



**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)**

**PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT**

**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND**

For more information about GEF, visit [www.TheGEF.org](http://www.TheGEF.org)

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Project Title:</b> Strengthening and development of instruments for the management, prevention and control of beaver ( <i>Castor canadensis</i> ), an invasive alien species in the Chilean Patagonia			
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Chile	<b>GEF Project ID:<sup>1</sup></b>	5506
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	FAO	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	625332
<b>Other Executing Partner(s):</b>	Ministerio del Medio Ambiente (MMA), Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF), Wildlife Conservation Society-Chile (WCS), Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG)	<b>Resubmission Date:</b>	28 August, 2013
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b>	Biodiversity	<b>Project Duration (months):</b>	36
<b>Name of parent program (if applicable):</b>		<b>Agency Fee (\$):</b>	204,619
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• For SGP <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• For PPP <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>		

**A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK<sup>2</sup>:**

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing (\$)
BD-2, Outcome 2.3: Improved management frameworks to prevent, control and manage invasive alien species, Output 2.1. Policies and regulatory frameworks	GEFTF	2,153,882	9,070,000
<b>Total project costs</b>		<b>2,153,882</b>	<b>9,070,000</b>

**B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK**

<b>Project Objective:</b> Subnational regulatory frameworks and institutional and technical capacities are in place for the Magallanes region to manage and control the spread of invasive alien species (IAS) through piloting a comprehensive management and control framework for a high-value biodiversity environment threatened by the beaver as an aggressive IAS in the Chilean Patagonia						
Project Component	Grant Type <sup>3</sup>	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Governance and management framework	TA	1.1 Regulatory, governance and financial framework at the Magallanes regional level assures an effective management and control of the beaver	1.1.1 Detailed Beaver Management and financial Plan  1.1.2 Governance and coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Plan established	GEFTF	659,349	2,597,500

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework when completing table A.

<sup>3</sup> TA includes capacity building and research and development.

		<p>invasion in the Patagonian islands and the Brunswick peninsula (Indicators: a) the framework obtains 4 of 6 points in GEF BD tracking tool section 6 of part VI of BD objective 2; and b) the private sector co-finances the control and eradication activities after the project.)</p>	<p>1.1.3 Study on the present and potential economic impact of beaver in Patagonia for each strategic and productive sector (like forestry, livestock breeding, agricultural, tourism, water resources, infrastructure, aquaculture) to support financial mobilization.</p> <p>1.1.4 Municipal and regional rules and regulations proposed for beaver control in local productive sectors.</p>			
2. Information, monitoring, early warning and communication/participation systems	TA	<p>2.1 Early warning, prevention and spread control is in place in the Patagonian islands and the Brunswick peninsula. (Indicators: a) the system obtains 4 of 5 points in GEF BD tracking tool section 5 of part VI of BD objective 2; and b) spread contained.)</p> <p>2.2 Knowledge on IAS and beaver is increased amongst regional key actors (Indicator: key actors are aware of the problem and willing to undertake the next phase of the beaver management plan)</p>	<p>2.1.1 A common, comprehensive information system (remote sensing, GIS, surveys, terrestrial prospection, development/validation of spread models) established.</p> <p>2.1.2 An Early Warning System (EWS) established</p> <p>2.1.3 Recovery indicators for sub-Antarctic ecosystems applied to the existing control and eradication pilot areas.</p> <p>2.1.4 Protocols for information sharing developed and applied at regional (Magallanes) and binational (Chile-Argentina) levels</p> <p>2.2.1 Communication and awareness-raising programme (for livestock breeders, rural workers, touristic sector, public servants, artisanal fishermen, armed forces and local politicians) designed and implemented</p> <p>2.2.2 Relevant public servants and partners' key staff (trappers, operation managers, information managers, decision makers) trained both theoretically and in the field.</p>	GEFTF	479,357	2,129,500
3. Demonstration	INV	3.1 Scalable control and eradication model	3.1.1 Scalable control and eradication model (including	GEFTF	732,610	3,359,500



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activities		has been validated in at least 2000 ha. under restoration from the damages caused by the beaver including recuperation of riparian forest with endemic species.	detailed design of control and eradication practices, monitoring of reinvasion and restoration) demonstrated in at least one basin in Tierra del Fuego (within Karukinka Natural Park).			
		3.2 Practices for sustained control in multiple-use private property developed and tested in at least 1000 ha. (2 landholders) under restoration from the damages caused by the beaver including recuperation of riparian forest with endemic species	3.1.2 Best-practice manuals for detection, control and basin-level eradication developed and validated  3.2.1 Practice on sustained control in multiple-use private property developed and tested with the participation of private landholders of Timaukel municipality.  3.2.2 Validation by landholders and systematisation of a sustained control best-practice model for multiple-use private property			
4. Project progress monitoring and information dissemination	TA	4.1 Project implementation based on results based management and application of project findings and lessons learned in future operations facilitated	4.1.1 Project monitoring system operating providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcome and output targets 4.1.2 Midterm and final evaluation conducted and project implementation and sustainability strategy adjusted to recommendations 4.1.3 project-related “best-practices” and “lessons-learned” published 4.1.4 website to share the experience and information dissemination.	GEFTF	180,000	585,500
Sub-Total					2,051,316	8,672,000
Project management Cost (PMC) <sup>4</sup>					102,566	398,000
<b>Total project costs<sup>4</sup></b>					<b>2,153,882</b>	<b>9,070,000</b>

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Environment	Unknown at this stage	2,560,000
National Government	National Forest Corporation (CONAF)	In-kind	820,000
NGO	Wildlife Conservation Society Chile (WCS)	In-kind	980,000

<sup>4</sup> To be calculated as percent of subtotal

National Government	Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG)	In-kind	1,040,000
Local Government	Regional Government of Magallanes (GORE)	Cash	1,500,000
Local Government	Municipalities of Punta Arenas, Timaukel and Primavera	In-kind	320,000
National Government	Other public agencies	Unknown at this stage	1,500,000
Private Sector	Private sector	In-kind	200,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	150,000
Others			
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>9,070,000</b>

**D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Funds	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	Grant Amount (\$ (a))	Agency Fee (\$ (b) <sup>2</sup> )	Total (\$) c=a+b
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>						

<sup>1</sup> In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table

<sup>2</sup> Indicate fees related to this project.

**E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)<sup>5</sup>**

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant:

	<u>Amount Requested (\$)</u>	<u>Agency Fee for PPG (\$)<sup>6</sup></u>
• No PPG required		
• (Upto) \$50k for projects up to & including \$ 1 million		
• (Upto) \$100k for projects up to & including \$ 3 million	100,000	9,500
• (Upto) \$150k for projects up to & including \$ 6 million		
• (Upto) \$200k for projects up to & including \$ 10 million		
• (Upto) \$300k for projects above \$ 10 million		

**PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF PROJECT ONLY**

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

<sup>5</sup> On exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

<sup>6</sup> PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**<sup>7</sup>

### **A. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

#### **A.1. Project description**

##### **1) The global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed**

1. Chile's large area (756,000 km<sup>2</sup>), latitudinal range, altitudinal diversity, and natural barriers that isolate it from other landmasses have resulted in a rich biodiversity with high levels of endemism. The WWF classification of ecological regions identifies 26 ecological regions in Chile (11 terrestrial, 8 freshwater and 7 marine) representing a wide range of climatic characteristics: desert, tropical, Mediterranean, oceanic, continental, and polar. The ecological regions provide habitats for 109 endemic animal species and 5,125 endemic plant species. The main threats to Chile's biodiversity are the elimination; fragmentation and degradation of habitat and ecosystem functions. The drivers stem from a number of sources some of which are related to the country's natural resource-based production sectors such as agriculture, mining and forestry. However, there is growing recognition that IAS are amongst the most serious threats on native biodiversity and the NBSAP and its 2004-2015 Country Action Plan (CAP) identifies IAS as one of the major drivers of change in biodiversity and ecosystems in Chile.

2. IAS have been introduced both intentionally and unintentionally. For example pine (*Pinus radiata*) and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*), were intentionally introduced for forest plantations; others, such as the maqui (*Aristotelia chilensis*), the blackberry (*Rubus ulmifolius*), and the murta (*Ugni molinae*), to provide new varieties of berries; and mammals as pets or for food such as the goat (*Capra hircus*) and the rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). Involuntary introductions also occur principally through the practices of the transport and insular tourism sectors and include for example rats (*Rattus rattus*, *R. norvegicus*) and the common mouse (*Mus musculus*). Chile acknowledges that invasive alien species (IAS) are an important threat for its biodiversity, especially in the case of island ecosystems such as Tierra del Fuego in the Chilean Patagonia. Although Chile has in place a thorough border inspection system for species which are dangerous for human health and important economic activities (mainly agriculture), deficiencies exist in the internal controls and management of IAS already established in the country which poses a risk of unnoticed spread.

3. Although the effects of IAS on biodiversity are felt in many of Chile's ecosystems it is of greatest concern in its islands. The island of Tierra del Fuego and the southernmost tip of South America dramatically show the impact of the invasion of North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*). This boreal rodent was introduced in the Argentinean part of the Tierra del Fuego in 1946 and, in the absence of its main natural predators (wolves, bears or lynxes), it has spread to the territories of Chile including other Patagonian islands and the Brunswick Peninsula, which is the entrance point to the continent. It is estimated that the invasion spreads at a mean speed of 8-10 kilometres per year. Based on joint studies between Argentina and Chile a current population of 100,000 beavers is estimated for the Tierra del Fuego alone. Given the lack of co-evolutionary history between the beaver and Patagonian tree species, after-coppice re-growth, an essential feature developed by riparian North American tree species such as willow and poplar, has not been developed by Patagonian tree species. Without this feature, beaver activity has a devastating impact in the native ecosystem. Southern beech or lenga (*Nothofagus pumilio*) is the tree species most affected in Tierra del Fuego however, most of the endemic species to be found in the ecoregion (Magellanic subpolar forests) are threatened by the expansion of the beavers. The activity of beaver not only affects the ecosystem through tree-cutting, but also by disrupting the natural hydrologic shape and water chemistry in the colonised basins. It is roughly estimated that half the riparian forests in Tierra del Fuego have already been greatly affected, as well as peatbogs and its combined biodiversity and climate-change-mitigation value. An even worse scenario opened with the arrival of beavers to the continent's Brunswick Peninsula, which happened at least in 1994. The continued invasion of Chile's mainland forest could have devastating consequences for this very unique forest ecosystem.

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<sup>7</sup> Part II should not be longer than 5 pages

4. The Government of Chile seeks GEF financial support and FAO technical support, as GEF implementing agency, to face the problematic of the control of the beaver invasion in Tierra del Fuego and in so doing diminish the threat to native ecosystems..

5. The Government of Chile is developing a National Integrated Program for the Control of Invasive Species that will define the scope and strategic lines for IAS control and has allocated baseline investment to this. However the Programme is still incipient and does not include ground-tested management approaches, especially when dealing with large-scale problems such as the beaver colonisation of Tierra del Fuego island and continental Patagonia. The objective of the National Programme is to reduce the spread of already introduced IAS to protect Chile's rich biodiversity assets and protect globally-significant biodiversity. The programme seeks to showcase and upscale efforts to tackle deemed-impossible-to-solve invasion problems like the beaver invasion in Patagonia. However, the development of an effective national programme is constrained by two main barriers that this project will contribute to solve through a concrete pilot on the management and control of the beaver invasion:

**6. 1) Deficient regulatory, governance and financial frameworks for IAS control at the sub-national level:** Chile has 34 laws and regulations in force to control exotic species. These dictate inspection procedures at the main entry points to Chile and govern the practices of different economic sectors that are pathways for introduction. While this restricts entry of some IAS to continental Chile, the focus is primarily on preventing sanitary crisis that could affect the national economy, while already-existing invasions of no pressing economic impact remain unattended. Further, there is no common vision for different sectors and regulations can be conflicting or overlapping reducing efficiencies. As part of the development of the National Program for the Control of IAS in the case of the beaver invasion, a comprehensive management and financial Plan (at the regional level but taking stock of the national framework and binational nature of the problem) will be needed that solves the existing uncertainties, sets out goals (eradication/control) and targets and proposes cost-effective ways of achieving these within defined timeframes, funding and human resources. Detailed information on the scale of the challenge and evidence-based costs of interventions are needed to complete such a Plan and propose supporting municipal and regional rules and regulations for beaver control in local productive sectors.

**7. 2) Incipient cost-effective, integrated tools and approaches to prevent, control and eradicate IAS in vulnerable ecosystems:** Effective IAS management requires the selection of the different approaches and their simultaneous or sequential application. There have been isolated attempts to control IAS in some of Chile's islands, but the scale of the beaver problem makes single approaches or isolated individual campaigns insufficient to arrest the growing threat posed to Tierra del Fuego's, Patagonia's and even the mainland forest's biodiversity.

## **2) baseline scenario and any associates baseline projects**

8. Since 1998 more than USD 1.24 million have been invested in baseline studies and control efforts related to the beaver invasion including: i) The study *Distribution, abundance and exploitation of beaver* (SAG-Skewes et al. 1999) funded by the National Fund for Regional Development (FNDR in Spanish) with 20 million CLP (USD 40 thousand); ii) the 2003-2007 Programme of control and exploitation of beaver in Tierra del Fuego and Navarino islands funded by the Fund for the Development of Magallanes (FONDEMA in its Spanish acronym) with 150 million CLP (USD 0.3 million) and executed by the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) incentivising the exploitation of beaver for meat and fur, capturing 11700 beavers during 2005 and 2006 and demonstrating the inverse correlation between trap and beaver density, however, the programme had no possibility of applying spatial or temporal planning to this trapping activity; iii) a prospection and control service in continental Magallanes run by SAG during 2011 in the framework of a renewed and reinforced FONDEMA project funded with 450 million CLP (USD 0.9 million); and iv) different peer-reviewed studies providing scientific evidence of the beavers' impact on forests, peatbogs<sup>8</sup> and aquatic birds<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Ariel Valdés (2010) Estimación del almacenamiento de carbono en bosques deciduos de *Nothofagus* y turberas de Tierra del Fuego, Chile. Trabajo Título Biólogo Ambiental, Universidad de Chile, financiado por Beca Karukinka.

<sup>9</sup> Claudia Silva (2008) Impacto de un mamífero invasor (*Castor canadensis*) sobre el hábitat de aves acuáticas en Tierra del Fuego. Magíster en Ecología y Biología Evolutiva, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Chile.



9. A bi-national process to address the beaver invasion was initiated in 2006 between the Governments of Argentina and Chile, where two binational workshops were held, with the participation of international experts from Wildlife Conservation Society, Island Conservation, Landcare Research and APHIS. Since then, technical, scientific, and experiences in the territory have been strengthened. In September 2008, a Binational Agreement on the Restoration of Austral Ecosystems affected by Beaver was signed during the "Taller Internacional para el Control de Castores en la Patagonia"<sup>10</sup>, a unique document that sets a framework for cooperation between Chile and Argentina on this matter. The two countries have worked together in developing a bi-national eradication program, the "Strategic Plan for the Eradication of Beaver in Southern Patagonia" with the overall goal to eradicate the beaver in 7 million hectares and 27,000 km. of rivers. The total cost of the Strategic Plan is estimated to USD 33 million, it should be implemented over ten years, and includes four phases: (I) "Feasibility study and development of the project's overall strategic plan for the eradication of Castor", which has been implemented representing a baseline investment by the two countries of USD 0.2 million; (II) "Systematic Pilots to develop skills and test different strategies, techniques and methodologies for the eradication and monitoring, control and prevention of re-invasion and develop the Detailed Bi-national Adaptive Plan for the Eradication of Beaver (PACB)", which will be supported by the proposed project (no GEF funds will be used for the eradication which will be paid by co-financing) plus a parallel project supported by FAO and proposed by the Argentinean government to the GEF; (III) "Implementation of the Bi-national Adaptive Plan for Eradication of the Beaver (PACB)"; and (IV) "control, monitoring and prevention of re-invasion". The Scientific base, adequately peer-reviewed<sup>11, 12</sup>, is a solid foundation of this binational Plan.

The phase I, the feasibility study for the eradication of beaver in Patagonia, was conducted ("Estudio de Factibilidad para erradicar castor de Patagonia Austral"<sup>13</sup>), co-funded by SAG, WCS Chile and the Government of Argentina with 60 million CLP (USD 0.1 million). The study's main conclusions are that a) eradication is feasible, and b) eradication is the optimal solution of the ones analysed in a feasibility-level cost-benefit analysis (CBA). The phase II on systematic piloting will be implemented by the proposed project jointly with the component 4 of the Argentina Secretariat of Environment/GEF/FAO project for IAS in Argentina (GEF ID 4768).

10. In the baseline scenario efforts exist, both in terms of bilateral collaboration and investments, to address the beaver invasion. However, the process of coalescing a concerted vision of the feasibility of a Patagonia free of beaver while keeping the control effort ongoing, managing the resources needed, generating the lacking capacities and piloting up-scaled methodologies that are effective and cost-efficient enough to be applied at the required scale, is a challenge that will not be adequately undertaken by the existing means in the baseline scenario.

### **3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components and the project;**

11. The project will support the implementation of a pilot programme for the management and control of beaver in the southernmost island territory of Tierra del Fuego. This component is the second phase of the "Strategic Plan for the eradication of the beaver project in southern Patagonia" implemented in agreement between Chile and Argentina and will be implemented in close coordination between the two countries. Eradication in demonstration units, funded both with cofinancing sources (the trapping and actual killing of the animals) and GEF resources (planning, capacity building, and systematization of lessons learned and practices), will allow for the validation of technical and economic assumptions made in relation to the eradication and the generation of missing technical and practical experiences to support later cost-effective scaling of the eradication in the entire island of Tierra del Fuego and the Patagonia. To achieve this aim, sustained capture efforts in the selected demonstration unit

<sup>10</sup>Silva CA & B Saavedra (2008) Actas del Taller Internacional para el Control de Castores en la Patagonia. Edición digital. Wildlife Conservation Society - Chile.

<sup>11</sup> Menvielle MF, M Funes, L Malmierca, D Ramadori, B Saavedra, A Schiavini & N Soto. 2010. American beaver eradication in the southern tip of South America: main challenges of an ambitious project. *Aliens: the Invasive Species Bulletin* 29: 9-16.

<sup>12</sup> Novaro A & Saavedra B. 2009. Beaver Eradication in Tierra del Fuego: A First Step Towards Ecosystem Restoration in Austral Patagonia. *WCS Science Digest*: 12.

<sup>13</sup>Parkes J.P., J. Paulson, C.J. Donlan & K. Campbell (2008) Estudio de factibilidad de erradicar el castor americano (*Castor canadensis*) en la Patagonia. Copias disponibles en: <http://www.karukinkanatural.cl>

(Karukinka Natural Park) will be used. Based on previous studies<sup>14</sup> best practices will be applied for more than a year, along with the thorough monitoring of all relevant variables during the whole pilot process so as to develop an applied, scalable practice that will be applied to the whole area of interest.

**12. Component 1:** A main objective of the Project is to advance the Regional and municipal governance and management systems for the control/eradication of beaver. Based on the existing feasibility study and binational Strategic Plan a fully-fledged detailed management and financial plan and binational Programme will be developed addressing technical, institutional and financial uncertainties remaining as well as propose and develop lacking regulation and governance mechanisms. Given the complexity of the problem, all relevant actors need to converge in a coordinated governance system, that gives voice to competent public agents, private actors, scientific know-how providers, funding agents and others. In particular the funding agents and mechanism will be important to secure the financing of the fully fledge binational control and eradication after the project. Based on the pilot experiences identifying cost effective eradication and control methodologies a detailed financing plan will be developed to support the binational programme in the full eradication and control effort. The plan will include committed funds from regional governments, The Ministry of Environment and CONAF and other public institutions already realizing the seriousness of the beaver invasion, but it should also include financing from the private sector and other donors in particular the forestry sector which in the medium term could be facing significant losses if the beaver continues its invasion causing deforestation and forest degradation on the Chilean mainland. To make the economic consequences clear to the private sectors and other potential financing partners the proposed project includes support for a study on the present and potential economic impact of the beaver in Patagonia for each strategic and productive sector (like forestry, livestock breeding, agricultural, tourism, water resources, infrastructure, aquaculture) to support financial mobilization. The project will also support the development of proposals for municipal and regional rules and regulations for beaver control in local productive sectors, which will contribute to the cost sharing and effectiveness in the full eradication and control programme. This component will be cofinanced by the FNDR-funded Programme Control, Prevention and Eradication of Invasive Fauna in the Magallanes Region 2012-2014 (447 million CLP (USD 0.9 million) as well as by CONAF, SAG, regional and municipal public agents and others.

**13. Component 2:** A coordinated information, monitoring and early-detection system will be established, so as to serve as a foundation for adaptive management and awareness raising. An awareness-focused communication and public participation programme will be developed and implemented to support the cost-effective and sustainable implementation of the management and control pilots and later the full eradication Programme. Co-financing contributions to this system and communication and participation programme will come from data and materials from the environmental-education programme “Conservación en acción: el control de especies exóticas y recuperación de ecosistemas nativos en Tierra del Fuego”, the revised Patagonian Ecosystems Restoration Manual<sup>15</sup> and others.

**14. Component 3:** As an essential part of the project, existing control and eradication experience<sup>16</sup> will be systematised and up-scaled in a demonstrative pilot action in the Karukinka Natural Park, which complements baseline control actions developed within the FNDR Programme in the Brunswick Peninsula, Dawson Island and Tierra del Fuego. The pilot will validate/develop control and eradication methodologies and provide tools for the ex-ante assessment of actions, thus providing decision makers with essential inputs for the specific Patagonian setting. A restoration-monitoring tool will also be developed. For the removal of beavers as part of the validation of models for control and eradication international standards such as the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) and the relevant EU regulation from 1991 will be applied.

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<sup>14</sup> Lizarralde, S. M. and J. M. Escobar. 1999. Plan de manejo de la especie *Castor canadensis*. Gobierno de la provincia de Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Atlántico Sur. 24 pp.

<sup>15</sup> Repetto F, W Marcelo & E Teneb (2011) Aprendiendo a restaurar ecosistemas, Guía para Docentes y estudiantes. Disponible en <http://www.karukinkanatural.cl/imagenes/pk/AprendiendoaRestaurar.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Funes M et al. (2006) Beaver control and monitoring program in Karukinka, Tierra del Fuego, Chile. Documento interno, and others

15. **Component 4:** This component will ensure that the project keeps track of its progress from outputs to outcomes, external evaluations are timely conducted, lessons learned and best practice from the project's implementation are identified and registered and project information is available for interested external parties.

#### **4) incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, and co-financing**

16. The Government of Chile has long recognized the threat of IAS to its national well-being and is making considerable baseline investment to address this including covering the permanent costs of a sound quarantine and inspection system to control the arrival of exotic plant and animal species that could affect the economy or health of the country. However, these investments focus on sanitary regulations to protect export-oriented sectors such as agriculture, forestry, livestock and aquaculture and do not cover all IAS that could endanger the country's biodiversity and ecosystem balance. Further, the system does not currently include a programme for the control of IAS already established in the territory, such as the beaver, with good examples of management and control actions.

17. Without the GEF investment, the business-as-usual scenario is that Patagonia's biodiversity will continue to be threatened by the increasing colonisation of beaver, including areas with biodiversity of high global significance. Baseline investments in control actions (supporting component 3 of the proposed project) in the Brunswick Peninsula, Dawson Island and selected areas of Tierra del Fuego (USD 3.3 million invested by the FNDR Programme under the Regional Government of Magallanes, municipalities of Punta Arenas, Timaukel and Primavera, SAG and CONAF) will be fighting to contain the invasion, but without leading to a coherent bi-national action plan (PCAB) based on systematisation of experiences, practices and lessons learned and coordinated planning of actions as well as financing. Without this plan, it will not be possible to move on to the third phase in the control and eradication of the beaver as an aggressive IAS in the Patagonia.

18. Deficiencies in the sub-national regulatory framework and institutional mechanisms to manage practices in production sectors and insufficient cross-sectorial coordination, would result in the continued growth of the threat from the beaver invasion and likely depletion of biodiversity of global and national importance. The GEF investment, along with its co-financing partners (mentioned under component 1 above), will address the regulatory and governance barriers to effective control and eradicate the beaver and conserve the Patagonian biodiversity. Even though the baseline investments include investments in management and control actions there is no developed system for early warning and prevention and control of reinvasion of areas where the beaver has been eradicated or detection of new areas under invasion. This is resulting in mayor challenges in the control of the invasion and strategic priority setting for actions that in the end results in that the invasion is most likely not being contained. The proposed GEF investment and co-financing (mentioned under component 2 above) will focus in creating such early warning, prevention and spread-control system which will be a crucial support for the implementation and success of the full PCAB.

19. The alternative scenario represents a major contribution to safeguarding globally important biodiversity reducing vulnerability of the native flora and birds of Patagonia and the protection and restoration of the riparian forests, protected by law by the Chilean forest legislation. Further the GEF and co-financing investments will create an example to showcase that it is possible to systematically control cases deemed-impossible-to-solve of IAS invasions which will be an important contribution Chile's efforts to provide itself with a coherent framework for the integral management of IAS. Institutional coordinating mechanisms and strengthened capacities at the sub-national level will optimise the current installed capacities for IAS management beyond the beaver and provide demonstrative guidance to the implementation of management and contingency plans for IAS control/eradication for other regions of the country. It is thus expected that with the proposed resources and building on existing structures and institutions for IAS prevention much can be done to improve the management and control of IAS already established in the territory and thereby contribute to biodiversity conservation in Chile.

#### **5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF)**

20. The proposed project will stop the spread of the beaver within the South American continent and at least contain populations below thresholds that endanger endemic species and ecosystems, thereby delivering additional protection to the globally unique Patagonian landscape. In concrete the project will: i) validate a scalable control

and eradication model in 2000 ha under restoration from the damages caused by the beaver including recuperation of riparian forest with endemic species; and ii) develop and test practices for sustained control in multiple-use private property covering 1000 ha under restoration from the damages caused by the beaver including recuperation of riparian forest with endemic species.

**6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling-up.**

20. For the first time in South America a binational plan to address a vertebrate invasive has been promoted and systematically implemented, and with this project the Chilean contribution to this process will be leveraged and brought to maturity. It represents a powerful example of the vision needed to address conservation problems at bi-national scale. The scale of this IAS management and control project is significant compared to previous experiences in the world, but its most significant innovation is the strengthening and implementation of a process that will help building local capacities (administrative, scientific, technical and political) needed to control a highly aggressive invasive species constituting a highly complex conservation problem, which will benefit not only this problem but similar ones in other regions and countries. The project will also provide demonstration of this approach through its piloting activities, which will optimise and maximise investments and serve as a learning platform for testing and sharing lessons learned. Being this pilot a large and renown private protected area, it represents a significant example of private-public integration needed for the management of biodiversity conservation in the country and beyond.

21. Once the frameworks and capacities have been established in the project, which represents the phase 2 of a broader vision of a beaver-free Patagonia, a change will be triggered that will move the existing group and its local supporting-base, enhanced by the project’s achievements, to the next phase of the Plan which is the full scale control and eradication. The fact that this project is a second step in the four phases bi-national plan contributes to its sustainability and projections for scaling. Under this framework it is envisioned, that the project’s outcomes will be scaled up to the whole Patagonia region, both in Chile and Argentina. This approach will also provide new inputs to the existing scientific and technical knowledge on control and eradication of big invasive vertebrates.

**A.2 Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organizations, indigenous people, gender groups, and other as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.**

22. The following actors will have a role in the project, and therefore will be asked to participate in project preparation activities through a project committee:

Stakeholder	Interest in the project according to the area of work of the stakeholder	Role in the project
Ministerio del Medio Ambiente (MMA)	Coordinates environmental policies in the country	Coordinator and main executing partner
Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF)	Manages protected areas in Magallanes region and manages ongoing beaver control activities in the Laguna Parrillar National Reserve (Magallanes) and	Manages essential baseline activities within protected areas in the region. Co-executing partner
Wildlife Conservation Society-Chile (WCS)	Manages Karukinka Natural Park, the biggest private protected area in the Magallanes region	Manages an ongoing, successful experience on restoration in Karukinka Natural Park. Co-executing partner
Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG)	Manages the FNDR baseline project and is in charge of the implementation of hunting regulations (Ley de Caza)	Manages essential baseline activities (FNDR project, hunting regulation, quarantine and inspection systems). Co-executing partner
Navy of Chile (Isla Dawson), Ministry of Defence	Manages Isla Dawson, a navy-base island, affected by beaver invasion	Executes or co-executes baseline activities (logistical support)
Ministry of Public Goods	The MBN is the legal landholder for	Executes or co-executes baseline

	public land in Chile, including protected areas	activities (basic information)
Roads Directorate and Water Directorate, Ministry of Public Works	Their responsibilities in the region (roads and rivers) are affected by beavers' impact on hydro-morphology	Executes or co-executes baseline activities (logistical support and basic information)
National Service of Tourism (SERNATUR)	Through its impact on protected areas, beavers affect tourism, which is under this Service's responsibility	Executes or co-executes baseline activities (awareness raising and communication)
Municipalities	Beaver is considered a public-interest problem in their jurisdictions	Executes or co-executes baseline activities (awareness raising and public participation)
Regional Government, executive branch (GORE) and legislative branch (CORE)	Beaver is considered a public-interest problem in its jurisdiction	Funds baseline activities (see SAG)
Livestock breeders association	Beaver is considered a problem from their sectorial perspective	Executes or co-executes baseline activities (control, eradication and restoration activities in private land)

23. The following local actors have already committed their participation in the project:

- Private landholders (both big and small)
- Municipalities and Regional Government
- Organised artisanal fishermen
- Livestock breeders association

This represents major, if not total, engagement for the little, isolated Patagonian society. It can be assumed that a) the voluntary involvement of these actors represents the local society's commitment with the project, and b) the above-listed participant stakeholders have enough influence and representativeness in relation to the general society to assure that the project's next phases are well integrated within it. Further, the project will develop important information, awareness-raising and participation tools so as to reinforce and widen the already-present commitment and involvement. This will be further detailed during the full project design.

24. At the national level, coordination is ensured by the National Operational Committee for the Control of IAS (COCEI), which has the Ministry of Environment as its executive secretariat. At the regional level, a Project Committee will ensure that all actors' capabilities and needs are taken into consideration. Finally, at the binational level, the Binational Agreement on the Restoration of Austral Ecosystems affected by Beaver is followed up by the Frontier Committee Austral Integration, a specific foreign-affairs-cum-technical mechanism in place for Patagonia, which provides a formal framework for information exchange and coordination.

**A.3 Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change risks, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (Table format acceptable).**

Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
National and regional authorities may not include measures for IAS control, including the control of the Beaver, in institutional priorities.	Med	The NSBAP, developed through a participatory process, identified the risk of IAS and established the need for IAS control. Thus there has been initial agreement from a wide range of institutions on the importance of improving IAS management. The project will specifically address the barriers that are impeding this at the regional level in Magallanes. Amongst these the provision of regulatory frameworks, management tools such as Protocols and specific control mechanisms and financial measures for their implementation will facilitate the uptake of measures by institutions. The project will further mitigate this risk by providing targeted awareness programmes and training to staff to enable the undertaking of roles outlined in the Plan to be developed by

		the project.
Financing for strengthened beaver containment may not exist.	Med	The project will support the necessary activities to set up the Plan for the Control of Beaver in Magallanes which will include the costing of proposed actions and targets and the definition of a Financial plan that identifies funding sources for their implementation. Further the evaluation of economic impacts of the beaver invasion on different sectors supported in Component 1 will provide the basis for negotiating for increased budgetary resources.
Climate change may increase the threat posed by IAS	Med	The threat of IAS in vulnerable ecosystems appears where invasive species are more resistant to new climate conditions and through increased risk of introduction (and re-introduction) through climatic events such as increased floods and rainfall increase. Also, as climatic conditions change, native populations may come under increased stress and reach coping-level limits becoming less resilient to the threat of invasives. The project will address this by including climate change as one of the variables to consider in its risk analysis, which would form the basis for determining priorities for beaver management in the Magallanes region. Proactive responses through early warning systems and funded protocols would also provide a more robust IAS management system that could contain the increased threat envisaged with climate change and, in general, better respond to increased-risk conditions under the most likely future-climate scenarios.
Restoration of endemic ecosystems does not happen in a spontaneous way or is not possible after successful control and eradication	Low	There exist enough natural intact ecosystems in Patagonia to provide genetic material to restore the most important endemic flora species, including in most of the affected basins, so natural circulation of genetic material should in principle happen without much impediment. The project will include restoration as one of the activities to pilot and demonstrate. An ongoing experiment on restoration is already installed in Karukinka Natural Park, which will inform the design and implementation of the pilot eradication watershed.
Local communities and the main actors in key sectors (forestry, tourism, livestock) are not completely committed and do not adopt the practices proposed	Low	The project will coordinate efforts to ensure that the control of beaver integrates the key stakeholders in the knowledge of the need to adopt the Plan. Institutional strengthening and regulatory adaptation will narrow the margins of possibilities of adoption of practices at odds with the objectives of the project.
Access to land is restricted and interferes with the adoption of strategies established	Medium	Through processes of dialogue, consensus, and interagency interactions carried out under the project and with the accompaniment of the private landholders already onboard, measures are implemented designed to overcome this barrier. In the case of the pilot in Tierra del Fuego, the beaver was declared a harmful and damaging species in the Argentinean portion of the island through the Provincial Law No. 696 of

		2006, a situation that paves the way for similar actions in the Chilean part.
Chilean and Argentinean operations do not coordinate with each other	Medium	The project builds on already-established coordination mechanisms: the Binational Agreement of 2008 and the Frontier Committee Austral Integration
Logistic and staffing problems due to remoteness impede a correct execution	Low	The project will minimise this risk by operating with institutions and persons experienced in the work on the remote portions of Tierra del Fuego, Dawson island and Brunswick peninsula, such as WCS's Karukinka team, CONAF, the Chilean Navy and the inhabitants of the area.

#### A.4 Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives.

24. The GEF supported project for the updating of the NBSAP is currently under implementation at both the national and local (regional) level. During 2013 the region of Magallanes will hold regional workshops, which will develop regional strategies that will feed the national Strategy and its Action Plan. The Regional Biodiversity Strategy of the Magallanes region will be updated to reflect the beaver problem based on updated scientific evidence. The Ministry of Environment is the Executing Agency at the national as well as the regional level and will coordinate the synergies with the proposed project.

25. GEF ID 4330 Strengthening national frameworks for IAS governance: piloting in Juan Fernandez Archipelago will provide the national-level framework in which the regional-level Plan for the beaver in Patagonia will be inserted. The National Operational Committee for the Control of IAS (COCEI) will be strengthened and a national IAS-management programme set up. The Ministry of Environment, Executing Agency of both projects, will ensure the permanent coordination between them.

26. As it is mentioned above, informal and formal coordination mechanisms exist in Patagonia, both at the binational level and the regional level (SAG, CONAF, Ministry of Environment and the Regional Government regularly exchange on IAS management). The Tierra del Fuego binational collaboration already represent a unique case of international cooperation for IAS management. The "Binational Agreement between Argentina and the Republic of Chile on the Restoration of southern ecosystems affected by the American beaver (*Castor canadensis*), 2008" is part of a formal environmental agreement between Chile and Argentina (Tratado entre Chile y Argentina sobre medio Ambiente, 1991) managed under the Frontier Committee Austral Integration, a unique foreign-affairs-cum-technical mechanism that provides a formal framework for information exchange and coordination at the highest possible level.

27. The project will be implemented in close coordination with the component 4 of PIF-approved GEF/FAO/Government of Argentina project "Strengthening of governance for the protection of biodiversity through the formulation and implementation of the National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (NSIAS)", which will model beaver control and eradication approaches on the Argentinean territory of Tierra del Fuego. The "Binational Agreement between Argentina and the Republic of Chile on the Restoration of southern ecosystems affected by the American beaver (*Castor canadensis*)" constitute the framework for the coordination between the two countries impacted by the beaver IAS and their common work on the development and implementation of a bi-national eradication project. The two projects will hold at least six-monthly binational workshops to coordinate at the work plan and activity level and share eradication and control experiences. During the last year of implementation of the two projects the two countries, with the involvement of both national and Province/regional governments will jointly formulate the the Bi-national Adaptive Plan for Eradication of the Beaver (PACB) allowing for moving on to the phase III in the binational process.

#### B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

**B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, Biennial Update Reports, etc.**

28. The project is well aligned with national priorities and plans. Chile's National Strategy for Biodiversity (NBSAP) calls for National Action Plan for Invasive species (Strategic line 2.2). With the support of the international community some advances have been made towards this goal. The I3N (Invasive Species Network) of the IABIN<sup>17</sup> has set up a preliminary database of the main invasive species. A National Operational Committee for the Control of IAS (COCEI) was created in 2005 and is working to improve coordinating efforts among public institutions in this field. Through its institutional capacity building efforts the project will provide much needed support to consolidate and expand these efforts to ensure that cost-effective IAS control can be channelled to vulnerable ecosystems of global significance. Chile also has made progress in developing Regional Biodiversity Strategies as a first step in the protection of biodiversity in productive landscapes. The project will showcase this approach in a specific region with a global IAS problem, thereby advancing IAS control at the sub-national level.

29. The project is consistent with international commitments ratified by Chile such as the CBD (ratified 1994) and with the national efforts to safeguard economic activities through the prevention of sanitary crisis in accordance with the IPPC ratified in 1952. However due to a number of constraints (detailed above), IAS governance has not advanced as quickly as needed and the threat to biodiversity is increasing. This GEF project will advance Chile's national and international commitments in IAS governance by developing a concrete, flagship Action Plan based on ground-proofing in a pilot site of global significance. Further it will support the institutional design required for its successful implementation. In doing so the project is entirely in line with national priorities and plans and will capture biodiversity GEB alongside advancing Chile's national targets for biodiversity conservation.

**B.2 GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities**

30. The Project contributes to the Objective 2 of the GEF's Biodiversity Focal Area: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors. It specifically contributes to its Outcome 2.3: Improved management frameworks to prevent, control and manage invasive alien species, with emphasis on sub-national control and management of IAS already established in the territory.

31. The project will also contribute to the Aichi biodiversity target 9 - *By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment*, measured through the indicator *trends in policy responses, legislation and management plans to control and prevent spread of invasive alien species (B)*.

**B.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing the project**

31. The project addresses the Strategic Objective (SO) E of FAO, corresponding to the "Sustainable management of forests and trees." Further the project will contribute to FAO organizational results (OR): OR E1, policies and practices that affect forests and forestry are based on timely and reliable information; and OR E6, effective strategies for the conservation of forest biodiversity are applied.

32. FAO has considerable experience in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management including invasive alien species and the protection and health of plants, trees, forests, agricultural landscapes, aquatic species, wildlife and livestock. The FAO Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture aims at ensuring the sustainable management of native, exotic and invasive breeds in ecosystems, including agricultural ecosystems. The FAO Forestry Department has been working for many years on the management and control of plant pests, often insects, which exhibit an increased spread potential in times of global changes. Moreover, a new FAO Forestry Paper on "Wildlife in a changing climate" is giving significant attention to

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<sup>17</sup> The Invasive Information Network integrates information from Western Hemisphere countries to support the detection and management of IAS. It provides capacity building, electronic tools, and support for database development and increased access to information. The Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network fosters technical collaboration and coordination among countries of the Americas in collection, sharing, and use of biodiversity information relevant to decision-making on natural resources management and conservation, and education to promote sustainable development



invasive species and their management featuring case studies such as on the invasion and eradication of the coypu or nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), a semi-aquatic rodent native to South America which causes immense damage to natural riverbank vegetation and adjacent crops in many countries of Asia, Europe and North America, very similar to the problem of the beaver invasions in Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia. In this respect, FAO has established good collaboration with renowned experts such as the Chair of the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group and is able to draw upon these contacts for the preparation and implementation of the proposed project.

33. FAO has further been much involved in the discussions and work on invasive alien species within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and regularly contributed inputs on the issue, for example through its participation in the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and the Ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG), and by delivering statements at CBD SBSTTA meetings.

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

35. To support the implementation of the proposed project, the representation in Chile will be backed up by forestry, plant protection and wild life experts from the FAO Regional Office in Santiago, Chile and IAS experts from the Forestry Department in FAO Headquarters in Rome. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit in the Investment Center Division in FAO Headquarters in Rome will also support the project preparation and provide oversight to the implementation. All these divisions and specialists will be collaborating in the support of the project through a multidisciplinary Project Task Force. FAO is also supporting the government of Argentina in formulating a full sized project proposal co-funded by the GEF to implement Phase II of the "Strategic Plan for the eradication of the beaver in southern Patagonia" between Chile and Argentina. As FAO is agency of this project like the present project it will facilitate coordination between the two countries and processes and make a coordinated technical support to implement the second phase of the plan in both countries.

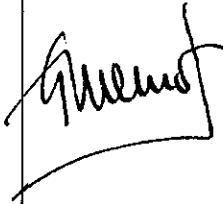
**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (Please attach the Operational Focal Points endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this OFF endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
Ms. Ximena GEORGE-NASCIMENTO	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment of Chile	07/23/2013

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

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/DD/Y YYY)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Gustavo Merino TCI-Director Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla (00153) Rome, Italy <a href="mailto:TCI-Director@fao.org">TCI-Director@fao.org</a>		28 August, 2013	Hivy Ortiz Chour, Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean  Rikke Olivera FAO-GEF Programme Officer for LAC and China	(56-2) 29232137  (39) 0657055701	<a href="mailto:Hivy.OrtizChour@fao.org">Hivy.OrtizChour@fao.org</a>  Rikke.Olivera@F AO.org
Barbara Cooney FAO GEF Coordinator Email: <a href="mailto:Barbara.Cooney@fao.org">Barbara.Cooney@fao.org</a> Tel: +3906 5705 5478					