures and practices, application costs and associated benefits, recommendations and lessons learned. These outcomes will be disseminated at a national workshop and in a publication on the project's scope.

234. Finally, in Year 4, the experiences will be mainstreamed in the fishery management plans and will be used to reinforce the National Plans of Action for Birds, Sharks, Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles.

235. The expectation is for selected fishing techniques and/or selectivity devices to have brought about a 10% reduction in incidental mortality rates and/or secondary catch.

2.4.2. Component 3: Project Progress Monitoring, Evaluation and information dissemination

Outcome 3.1. Project implementation is based on results-based management, and project outcomes and lessons learned are applied to future operations.

Output 3.1.1. Dissemination of EAF concept and objectives as well as best practices and lessons learned from the project among different target groups.

236. The project will finance the design and implementation of a Communication and Awareness-Raising Campaign. A consultant will be hired to design the campaign, and the communication material for technicians, administrative staff, stakeholders and the public at large. A strategy will be designed for "e-bulletins", "Web Portals"; also strategy for interviews on the mass media and/or specialized media, advertising guidelines, etc. During the project's execution, interviews will be broadcast, and also short films for mass communication and dissemination will be shown (provincial governments, NGOs, CFP).

237. An interactive web site will be created to disseminate project information and relevant material related to EAF and other topics addressed by the project. The page will be permanently updated according to the project's development and its generation of outputs ready for dissemination. As improved management and monitoring systems are structured (Outcome 2.3), mechanisms will be defined for transferring this web site to information management platforms pertaining to MAyDS, SSPyA and FAO, among others.

Output 3.1.2. Project planning and monitoring system operational and providing systematic information on annually scheduled activities and targets, and progress towards the achievement of project outcomes and outputs.

238. The Project planning mechanism will include the preparation of four (4) Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPB), following the program set forth in this project document.

239. The project's management will follow-up and report every six months on the execution of activities and delivery of the budget adopted in the AWPBs, by preparing eight (8) Project Progress Reports (PPRs), reflecting progress with regard to the program in the approved AWPB.

240. Project outputs will be monitored according to the goals and milestones of the indicators established for the project (Results Framework), and progress shall be reported every six months.

Output 3.1.3. Mid-Term and Final Evaluations

241. A mid-term evaluation has been scheduled as at the second year, with the purpose of checking how the project is doing as regards the scope of its outputs and the way in which the

project is working on achieving its outcomes, and also for issuing recommendations on any necessary adjustments.

242. During the project's fourth year and before its finalization, a final evaluation will be carried out with a view to analyzing the level of achievement of its outcomes and checking the foreseen sustainability mechanisms.

243. Both evaluations will be hired through the procurement mechanisms established by FAO-GEF.

2.5. Global Environmental Benefits

244. The proposed project's global environmental benefits are related to an increase in the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in Argentina.

245. The project will contribute to increasing coverage of MPAs in the Argentine Sea, and to improving the management models and their sustainable financing mechanisms, also helping in the effective conservation of important marine and species ecosystems of global importance (vulnerable, endangered or threatened).

246. The Namuncura – Burdwood Bank Marine Protected Area, the first ocean protected area in Argentina (2013) has a high productivity level and a significant biodiversity (60 species of cold-water corals, 14 endemic and 30 sponge species). It is an important feeding area for many marine species (53,200 specimens of Southern elephant seals on Valdes Peninsula and 19 marine species).

247. The "Front Corridor of Chubut", where the project will support the creation of the second MPA, is important as a hake and Argentine anchovy spawning area (important species for fisheries), distribution area of tope sharks (IUCN vulnerable species) and narrownose smooth-hound (IUCN endangered species), the migration area for the Southern Right Whale to its reproduction site, and the feeding grounds of the Magellan Penguin (IUCN near threatened species) and the Southern Giant Petrel.

248. The project's contribution to the strengthening of the regulatory and institutional framework, and the formulation of policy guidelines agreed on by consensus for MPAs and the transition zones, will create favorable conditions for the future expansion and consolidation of the conservation system for marine areas in Argentina and the globally valuable biodiversity resources in these areas.

249. On the other hand, reinforcing EAF, to supplement quota-based or TAC-based regulation mechanisms will allow a better determination of the physical and biological impact of target species fisheries on the marine ecosystem (bottom trawling, incidental fishing, etc.). Within the framework of the Management Plan for the Patagonian scallop pilot fishery test, the main expected direct environmental benefits includes the protection of Patagonian scallop recruitment areas, which will allow a continuous recovery of the resource and a reduction of the impact of the trawling technique on the benthic communities and demersal species. Improvement of the database containing biophysical information and knowledge on the impact of this kind of fishery will allow the formulation and adoption of good catch and management practices for fishing

Patagonian scallop (including zoning and regulation of the activity, fishing techniques or selectivity devices) to minimize the impact on the non-target species and benthic community.

250. Since the project will contribute to building better conditions and capabilities for the effective implementation of EAF at the national level, it is expected to generate environmental benefits which go beyond the pilot area in the medium run. The adoption of EAF in other key fisheries in Argentina, thus generating environmental benefits beyond the pilot test, will be facilitated by defining minimum EAF contents for their mainstreaming in fishery management regulatory frameworks, training personnel and authorities linked to fishery management in the application of EAF, and developing information management tools in support of decision-making.

251. Furthermore, the project will help to achieve the following Aichi Targets:

- Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems
- Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption, and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits
- Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

2.6. Cost-effectiveness (alternative strategies and methodologies considered)

252. The following are the key elements of the project's cost-efficiency strategy:

- Its focus on cooperation between public institutions working on fisheries and the environment, fisheries and marine research and normative institutions, and the quest for synergies in the activities they carry out or co-finance, particularly oceanographic measuring cruises.
- Complementariness between the generation of specific experiences in a limited number of areas (two MPAs and a fishery sector) and work at the regulatory level and in strengthening institutional capacities to maximize the replication potential of these pilot experiences during project implementation.
- The mainstreaming of sustainable financing strategies of MPAs to ensure financing of the budgets included in the Management Plans of national institutions.

- Market-based incentives (appraisal and certification schemes by output) to favor the adoption of good practices by fishery companies, within the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

253. Although at first the possibility of working with two pilot fisheries was considered so as to take into account their diversity, the decision was finally made to work only with Patagonian scallop. The first option entailed operational costs that were too high and would have affected the project's capacity to make the necessary contributions for mainstreaming EAF in national regulatory frameworks. Likewise, out of the eight potential MPAs analyzed and prioritized, ultimately only one was chosen to target the project's resources towards strengthening the regulatory frameworks and financial sustainability mechanisms to guarantee a more efficient management of MPAs. The project will proceed in the same manner with the Namuncura/Burdwood Bank MPA.

2.7. Innovation

254. The project has two very innovative traits in terms of approach within the Argentine context. On the one hand, it will contribute to drafting the First Management Plan for an MPA and, on the other hand, it will propose a Second MPA, both located beyond 12 nautical miles. Furthermore, it is the first experience at the national level which seeks to adapt the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries to the Argentine fishery sector. From an institutional standpoint, the main innovative element comes from close cooperation between national environmental and fisheries authorities for the planning and future implementation thereof.

255. As regards MPA management, the project includes specific elements which entail innovation within the national context:

- Rigorous oceanographic and biological cruises for determining the key variables in the selected areas, as well as mainstreaming of the impact of human intervention, so as to be able to define management objectives agreed upon by consensus and backed by sound technical-scientific criteria.
- Emphasis on the sustainable management of the two MPAs considered for the project, by drawing up minimum standards for their operation and sustainable financing plans for each MPA to be mainstreamed in their Management Plans. Additionally, the project will support the preparation of overall guidelines for the sustainable financing of MPAs in Argentina and will train professionals linked to the management of these areas in the application of financial management tools.

256. Finally, and vis-à-vis the current dispersion and segmentation of knowledge on biodiversity in the Argentine Sea, the project will promote the consolidation of a network of research organizations, government agencies and non-governmental organizations with improved capacities to exchange information and carry out joint analyses of scientific aspects of marine biodiversity, threats to conservation, and better management practices to improve the management efficiency of MPAs.

257. The application of EAF within the context of commercial high-seas fisheries is a novelty at the national and regional levels. EAF experiences have been applied to artisan marine-coastal fisheries in the neighboring country of Uruguay. Since the main Argentine commercial fisheries are regulated by mechanisms such as the determination of Total Allowable Catch, EAF must

be adapted to that fishery context so as to supplement and improve existing mechanisms. The following are innovative elements in support of this EAF adaptation process: (i) establishment of minimum EAF contents for different commercial fisheries for their adoption by CFP and their mainstreaming in the regulatory frameworks for managing such fisheries; (ii) approach to the application of market incentives for fisheries that accept such minimum EAF contents, and offer products of greater commercial value under internationally recognized social and environmental certification schemes; (iii) incorporation of easily accessible and relevant socioeconomic variables for the application of EAF within the current SSPyA fishery information system; and (iv) design and implementation of a monitoring and information system to facilitate managerial decision-making as to policies and regulations on fisheries and sustainable fishery management instruments.

SECTION 3. VIABILITY (BASIC DIMENSIONS FOR OBTAINING HIGH-QUALITY OUTPUTS)

3.1. Environmental Impact Assessment

258. Project component 1 activities seek to efficiently create and manage Marine Protected Areas. They include diagnostic and measurement cruises, preparation of management and sustainable financing plans, improvement of the regulatory and institutional framework, and consolidation of networks which will have no negative environmental impact and must, conversely, generate direct environmental benefits.

259. Likewise, component 2 activities will consist of consensus-building, training and awareness-raising workshops, measurement and diagnostic cruises, preparation of a fisheries management plan, definition of good fishery practices, institutional capacity-building and information and monitoring management systems, which will not have a negative environmental impact either.

260. Indeed, the objective of all these activities is to contribute to the sustainable conservation and management of marine biodiversity; and the project does not include the introduction of technologies or fishery practices entailing a greater environmental impact or an increase in fishing efforts.

261. Fishing companies participating in the pilot project on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries of Patagonian scallop have already included certification schemes and have expressed their interest in reinforcing their positioning on the market thanks to highly visible environmental certification schemes.

262. In view of all the above, and because it addresses non-controversial aspects of the participants' interests, the project is considered to be a **Category C (Low Risk)** according to FAO's Environmental and Social Guidelines, and, therefore, no environmental impact assessment or supplementary analysis will be required.

3.2. Risk management

263. During project design and preparation, project risks have been identified and analyzed, and corrective measures have been duly established. With FAO's support and supervision, MAyDS will be responsible for the daily management of these risks and the efficient implementation of corrective measures. MAyDS shall also be responsible for following up on the efficacy of the corrective measures and for adjusting mitigation strategies as necessary, and identifying and managing potential unforeseen risks during the project's development, in collaboration with FAO and the other partners.

264. Project Progress Reports (PPRs, see section 4.5.3) are the main instrument for following up on and managing risks. PPRs will include a section on the systematic follow-up of the identified risks and corrective actions from prior periods; and another section on potential new risks requiring special attention, their rating and corrective actions, including those responsible for such action and the dates on which they must be carried out. FAO will monitor project risk management and carry out the necessary follow-up actions, providing support for adjusting and implementing risk attenuation strategies. Submission of information on risk follow-up and

rating will also be a part of the Annual Project Implementation Review Reports (Annual PIR, see section 4.5.3, below) that FAO will prepare and send to the GEF Secretariat.

3.2.1. Risks and corrective measures

265. Table 3.1 summarizes all identified risks, their rating and corrective measures included in the design of project components.

Table 3.1. Project risks, rating and corrective measures

Risk	Rating	Corrective Measures
Difficult to reconcile the objectives of the many stakeholders in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).	Medium	The project's preparatory phase has led to closer collaboration between environmental authorities and the fisheries sector, achieving agreements on the scope and adaptation of EAF to the Argentine context. Project implementation arrangements (see Section 4 below) will ensure an appropriate definition of roles and responsibilities, and the coordination and collaboration among the parties so as to efficiently implement activities. The Patagonian scallop was selected as the pilot fishery sector for applying EAF, and two of the companies invovled have expressed their interest in the proposed approach. The project includes consultations for drafting the minimum EAF contents which will be mainstreamed in fishery regulatory frameworks; and also training and awareness-raising activities on the proposed approach.
Lack of appropriate resources to meet all actions of the Ecosystem-based approach and achieve an effective management of MPAs.	Medium	A gradual mainstreaming is envisaged of minimum EAF principles and contents in the regulatory frameworks of the different fisheries, and not a replacement of existing regulation mechanisms by EAF. This will allow a gradual inclusion of associated costs in the budgets of the concerned institutions. As regards MPAs, the project foresees the preparation of minimum budgets and sustainable financing plans to be included in MPA management plans.
Difficulty in accessing the necessary information to guide the implementation of EAF and MPA Management Plans.	Low - Medium	The project, in its preparatory phase, included a sub-component 2.3 focused on information management and design and implementation of a monitoring system in support of the decisions made by CFP and the Committees to follow up on the application of EAF.

Risk	Rating	Corrective Measures
		Agreements were achieved with INIDEP, the fisheries sector and MINCyT for co-financing the necessary oceanographic cruises to guide the EAF process and the preparation of MPA management plans. The project will strongly support the generation of socioeconomic data for their integration into the SSPyA information system.
Potential resistance within the fisheries sector to the implementation of catch methods, fishing techniques or selectivity devices related to EAF due to a lack of identification of EAF's benefits.	Medium - High	A pilot area was selected, in which fishing companies expressed their interest in the application of EAF to generate positive dynamics with the private sector. A special effort was made to identify market incentives to adopt EAF-related practices based on certification mechanisms and a better access to high-value markets. The definition of minimum EAF contents will be done through a collaborative and didactic process, with the participation of representatives from the fisheries sector and provincial governments.
Difficulty to coordinate implementation of EAF with provincial governments.	Medium	Support will be provided to socioeconomic data generation relating to the fisheries sector, and awareness will be raised among provincial governments with regard to the expected contribution of EAF to maintaining the economic benefits in the medium run. One of the fields of interaction with leading provincial fisheries is the CFP. Work will be carried out therein to overcome any potential difficulties which may arise with regard to the application of EAF.

3.2.2. Fiduciary risks (only for NEX Projects)

N/A

SECTION 4. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Institutional arrangements

266. **MAyDS** in its capacity as National Environmental Authority and focal point of the CDB will be responsible for the project's implementation, in cooperation with CFP, and will coordinate with the Argentine Fisheries Planning Directorate, reporting to the Under-secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Argentine Ministry of Agro- Industry. FAO will be the GEF implementing agency. Other important participants will be: the environmental authorities and/or protected area authorities, as appropriate, and the fisheries authorities of the provincial jurisdictions involved (those with a maritime coastline): Buenos Aires; Río Negro; Chubut; Santa Cruz; and Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands; and INIDEP; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship; Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation; the Chief of Cabinet Ministry; CONICET, through its regional centres (CADIC, CENPAT, IADO, IIMyC); the Institute of Marine Fisheries and Marine Biology 'Almirante Storni'; APN; SHN, PNA and the Argentine Navy.

267. **MAyDS** is GEF's operational focal point in Argentina and as such is responsible for coordinating GEF resource programming, and supervising the GEF project portfolio in Argentina, in cooperation with GEF executing agencies and project implementation partners. Its specific responsibility within the project as GEF's focal point is to monitor Annual Project Implementation Review reports (Annual PIRs), and participate in the project's mid-term review and final evaluation.

268. The MAyDS assists the Argentine President and the Chief of Cabinet Ministry with issues related to environmental policy, sustainable development and the rational use of the natural resources. In particular MAyDS : i) assists the Argentine President in the formulation, implementation and enforcement of environmental policy and the sustainable development as policy; ii) carries out strategic environmental policy and programme planning, and coordinate environmental management; iii) sits in the Federal Environment Council (COFEMA) and coordinate CONADIBIO; iv) sees to the conservation, protection, defense and improvement of the environment, implementation of sustainable development, rational use and conservation of natural, renewable and non-renewable resources, environmental preservation of natural and cultural heritage and biological diversity to achieve a healthy, balanced and suitable environmental for human development; v) addresses the proposal and outlining of normative regimes for the legal-administrative implementation of environmental management, environmental territorial governance, conservation and rational use of natural resources and environmental quality; vi) participates in the establishment of quality control and environmental risk assessment methodologies; vii) addresses the establishment of a public information system on the condition of the environment and on the policies developed; viii) promotes information dissemination and awareness-raising on the country's environmental issues; ix) is in charge of maintaining relationships with non-governmental organizations working on the environment and of strengthening citizen participation mechanisms in environmental matters; x) is in charge of applying international treaties related to topics under its jurisdiction, and conduct management and implementation of international technical and financial cooperation, in coordination with other government agencies; and (xi) coordinates and promote plans and actions with the pertinent inter-jurisdictional agencies of the national, provincial and municipal

public administration, working on environmental sanitation and governance of basins and coastlines.

269. The **Federal Fisheries Council (CFP)** was created by Federal Fisheries Law No. 24.922 (FFL) and is made up of: a) a representative of each of the provinces with a maritime littoral; b) the Under-secretary of Fisheries; c) a representative of MAyDS; d) a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship; e) two representatives appointed by the National Executive Branch. The following are among CFP's functions: a) To establish the national fisheries policy; b) To establish the fishery research policy (being the National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development the one in charge of planning and carrying out scientific and technical activities with the provinces and other agencies or entities, particularly regarding the evaluation and conservation of living marine resources; c) To establish the Total Allowable Catch by species, bearing in mind the maximum sustainable yield of each of them, according to INIDEP data. Furthermore, to set annual catch quotas by vessel, by species, by fishing zone; and by type of fleet; d) To approve commercial and experimental fishing permits; e) To advise the Enforcement Authority as regards international negotiations; f) To plan the development of fisheries at the national level; g) To spell out guidelines for co-sharing the resources of the National Fisheries Fund (FO.NA.PE.); h) To decide on experimental fishing; i) To set forth extraction rights and royalties to be paid for fishing; j) To modify the FO.NA.PE distribution percentages established in FFL; k) To regulate the exercise of artisan fisheries, setting aside a fishing quota for the different species to be assigned to this sector.

270. **The Under-secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture** (SSPyA) that reports to the Ministry of Agro-Industry is the enforcement authority for the Federal Fisheries Law (FFL). It conducts and implements the national fisheries and aquaculture policy, and is responsible for follow-up, control and surveillance of these activities. The FFL states the following: "*Living resources populating inland waters and the Argentine territorial sea adjacent to the coastline, up to twelve (12) nautical miles –measured from the baseline as recognized in the pertinent national legislation- are owned by the provinces having a maritime littoral, that will exercise their jurisdiction for the purpose of the exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of such resources".* Moreover, the same law states that: *Existing living marine resources in the Argentine Exclusive Economic Zone and on the Argentine continental shelf as from the twelve (12) miles indicated in the above article are owned by the national government that holds exclusive jurisdiction over such resources".* It also says that "*The Argentine Republic, as a coastal state, can adopt conservation measures in the Exclusive Economic Zone and its adjacent areas as regards cross-zone or highly migratory species, or those pertaining to the same stock o to stocks linked to those in the Argentine Exclusive Economic Zone*".

271. **Scientific research:** The national scientific system is coordinated by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT) created in 2007. Scientific research is carried out by institutions within the structure of the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), one of the autarchic bodies of MINCyT, and by national universities. In turn, CONICET has regional centers with which it coordinates actions. Among the most directly linked to the project's objectives are the National Patagonia Centre (CENPAT); the Southern Centre for Scientific Research (CADIC), the Argentine Oceanography Institute (IADO), and the Institute for Marine and Coastal Research (IIMyC).
It also coordinates actions with the Argentine Navy to manage research vessels.

272. More recently it has coordinated research on behalf of the GoA in the Argentine Sea within the **Pampa Azul Initiative**[18]**,** which carries out research in the Argentine Sea to reinforce scientific knowledge as the foundation for natural resource conservation and management. The initiative promotes technological innovations applicable to the sustainable exploitation of natural resources and the development of ocean-related industries, strengthening maritime awareness in Argentine society and backing our country's sovereignty in the South Atlantic with scientific knowledge and presence in the area.

273. Pampa Azul is coordinated by MINCyT, through the Scientific and Technological Cabinet (GACTEC) which also includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship; Ministry of Agro-Industry; Ministry of Tourism; Ministry of Defense; Ministry of Security; and Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. Other participants in the initiative are the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET); National Antarctic Directorate (DNA); National Commission for Space Activities (CONAE); National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP); Navy Hydrographic Service (SHN); Argentine Coastguard; Southern Centre for Scientific Research (CADIC - CONICET); National Patagonia Centre (CENPAT - CONICET); Argentine Oceanography Institute (IADO-CONICET/UNS); Institute for Marine and Coastal Research (IIMyC - CONICET); Centre for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (CIMA - CONICET/UBA); Institute of Marine Biology and Fisheries "Almirante Storni" (IBMPAS); and the following universities: *Universidad Nacional del Comahue* (UNCOMA); *Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco*; *Universidad Nacional de Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Atlántico Sur*; *Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral*; *Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata*; *Universidad Nacional del Sur*; *Universidad Nacional de La Plata*; and *Universidad de Buenos Aires*. It coordinates inter-disciplinary scientific cruises covering five areas defined as priority areas, using traditional platforms such as oceanographic vessels and manned submarines; technological developments in remote sensing and other environmental monitoring methods; management and protection of resources by automatic on site and satellite logs; and capacity-building to generate and maintain databases, with continuous public records.

274. The environmental authorities of the provinces and of Buenos Aires City are in charge of the natural resources within their territories based on provincial autonomy. They are responsible for implementing the minimum standards for environmental protection, within the framework of the General Environment Law No. 25,675. Furthermore, environmental provincial laws will be enacted and special resolutions will be issued in each province which can supplement national regulations.

275. As regards fisheries, the provinces have jurisdiction up to 12 nautical miles from the coastline, and the provincial fishery authorities are thus responsible, *inter alia*, for granting licenses, establishing management measures and carrying out the monitoring, control and surveillance in the area. All provinces with a maritime littoral are a part of CFP, and there are agreements in place for compiling information and coordinating certain monitoring and control activities.

276. The **Argentine Navy (ARA)** will provide the crew for the oceanographic ship "Puerto Deseado" equipped with laboratories, for research cruises in the Argentine Sea and Antarctica.

[18] http://www.pampazul.mincyt.gob.ar/

It was transferred to CONICET through an agreement approved by Executive Order No. 43851 of 28 July 1972. It has been operated by the Navy within the framework of an agreement signed between the Navy and CONICET in 1978 and renewed in 1996. It will contribute particularly to the capacities of the National Fisheries School, with the purpose of supporting fisheries sustainability in the sea, within the framework of the minimum competences standards of the amended STCW Code (Manila 2010) to hold jobs or posts on board maritime fishing vessels. It thus helps in the intellectual, professional, moral and physical training of students, who after graduating will work on Maritime Fishing and/or Merchant Navy vessels. The navy moreover provides training to men and women through courses directly or indirectly related to fisheries, and maritime navigation.

277. **The Argentine Coastguard (PNA**, **Ministry of Security)** controls the marine and coastal areas, and also ports and navigation safety. PNA is the agency in charge of providing a registration number to fishing vessels flying the Argentine flag. Furthermore, it controls technical aspects related to safety of life at sea, operational safety and security, and prevention of pollution produced by the activity. As an ancillary enforcement authority, it patrols fishery-related activities.

278. The **National Hydrographic Service** (Ministry of Defense) will provide graphs, services for navigators and weather information, navigational charts and oceanographic data (on physics, chemistry, ocean currents, bathymetry, etc.).

279. By Executive Order No. 720/2014, the **Chief of Cabinet Ministry** was recently appointed as the Enforcement Authority of the Law creating the Namuncura-Burdwood Bank MPA. This law has established a Governing Council made up of several agencies. MAyDS will coordinate with this Council all activities concerning the Namuncura-Burdwood Bank MPA.

280. **The National Parks Administration (APN) and the provincial parks and natural reserve agencies** are responsible for the management and administration of national parks and provincial parks and reserves, respectively. APN is a part of the Governing Council of the Namuncura-Burdwood Bank MPA mentioned in the above paragraph.

281. FAO, MAyDS and CFP will collaborate with the executing agencies of other programs and projects, with a view to identifying opportunities and facilitating mechanisms to achieve synergies with other relevant GEF-supported projects, as well as projects supported by other donors. This cooperation will be carried out as follows: (i) informal communications between GEF agencies and the executing partners of other programs and projects; (ii) exchange of information and dissemination material among projects; (iii) participation in forums and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms regarding policies and plans of action for the promotion and conservation of ocean biodiversity, and the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, with representatives from national and provincial institutions, local community organizations and civil society organizations. With a view to guaranteeing the realization of coordination and cooperation opportunities between different initiatives, specific coordination functions have been included in the field of work of the National Project Directorate (NPD) (see Section 4.2), the results of which must be explicitly reflected in the project progress reports.

282. Most of the projects with international financing which are relevant to the Management and Protection of Biodiversity will be carried out under the aegis of MAyDS, thus facilitating interactions with the institutions through simple agreements.

283. Among others, the project shall develop special collaboration with projects that can provide specific information on the Management and Protection of Coastal Marine Biodiversity and inputs for the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries as, for instance: i) *Sustainable Management of the Water Resources of the la Plata Basin with Respect to the Effects of Climate Variability and Change (*Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) (GEF ID 2095); ii) *Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water* (GloBallast) (GEF ID 2261), which will implement long-term coordinated measures to minimize the adverse impact of alien aquatic species transferred by the ballast water of ships to coastal and marine ecosystems; iii) Implemented almost simultaneously, GEF project ID 4768 on "*Strengthening of Governance for the Protection of Biodiversity through the Formulation and Implementation of the National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species* (NSIAS)",will be implemented just like this project, with FAO as implementing agency and MAyDS as executing partner. It will especially consider the incidence of ballast water and fouling, and in collaboration with the Working Group on Aquatic Resources (GTRA - MAyDS), it will implement a pilot project on the "System for early detection, dispersal prevention and early action with regard to IAS in ports and adjacent areas"; iv) "*Sustainable Fishing and Aquaculture Development Programme*" (AR-L1159) IDB-Ministry of Agro-Industry that under Component 1 will reinforce INIDEP's infrastructure as follows: a) procurement of two ships (USD 30 million); b) expansion of services at INIDEP Headquarters in Mar del Plata; and iii) regionalization of INIDEP services to the Patagonian coastline. Furthermore, AR-L1159 will strengthen SSPyA capacities to a) improve the overall fisheries information system to monitor fishing activities; b) improve effectiveness of on board control; and c) provide technical assistance and training of civil servants as inspectors.

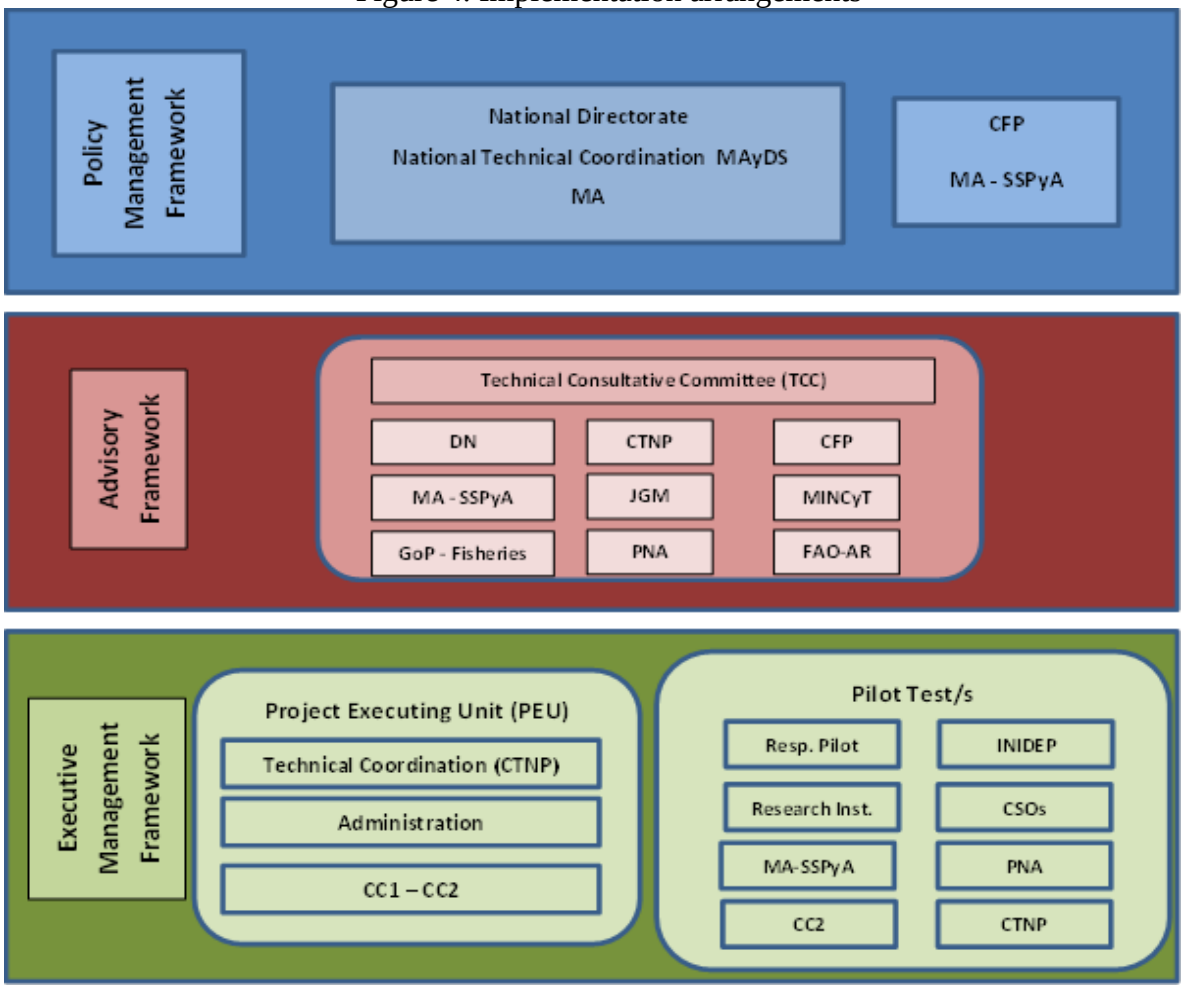
284. Other initiatives that could have direct experience and practice in Coastal Marine Biodiversity Protection and Management and in the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries are: i) Wildlife Conservation Society which is among the institutions supporting local initiatives for zoning and governance of activities on the Eastern part of the continental shelf and shelf break, through the Project "Sea Model" and currently "Sea and Sky"; ii) Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea and Areas of Influence. This coalition of NGOs –not only from Argentina- shares a vision on a healthy and diverse Patagonian sea to meet the needs, desires and aspirations of human beings. It is made up of 10 active NGOs and another 7 associated ones. Within the framework of this forum, important contributions have been made to the knowledge of marine environments such as: summary of the status of conservation of the Patagonian Sea and Forum Lighthouses; iii) The *Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina* (Wildlife Argentina Foundation) promotes the sustainable fishing program through which the Patagonian scallop fisheries have been certified (2006), the first scallop fishery in the world to obtain this certification; then the Argentine anchovy in Buenos Aires Province (2011), and the longtail hake (2012); furthermore in 2013, the Foundation started up the Program "Argentina, Antarctica and its Living Oceans"; iv) The *Fundación Patagonia Natural* carried out a series of projects starting with a "Comprehensive Management Plan for the Patagonian Coastal Zone", Phase I (1993-1996), continued through the Project on "Consolidating and implementing the Patagonian Coastal Management Plan for Biodiversity Conservation" (2003 - 2009), and currently through the Project on the "Inter-jurisdictional System for Marine-Coastal Protected Areas (SIAPCM)" (with a start date in 2011 and an end date in December 2014).

285. Furthermore, the Project will exchange experiences and lessons learned and promote the global integration of responses in this field with existing projects that address the same topic in other countries, for instance, Project Towards Ecosystem Management of the Humboldt Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GEF ID 3749), and ii) Project Piloting of an Ecosystem-based Approach to Uruguayan Coastal Fisheries (GEF ID 3410).

4.2. Implementation arrangements

286. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will be the GEF agency responsible for supervising and providing technical advice during project implementation. The main executing partner for the project's implementation will be the Government of the Argentine Republic represented by MAyDS, in cooperation with CFP. A Technical Consultative Committee (TCC) will be set up (see below) with a view to supervising and coordinating project implementation planning. The Project will be managed according to the institutional structure below (Figure 4.).

Figure 4. Implementation arrangements



4.2.1. Functions and responsibilities of the project implementing partners

287. Given its political representation, CFP is the key institution for the coordination of this project at the federal level. In view of its executive and coordination functions regarding fishery policies and research, and the federal, inter-institutional and inter-sectoral technical background of its members, CFP is a fundamental party to implement the project.

288. The **FAO Office in Argentina**, at the request of the Government of Argentina will be the organization in charge of the project's administrative and financial coordination and execution (see below FAO functions and responsibilities).

289. The **Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)** will be the national institution **responsible for project execution** and will thus be directly responsible for the following: (i) technical implementation of project activities; (ii) daily monitoring of project progress and outcome achievement; and (iii) financial planning and procurement of goods, minor works and services, which will be carried out by FAO. Every six months, MAyDS will prepare and send to the FAO Office in Argentina, Project Progress Reports (PPRs), an Annual detailed Work Plan and Budget (AWPB), and all the necessary documents for preparing the Annual Project Implementation Review reports –Annual PIR. (See Section 4.5.3)

290. MAyDS will appoint a **National Project Director (NPD)** as a co-financing contribution. The NPD will be responsible for supervising achievement and fulfillment of the project's objectives and outcomes, including the quality of the outputs, the rules and procedures set forth in this Project Document, and the alignment of the above with MAyDS policies and priorities. Furthermore, it will facilitate coordination with other GoA agencies and will be in charge of coordinating with MAyDS Directorates and Working Groups and their provincial peers, and will, moreover, supervise the Project's National Technical Coordinator (see below).

291. A Project Executing Unit (PEU) will be set up for the project's implementation. This Unit will be headed by the **Project's National Technical Coordination** (PNTC), provided as a co-financing contribution by the "Working Group on Aquatic Resources" (GTRA), which reports to the National Directorate of Environmental Governance and Biodiversity Conservation, MAyDS. GTRA's duties relate to: (i) Drafting of national policies and programs for protecting marine biodiversity; (ii) Coordination with SSPyA – CFP, MA; (iii) Coordination with the Working Group on Biodiversity Conservation, which reports to the namesake National Directorate that is in charge of implementing the National Biodiversity Strategy and the CONADIBIO activities. Following the guidelines and decisions of the Technical Consultative Committee (see below), the main function of MAyDS/PNTC will be to ensure project coordination and implementation by rigorously and efficiently implementing AWP/B. MAyDS/PNTC will act as the Secretariat for TCC and the Pilot Coordination Committees. Furthermore, it will coordinate work and will closely follow up on the implementation of project activities, manage daily requirements and coordinate project interventions regarding other ongoing activities, and ensure a high level of cooperation between participating institutions and organizations at all levels (national, provincial and local); and will also follow up on Project progress and ensure timely delivery of inputs and outputs. According to FAO rules and procedures, and in accordance to this Project Document (ProDoc) and the AWPB, MAyDS/PNTC will supervise selection processes for the procurement of minor goods, and services, and will request FAO to sign the contracts, carry out procurement and make payments, and will supervise and evaluate consulting services and their outputs previously assessed by the Coordinators of Components 1 and 2. With the cooperation of the Coordinators of Components

1 and 2, the PNTC will supervise the organization of project annual meetings and workshops to follow up on project progress, and will prepare AWPB that will be submitted to FAO and TCC for their approval. The PNTC shall be in charge of implementing the project's monitoring and evaluation plan, managing its monitoring system and communication program, preparing PPRs on activities carried out and progress in achievement of outcomes; it will also support the preparation of Annual PIRs, and facilitate the mid-term and final evaluations. The PNTC shall submit PPRs and AWP/B to FAO and TCC, together with the financial expenditure reports (prepared by FAO).

292. Travel and accommodation expenses needed by the PNTC for carrying out activities related to the project's development will be covered with GEF funds.

293. Furthermore, the PNTC, with the help of the Component Coordinators (CC1 and CC2) will be in charge of the project's technical management and supervision, including the following: preparation of the AWPB and allocation of tasks to MAyDS/PNTC staff; preparation of Terms of Reference and technical requirements for consulting services, bid specifications, and documents for the procurement of material and equipment; technical advice to and supervision of staff from MAyDS/CTNP, institutions and organizations carrying out project activities; field visits to supervise and render advice on site to the technical staff of provincial institutions and other organizations involved in the project; regular coordination and communication with all experts/consultants working for the project; preparation of PPRs and supply of inputs for Annual PIRs. It will moreover be responsible for coordinating with the National Fisheries Planning Directorate that reports to SSPyA-MA, and with CFP. Additionally, PNTC will be in charge of closely linking project activities with the CONADIBIO and COFEMA strategies and with the MAyDS Plans, Programs and Projects, contributing to the effective dissemination of lessons learned at the national and international levels.

294. The PEU will be supplemented with the following full-time staff paid with GEF funds (see Terms of Reference in Appendix 6): A Coordinator for Component No. 1 (CC1), with expertise in MPA, and a Coordinator for Component No. 2 (CC2), with expertise in EAF (see below). CC1 will be assisted by a junior consultant (48 months), and CC2 will be supported by a junior consultant throughout the project's implementation (consultants with knowledge on the environment and Argentine fisheries system).

295. MAyDS, as project counterpart, provides the technical and administrative staff of the Working Group on Aquatic Resources to assist with the project's technical implementation by supporting PNTC (A Coordinator, five technicians and two administrative staff members)

296. For the pilot experience regarding EAF, MAyDS –GTRA technician will be designated to act as an EAF Pilot Coordinator (EAF PC), as co-financing contribution. Using GEF financing, the necessary consultants will be hired for carrying out this pilot experience. In agreement with PNTC, EAF PC will provide the execution guidelines for each pilot initiative, and will plan and coordinate activities in the quest for synergy with other relevant initiatives. The EAF PC will supervise progress in achieving pilot experience objectives and will help in the EAF learning, validation process and feedback, based on the experiences and lessons learned from the pilot initiative.

297. Using GEF resources, three international consultants will be hired to fill the gaps in national EAF experience: an expert in the sustainable financing of MPAs; an EAF expert; and a fishery economics expert in EAF.

298. The following national consultants will also be hired: for Component 1: an expert in MPA planning; an expert in the biological aspects needed for preparing the management plans; an oceanographic expert to design baseline cruises; an expert in social sciences to design baseline cruises; a biology expert to design baseline cruises; a specialist in data uploading and processing; a GIS expert; a workshop facilitator (to formulate Management Plans, inter-institutional agreements and financing plans); a financial-economic specialist; a legal consultant; an environmental management expert (good productive practices); an expert in MPAs (lessons learned – guidelines); an IT expert (metadata compatibility); and a junior consultant in marine resource management; ii) for Component 2: a fishery economist; a sociologist; an economist specializing in market visibility; an expert in mitigating the impact on birds and turtles; an expert in mitigating the impact on mammals; a facilitator; an expert in database design to monitor relevant indicators for EAF.

299. The Operational and Financial Officer will be in charge of the project's daily financial and operational management, including contract settlement and procurement of the necessary inputs according to the approved annual work plans and budget. This person will work in close consultation with the NPD, PNTC, the Budget Holder (BH, see below), the Lead Technical Officer (LTO, see below) and institutions participating in this project.

300. During project design, multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms were established which led to deciding on the need for creating a **Technical Consultative Committee (TCC**), and an inter-sectoral inter-action mechanism to coordinate information, knowledge and action as well as execution mechanisms for fulfilling project goals.

301. TCC will be chaired by the NPD. Other committee members will be the following: CTNP, a representative from SSPyA, MA; one representative from CFP; one representative from each of the provinces' fisheries departments; a representative from the Chief of Cabinet Ministry, one representative from PNA and one representative from FAO-Argentina. The TCC will make decisions on the project's overall management and will be in charge of keeping the project's operations aligned with the strategic focus. TCC functions will include: (i) carrying out the overall supervision of project progress and achievement of expected outcomes through Project Progress Reports (PPRs) to be submitted every six months; ii) making decisions with regard to the project's organization, coordination and practical implementation; (iii) facilitating cooperation among MAyDS, SSPyA, CFP, FAO and other institutions and organizations participating in the project; (iv) informing MAyDS/PNTC about ongoing or scheduled activities in order to facilitate cooperation between the Project and other programs, projects and initiatives regarding marine biodiversity protection and EAF, particularly in project intervention areas; (v) facilitating timely and efficient co-financing; (vi) reviewing PPRs and financial reports prepared every six months and approving Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP/B). (It will meet for the first time before the Inception Workshop to approve the AWP/B and will establish its schedule of activities and meetings which will be at least one or two a year); and (vii) submitting to CFP relevant information proposed for its inclusion in the NAPs and/or measures recommended for the application of EAF in the Argentine Sea.

4.2.2. FAO's functions and responsibilities as GEF implementing agency

302. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will be the GEF agency for the project as well as the financial and operational executing agency. FAO will provide supervision and technical guidance during project implementation. GEF's grant will

be managed pursuant to FAO rules and procedures, and in accordance with the agreement between FAO and the GEF Trustee.

303. As the GEF implementing agency for this project, FAO will:

- Administrate GEF resources in agreement with FAO rules and procedures;
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financers, and FAO rules and procedures;
- Provide technical advice to ensure the appropriate technical quality is applied to all project activities;
- Carry out at least one supervision mission every year; and
- Report project progress to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the Annual Project Implementation review (PIR), and submit the financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

304. At the request of the Government of Argentina, besides acting as GEF agency, FAO will be executing agency of GEF resources, including financial management, procurement of goods and contracting of services, according to FAO rules and procedures (mainly Manual sections No. 502 and 507). MAyDS/CTNP, in agreement with TCC guides, will be responsible for budget provisions and, in accordance with the latter, will request resource delivery from FAO.

305. As financial executor FAO will provide semi-annual financial reports on the status of project expenditure to MAyDS/PNTC and TCC, in accordance with this project document, the financial delivery, AWP/B and Procurement and Travel Plan. FAO will carry out budget revisions to update the budget in the FAO financial system, and will provide such information to MAyDS/PNTC and TCC so as to facilitate project planning and implementation. In cooperation with MAyDS/PNTC and TCC, FAO will participate in the planning and procurement and hiring processes and also carry them out. The Organization will also process due payments for delivery of goods, services and products upon request of MAyDS/PNTC and based on the approved AWP/B and Procurement Plans. .

FAO's roles in internal organization

306. The roles and responsibilities of FAO staff are regulated by the *FAO Guide to the Project Cycle, Quality for Results, 2015,* Annex 4: Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Task Force Members, and its updates.

307. The FAO Representative in Argentina, with the support of the Program Officer and the GEF Project Officer (see below), will be the Budget Holder (BH) and will be responsible of managing GEF resources. As a first step in the implementation of the project, the FAO Representation in Argentina will establish an interdisciplinary Project Task Force (PTF) within FAO, to guide the implementation of the project.

308. The PTF is a management and consultative body that integrate the necessary technical qualifications from the FAO relevant units to support the project. The PTM is composed of a Budget Holder, a Lead Technical Officer (LTO), the Funding Liaison Officer (FLO) and one or more technical officers based on FAO Headquarters (HQ Technical Officer).

309. In coordination with the FAO Lead Technical Officer (LTO) the FAO Representative in Argentina will be responsible for the project's operational, administrative and financial management. The BH will be in charge of: (i) provide six-monthly financial reports including a statement of project expenditure to MAyDS/PNTC and TCC; (ii) procuring goods and hiring services for project activities, in accordance with FAO rules and procedures, at the request of MAyDS/PNTC, and in agreement with the approved AWP/B; (iii) process payments for goods, services and outputs after their approval by MAyDS/PNTC; and (iv) at least once a year or more frequently if required, prepare budget revisions for their approval by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, ensuring that the budget is always updated in the FAO system.

310. The FAO Representative in Argentina, in accordance with the PTF, will give its non-objection to the AWP/B submitted by MAyDS/PNTC, as well as the PPRs which must be approved by the project's LTO before their inclusion in FPMIS system.

311. The GEF Project Task Manager (PTM) will work under the direct supervision of the FAO Representative in Argentina and will support the Representative in supervising Project management and progress, and in FAO's participation in the procurement processes, as well as in rendering technical advice to the project, in close consultation with the LTO and the project's interdisciplinary working group. The GPO's salary will be paid with resources from the GEF fee assigned to the implementing agency, in addition to the project's program funds. PTM's main functions are as follows:

- Review and provide comments on project progress reports prepared by MAyDS/PNTC, and submit them to the LTO for approval, and then to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit at the pertinent Department of the FAO Investment Centre (TCI) for their final approval and entry into FPMIS;
- Participate in annual progress review and project planning workshops, and review and provide comments on AWP/B, and recommend their approval to the FAO Representative, in consultation with the PTF;
- Review contract and procurement documents for those contracts and purchases to be funded with GEF resources, and recommend their approval to the FAO Representative, in consultation with the PTF;
- Review co-financing delivery reports to be submitted to co-executors once a year (June).
- Review six-monthly financial reports prepared by the FAO Administrative-Financial Officer, before sending them to MAyDS/PNTC, and TCC.
- Carry out periodic supervisory missions and support FAO's inputs as regards technical advice and result-oriented project management;
- Support the LTO in preparing Annual PIRs, including preparation of the first draft;
- When requested by the FAO Representative, the PTM will participate in the project's TCC;
- In coordination with the FAO Program Officer and Operations Officer, the PTM will participate in interview panels to select staff for key project posts to be funded with GEF resources; and
- Prepare draft terms of reference for mid-term and final evaluations, in consultation with the FAO Evaluation Office, PTF, SAyDS/PNTC; and provide support in the structuring of evaluations, contribute to the preparation of a potential adjustment plan with regard to the project's implementation approach and supervise its application.

312. The Lead Technical Officer (LTO) will be the Senior Fishery and Aquaculture Officer of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC). The role of the LTO is central to FAO's comparative advantage for projects. The LTO will provide guidance and technical support to the project and to the PTM, to answer requests for guidance from MAyDS/PNTC on specific technical matters during project implementation. The LTO will support the BH in the implementation and monitoring of the AWP/B, including work plan and budget revisions. The LTO is responsible and accountable for providing or obtaining technical clearance of technical inputs and services procured by the Organization. Specifically, the LTO will be in charge of:

- Reviewing and give no-objection to terms of reference for consulting services and contracts to be signed within the project's framework, as well as the Curriculum Vitae and the technical proposals pre-selected by the Project Management Committee for key project posts, procurement of goods, minor works, and services to be funded with GEF resources;
- With the support of the PTM, reviewing and approving final technical outputs delivered by consultants and contract incumbents funded with GEF resources, before making the final payment;
- At the request of MAyDS/PNTC, collaborating in the technical review and in making observations to preliminary outputs and project reports;
- Reviewing and approving project progress reports submitted by MAyDS /CTNP to the FAO Office in Argentina, in coordination with the PTM;
- Helping the FAO Representative to examine, review and authorize AWP/B submitted by MAyDS/PNTC, for their subsequent approval by TCC;
- Preparing Annual PIRs, with the support of the PTM and the inputs of MAyDS/PNTC which will be submitted to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, for their approval and submission to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, as part of the annual follow-up report reviewing the FAO-GEF portfolio. LTO must ensure that MAyDS/PNTC has provided information on the co-funding granted throughout the year for its inclusion in the Annual PIR.
- Carrying out annual missions (or as often as needed) for Project supervision;
- Reviewing the terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation, participating in the review mission -including the mid-term workshop with all key project actors-, developing a potential adjustment plan for the project's implementation approach, and supervising its application together with the PTM.
- Reviewing the terms of reference for the final evaluation, participating in the closing mission and workshop with all key project actors, developing and following up on recommendations concerning the mechanisms to ensure project output and outcome sustainability after its completion

313. The **HQ Officer** is a member of the PTF, as a mandatory requirement of the FAO Guide to the Project Cycle. The HQ Officer has most relevant technical expertise - within FAO technical departments - related to the thematic of the project. The HQ Technical Officer will provide effective functional advice to the LTO to ensure adherence to FAO corporate technical standards during project implementation, in particular:

- Supports the LTO in monitoring and reporting on implementation of environmental and social commitment plans for moderate projects.
- Provides technical backstopping for the project work plan.

- Clears technical reports, contributes to and oversees the quality of Project Progress Report(s) (PPRs – see Section 3.5).
- May be requested to support the LTO and PTF for implementation and monitoring.
- Supports the LTO and BH in producing the first draft TOR of the Evaluation team in for the Final Evaluation, review the composition of the evaluation team and support the evaluation function.

314. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will act as **Funding Liaison Officer (FLO).** The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will review Project Progress Reports and the Budget revisions based on AWPBs. This Unit shall review and provide a rating to the annual PIRs and undertake supervisory missions, as necessary. Annual PIRs will be included in the annual follow-up report for reviewing the FAO-GEF portfolio that the Unit will forward to GEF. The Unit may also participate in the mid-term and final evaluations, and in carrying out corrective actions in the project implementation strategy, if necessary, to mitigate risks affecting the project's accurate and efficient implementation. The Unit, in collaboration with the FAO Financial Division, will request the GEF Trust Fund Manager to transfer project funds, based on the semi-annual forecast of necessary funds.

315. The FAO Financial Division shall submit Annual Financial Reports to the GEF Trust Fund Manager and, in cooperation with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, shall submit semi-annual requests for funds addressed to the GEF Trust Fund Manager.

4.3. Planning and financial management

4.3.1. Financial Plan (by component, output and co-financer)

316. Total project costs will amount to USD 19,356,406, out of which USD 3,534,786 will be funded by a GEF grant. The remaining funds consist of counterpart contributions committed during the project design phase. Table 4.1 includes costs by component, output and source of financing, and Table 4.2 shows confirmed sources and types of co-financing. FAO, as the GEF implementing agency, will be solely responsible for delivery of GEF resources and FAO's co-financing funds.

Table 4.1. Project costs by component, output and funding source.

Table 4.2 Confirmed sources of funding

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount ($)
National government	MAyDS	Cash	506,666
National government	MAyDS	In-kind	760,000
National government	Ministry of Security	Cash	4,333,333
National government	Ministry of Security	In-kind	383,538
National government	INIDEP	Cash	732,000
National government	INIDEP	In-kind	1,462,000
National government	CONICET	Cash	150,000
National government	CONICET	In-kind	672,000
National government	SSPyA	Cash	1,665,000
National government	SSPyA	In-kind	715,000
National government	JGM-Pampa Azul	Cash	147,700
National government	JGM-Pampa Azul	In-kind	142,100
National government	CFP	Cash	444,468
National government	CFP	In-kind	190,893
National government	Ministry of Defence	Cash	57,692
National government	Ministry of Defence	In-kind	3,019,230
Private sector	Fishery sector	Cash	240,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	200,000
Total Co-financing			**15,821,620**

4.3.2. GEF Contribution

317. GEF's contribution to the project will be used to support the activities that bring about global environmental benefits and cannot be adequately funded by local actors at present. GEF resources will be allocated to financing technical assistance and studies for creating a new marine protected area, formulating MPA management plans, and designing sustainable financing plans. GEF funds will be invested in training and institutional strengthening to favor harmonization and mainstreaming of EAF in the fisheries institutional and regulatory framework. The GEF grant will finance pilot initiatives for applying EAF to a fishery and for

validating and adopting good practices, as well as for activities related to promotion, outreach, adjustment of regulations, and regional collaboration and coordination activities.

4.3.3. Government Contribution

318. The Government has confirmed the co-financing of USD 15,381,620 million (out of which USD 8,036,859 million will be in cash). Contributions refer mainly to co-financing of the central authorities linked to Biodiversity Conservation and EAF-related activities. They also include contributions from national agencies and research institutes, particularly INIDEP and CONICET. Furthermore, security forces especially PNA and the Argentine Navy, will make contributions with regard to control mechanisms. An important part of the governments' contributions is in the way of activities coordinated through the IDB loan to the GoA for the "*Sustainable Fishing and Aquaculture Development Programme"* (AR-L1159) -IDB-Ministry of Agro-Industry-; as well as MINCyT – CONICET inputs through the Pampa Azul initiative which coordinates research in the marine environment in Argentina's priority areas as, for instance, the Namuncura-Burdwood Bank MPA. Co-financing includes the contributions of vessels, crew members and the necessary basic inputs for cruises to be carried out by the project. Additionally, there is also the contribution of time by national, provincial and local staff. Other elements covered include the cost of project management, certain material and equipment for field activities, dissemination in the mass media, relationships with the community, meetings and surveys.

319. MAyDS will provide the following staff for project implementation: (i) NPD will be the official filling the position of -Secretary of Environmental Policies, Climate Change and Sustainable Development (ii) the National Director for Biodiversity and Hydric Resources will be part of the co-financing provided by MAyDS for intra and inter-institutional coordination; (iii) PNTC and technical and administrative staff from the Working Group on Aquatic Resources (a Coordinator, five technicians and two administrative staff members) to support PNTC; (iv) The "Working Group on Biodiversity Conservation", through its head, and four technicians responsible for coordination the actions needed to formulate and implement the National Biodiversity Strategy, and conduct CONADIBIO. Technicians from the (v) Working Group on Protected Areas will also participate in the project's implementation. As regards regional integration MAyDS will coordinate actions through (vii) MAyDS professionals from the MERCOSUR Sub-working Group No. 6 on the Environment.

320. The counterpart contribution for the EAF pilot component will be a MAyDS – GTRA technician who will act as Coordinator for the Pilot EAF Initiative (CP - EAF).

4.3.4. FAO Contribution

321. FAO will contribute USD 200.000, broken down as follows: USD 200,000 in kind, covering staff time and travel, besides those paid using GEF agency fees, to render technical advice to the project.

4.3.5. Contributions of other co-financers

322. All efforts will be made to bring provincial fisheries, environmental and protected area sectors into the project's implementation (as appropriate), and those linked to the energy sector (off-shore oil), and also maritime carriers.

4.3.6. Financial management and submission of reports on GEF resources

323. Financial management and the submission of reports on GEF resources will be carried out pursuant to FAO rules and procedures, and the agreement between FAO and the GEF Trustee. Based on the activities included in the project budget, FAO will undertake all operations for disbursements, procurement and contracting for the total amount of USD 3,534,786 in GEF resources.

324. **Financial records.** FAO will maintain a separate account in US dollars for GEF project resources, showing all income and expenditure. Spending in a currency other than US dollars will be converted into US dollars as per the UN operational rate of exchange on the date of the transaction. FAO will manage the project according to its rules, standards and regulations.

325. **Financial reports.** The PRB shall prepare reports on project expenditure every six months and upon project completion. The report will show the amount budgeted for each year, the amount disbursed since the beginning of the year, and the cumulative amount since project start-up, as well as unsettled obligations (committed amounts), as follows:

1. The annual financial report including project expenditure by outcome, reported by budget lines as indicated in the project budget of this Project Document, as at 30 June and 31 December each year.
2. A final accounts statement upon project completion, for each project component and outcome, in line with the budget codes that appear in the project document.
3. A final accounts statement, in line with the FAO Oracle system budget codes, reflecting actual final project expenditure once all obligations have been settled.

326. **Financial statements.** Within 30 working days after the finalization of each six-month period, that is to say, before or on 31 July and 31 January, the FAO Representative's Office will issue semi-annual expenditure statements as regards GEF resources, and send them to the Technical Consultative Committee to be included in the PPRs. The purpose of the financial report is to reflect expenses incurred by the Project every six months compared to the budget, so as to supervise project progress and reconcile significant progress during each six-month period. The financial report shall contain information that will be used for periodic budget revisions.

327. The BH will send the above financial statements to LTO and the FAO/GEF Coordination Unit for their review and monitoring. Financial reports to be submitted to the donor (GEF) will be prepared pursuant to the provisions of the GEF Financial Procedures Agreement and submitted to the FAO Finance Division.

328. **Responsibility for any cost overruns.** The BH will be responsible for using GEF funds in strict compliance with the Project Budget (Appendix 3) and the approved AWP/B. The BH can make variations provided that the total allocated for each budgeted project component is not exceeded and the reallocation of funds does not impact the achievement of any project output as per the project Results Framework (Appendix 1). At least once a year, the BH will submit a budget revision for approval of the LTO and the FAO/GEF Coordination Unit through FPMIS. Cost overruns shall be the sole responsibility of the BH.

329. **Audit.** The project will be subject to internal and external audits pursuant to FAO financial regulations, and in line with the Financial Procedures Agreement between FAO and the GEF Trustee.

330. The FAO audit regime consists of an external audit by the Auditor-General (or person performing an equivalent function) of a member country, appointed by the Governing Bodies of the Organization, and reporting directly to such body. The internal audit is headed by FAO's Inspector-General who reports directly to the Director-General. This regime operates as an integral part of the Organization, under the policies established by the High Management, and entails direct reporting to the Collegiate Body. Both audits are requirements within the Basic Texts of FAO which set forth the framework for the terms of reference of each audit. Internal audit of accounts, accounting records, bank reconciliation and asset verification takes place periodically at FAO field offices.

4.4. Procurement

331. At the request of MAyDS/PNTC, FAO will purchase equipment and hire services as envisaged in the budget (Appendix 2 of this Project Document) and in the AWP/B, in accordance with FAO rules and regulations.

332. It is necessary to carefully plan procurement to ensure that the purchased goods, services and works be timely delivered under the principle of best value for money, and in accordance with FAO rules and regulations. Needs and constraints must be analyzed, including a reasonable forecast of the required time frame for a procurement process. Procurement and product delivery in technical cooperation projects follow FAO rules and procedures for the procurement of material, equipment and services (e.g. sections 502 and 507 of the Manual). Section 502: "Procurement of Goods, Works and Services", sets forth the principles and procedures that apply to the purchase of all goods, works and services by the Organization, at all its offices, save for the procurement actions described in Appendix A - Procurement not governed by Section 502 of the Manual. On the other hand, Section 507 of the Manual spells out the principles and regulations governing the use of Letters of Agreement (LoA) by FAO, for an appropriate procurement of services by eligible entities, in a transparent and impartial manner, considering economic and efficiency aspects to achieve an optimum mix of expected benefits and cost (" best value for money").

333. The BH will outline an annual procurement plan for the main items which will be the basis for procurement requests during implementation. The first procurement plan will be updated upon project start-up. The plan must include the description of goods, services and works to be procured, an estimated budget and the source of funds, a procurement schedule and the proposed procurement methodology. In those situations in which there is no accurate information available, the procurement plan should at least contain reasonable forecasts which will be adjusted as information becomes available.

334. Before commencing procurement, MAyDS/PNTC shall submit a Project Procurement Plan (Appendix 5) to be approved by the Technical Consultative Committee (TCC), and then reviewed at the project inception workshop, and approved by the FAO Representative in Argentina. Every six months, MAyDS/PNTC will update the Plan, obtain approval from NPD and send it to the FAO Representative in Argentina for his/her approval.

4.5. Monitoring and reporting

335. Monitoring and Evaluation of progress in the achievement of project outcomes and objectives will be carried out on the basis of the targets and indicators established in the Project Results Framework (Appendix 1 and description in Sections 2.3 and 2.4). Project monitoring and the Evaluation Plan have been estimated at USD 106,550 (see Table 4.3). Monitoring and evaluation activities will follow FAO and GEF monitoring and evaluation policies and guidelines. The monitoring and evaluation system will also facilitate learning and replication of project outcomes and lessons with regard to the incorporation and consolidation of good practices in biodiversity conservation and EAF application overall.

4.5.1. Supervision and monitoring responsibilities

336. The monitoring and evaluation functions and responsibilities, described in detail in the Project Monitoring Plan (see hereunder) will be implemented through the following: (i) ongoing project progress monitoring and supervision missions (MAyDS/ PNTC); (ii) technical monitoring of the indicators on the status of the framework for Managing and Protecting Marine Coastal Biodiversity in key ecological areas, and in the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the project's area (MAyDS/ PNTC, in coordination with stakeholders involved in the pilot initiatives; (iii) specific monitoring plans for pilot initiatives and awareness-raising and communication activities for each component (MAyDS/ PNTC); (iv) mid-term and final evaluations (independent consultants and the FAO Evaluation Office); and (v) supervision and monitoring missions (FAO).

337. With a view to implementing the GEF Project, MAyDS/ PNTC and the PEU will establish a project progress monitoring system. Participatory methodologies and mechanisms will be outlined for collecting and recording data in support of the monitoring and evaluation of outcome and output indicators. During the project inception workshop (see section 4.5.3, below), monitoring and evaluation tasks will include the following:: (i) presentation and clarification (if necessary) of the Project Results Framework with all project stakeholders; (ii) review of monitoring and evaluation indicators and their baseline; (iii) preparation of draft clauses to be included in consulting agreements to ensure they fulfill their duty of submitting monitoring and evaluation reports (if appropriate); and (iv) clarification of monitoring and evaluation task distribution among the different project actors. One of the main workshop outputs will be a detailed monitoring plan, agreed upon by all actors and based on a monitoring and evaluation plan summarized in Section 4.5.4, below.

338. MAyDS/ PNTC will be in charge of day-to-day monitoring of project implementation, guided by the preparation and implementation of the AWP/B, supported by semi-annual PPRs. Preparation of AWPB and the semi-annual PPRs will result from a unified planning process among the main project actors. As a results-based management tool, AWPBs will indicate proposed actions for the following year and will offer the necessary details on the output goals to be achieved; and PPRs will present information on action implementation monitoring and the achievement of outcome and output targets. Contributions to the AWPB and PPR will be obtained through a participatory planning and progress review system with all actors, coordinated by MAyDS/ PNTC and facilitated through planning and progress review workshops within the framework of CFP with the Coordinators of EAF Pilot Initiatives. Such contributions will be consolidated by MAyDS/ PNTC in the draft AWPB and PPRs.

339. An annual project progress review and planning meeting will be held with the participation of FAO, MAyDS/ PNTC so as to complete the AWP/B and PPRs. Once completed, AWP/B and PPRs will be sent to the FAO LTO for technical clearance and to TCC for their approval (AWP/B) and review (PPR). AWP/B will be prepared in line with the Results Framework (Appendix 1) to ensure appropriate fulfillment and monitoring of project outputs and outcomes

340. After project approval, the AWP/B for PY1 will be adjusted (either by reducing or extending it) to synchronize it with the annual calendar for report submission. In the forthcoming years, the AWP/B will follow an annual preparation scheme, in line with the report submission cycle described in Section 4.5.3.

4.5.2. Indicators and sources of information

341. In order to monitor project outputs and outcomes, including contributions to global environmental benefits, a set of indicators have been set forth in the Results Framework (Annex 1). The indicators and means of verification of the Results Framework will be applied to the monitoring of project performance and its impact. Following the FAO monitoring procedures and progress report formats, the data collected will have a sufficient level of detail so as to allow follow-up of specific outputs and outcomes, and early detection of project risks. Output target indicators will be monitored every six months and outcome goal indicators will be monitored on an annual basis, if possible, or at least during mid-term and final evaluations.

342. Project output and outcome indicators have been designed to monitor biophysical and socio-economic impacts and effective progress in building and consolidating capacities for managing EAF.

343. Field-level impact indicators will monitor the following:

a) **Level of protection of ecosystems and biodiversity of two MPAs and the hectares included therein:** a) Area covered by MPAs; b) Score according to GEF BD METT of Namuncura – Burdwood Bank;
b) **Impact of adopting EAF:** Reduce the impact of trawl fisheries on benthic communities and demersal species.

344. Indicators on capacity-building will address the following:

a) **Institutional capacities improved for managing MPAs:** MPAs having a Management Plan, including financial sustainability management capacities; number of conservation agents, trained in environmental practices for productive sectors (fisheries, hydrocarbons, maritime transport) carrying out their activities in MPAs o their transition zones. Furthermore, capabilities will be generated for a GIS containing data from cruises and existing information on MPAs.
b) **Level of knowledge and empowerment of EAF:** number of people from the institutions involved in fishery management (INIDEP, PNA, SSPyA, equivalent provincial authorities and provincial environment agencies) and fishery trade unions having developed capacities for applying EAF.
c) **Practical application of EAF as supplementary measures to the current fishery management system:** Number of people trained in application of EAF Management Plan (Patagonian scallop fishery) and number of people trained in the application of

good practices concerning fishing techniques and/or selectivity devices for mitigating the impact of these techniques and devices on the incidental catch of non-target species.

d) **Inclusion of socioeconomic elements:** Number of people and databases bringing capacities into the current SSPyA information system on fisheries, easily accessible and relevant for the application of EAF.

345. The main sources of information to support the monitoring and evaluation programme will be the following: (i) participatory workshops and visits to intervention areas; (ii) Project progress reports prepared by MAyDS/PNTC, with contributions from CC1 and CC2 and other project actors; (iii) consulting service reports; (iv) training workshop evaluations; (v) impact assessments and mid-term and final evaluations carried out by independent consultants; (vi) financial reports and budget revisions; (vii) Annual PIRs prepared by FAO/LTO, with the support of the PTM and MAyDS/PND; and viii) FAO supervisory mission reports.

4.5.3. Reporting schedule

346. Specific reports to be prepared within the framework of the monitoring and evaluation program are: (i) Project Inception Report; (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); Project Progress Reports (PPRs); (iv) Annual Project Implementation Review Reports (PIRs); (v) Technical reports; (vi) Co-financing Reports; and (vii) Final Report. Furthermore, with regard to the mid-term and final project evaluations, the GEF Biodiversity Tracking Tool will be completed to compare progress with regard to the baseline established during the project's preparation.

347. **Project Inception Report**. After project approval by FAO, a project inception workshop will be held. Immediately after the workshop, MAyDS/PNTC will prepare a project inception report, in consultation with the PTM of the FAO office in Argentina and other project actors. The report will include a description of institutional functions and responsibilities, and the coordination of project actors, progress made in setting up the project and inception activities, as well as an update on any change in the external conditions that may affect the project's execution. It will also include a detailed AWPB for the first year, a detailed monitoring plan based on the monitoring and evaluation plan presented in Section 4.5.4 (see below). The draft Inception Report will be sent to FAO and TCC for their review and comments before its finalization, within three months after project start-up. The report must be approved by the BH, LTO and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit that will enter the report into the FPMIS

348. **Annual Work Plans and Budget (AWP/B)**. MAyDS/PNTC will submit a draft AWP/B to the Technical Consultative Committee (TCC) before 10 January every year. The AWP/B should include detailed activities for implementing each project output and outcome on a monthly basis, and the dates on which output and outcome indicator milestones and goals will be achieved throughout the year. A detailed budget of the project activities throughout the year will also be included, together with all necessary monitoring and supervisory activities to be carried out during the year. The PTM will send out the AWP/B to the FAO multidisciplinary project team for its review and shall consolidate and send FAO's comments to MAyDS/PNTC that will be in charge of including the comments. The final AWP/B will be forwarded to the TCC for its approval and to FAO for the final authorization and entry by the PTM into the FPMIS system.

349. **Project Progress Reports (PPRs)**. Every six months, and before 10 June (for the period January-June) and before 10 December (for the period July-December), MAyDS/ PNTC shall submit Project Progress Reports to the Technical Consultative Committee and to the FAO Representative in Argentina. The first semi-annual PPR must be submitted together with an AWP/B –updated if necessary- for FAO's review and approval. PPRs will be useful for identifying limitations, problems or bottlenecks hindering the timely implementation of project activities, and for taking the appropriate corrective measures. PPRs will be prepared on the basis of the systematic monitoring of outcome and output indicators identified in the project Results Framework (Annex 1). Every six months, the PTM will examine the PPR, gather and consolidate any comments by FAO (LTO, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, and BH) and send them to MAyDS/PNTC. Once the comments have been duly included, the LTO will provide the final approval and send the final PPR to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for its final approval and entry into the FPMIS.

350. **Annual Project Implementation Review reports (PIRs)**. The LTO, with the support of the FAO GPO, and with the input of MAyDS/PNTC, will prepare an Annual Project Implementation Review report covering the period July of the previous year thru to June of the year the report is issued, and will send it to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for its review and approval before 10 July. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will enter the Annual PIR into the FPMIS, and will send it to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office as part of the annual follow-up review of the FAO-GEF portfolio. Likewise, the Annual PIR must be sent to the GEF Focal Point within the Government of Argentina. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will provide the LTO with the updated PIR format when required. The PIR will be uploaded to FPMIS by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

351. **Technical reports.** The technical reports will be one of the project's outputs and will document and disseminate lessons learnt. Draft technical reports shall be submitted by MAyDS/PNTC to the Technical Consultative Committee and the FAO Representative's Office in Argentina that will share them with the LTO for their review and approval, and with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for its information and comments, before they are published. Copies of the technical reports will be sent to the TCC and other project actors, as appropriate. The PTM will post these reports on FAO's FPMIS.

352. **Co-financing Reports**. The PNTC will be in charge of gathering the necessary information on co-financing in kind and in cash, provided by all project co-financers; those included in this project document as well as unforeseen future co-financing. Every year, MAyDS/ PNTC will submit these reports to the FAO Representative's Office in Argentina before 10 July, covering the period July of the previous year thru to June of the year the report is issued.

353. **GEF Biodiversity Tracking Tool.** In fulfillment of GEF policies and procedures, the biodiversity Tracking Tool will be sent to the GEF Secretariat at three points in time: (i) together with the Project Document for its endorsement by the GEF Executive Director; (ii) together with the project mid-term evaluation; and (iii) together with the project final evaluation

354. **Final Report**. Within a term of two months before project completion, MAyDS/PNTC will submit to the Technical Consultative Committee (TCC) and to the FAO Representative's Office in Argentina, a draft Final Report. The main purpose of the Final Report is to offer guidance to the Minister or high official on the necessary policy decisions needed for Project follow-up, and submit to the donor, information on the use of funds. Therefore, the Final Report

will consist of a brief summary of **the main Project outputs, outcomes, conclusions and recommendations**, without unnecessary background information, descriptions or technical details. The report will be addressed to people who are not necessarily technical experts and who must understand the policy implications of the technical conclusions and needs, to ensure the sustainability of project outcomes. The Final Report will assess activities, summarize lessons learned and set forth recommendations in terms of their application. This Report will specifically include final evaluation conclusions as described in Section 4.6. A Project evaluation meeting must be held to discuss the draft Final Report with the TCC before its finalization by MAyDS/PNTC, and its approval by the BH, the LTO and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

4.5.4. Summary of the monitoring and evaluation plan

355. Table 4.3 includes a summary of the main monitoring and evaluation reports, those responsible for each of them and the time frames.

Table 4.3. Summary of the main monitoring and evaluation activities

M&E Activity	Responsible Agency	Deadline / Interval	Estimated costs
Inception Workshop	MAyDS/PNTC; FAO (PTM with the support of LTO, BH and the FAO – GEF Coordination Unit)	Two months after project start-up	USD 20,000
Project Inception Report	MAyDS/PNTC and FAO PTM approved by LTO, BH and the FAO – GEF Coordination Unit	Immediately after inception workshop	-
Impact Monitoring "in the field"	MAyDS/PNTC; and other project participants	Continually	9% of PNTC's time. PNTC will be provided through co-financing.
Supervisory visits and progress appraisal in PPR and Annual PIR	MAyDS/PNTC; FAO (PTM, LTO, FAO – GEF Coordination Unit)	Annually or as required	FAO visits will be funded with GEF agency fees. Project Coordination visits will be funded with resources from the project travel budget.
Project Progress Reports (PPRs)	MAyDS/PNTC; with inputs from other institutions participating in project implementation.	Every six months	5% of PNTC's time. PNTC will be provided through co-financing.
Annual Project Implementation Review reports (PIR) (Annual PIR)	FAO (LTO y PTM) with the support of MAyDS/PNTC. Approval and submission to GEF by FAO – GEF Coordination Unit	Annually	Financed with GEF agency fees.

M&E Activity	Responsible Agency	Deadline / Interval	Estimated costs
Technical Reports	MAyDS/PNTC; FAO (OTL, GO)	As appropriate	-
Co-financing Reports	MAyDS/PNTC with inputs from other co-financers	Annually	PNTC. The PNTC will be provided through co-financing.
Independent Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE)	External consultant, project team, including GEF Coordination Unit and other actors	Half way through project implementation	USD 40 000 for external consulting services. FAO staff travel expenses and time will be funded with GEF agency fees.
Independent Final Evaluation (IFE)	External consultant, FAO Independent Evaluation Unit, in consultation with the project team, including the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and other actors.	Upon completion of project implementation.	USD 40 000 for external consulting services. FAO staff travel expenses and time will be financed with GEF agency fees.
Final Report	MAyDS/CTNP; FAO (GPO, LTO, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, the Report Unit, TSC)	Two months before end of Implementation Agreement	6,550
Total Budget			**USD 106,550**

4.6. Evaluation provisions

356. At the end of the first 24 months, the project will undergo an independent Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) headed by the FAO Evaluation Office (OED). The purpose of the MTE is to review project implementation progress and effectiveness in terms of achievement of objectives, outcomes and outputs. The conclusions and recommendations will be crucial for improving the overall design of the project and its implementation strategy, if necessary, during the remaining period of project execution. FAO will put in place the necessary arrangements for the Mid-Term Evaluation, in consultation with MAyDS/PNTC.

357. The Mid-Term Evaluation will include, *inter alia*, the following elements:

a) An analysis of the effectiveness, efficiency and compliance with the time-frame established for the project's implementation;
b) An analysis of the project management structure's effectiveness and efficiency;
c) An analysis of the effectiveness of the collaboration mechanisms between the parties;
d) Identification of the aspects requiring corrective actions and decisions;
e) A proposal for mid-term corrections and/or adjustments to the implementation strategy, as necessary;
f) A description of technical achievements and lessons learned from project design, implementation and management.

358. Three months before the final project review meeting, an Independent Final Evaluation (IFE) will take place. The purpose of the IFE will be to describe the project's impacts, outcome sustainability and level of achievement of long-term outcomes. Furthermore, the IFE will indicate future actions necessary to ensure project outcome sustainability, expand the impact

on successive phases, integrate and enhance its outputs and practices, and disseminate the information obtained among authorities and institutions having jurisdiction over the areas linked to the project's objectives.

4.7. Communication of Outcomes and visibility

359. Accurate and efficient communication is known to be of utmost importance for the success of the Management and Protection of Marine Coastal Biodiversity in key ecological areas, and the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. Therefore, it is necessary to have a communication and outreach strategy among key stakeholders. These communication and outreach strategies will reinforce coordination of relevant institutions and support thereto, and they will raise awareness among the public at large. For this purpose, different social communication possibilities are foreseen (technical and scientific publications, printed media, television, multimedia, participation in events, etc.).

360. Project publications will be a key method to set forth and disseminate Project outcomes and achievements. These publications could be scientific or informative texts on the Project's activities and achievements, in the way of articles in scientific publications, multimedia postings, etc. They may be based on Technical Reports, depending on the relevance, scientific value, etc. of such reports, or they may be summaries or compilations of a series of Technical Reports or other research work.

361. Specifically, in order to generate synergies with other intervention or research projects and/or programs, MAyDS will schedule annual meetings with the programs and projects executed at the Ministry. Furthermore, it will disseminate actions, objectives and activities within the MERCOSUR Sub-working Group No. 6 on the Environment (SWG No. 6).

362. An important point of inter-institutional communication and visibility at the national level are CFP, COFEMA and CONADIBIO, in which regulatory frameworks in force guarantee and institutionalize the broadest participation of state agencies, NGOs and representatives of civil society linked to biodiversity and sustainable production.

SECTION 5. OUTCOME SUSTAINABILITY

5.1. Social sustainability

363. An important characteristic of this project is its MPA-based approach, beyond 12 nautical miles, unlike current MCPAs. So far, management of fisheries by target species has privileged management by objectives of total allowable catch, on the basis of biological indicators by species. The adoption of EAF will allow social aspects to be taken into account, and also the maximization of employment based on environmental sustainability criteria, ensuring social benefits for workers out at sea, and at landing ports.

364. The project will pioneer the generation of socioeconomic indicators for different priority fisheries which will be included in the current SSPyA information system on fisheries, in support of EAF application. This will allow socioeconomic factors to be taken into consideration in decision-making related to fisheries management. For instance, certain fishing practices can negatively affect other fisheries in the same fishing zone but so far there are no data to quantify related socioeconomic impacts. Since the project will generate socioeconomic indicators by fishery and fishing zone (value of production, total and land-based economic spillover, number and quality of jobs disaggregated by gender, among others), it will help guide fishery management decisions within an ecosystem approach to fisheries so as to optimize socioeconomic and environmental benefits.

365. This focus on the beneficiaries of fisheries (companies, male and female workers at sea and on land) is a fundamental factor to ensure their support to EAF, with a view to maximizing output-based added value and not a maximization of catch.

366. When preparing Management Plans for the two MPAs, special efforts will be made to identify and characterize socioeconomic actors carrying out their activities in such zones or in their areas of influence, and to seek consensus with these actors for defining the management objectives of each MPA, and the management measures to be mainstreamed in the management plans. The project's design will include the necessary information, awareness-raising and participatory planning sessions to reach agreement by consensus with the main socioeconomic actors and ensure the social sustainability of the outcomes.

367. With regard to gender issues, international treaties to which Argentina has adhered as regards gender equality and racial discrimination have been placed at the same level as the Constitution and are described in Article 75, Para.22. This constitutional article highlights that the above treaties are even considered over and above the laws and includes, *inter alia*, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. (*http://infoleg.mecon.gov.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/0-4999/804/norma.htm*).

368. The GoA has well rooted institutions at the **Ministry of Social Development (MSD)** and in the provincial offices, including the **National Council for Women** which addresses gender issues such as sexual harassment, women's quotas, reproductive health, domestic violence, among others, with many provincial laws supporting gender policies. (*http://www.cnm.gov.ar/LegProvincial/LegislacionProvincial.html*). With regard to employment opportunities for women, there is an office to **Coordinate Gender Equality and Equal Employment Opportunities** within the structure of the **Ministry of Labour,**

Employment and Social Security (MTEySS), whose mission is to support within the jurisdiction of the ministry, fulfillment of the commitments undertaken by the National Government as regard equal employment opportunities for women. (*http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/downloads/cegiot/08ago-dic_antunez.pdf*).

369. Furthermore, MTEySS and MSD have policies targeted specifically to youths. Whilst MTEySS has a broad programme for the insertion of youths in the labour market (called "Youths with more and better jobs"), the Ministry of Social Development has an Under-secretariat for Youth that considers youths as "subjects of action and political decision". (*http://www.desarrollosocial.gob.ar/juventud/155*). On the other hand, the MSD has a national network of public Centres for Community Integration which coordinate actions of municipalities, provinces and the national government, as well as social and political organizations that specifically address youth-related matters.

370. In view of the above, the common strategy is training upfront for all key stakeholders to implement the above approaches, covering the following: (i) training of consultants who are a part of the PEU, and project partners, particularly in participatory and consensus-building forums; (ii) preparation and consultation of activity schedules. Such schedules allow the linkage of Project actions with social, cultural and religious events and activities inherent in each community, age group and gender; (iii) Dissemination and replication of practices: considering the sustainability of actions beyond the project's time horizon, actions for disseminating and replicating practices are particularly relevant. It is thus essential to keep stakeholders informed in forums accessible to them, in a clear manner and in a language that all target actors can understand.

371. Structures in place to guarantee the participation of women, youths and the indigenous peoples are linked moreover to project members and strategic partners in its implementation -the Ministries of Social Development of provincial governments-, since they bring together INAI (indigenous affairs institute) and the Provincial Councils for Women, providing institutional coverage with personnel trained and informed about the peculiarities of each province and municipality. Each of the provinces has its INAI delegation or representation through its Ministry of Social Development, named differently according to each case. Within this context, the participation of women, youths and the most vulnerable sectors will be guaranteed by project and sectoral program teams participating in the activities.

372. EAF applied from a gender perspective guarantees equal opportunities for women, youths and vulnerable groups, and reinforces even further the favorable conditions in which fisheries currently take place, including processing on land, research, management and oversight of this resource.

373. With regard to balanced gender participation, it has been noted that during the project's design phase, there has been quite a balanced participation in project design consultation workshops (54% men, 46% women). The main decision-making bodies have a remarkable share of women.. Furthermore, CSOs in Argentina are made up mainly of women (according to information gathered by the national Centre of Community Organizations (CENOC), 58% of all human resources declared by CSO are women).

374. Nonetheless, during project implementation great efforts will be made to guarantee gender equality and the participation of youths. Therefore, each component includes actions to promote human development and gender equality during their implementation, above all in the

case of EAF pilot initiatives. All efforts will be made to guarantee the participation of women and youths when these are not represented in the participating organizations and institutions, by drawing maps beforehand to identify distortive deviations in prior phases. Therefore, before calling upon the organizations to perform each activity, key actors will be mapped, especially assessing that the gender share is appropriate.

5.2. 5.2 Environmental sustainability

375. The main objective of this project is to help protect marine biodiversity in areas of ecological importance, through the creation of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and the application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), all project activities support environmental sustainability. As was mentioned above (see Sections 2.5 and 3.1), project activities do not have a negative environmental impact but moreover the benefits of introducing EAF, and greater efficiency in managing MPAs, are expected to help maintain or increase marine ecosystem services.

5.3. Financial and Economic sustainability

376. The main element of financial sustainability is the important contribution of the participating institutions to the co-financing of outputs and activities, thus ensuring incremental project investments to be undertaken by the institutions upon project completion. With regard to fisheries management, the project has a clear strategy for introducing EAF notions and practices to supplement current fishery regulation mechanisms, the costs of which are already borne by the sector's public authorities. Economic sustainability conditions for fisheries under EAF notions are related to maintaining or increasing ecosystem services which guarantee stability of fishery production; and to the economic benefits stemming from production certified under recognized international standards (market visibility for fish products produced pursuant to practices compatible with EAF).

377. With regard to the financial and economic sustainability of the first two MPAs, the sustainable financing plans will lead to identifying the beneficiaries of ecosystem services provided by these areas and the potential sources of funding linked to such services. The establishment of minimum operational standards for these MPAs will facilitate the negotiations of financial contributions planned and enshrined in the budget estimates of the institutions responsible for their management.

5.4. Capacity-building sustainability

378. The project clearly emphasizes national capacity-building for mainstreaming the ecosystem approach to fisheries and the effective management of MPAs. An essential element to ensure sustainability of the capacities built with the support of the project is that key environmental and fisheries institutions expect the project to generate approaches, methods, instruments and good practices to be mainstreamed in the regulatory frameworks, planning, regulation and control mechanisms, and information and monitoring systems already in place. On the other hand, fishers will play an active role in defining and testing best fishing practices compatible with EAF, also contributing to sustainable capacity-building in the private sector.

379. The following are important project contributions to capacity sustainability:

(i) Preparation of a series of guidance documents, practical standards, good practices guides, and systematization of lessons learned by the project, all of which will continue to be important technical reference material for the ongoing training of technical staff at the federal and provincial levels, and also at fishery trade unions:
(ii) Systematic inclusion in existing databases and information systems (MINCyT Ocean Database, SSPyA information system) of GIS elements, outcomes of measurement cruises, socioeconomic indicators, etc.) generated by the project in support of decision-making for managing MPAs and applying EAF); and
(iii) Training courses to learn how to apply these guidelines, methodologies, good practices and information systems/databases, for staff linked to MPA management and personnel from federal institutions, provincial governments, fishery trade unions, as well as observers on board (OOB), for surveillance and control as regards the application of the minimum EAF contents adopted by CFP.

5.5. Appropriateness of technologies introduced

380. Within the EAF pilot initiative for Patagonian scallop fisheries, the project does not intend to introduce an external technology package. The project will support the identification of good management practices for this fishery and seek consensus with fleet operators. The methods and technologies will include zoning, regulation of fisheries at different times of the year and fishing practices. This process will allow the selection of the most pertinent and efficient technologies to keep the international certification already obtained and mitigate any adverse impact on the ecosystem. Good Patagonian scallop catch and fishery management practices that are adopted will be validated, and the lessons learned will be documented and sent to CFP and other relevant actors.

381. At the national level, the project will support an evaluation on how difficult it is to apply the mitigation and selectivity techniques necessary for implementing EAF in priority commercial fisheries, and on how to achieve better market visibility for the products. Fishing gear, difficulties in the application of selectivity measures, fishery-related good practices and mitigation measures will be shared with institutional actors and operators of the fleet involved, with a view to agreeing by consensus on the pertinent measures and technologies recommended in the application of EAF in the Argentina Sea.

5.6. Replication and Scale-Up

382. The project's design includes replication and scale-up strategies for the pilot experiences, both as regards MPA management and adoption of EAF.

383. Lessons learned in the preparation of management plans for the two prioritized MPAs will be included in a proposal setting forth rules to approve future MPA management plans. Methodological and operational guidelines will be defined and included in the management of new MPAs. Special attention will be paid to sustainable financing strategies in future MPAs, based on the experience gained in the two pilot MPAs (setting of minimum operation standards, sustainable financing plans mainstreamed in the management plans). The preparation of guides on good environmental practices for the productive sectors in MPAs or their area of influence will also help to replicate pilot experiences within the framework of Law 27,037 that created the National System of Marine Protected Areas.

384. With regard to EAF, the project will carry out the following actions in support of the possibility of replication and scale-up: (i) definition of minimum EAF contents and their adoption by CFP as a supplementary instrument in commercial fishery management; (ii) identification of better market options under certification schemes, allowing a better appraisal of the products of those fisheries adopting EAF approaches and minimum contents; and (iii) implementation of improved information and monitoring management systems to facilitate decision-making on EAF application in the public and private sectors (CFP and Analysis and Follow-up Committees for fisheries, fleet operators). The lessons learned from this national experience of including EAF will have a high replication potential in other countries of the region that have high-seas commercial fishing fleets.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Results Framework

Indicators	Baseline (2014)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of Verification	Responsible for data gathering
Component 1: Strengthening the Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).								
<u>Outcome 1.1</u> Improved protection of marine ecosystems of globally significant biodiversity across key areas by supporting the Namuncura/Burdwood Bank Enforcement Authority in managing the MPA and its transition zones, and creating a new protected area established beyond 12 miles of Territorial Waters.	a) Area covered by MPA: Around 4% of the total area of the EEZ and territorial sea is under conservation management (65.000 km^2) b) GEF BD METT score for Namuncura: 20 c) GEF BD METT score for the new MPA to be created: 0	a) An increase in the area covered by MPAs: 9.000 km^2 b) GEF BD METT score for Namuncura:45 c) GEF BD METT score of the new MPA to be created: 33		b) GEF BD METT score for Namuncura: 26		a) An increase in the area covered by MPAs: 9.000 km^2 b) GEF BD METT score for Namuncura: 45 c) GEF BD METT score for a new MPA to be created: 33	GEF BD METT Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) and Final Evaluation (FE)	MAyDS FAO

Indicators	Baseline (2014)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of Verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 1.1.1.: One (1) new MPA defined, with its geographical boundaries duly drawn, and a proposed participatory Management Plan along the "Front Corridor of Chubut", covering at least 25% of its total area (37.000 km^2).[19]	a) No formal instrument formulated for the creation of a new MPA b) Management Plan formulated: 0	a) Proposed bill formulated for creating the new MPA b) Management Plan duly formulated: 1		An environmental and socioeconomic baseline document prepared	a) Proposed bill for the creation of an MPA b) A management plan duly formulated		Oceanographic cruise reports Workshop minutes Document containing the Management Plan A report including the proposed bill for creating the MPA.	JGM MAyDS INIDEP MINCyT

[19] This is the preferred option among the priorities identified in consultation workshops during PPG with the participation of CSOs, CFP, MAyDS, SSPyA, SEN, JGM, CONICET, Research Centres, Universities, MREyC

Indicators	Baseline (2014)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of Verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 1.1.2.: One (1) Management Plan for the Namuncura/ Burdwood Bank MPA.	Namuncura MPA was created in 2013 and it is the largest in Argentina. It still does not have a Management Plan.	One (1) Management Plan approved by JGM covering an area of 28.000 km^2	A document including sampling protocol and variables, validated through a participatory process Oceanographic and biological cruise carried out for establishing the baseline	Two oceanographic and biological cruises carried out An environmental baseline document. Socioeconomic survey (human activities)	Participatory workshops to outline MP. Participatory management plan approved by JGM. Regulatory instruments for its effective implementation.	Management Plan at its initial implementation stage Lessons learned documented	• Consultants' report. • Workshop minutes • Management Plan Document	JGM MAyDS INIDEP MINCyT

Indicators	Baseline (2014)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of Verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 1.1.3.: Two (2) MPA sustainable financing plans designed (Front Corridor of Chubut MPA and Namuncura / Burdwood Bank MPA).	Marine Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) are currently under-financed and have few possibilities of obtaining enough funding in the long term. So far sustainable financing strategies for MCPAs in Argentina have not been consolidated There is a proposal for creating a conservation fund for MCPAs in Chubut Province. COFEMA agreed to the proposal.	a) A document with sustainable financing guidelines for MPAs in Argentina. b) Two (2) financing plans for MPAs included in their Management Plans c) At least 15 people linked to MPA management trained in financial management tools.	a) Document with sustainable financing guidelines for MPAs in Argentina.		b)A financing plan for the Namuncura MPA formulated and included in its Management Plan.	b) A financing plan for the Front Corridor of Chubut MPA formulated and included in its Management Plan. c)15 people linked to MPA management trained in financial management tools.	• Report on characterization and quantification of financial flows, institutional capabilities and recommendations. • Documents including MPA Management Plans. • Training workshop attendance records	JGM MAyDS

Indicators	Baseline (2014)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of Verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 1.1.4.: Institutional, regulatory framework strengthened for managing MPAs and transition zones.		a) Guidelines on good environmental practices for productive sectors operating in MPAs b) A proposal on rules for the approval of Management Plans c) Document on lessons learned and recommendations concerning methodological and operational guidelines for managing new MPAs	Specificities, approaches, contents and scope of MPA Management Plans agreed among relevant key stakeholders Agreements on institutional roles and responsibilities of MPAs	a) Guides on good environmental practices for productive sectors (fisheries, hydrocarbons, maritime transport) operating in MPAs or their area of influence.	b)A proposal on rules for the approval of Management Plans	c) Document on lessons learned and recommendations concerning methodological and operational guidelines for managing new MPAs	• Report including a proposal on rules for approving Management Plans. • Report including a proposal for regulatory instruments to manage MPAs.	JGM MAyDS

Indicators	Baseline (2014)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of Verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 1.1.5: One consolidated network of research organizations, governmental agencies and Civil Society Organizations with capacities enhanced and working together on sharing of scientific analysis on costal marine biodiversity and threats to its conservation and best management practices for improved management effectiveness of MPAs.	Although there are several research projects and programmes promoted by different research and academic institutions, and there is relevant information on certain species (those of commercial interest), knowledge about biodiversity in the Argentine Sea is insufficient, not very much applicable to management, very segmented, with no ecosystem-based approach. Existing databases and bibliography in the different institutions are not easily accessible to decision makers. Within the project preparation phase, a SIG was developed, and is the basis for managing MPAs. The Ocean Database has become operational at the Ministry of Science, Technology (MINCyT)	a) A set of GIS-based maps – with relevant fishing information b) Web-based information system operational c) 20 to 30 people linked to MPA management trained in information system and GIS	Inter-institutional agreement on compatibility and integrality of databases and rules for their use, and author acknowledge-ment (Metadata)		a) A set of GIS-based maps – with relevant fishing information elaborated	b) Web-based information system operational c) At least 25 people trained in GIS At least 25 people trained in databases.	• Inter-institutional agreements and covenants. • Database posted on the Internet. • Training workshop reports and attendance lists.	JGM MAyDS

Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of verification	Responsible for data gathering
Component 2: Mainstreaming of ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) in the regulatory frameworks and national policies for coastal and marine fisheries management								
Outcome 2.1. : EAF tested in a pilot fishery, to strengthen the sustainability of fisheries and protect marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Level of impact of the trawl fishery on benthic communities and demersal species: to be defined in year 1 A few studies have been carried out on benthic fauna. It is however necessary to systematize the way in which information is obtained and be aware of the impact on biodiversity.	Impact of trawling on benthic communities and demersal species reduced. The goal will be quantized during the first year, depending on the values of base line	Baseline for benthic communities and demersal species documented.	Areas for Patagonian scallop regeneration duly protected thus allowing a continuous recovery of this resource.		Impact on benthic communities and demersal species controlled and reduced.	Final Reports of survey information campaigns	Coordinator of EAF pilot CFP Analysis and Monitoring Commission Scallop Fishery

Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 2.1.1: Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Plan (EAFMP) for the Patagonian scallop fishing area adopted by all stakeholders (Patagonian scallop companies and fishers, INIDEP, CFP, SSPyA, MAyDS, and science institutions)	There are management measures approved by CFP (definition of boundaries of management units, no-catch areas, total allowable catch. Resolutions CFP 15/2012, 6/2014 among others)	One (1) EAFMP adopted in Patagonian scallop fishing area and initial implementa-tion.	Variables and protocols agreed upon for surveying ecological, biological and socioeconomic information, and identifying the impact of current fishery practices.	Four (4) information surveying cruises to collect ecological and biological data, and analysis of such information Impact of current fishery practices duly identified. Data survey and socioeconomi c analysis	Analysis of the social and economic impact that management measures could bring about EAFMP for the Patagonian scallop fishing area agreed upon by consensus by stakeholders (Patagonian scallop fishers and fishing companies, INIDEP, CFP, SSPyA, MAyDS and science institutions)	EAFMP for the Patagonian scallop fishing area approved and at its initial implementation stage. Outcome indicators of the EAFMP duly monitored. Management Plan review mechanism established.	Document including the EAFMP Workshop minutes. Final reports of information surveying cruises.	Coordinator of EAF pilot initiative

Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 2.1.2.: Good catch and management practices for the Patagonian scallop fishery, validated through a participatory process, including zoning and regulation of this activity, fishing techniques and selectivity devices which minimize the impact on non-target species and the benthic community	Catch methods, fishing techniques or selectivity devices that diminish the impact on biodiversity are being developed by INIDEP.	At least three (3) good practices validated for Patagonian scallop catch and management	Good practices for fishery management identified and agreed on by consensus in a participatory process, including zoning and regulation of fisheries at different times of the year.	One (1) good practice validated for Patagonian scallop catch and management.	At least two (2) new good practices for Patagonian scallop catch and manage-ment undergoing validation.	At least three (3) good practices for Patagonian scallop catch and management, and lessons learned documented and sent out to CFP and other actors.	Minutes of participatory workshops Consultants' technical reports	Coordinator of EAF Pilot Initiative
Outcome 2.2.: Enabling conditions and institutional capacities built at the national level for the effective implementation of EAF.	EAF has not been adapted to the national fisheries context or adopted as a supplementary instrument for fisheries management, and national capabilities are still very limited.	The EAF approach and its minimum contents have been adopted as a supplementary instrument for CFP's management of fisheries.				The EAF approach and its minimum contents adopted as a supplementary instrument in CFP's management of fisheries.		CFP MA-SSPyA

Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 2.2.1.: Minimum EAF contents established and adopted by CFP, and mainstreamed in the regulatory frameworks for fishery management	Regulatory frameworks established by CFP for managing fisheries do not include minimum EAF contents or EAF approaches.	a) CFP Resolution adopting minimum EAF contents b) At least four (4) regulations on fisheries management include EAF.				a) CFP Resolution adopting minimum EAF contents b) At least four (4) fishery management regulations include EAF	Workshop Minutes Text of regulations	CFP, MAyDS, INIDEP, SSPyA
Output 2.2.2.: Analysis of market incentive options (increase in business sector profitability) for applying EAF	So far there is no systematic analysis of accessible market incentives / certification scheme for fisheries adopting EAF.	One (1) analysis of market incentive options performed		One (1) analysis of market incentive options performed			Technical consulting reports	Coordinator Component 2

Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 2.2.3.: Staff of the institutions involved in fisheries management (INIDEP, PNA, SSPyA and equivalent provincial authorities and provincial environment agencies) and of fisheries trade unions will have developed capacities in the practical application of EAF, including options for sustainable fisheries certification, from a gender perspective and with the participation of youth.	Training activities have only been carried out in Rio Negro Province within the framework of ECOPES (initiative on sustainable fishery ecosystem in the above province)	Fifty (50) people from at least six (6) fishery-related public institutions and trade unions trained in the application of EAF (at least 30% women)	Fifty (50) people from at least six (6) public institutions and private trade unions sensitized with regard to EAF principles and their application to different ecosystems and fisheries (at least 30% women)		Fifty (50) people from at least six (6) fishery-related public institutions and trade unions trained in the application of EAF (at least 30% women)		Training workshop minutes and attendance lists.	INIDEP Coordinator Component 2

Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 2.2.4.: Fishery-related implementation authorities (SSPyA, provincial fishing authorities, PNA) reinforced in their capacity to implement efficient management, control and surveillance mechanisms (satellite system, landing control), by applying EAF.	The control and oversight of fisheries governance requires appropriate modernization and capabilities to ensure greater efficiency and coverage, mainstreaming minimum EAF contents.	105 people trained and equipped to reinforce management, control and surveillance mechanisms	Coordination for integration with the "Programme for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development", duly established as well as a joint training programme	20 officials and technicians from the Federal Government, Provincial Governments and INIDEP, trained in management, control and surveillance systems (MCS) for the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.		50 observers and inspectors trained in EAF MCS. 35 PNA and provincial governments' officials and technicians trained and equipped to control landings under EAF principles.	Training workshop minutes. Administrative act implementing EAF MCV	SSPyA Coordinator Component 2

Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of verification	Responsible for data gathering
Outcome 2.3.: Monitoring and information systems improved, including data on selectivity, good practices and mitigation measures, to facilitate decision-making on the application of EAF in the public and private sectors.	Current information systems lack the elements required to guide application of EAF There is no monitoring system based on ecosystem and socioeconomic indicators in support of fishery management decision-making	CFP and fishery sector committees by harness information on ecosystem and socioeconomic indicators for decision-making.			CFP and fishery sector committees by harness information on ecosystem and socioeconomic indicators for decision-making.	CFP and fishery sector committees by harness information on ecosystem and socioeconomic indicators for decision-making.	Reports on ecosystem and socio-economic indicators issued and sent to CFP and follow-up committees of different fishery sectors. Minutes of CFP and follow-up committee meetings	CFP Monitoring Committees

Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 2.3.1.: The SSPyA fisheries information system mainstreams easily accessible and relevant socioeconomic variables for applying EAF	The current SSPyA fishery information system focuses on follow up of fishery fleets, and fishery biology, and includes certain socioeconomic data.	At least eight (8) socioeconomic indicators mainstreamed in the SSPyA fishery information system.	Adjustments in the system's IT specificities defined by SSPyA (IDB project) Priority socioeconomic variables identified	Socio-economic information surveyed and processed At least 8 socioeconomic indicators mainstreamed in the SSPyA fishery information system			Reports on the SSPyA fishery information system Technical consulting reports	SSPyA

Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 2.3.2.: A monitoring and information system for applying EAF in the Argentine Sea	There is no appropriate monitoring system for guiding the application of EAF in the Argentine Sea.	One monitoring and information system facilitating decision-making on fishery policies and sustainable fishery management instruments		Initial institutional agreement on "Observatory" structure	Priority monitoring objects and ecosystem and biodiversity indicators identified (consistent with minimum EAF contents– Output 2.2.1) Methodology and sources of information identified so as to develop indicator value Definition of indicators	One (1) monitoring programme duly established Recommendations on institutionalization and financing submitted to CFP and fishery committees to ensure sustainability of the "observatory"		

Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of verification	Responsible for data gathering
Output 2.3.3.: National Evaluation of: i) efficacy of fishing techniques and selectivity devices; ii) mitigation of the impact of these techniques and devices on the ecosystem; iii) inclusion of the recommended measures for applying EAF in the Argentine Sea.	Lack of a broad and shared vision on the level of application and difficulties in applying mitigation and selectivity techniques necessary for an appropriate implementation of measures consistent with the ecosystem approach and better market visibility.	a) Four (4) National Plans of Action reinforced through project experiences (NPA for Birds and Sharks approved, Marine Mammals under evaluation, and Marine Turtles under preparation) b) At least thirty (30) OOB trained and participating in the test of selected fishery/area	a) Document presenting the state-of-the-art, and the level of difficulty in applying fishery selectivity measures, good practices, and mitigation measures. Fishery sector selected for testing at least three fishing techniques and/or selectivity devices. b) At least thirty (30) people sensitized on "catch methods, fishing techniques and selectivity devices"	a)Analysis of social and economic impact of the proposed selectivity and mitigation measures b)At least 15 OOB trained and participating in the test of selected fishery/area	a) Document containing proposals agreed upon by consensus: fishery selectivity measures, good practices, , and mitigation measures b) At least 15 OOB trained and participating in the test of selected fishery/area	a) Experiences mainstreamed in the management measures and in managing NPAs (NPA for Birds and Sharks approved, Marine Mammals under evaluation, and Marine Turtles under preparation)	CFP Minutes adopting mainstreaming of experiences as Good Practices CFP Minutes adopting NPA for Marine Mammals and NPA for Marine Turtles. OOB Registries	CFP

Indicators	Baseline (2014)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data Collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of Verification	Responsible for data gathering
Component 3: Project monitoring, evaluation and information dissemination								
Outcome 3.1.: Project implementation is based on results-based management, and project outcomes and lessons learned are applied to future operations		Project outcomes achieved and demonstrating sustainability	25% of outcomes achieved	50% of outcomes achieved	75% of outcomes achieved	100% of outcomes achieved, demonstrating sustainability	PPRs Annual PIRs Mid-term and Final Evaluations	Project National Technical Coordination
Output 3.1.1.: Dissemination of EAF concept and objectives as well as best practices and lessons learned from the project among different target groups		Project web page and other dissemination channels operational	Project web page and other dissemination channels operational	Project web page updated and other dissemination channels operational	Project web page updated and other dissemination channels operational	Project web page updated and other dissemination channels operational	Web page	Project National Technical Coordination

Indicators	Baseline (2014)	Target	Milestones in achieving outcome and output goals				Data Collection and preparation of reports	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Means of Verification	Responsible for data gathering
Component 3: Project monitoring, evaluation and information dissemination								
Output 3.1.2.: Project planning and monitoring system operational and providing systematic information on annually scheduled activities and targets, and progress towards the achievement of project outcomes and outputs		4 AWPB 8 semi-annual PPRs	1 AWPB 2 semi-annual PPRs	1 AWPB 2 semi-annual PPRs	1 AWPB 2 semi-annual PPRs	1 AWPB 2 semi-annual PPRs		Project National Technical Coordination
Output 3.1.3.: Mid-term and final evaluation				Project Mid-term Evaluation		Project Final Evaluation	Evaluation Reports	Project National Technical Coordination

Annex 2: Work plan

Work plan
Argentina EAF.xls

Annex 3: Results budget

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Comp. 1	Comp. 2:	Comp. 3:	PMC	Total GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year4
5300 Salaries professionals												
Finance and operational officer	Month	48	3,507	0	0	0	168,336	168,336	42,081	42,081	42,081	42,081
5300 Sub-total professional salaries							168,336	168,336	42,081	42,081	42,081	42,081
5570 International consultants												
Expert on Sustainable financing of AMP	Week	3	2000	6,000	0	0		6,000	6,000			
EEP expert	Week	4	2000	0	8,000	0		8,000	8,000			
EEP expert (fisheries economist)	Week	3	2000	0	6,000	0		6,000	6,000			
Sub-total International consultants				6,000	14,000	0	0	20,000	20,000	0	0	0
5570 National consultants												
Component 1												
AMP Expert tech coordinator comp. 1	Month	48	1,872	89,856				89,856	22,464	22,464	22,464	22,464
Planning expert AMP	Month	14	2,172	30,408				30,408	6,082	0	18,245	6,082
Expert on biological aspects for Managment Plans	Month	8	1,610	12,880				12,880	0	0	9,660	3,220
Oceanographic expert – design of baseline campaigns	Month	5	1,610	8,050				8,050	8,050	0	0	0
Social expert – design of baseline campaigns	Month	5	1,610	8,050				8,050	8,050	0	0	0
Biology expert – design of baseline campaigns	Month	5	1,610	8,050				8,050	8,050	0	0	0
Data processing	Month	6	1,498	8,988				8,988	0	0	0	8,988
GIS Expert	Month	6	1,610	9,660				9,660	0	0	9,660	0

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Comp. 1	Comp. 2:	Comp. 3:	PMC	Total GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year4
Workshop facilitator (formulacion del PM 6, acuerdos2, PF2)	Month	6	1,610	9,660				9,660	2,415	2,415	2,415	2,415
Economics/Financial expert	Month	6	1,610	9,660				9,660	0	0	3,220	6,440
Lawyer	Month	3	1,610	4,830				4,830	0	0	0	4,830
Env. Management specialist (best productive practices)	Month	3	1,610	4,830				4,830	0	0	2,415	2,415
AMP specialist (lessons learned)	Month	3	1,610	4,830				4,830	0	0	0	4,830
IT expert (metadata compatibility)	Month	4	1,498	5,992				5,992	0	0	5,992	0
Junior consultant – marine resources and protected areas	Month	48	1,105	53,040				53,040	13,260	13,260	13,260	13,260
Component 2												
Technical coordinator comp. 2	Month	48	2,322		111,456			111,456	27,864	27,864	27,864	27,864
Junior consultant marine resources management (EEP)	Month	48	749		35,952			35,952	8,988	8,988	8,988	8,988
Interpreter	Day	10	750		7,500			7,500	7,500			
Fisheries biologist	Month	14	1,723		24,122			24,122	10,338	0	6,892	6,892
Fisheries economist	Month	14	1,723		24,122			24,122	10,338	0	6,892	6,892
Sociologist	Month	28	1,723		48,244			48,244	20,676	13,784	6,892	6,892
Specialist on fishing arts	Month	14	1,723		24,122			24,122	6,031	6,031	6,031	6,031
Market economist	Month	4	1,723		6,892			6,892	6,892	0	0	0
Specialist - impact mitigation on birds and turtles	Month	12	1,723		20,676			20,676	0	6,892	6,892	6,892
Specialist - impact mitigation on mammals	Month	12	1,723		20,676			20,676	0	6,892	6,892	6,892
Specialist – impact mitigation on fishing arts	Month	12	1,723		20,676			20,676	0	6,892	6,892	6,892
Facilitator	Month	2	1,723		3,446			3,446	1,723	0	1,723	0
Database design	Month	12	1,723		20,676			20,676	0	10,338	10,338	0
Component 3												
Communications expert (design comm. Campaign)	Month	12	1,723			20,676		20,676	20,676	0	0	0
Monitoring system consultant	Month	11	1,723			18,953		18,953	5,169	13,784	0	0

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Comp. 1	Comp. 2:	Comp. 3:	PMC	Total GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year4
Sub-total national Consultants				268,784	368,560	39,629	0	676,973	194,565	139,604	183,626	159,178
5570 Sub-total Consultants				274,784	382,560	39,629	0	696,973	214,565	139,604	183,626	159,178
5650 Contracts												
Component 1												
Environmental baseline campaigns – Chubut (3 seven-day campaigns)	Day	21	6,700	140,700				140,700	93,800	46,900		
Environmental baseline campaigns – Burwood (3 ten-day campaigns	Day	30	6,700	201,000				201,000	134,000	67,000		
Component 2												
Socioeconomic survey	Lumpsum	2	25,000		50,000			50,000	25,000	0	0	25,000
National evaluation publications	Lumpsum	1	10,000		10,000			10,000	2,000	0	0	8,000
Campaigns in Mar Viera	Lumpsum	4	50,000		200,000			200,000	0	200,000	0	0
National evaluation Sea Campaigns	Lumpsum	6	25,000		150,000			150,000	0	60,000	45,000	45,000
Link with INDEP	Lumpsum	1	30,000		30,000			30,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Component 3												
Lessons learned - publications	Lumpsum	4	10,000			40,000		40,000			40,000	
Mid-term review	Lumpsum	1	40,000			40,000		40,000		40,000		
Final Evaluation	Lumpsum	1	40,000			40,000		40,000				40,000
Terminal report	Lumpsum	1	6,550			6,550		6,550				6,550
5650 Sub-total Contracts				341,700	440,000	110,000	0	908,250	262,300	416,400	92,500	132,050
5900 Travel												
Component 1												
Expert Sust. Financing MPA	Trip	1	4,000	4,000				4,000	4,000			
Local consultants	Lumpsum	1	30,000	30,000				30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
Participants in 8 workshops of 15	Workshop	8	10,450	83,600				83,600	20,900	20,900	20,900	20,900
5900 Sub-total International travel				117,600	0	0	0	117,600	34,900	30,900	30,900	20,900
Local travel project staff												

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Comp. 1	Comp. 2:	Comp. 3:	PMC	Total GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year4
Component 1												
Tickets and per diem	Lumpsum	50	740	37,000		0		37,000	9,250	9,250	9,250	9,250
Component 2												
UEP Tickets and per diem	Lumpsum	18	1,200		21,600			21,600	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400
Tickets and per diem 2.1.1	Lumpsum	22	4,482		98,604			98,604	24,651	24,651	24,651	24,651
Tickets and per diem 2.1.2	Lumpsum	18	4,134		74,412			74,412	18,603	18,603	18,603	18,603
Tickets and per diem 2.2.1	Lumpsum	8	4,482		35,856			35,856			17,928	17,928
Tickets and per diem 2.2.2	Lumpsum	5	4,134		20,670			20,670		20,670		
Tickets and per diem 2.2.3	Lumpsum	7	8,470		59,290			59,290	19,763	19,763	19,763	
Tickets and per diem 2.2.4	Lumpsum	15	5,750		86,250			86,250	21,563	21,563	21,563	21,563
Tickets and per diem 2.3.3	Lumpsum	19	10,800		205,200			205,200	51,300	51,300	51,300	51,300
Component 3												
Travel meetings for the Advisory Technical Committe	Lumpsum	8	4,482			35,856		35,856	8,964	8,964	8,964	8,964
Travel for inception and final workshop	Lumpsum	2	10,000			20,000		20,000	10,000			10,000
5900 Sub-total Local travel				37,000	601,882	55,856	0	694,738	169,494	180,164	177,422	167,659
5900 Sub-total Travel				154,600	601,882	55,856	0	812,338	204,394	211,064	208,322	188,559
5023 Workshops and training												
Component 1												
Workshops Component 1	Lumpsum	8	2,000	16,000				16,000	5,333	0	10,667	0
Component 2												
Workshop for formulating the PMEEP Vieira	Workshop	14	1,000		14,000			14,000	5000	3000	3000	3000
Training workshop in good practice scallop fishing	Workshop	10	1,300		13,000			13,000	6500	6500		
Workshops agree on the minimum contents of EAP	Workshop	14	1,000		14,000			14,000	3500	3500	3500	3500
Workshops definition of market incentives for the implementation of EAP	Workshop	5	2,750		13,750			13,750	5500	8250		

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Comp. 1	Comp. 2:	Comp. 3:	PMC	Total GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year4
EAP Training workshops	Workshop	9	1,300		11,700			11,700	2925	2925	2925	2925
Translation Team training workshop EAP	Workshop	2	1,200		2,400			2,400	2,400			
Training workshops on control and surveillance	Workshop	22	1,200		26,400			26,400	6600	6600	6600	6600
Component 3								0				
Inception and Final Workshop	Workshop	2	20,000			40,000		40,000	20,000			20,000
Meeting of the Technical Commission Advisory	Meeting	8	1,000			8,000		8,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Translation equipment	Lumpsum	1	10,000			10,000		10,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Sub-total Workshops				16,000	95,250	58,000		169,250				
5023 Training												
Component 1												
AMP financing and GIS training	Workshop	8	2,000	16,000				16,000		8,000	8,000	
Component 2												
1. Campaigns output 2.1.2	Viáticos	160	120		19,200			19,200	0	0	19,200	0
2. Campaigns output 2.3.3	Viáticos	600	120		72,000			72,000	0	28,800	21,600	21,600
Sub-total Training				16,000	91,200		0	107,200	0	36,800	48,800	21,600
5023 Sub-total Workshops and training				32,000	186,450	58,000	0	276,450	62,258	72,075	79,992	62,125
6000 Expendable procurement												
Component 1												
Design and Printing Publications (Brochures, Guides, Banners, Books)	Lumpsum	1	35,000	35,000	0			35,000	17,500		17500	
Adjoining Ventosa device for Whales	Unidad	2	21,500	43,000	0			43,000	43,000			
Component 2												
2. Office supplies		1	12,000		12,000			12,000	5,000	3,000	2,000	2,000
3. IT supplies 223		1	35,000		35,000			35,000	35,000			
6000 Sub-total Expendable procurement				78,000	47,000		0	125,000	100,500	3,000	19,500	2,000

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Comp. 1	Comp. 2:	Comp. 3:	PMC	Total GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year4
6100 Non- Expendable procurement												
Component 1												
GPS Log Remote	Unit	20	1,800	36,000				36,000	36,000			
IT equipment		1	20,000	0	20,000			20,000	20,000	0	0	0
Component 2												
1. Acquisitions Fisheries (tori lines; pingers, networks, etc.)	Lump sum	1	353,950		353,950			353,950	59,500	179,000	90,450	25,000
6100 Sub-total Non- Expendable procurement				36,000	373,950		0	409,950	115,500	179,000	90,450	25,000
6300 GOE												
Miscelaneas and contingencies	Lump sum	1	137,489	40,062	72,000	25,440		137,489	31,063	40,002	35,004	31,431
6300 Sub-total GOE				40,062	72,000	25,440	0	137,489	31,063	40,002	35,004	31,431
TOTAL				957,146	2,103,842	305,475	168,323	3,534,786	1,032,661	1,108,225	751,474	642,423

SUBTOTAL Comp 1	957,146	27.1%
SUBTOTAL Comp 2	2,103,842	59.5%
SUBTOTAL Comp 3	305,475	8.6%
SUBTOTAL PMC	168,323	4.8%
TOTAL GEF	3,534,786	100.0%

Budget final for prodoc.xlsx

Annex 4: Risk Matrix

See table in Sections 3.2.1

Annex 5: Procurement Plan (To be defined during project inception)

DATE:

PROJECT TITLE AND SYMBOL:

Ref. No.	Require-ment	Unit	Estimated Quantities	Estimated Cost	Unit Price	Solicitation Method	Procurement Method	Buyer	Targeted Tender Launch Date	Targeted Contract Award Date	Targeted Delivery Date	Final Destination and Delivery Terms	Status	Other Constraints/ Considerations

Annex 6: Key Positions and Tasks

1. Terms of Reference for Project National Technical Coordinator (PNTC)

Main tasks and responsibilities:

The Coordinator of the "Working Group on Aquatic Resources" (GTRA), reporting to the MAyDS National Directorate for Environmental Governance and Conservation of Biodiversity, will act as Project National Technical Coordinator (PNTC). GTRA will thus provide the Project National Technical Coordinator. His/Her responsibilities within the project's framework will be linked to: (i) coordinating national policies and programmes for protecting marine biodiversity; (ii) coordinating with the SSPyA, Ministry of Agro-industry (MA); (iii) coordinating with the Working Group on Biodiversity Conservation in charge of implementing the National Biodiversity Strategy and CONADIBIO; (iv) ensuring project coordination and execution by rigorously and efficiently implementing Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPB), following the guidelines of the Technical Consultative Committee (TCC); (v) acting as TCC secretariat; coordinating implementation of project work and activities; (vi) coordinating project interventions with other ongoing activities and ensuring a high level of cooperation between participating institutions and organizations at all levels (national, provincial and local); coordinating follow-up of project progress with the assistance of Components No. 1 and No. 2 coordinators (CC1 and CC2), and ensuring specific delivery of inputs and outputs; (vii) planning and carrying out selection processes for the procurement of goods and services under FAO standards and procedures, and pursuant to the project document (PRODOC) and AWPB; (viii) supervising and assessing consulting services and their outputs with the help of CC1 and CC2; (ix) organizing annual project meetings and workshops to follow up on project progress, and preparing AWPB to be submitted to FAO and to TCC for their approval; (x) coordinating so that CC1 and CC2 can implement the project monitoring and evaluation plan, managing its monitoring system and its communications programme; (xi) preparing Project Progress Reports (PPRs) on the activities carried out and progress made in achieving project results and, supported by CC1 and CC2, preparing Annual Project Implementation Review reports (Annual PIR), and facilitating mid-term and final evaluations; and (xii) submitting PPRs and AWPB to FAO and TCC, together with financial expenditure reports (prepared by FAO).

Key performance indicators
Expected outputs:

1. Inception and closing workshop reports, including feedback from the stakeholders and list of participants.
2. Reports on workshops in which PNTC participates, summarizing recommendations and feedback of stakeholders, with list of participants.
3. Project Progress Reports (PPRs), and Annual Project Implementation Review Reports (Annual PIRs).
4. Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPB) and Project Implementation Review proposals agreed upon by consensus within the TCC.
5. Reports to consolidate consultants' reports by outcome and outputs.
6. Final project evaluation that will highlight benefits achieved by the project (local, regional and global) and the good practices and lessons learned which will contribute to the project's visibility.

Duration:
Forty-eight (48) months

Contract remuneration:
Contract costs will be covered by MAyDS since technical staff from this Ministry will be filling this position.

Minimum requirements:

- University degree in biology (preferably in marine biology) or related sciences, with studies and/or knowledge regarding biodiversity conservation in fisheries and/or management based on the ecosystem approach to fisheries.
- Experience in fisheries governance from an ecosystem-based approach will be considered an asset.
- Minimum of five (5) years' experience in planning, project proposal preparation and project management.
- Prior experience in the project's areas of coverage.
- Excellent skills in analysis, coordination and intra and inter-institutional relationships in the country.
- Willingness to travel to the provinces in which the project will be implemented.
- Good report drafting skills.
- Ability to perform under pressure and fulfill goals in a timely manner.

Additional requirements:

- Willingness to travel to the workshops/meetings in which his/her participation is required.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and team work capabilities.

2. Terms of Reference for Coordinator of Component No. 1 "Strengthening of governance in marine protected areas"

Main tasks and responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the NPD and FAO Representative in Argentina, and under the direct supervision of the PNTC, Coordinator of Component No. 1 (CC1) will be in charge of planning, coordinating, executing and evaluating actions related to the above-mentioned component, assisting the MAyDS Project National Technical Coordinator (PNTC), in close collaboration and coordination with the Coordinator of Component No. 2 (CC2), with related organizations (JGM, INIDEP, MINCYT, CENPAT, CFP, APN, Provinces, PNA, etc.), and with key project stakeholder (NGOs, private businesses, etc.).

CC1 specific responsibilities will be as follows: (i) design Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for Component No. 1; (ii) coordinate interaction between the different institutions involved in this component; (iii) implement and supervise field actions (biological and oceanographic cruises, participatory planning processes, etc.); (iv) help to detect needs and implement activities within the framework of Component No. 1 and within the context of capacity-strengthening; (v) prepare progress and final reports under this component. (vi) coordinate actions with CC2 promoting an effective and efficient project implementation, achieving an overall project outcome ensuring synergy between both components; (vii) provide in due time and format, information to those responsible for project financial and accounting management; (viii) plan and carry out the selection process for procuring minor goods and hiring services under FAO rules and procedures, and pursuant to the PRODOC and AWPB, in agreement with and under the supervision of PNTC; (ix) implement the monitoring and evaluation plan for Component No. 1; (x) contribute to managing the communications programme as indicated by the PNTC; (xi) prepare Project Progress Reports (PPRs), support the preparation of the Annual Project Implementation Review reports (PIRs), and provide the necessary inputs to prepare financial, expenditure, financing and co-financing reports for Component No. 1; and (xii) facilitate mid-term and final evaluations.

Key performance indicators

Expected Outputs:

1. Work Plan to be followed by consultant, after the internal preparatory workshop with MAyDS, JGM and FAO.
2. Inception and closing workshop reports, including recommendations and feedback of stakeholders, as well as reports for each workshop in which he/she participates as coordinator of component No. 1. Such reports shall include the list of participants and the necessary information for applying the gender approach and equal opportunities for women, youth and the vulnerable groups.
3. Project Progress Reports –PPRs- and Annual Project Implementation Review reports (PIRs) under Component No. 1
4. Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPB) and proposals for Project Implementation Reviews under Component No. 1.
5. Reports to consolidate results from all consultants' reports by outcome and output for Component No. 1.

6. Final evaluation of project Component No. 1 and of the benefits achieved (local, regional and global), highlighting good practices and lessons learned that contribute to project visibility.

Duration:
Forty-eight (48) months

Contract remuneration:
According to the provisions of National Executive Order No. 1254/2014, its supplementary decrees and amendments, the activities of CC1 will be framed within Coordinator Category I (*Coordinador Rango I*).

Minimum requirements:

- University degree in biology or related sciences, with studies and/or knowledge regarding marine biodiversity conservation and protected area management.
- Minimum of five (5) years' experience in planning, project proposal preparation and management.
- Prior experience working in the areas of project coverage.
- Excellent skills in analysis, coordination and intra and inter-institutional relationships in the country.
- Willingness to travel
- Good report drafting skills.
- Ability to perform under pressure and to fulfill goals in a timely manner.

3. **Terms of Reference for Coordinator of Component No. 2** "***Mainstreaming the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) within the regulatory frameworks and national policies for coastal and marine fisheries management"***

Main tasks and responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the NPD and FAO Representative in Argentina, and under the direct supervision of the PNTC, Coordinator of Component No. 2 (CC2) will be in charge of planning, coordinating, executing and evaluating actions related to the above-mentioned component, assisting the MAyDS Project National Technical Coordinator (PNTC), in close collaboration and coordination with the Coordinator of Component No. 1 (CC1), with SSPyA, under the supervision and guidance of PNTC, and with key project stakeholders.

His/Her specific responsibilities will be the following: (i) design the Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPB) for Component No. 2; (ii) coordinate interaction between the different institutions involved in the component; (iii) implement and supervise field actions (EAF tested in the pilot areas and fisheries selected in cooperation with INIDEP, the private sector, PNTC, SSPyA, MAyDS and scientific institutions; and evaluating effectiveness of fishing techniques and selectivity devices); (iv) contribute to detect the needs and implement -within the framework of component No.2- capacity-strengthening for implementation of EAF; (v) prepare progress and final reports for this component; (vi) coordinate actions with CC1, promoting an effective and efficient project implementation, to achieve an overall outcome of the project, ensuring the synergy of both components; (vii) provide information in due time and format for those in charge of the project's financial and accounting management; (viii) plan and carry out the selection process in the procurement of minor goods and hiring of services under FAO standards and procedures, and pursuant to the PRODOC and AWPB, in agreement with and under the supervision of the PNTC; (ix) implement the monitoring and evaluation plan for Component No. 2; (x) contribute to the communications programme management under the guidance of the PNTC; (xi) prepare Project Progress Reports (PPRs) and support the preparation of the Annual Project Implementation Review Report (PIR), and provide the necessary inputs for drafting financial, expenditure, financing and co-financing reports for Component No. 2; and (xii) facilitate mid-term and final evaluations.

Key performance indicators

Expected outputs:

1. Work Plan to be followed by consultant, after the internal preparatory workshop with MAyDS, CFP and FAO.
2. Inception and closing workshop reports, including recommendations and feedback of stakeholders, as well as reports for each workshop in which he/she participates as coordinator of component No. 2. Such reports shall include the list of participants and the necessary information for applying the gender approach and equal opportunities for women, youth and the vulnerable groups.
3. Project Progress Reports –PPRs- and Annual Project Implementation Review reports (PIRs) under Component No. 2
4. Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPB) and proposals for Project Implementation Reviews under Component No. 2.
5. Reports to consolidate results from all consultants' reports by outcome and output for Component No. 2.

6. Final evaluation of project Component No. 2 and of the benefits provided by this component (local, regional and global), highlighting good practices and lessons learned that contribute to project visibility.

Duration:
Forty-eight (48) months

Contract remuneration:
According to the provisions of National Executive Order No. 1254/2014, its supplementary decrees and amendments, the activities of CC2 will be framed within Coordinator Category IV – *Coordinador IV*.

Minimum requirements:

- University degree in biology, economics or related sciences, with studies and/or knowledge regarding biodiversity management and conservation in fisheries and/or management based on an ecosystem approach to fisheries. He/She must have over SIXTEEN (16) years' experience in project management, preparation and development.
- Experience in fisheries governance from an ecosystem-based approach will be an asset.
- Minimum of five (5) years' experience in planning, project proposal preparation and management.
- Prior experience working in the project's area of coverage.
- Excellent skills in analysis, coordination and intra and inter-institutional relationships in the country.
- Willingness to travel to the provinces in which the project will be carried out
- Good report drafting capacities.
- Ability to perform under pressure and fulfill goals in a timely manner.

4. Terms of Reference for Consultant: FISHERIES ECONOMIST

Main tasks and responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the NPD and FAO Representative in Argentina, and under the direct supervision of the Project National Technical Coordinator and Coordinator of Component on EAF (CC2), the fisheries economist will have the following functions and responsibilities:

1. Submit a work plan five days after signing his/her contract.
2. Update the economic baseline for pilot test.
3. Design together with the sociologist, the survey of socioeconomic variables linked to the pilot test and carry out the field survey.
4. Work together with the biologist and sociologist to plan activities to be carried out during pilot test.
5. Analyze data from field surveys and prepare the pertinent reports.
6. Jointly prepare with pilot test consultants (sociologist and biologist), the management plan for the pilot species, including results indicators. Adjust the draft based on the outcomes of the participatory workshops.
7. Provide information on the expected outcomes of the pilot test to the communications expert so he/she can outline the pertinent communications strategy.
8. Design together with the sociologist, the survey of the necessary priority socioeconomic variables for the ecosystem approach to fisheries.
9. Supervise field work carried out to survey the variables defined above. Collaborate in the workshops related to his/her field of expertise.
10. Help PEU when required.
11. Actively participate as a communicator of the pilot test results at different meetings.

Key performance indicators

Expected outputs:

1. Work plan submitted.
2. Document with updated information on economic variables for the fisheries pilot test.
3. Document including activities planned for implementing pilot test, agreed upon with CC2 and PNTC.
4. Report including outcomes and analysis of the economic variables' survey during pilot test, and proposals.
5. Proposal for economic component of the management plan, prepared together with the sociologist and marine biologist.
6. Preparation of document together with sociologist, including priority socioeconomic variables for the ecosystem-based approach.

Required competencies:

The consultant must meet the following professional profile:

1) University degree in Economics with over FOURTEEN (14) years' professional experience, and over three (3) years' experience in fisheries economy.
2) Experience in working with the fisheries sector.

3) Experience in drafting scientific papers, making presentations at conferences, and preparing technical reports.
4) Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work in a team on environmental and multidisciplinary matters.
5) Excellent skills in analysis, coordination and intra and inter-institutional relationships in the country.
6) Ability to perform under pressure and fulfill goals in a timely manner.
7) Availability to travel to the provinces with a maritime littoral.

Contract term:
The contract will be issued for an 18 (eighteen)-month period.

Contract remuneration:
According to the provisions of National Executive Order No. 1254/2014, its supplementary decrees and amendments, the activities of this consultant will be framed within the Expert Consultant Category IV – *Consultor Experto Rango IV*.

5. Terms of Reference for Consultant: Sociologist

Main tasks and responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the NPD, FAO Representative in Argentina, Project Technical Coordinator and Coordinator of EAF Component, the sociologist will have the following responsibilities and functions:

1. Submit a Work Plan five days after signing his/her contract.
2. Work together with the biologist and economist to prepare an activity plan for the pilot test.
3. Update the social baseline for pilot test.
4. Design together with the economist of the pilot test, the survey on socioeconomic variables linked to such test and carry out a field survey.
5. Analyze data from field surveys and prepare the pertinent reports.
6. Prepare together with the economist and biologist, a management plan for the pilot species, with result indicators. Adjust such draft based on the outcomes of the participatory workshops.
7. Disseminate together with the communications expert, the outcomes of pilot test among stakeholders.
8. Design together with the economist, the survey of the necessary socioeconomic variables for the ecosystem-based approach (outside the pilot test).
9. Supervise together with the sociologist, the field work carried out for surveying the variables defined under the above item.
10. Collaborate with the workshops held with regard to his/her topic.
11. Assist PEU when required.

Key performance indicators

Expected outputs:

1. Work plan submitted.
2. Document with activities planned for implementing pilot test.
3. Document on variables to be measured and protocols to be followed during implementation of the pilot test, which will be adjusted according to workshop outcomes.
4. Report including results and analysis of the survey's social and cultural variables carried out during the pilot test.
5. Final proposal for EAF management plan (EAFMP) prepared together with the biologist and economist, agreed upon by consensus by stakeholders and submitted to CFP for its approval.
6. Jointly prepared document containing priority socioeconomic variables for the ecosystem-based approach.
7. Active participation as a communicator of the pilot test results at the pertinent meetings.

Required competencies:

The Consultant must meet the following professional profile:

1) University degree in sociology, with over FOURTEEN (14) years' professional experience, particularly in the productive sector (preferably fisheries)

2) Experience in drafting scientific papers, making presentations at conferences, and preparing technical reports.
3) Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work in a team on environmental and multidisciplinary matters.
4) Excellent skills in analysis, coordination and intra and inter-institutional relationships in the country.
5) Ability to perform under pressure and fulfill goals in a timely manner.
6) Willingness to travel to the provinces with a maritime littoral.

Contract term:
The consultant will be hired for 28 months.

Contract remuneration:
According to the provisions of National Executive Order No. 1254/2014, its supplementary decrees and amendments, the activities of this consultant will be framed within the Expert Consultant Category IV – *Consultor Experto Rango IV*.

6. Terms of Reference for Consultant: Specialist in Good Practices and Mitigation of the Impact of Fisheries on Mammals

Main tasks and responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the Project National Technical Coordinator and the EAF Component Coordinator (CC2), the specialist in good practices and in mitigating the impact of fisheries on mammals will have the following functions and responsibilities:

1. Analyze the viability of monitoring the interaction of marine mammals during the pilot test, together with the specialist in fishing gear and the expert in mitigation of fisheries on birds and turtles.
2. Make recommendations together with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) within the NAP for mammals to the project executing or co-executing agency (MAyDS and CFP), and to the Under-secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, with regard to the type of fleet, scale, where mitigation measures/good practices could be applied to reduce the impact on marine mammals.
3. Identify and propose to the PNTC and CC2, the equipment (nets, devices) necessary to put into practice this experience, together with the specifications for its procurement; and collaborate with PEU with regard to the above.
4. Together with the expert in mitigating the impact on birds and turtles, and with the specialist in fishing gear, will train staff on board for putting into practice such measures. Cooperate with PEU in programming and developing workshops in his/her field of specialty and, when required, other workshops.
5. Analyze data from field work as well as the difficulties in operations and risks regarding their use.
6. Disseminate results of the field test on board, through awareness-raising and training workshops.

Key performance indicators
Expected outputs:

1. Work plan submitted.
2. Document prioritizing proposals on mitigation, fishing gear, good practices to reduce the interaction of mammals with fisheries; it should also include the estimated costs for each proposed case.
3. List of trained crew, broken down by fleet and place of training.
4. Report with the results and analysis of measures taken, including difficulties and issues in operations, application costs and benefits linked to achievements; recommendations and lessons learned.
5. Active participation as a communicator of the results of the measures implemented, preparing proposals for a publication based on the report on outcomes, to be delivered to publication designer

Required competencies:

Consultant must fulfill the following professional profile:

1) University degree in biology or related careers, with over FOURTEEN (14) years' professional experience.

2) No less than five (5) years' experience in marine mammals, preferably in interaction with fisheries.
3) Working experience with the fisheries sector.
4) Experience in drafting scientific papers, making presentations at conferences, and preparing technical reports.
5) Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work in a team on environmental and multidisciplinary matters.
6) Excellent skills in analysis, coordination and intra and inter-institutional relationships in the country.
7) Ability to perform under pressure and fulfill goals in a timely manner.

Contract Term:
The consultant will be hired for 12 (twelve) months.

Contract remuneration:
According to the provisions of National Executive Order No. 1254/2014, its supplementary decrees and amendments, the activities of this consultant will be framed within the Expert Consultant Category IV – *Consultor Experto Rango IV*.

7. **Terms of Reference for IT Consultant**

Main tasks and responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the Project National Technical Coordinator, the coordinator of protected areas (CC1) and the EAF coordinator (CC2), the Consultant will carry out the following activities:

1. Submit Work Plan five (5) days after his/her hiring.
2. Design adjustments to the existing fisheries information system to include biological and environmental data contributing to EAF.
3. Develop an information system for social and economic variables.
4. Analyze and design the front-end user in an agile and interactive manner.
5. Evaluate and design mechanisms for protecting the information.
6. Consider in the information systems, the management of general charts and graphs with information uploaded in the system.
7. Ensure compatibility of the data obtained on marine protected areas with existing databases.

Key performance indicators

Expected outputs:

- Fisheries information system with adjustments to include biological and environmental data.
- Definition of agreed metadata to mainstream existing information.
- Design of the front-end user and user interface screens.
- Design of the mechanism for protecting information.
- Documentation limitations and restrictions in the use of information
- Database on marine protected areas made compatible with other databases.

Required competencies:

The consultant must meet the following professional profile:

1) University degree in IT or related careers, with over FOURTEEN (14) years' professional experience.
2) Experience in the design of systems and databases.
3) Team work skills.

Contract term:

The consultant will be hired for 16 months.

Contract remuneration:

According to the provisions of National Executive Order No. 1254/2014, its supplementary decrees and amendments, the activities of this consultant will be framed within the Expert Consultant Category IV – *Consultor Experto Rango IV*.

8. Terms of Reference for Communications Expert

Objective

The main objective of this contract is to design a Communications and Awareness-raising Campaign, including project outreach material.

Tasks

Under the overall supervision of the NPD and FAO Representative in Argentina, and under the direct supervision of the Project National Technical Coordinator, the consultant will fulfill the following tasks:

1. Develop communicational contents with the assistance and collaboration of EAF experts hired by the project (Biologist, Sociologist, and experts in mitigating the impact on birds, turtles, mammals; and in fishing gear), as well as of the research sector (INIDEP, CONICET), and CFP, SSPyA and MAyDS authorities.
2. Coordinate the design, printing and distribution of communicational outputs (brochures, posters and banners), and communication strategies on EAF and the problem addressed, considering the segmentation of the target audience, so as to have an homogeneous approach from the project and from fishery-linked agencies and authorities (INIDEP, CONICET, CFP, SSPyA; MAyDS, and the Provinces).
3. Organize dissemination of information on the activities to be carried out and the results obtained by the Project.
4. Design communication material for workshops, brochures, magazines, Power Points, small audiovisual reports, and localize videos, articles or documents describing the problem.
5. Design a strategy allowing the structuring and update of the Project web site on the web page of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development.
6. Collaborate in project presentations and technical workshops that have communicational aims, such as communication with legislators, decision-makers, institutions and the public at large.
7. Update the Project Presentation folder, including goals, project objectives, national, provincial and international agencies involved, and progress made.
8. Disseminate information, conclusions, and project outcomes in the mass media - national and provincial.
9. Participate in workshops requiring his/her participation.

The consultant will carry out his/her work based on specific MAyDS and FAO-GEF standards.

Key performance indicators

Expected outputs.

a) Work Plan submitted and approved within five days after being hired.
b) Communication and Awareness-Raising Campaign and its communicational outputs designed, agreed upon by consensus and approved by project partners (MAyDS and CFP).
c) Information on Project activities organized and disseminated.
d) Project web site on the Ministry's page, structured and updated.

e) Project communicational presentation reports, duly recorded (stored on CD, DVD or any other means; print-outs; screenshots; site visit statistics, etc.) and lists of participants, when appropriate.
f) Project presentation folder updated.
g) Proposed agreements with different government levels, with civil society organizations, and companies (corporate social responsibility actions) for developing different communication pieces, agreed upon by consensus to disseminate activities and raise awareness about EAF.

Contract term:
The consultant will be hired for 12 months.

Contract remuneration:
According to the provisions of National Executive Order No. 1254/2014, its supplementary decrees and amendments, the activities of this consultant will be framed within the Expert Consultant Category IV – *Consultor Experto Rango IV*.

Place of work.
The consultant's activities will be carried out under the services modality, at the project headquarters, with travel to the provinces in fulfillment of the consulting service objectives, and upon the request of the Project Technical Coordinator.

Minimum requirements:

- University degree in journalism or social communication with at least five (5) years' experience in communication or related jobs.
- Excellent drafting and communication skills.
- Experience in inter-institutional coordination
- Excellent interpersonal skills and team work capabilities.
- Willingness to travel to workshops/meetings requiring his/her participation.
- Ability to perform under pressure and fulfill goals in a timely manner.

Additional requirements:

- Proven specialization and experience in scientific, technical and environmental outreach would be an asset.
- Experience in inter-institutional project communications would also be desirable.

Annex 2: Risk Classification Certification Form

After completing the E&S screening checklist, the LTO completes and certifies this certification form.

Project symbol: GCP/ARG/026/GFF

PROJECT TITLE: STRENGTHENING THE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF COASTAL-MARINE BIODIVERSITY IN KEY ECOLOGICAL AREAS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES (EAF)

A. RISK CLASSIFICATION

[x] Low [ ] Moderate [ ] High

1. Record key risk impacts from the E&S Screening Checklist

A. _____ B. _____

C. _____

2. Has the project site and surrounding area been visited by the compiler of this form?

[x] Yes [ ] No

B. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION/ ENGAGEMENT

Identification of stakeholder(s)	Date	Participants	Location
Academic Institutions, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Security, Private Sector, Federal Fisheries Council		22	Buenos Aires
National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP)		1	Mar del Plata

1. Summarize key risks and impacts identified from the stakeholder engagement

A. ____none____ C. _____

B. _____ D. _____

2. Have any of the stakeholders raised concerns about the project?

_____No_____

_____

_____

The LTO Alejandro Flores confirms the information above

Date 31/05/16

Signature _____