



**PROPROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)<sup>1</sup>**  
**PROJECT TYPE: Full Sized Project**  
**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Integrated management of marine and coastal areas of high value for biodiversity in Continental Ecuador</i>		
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Ecuador	<b>GEF Project ID:<sup>2</sup></b>	4770
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	FAO	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	615692
<b>Other Executing Partner(s):</b>	Ministry of the Environment (MAE), Conservation International Foundation (CI)	<b>Submission Date:</b>	April 12, 2012
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b>	Biodiversity	<b>Project Duration (months):</b>	48
<b>Name of parent program (if applicable):</b> ➤ For SFM <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Agency Fee:</b>	305,800

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

<b>Focal Area Objectives</b>	<b>Expected FA Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected FA Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Indicative Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Indicative Co-Financing (\$)</b>
BD-1	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas	Output 1: New protected areas (4 conservation areas) and coverage (ca. 15,000 hectares) of unprotected ecosystems.	GEFTF	895,000	4,024,800
BD-2	Outcome 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation.	Output 2. National and subnational land-use plans (4 for coastal marine conservation areas and 4-6 for mangrove areas) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services assessments	GEFTF	1,698,788	7,088,751
BD-2	Outcome 2.2: measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulation frameworks.	Output 1: Policies and regulatory frameworks (3) for productive sectors.	GEFTF	320,000	983,103
<b>Sub-Total</b>				2,913,788	12,096,654
<b>Project management cost<sup>4</sup></b>				145,000	300,000
<b>Total project costs</b>				<b>3,058,788</b>	<b>12,396,654</b>

**B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK**

**Project Objective:** Development of an integrated management approach to the use and conservation of coastal marine areas of high value for biodiversity through establishment of conservation areas, strengthening of mangrove concessions, and integration of biodiversity conservation in the fisheries sector.

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

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

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

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

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Integrated management of coastal areas of high value for biodiversity	TA	<p>1.1 Four new coastal marine conservation areas (ca. 15,000 ha) are managed on an integrated and efficient basis (get at least 50 of 90 possible points in the management efficiency tracking tool of GEF) leading to stabilization or increase in detection of IUCN red listed marine species (Giant Manta Ray, <i>Mobula japonica</i>, <i>Mobula thurstoni</i>, Hawksbill Turtle) in monitoring surveys (&lt;15% variance).</p> <p>1.2 Biodiversity conservation integrated into the management of at least 37,000 ha of mangroves under concessions managed by community groups leading to stabilization or increase in the population of biodiversity and ecosystem health species indicators (<i>Ucides occidentalis</i> - mangrove crabs, <i>Anadara tuberculosa</i> - saltwater Bivalve living in mangroves) and juvenile of global threatened species (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> -turtle, and <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> -Shark) (&lt;15% variation)</p> <p>1.3 Coastal marine resources are controlled and monitored effectively led by the Control and Monitoring Units (UCVs) and with the participation of local communities (numbers of boarding performed by each UCV had increased from x to y).</p>	<p>1.1.1 Four new coastal marine conservation areas under integrated and sustainable management legally established</p> <p>1.1.2 Biodiversity baseline established and operating monitoring system of indicators on biological, oceanographic and socioeconomic aspects in each of the conservation areas</p> <p>1.1.3 Four management plans agreed with sectoral authorities, autonomous decentralized governments (GADs) and users of coastal marine resources including zoning and land-use planning incorporating economic valuation and protection of sensitive habitats and species (e.g. beaches where marine turtles nests, intertidal ponds, rocky reefs)</p> <p>1.1.4 Priority actions in the management plans implemented with the GADs, including management systems of solid waste, waste water and domestic and stray animals.</p> <p>1.2.1 Management of 40 mangrove concessions strengthened by supporting community group concessionaires in implementation of community monitoring and control plans and agreements, zoning and planning of resource use, capacity building in sustainable use and conservation of mangrove biodiversity</p> <p>1.2.2 4-6 new mangrove concessions granted to community groups based on the establishment of the baseline: (biodiversity inventory, georeference of harvesting areas, accurate survey of the total mangrove area) and development of management, zoning and land-use plans incorporating economic valuation of biodiversity.</p> <p>1.2.3 Financial support mechanism for mangrove concessions designed and in operation and transferring at least USD XX/year to the community groups at the end of the project for sustaining conservation services.</p> <p>1.3.1 Seven Control and Monitoring Plans (PCVs) for the UCVs in the coastal zone aligned with the plans of control and monitoring by the fishermen and mangrove concessionaires.</p> <p>1.3.2 Seven UCVs trained in implementation of the plans.</p>	GEFTF	1,508,788	5,993,387
2. Conservation of biodiversity in fisheries management	TA	2.1 100,000 ha of protected coastal areas (Churute, Galera, El Morro) and at least 37,000 ha under 46	2.1.1 Fishery management systems operating in the Galera-San Francisco marine reserve (Esmeraldas Province) which include management plans for a coastal demersal species (Pacific bearded brotula) and two	GEFTF	1,150,000	4,795,364

		mangrove concessions are under sustainable fishery management leading to a 20% recovery in fish stocks of Pink Brutula, lobster -Panulirus greacilis, octopus.	species of benthonic macro invertebrates (lobster and octopus). The system will have a fishery baseline, fishery monitoring and use and zoning agreements. 2.1.2. Two fisheries management systems operating for mangrove benthonic invertebrates and estuarine white fisheries in the Mangroves Churute Reserve and the Mangrove El Morro Wildlife Sanctuary. 2.1.3 At least 6 Fishery Management Plans for areas under mangrove concessions developed and implemented by community groups.				
3. Strengthening of the regulatory framework for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and management.	TA	3.1 Regulatory frameworks for fisheries, mangroves, and management of coastal zones nationwide incorporating biodiversity conservation and sustainable use measures (get at least 12 of the 18 possible scores in the GEF BD policy and regulatory framework tracking tool).	3.1.1 Three proposals on updating the national regulations of: i) fishery; ii) planning and management of mangrove use; and iii) the continental coastal zones of Ecuador, formulated via participatory and consultative processes.	GEFTF	150,000	941,198	
4. Monitoring and evaluation and information dissemination		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 project-related “best-practices” and “lessons-learned” published 4.1.3 Website to share the experience and information dissemination.	GEFTF	105,000	366,705	
Sub-Total						2,913,788	12,096,654
Project management Sub Cost						145,000	300,000
<b>Total project costs<sup>4</sup></b>						<b>3,058,788</b>	<b>12,396,654</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 (\$)
NGO	Conservation International	Grant	3,702,700
NGO	Conservation International	In-kind	245,954
National Government	Ministry of the Environment	In-Kind	2,000,000
National Government	Ministry of the Environment	Grant	635,000
National Government	Sub-Secretariat of Fishery Resources	In-kind	130,000
National Government	Vice Ministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries	In-Kind	800,000
Provincial Government	Guayas Provincial Government	In-Kind	400,000
Provincial Government	Guayas Provincial Government	Grant	205,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	150,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	100,000
Local Government	Local Municipalities	Grant	200,000
Local Government	Local Municipalities	In-kind	1,300,000
CSO	Mangrove Concessionaires	In-Kind	2,528,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>12,396,654</b>

## **D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>**

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

### **PART II. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

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

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

The project is consistent with the GEF's Biodiversity Strategies. The first component of the project is consistent with Objective 1 improve sustainability of protected areas systems and Objective 2 mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors. Under objective 1 component 1 will support Outcome 1.1. improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas. Four new marine and coastal areas for sustainable management will be established strengthening the national protected areas system wherein coastal marine biodiversity is still underrepresented. The four new areas will comprise approximately 15,000 hectares where focus will be at mitigating the pressures from tourism development, over fishing and pollution from land sources. The new areas have been selected based on their importance for identified marine biodiversity priorities including marine turtles nestle areas. These areas include the beaches and will extend one mile into the sea, including the reservation area for production of bioaquatic species established by the fishery authority<sup>5</sup>. Management of these areas incorporating measures for the conservation of biodiversity will be an integrated management exercise, with the participation of all sectors including the fishery authority (Undersecretary's Office of Fishing Resources, SRP), the maritime authority (National Bureau of Aquatic Areas, DIRNEA), the tourism authority (Ministry of Tourism), the Decentralized Autonomous Governments, GAD) and the environmental authority (Ministry of the Environment). Depending on conditions, some of the above may be declared protected areas under the National System.

Additionally, component 1 will support Outcome 2.1 increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation. The project will under this outcome in particular support the conservation of mangrove habitats and biodiversity by strengthening the management of the 40 mangrove areas that are managed by local groups in the form of already established sustainable use and custodianship through mangrove agreements (generally known as mangrove concessions). The local community groups will receive capacity building in development and implementation of community monitoring and control plans and establishment of mutual agreements regarding the use of mangrove resources. Furthermore, six local groups will be supported to develop baseline surveys and management plans allowing them to access new mangrove concessions. A financial mechanism will be designed to expedite support for the small investments required by mangrove concessionaires to sustain the mangrove conservation in the medium and long term (e.g. biddable funds to renew the patrol boats and compensation for conservation services).

Finally, component 1 will support the development of integrated monitoring and control plans (PCVs) of the relevant authorities within the framework of the Conservation and Monitoring Units (UCVs). These plans will integrate state monitoring and control activities with community monitoring by fishermen and mangrove concessionaires. One of the aspects of the PCVs will be to ensure the integrity of the conservation areas, mangrove habitats and fishery protection zones (e.g. Bioaquatic Species Production Reserve).

Component 2 will also support Outcome 2.1 but in this component the focus will be at conservation of biodiversity in the fisheries sector. The project will support development and implementation of fishery administration systems in marine protected areas for benthonic invertebrates (i.e. Mangrove crab (*Ucides occidentalis*)) and white fish (i.e. Bearded (*Cynoscion* spp.) and common snook (*Centropomus* spp)) in mangrove zones (in the Manglares Churute Ecological Reserve and in the El Morro Mangrove Wildlife Sanctuary) and for intertidal and subtidal invertebrates (i.e. octopus, sea cucumber and lobster) and for coastal demersal fish (i.e. Pacific bearded brotula in the Galera-San Francisco Marine Reserve). These systems allow for the conservation of fish stock used by the local communities and conservation of populations within the protected areas wherefrom biomass may be disseminated to the marine environment. To supplement this action, support will be provided to all the mangrove

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<sup>5</sup> Agreement 134 of July 24,2007. In this zone industrial fishing is forbidden and only certain types of small-scale fishing are permitted.

concessionaires in design and implementation of management plans for the mangrove fishery resources. These experiences will serve as a model for implementation in other marine and coastal areas of continental Ecuador, which implementation will begin in the last year of the project.

Component 3 will support Outcome 2.2 measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulation frameworks. Complying with the requirement of refining the regulations in accordance with the new Constitution of Ecuador, 2008, proposals to update the fishery, mangrove and coastal zones management regulatory frameworks will be presented. The proposals will be elaborated through consultative and participatory processes focusing at incorporating the conservation and sustainable use of the marine biodiversity in the sector regulations.

#### **A.1.2 FOR PROJECTS FUNDED FROM LDCF/SCCF: THE LDCF/SCCD ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES:**

#### **A.2 NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS IF APPLICABLE, I.E. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, ETC.:**

Ecuador ratified the UN CBD National Biodiversity Policy and Strategy in 1992 and developed its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 2000. This project will support compliance with strategic guidelines 1 (consolidate and enhance the sustainability based on native biodiversity), 3 (balance conservation pressures with sustainable biodiversity use), and 4 (ensure respect and fulfillment of individual and collective rights of citizens to participate in decisions concerning resource access and control and ensure that the benefits of conservation and biodiversity use and of the knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities and policies be fairly and equitably distributed) of the NBSAP, promoting the design of a regulatory framework to improve coastal zone management and strengthening land use planning and zoning incorporating the valuation and conservation of global important coastal marine biodiversity.

The project will expand the total marine and coastal areas under sustainable management, address the management and protection of fishery resources in the SNAP and mangrove ecosystems and will implement participatory management systems, thus contributing to the accomplishment of policies 4.1<sup>6</sup>, 4.4<sup>7</sup> and 11.3<sup>8</sup> and goals 4.1.1 and 4.1.2<sup>9</sup> of the National Plan for a Good Life 2009-2013<sup>10</sup>. Furthermore, it will contribute to the accomplishment of objectives 1<sup>11</sup> (goal 3) and 4<sup>12</sup> of the Strategic Policy and Plan of the National Protected Areas System of Ecuador 2007-2016.

### **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

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

Ecuador has 2,859 km of continental coastline comprised of a succession of reefs, tidal plains and wave-erosion coasts. The most outstanding geographical feature is the Gulf of Guayaquil, an estuarine system which holds the largest concentration of mangroves in the country and has many islands and islets. Off the coast lies the Puna Island with an area of 920 km<sup>2</sup>. In 2006 there were 148,230 hectares of mangroves in the country, 82% of which are in the Gulf of Guayaquil. Fifteen protected areas, with marine and coastal elements, have been established in the five provinces of Ecuador with a seafront (Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Guayas and El Oro) as part of

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<sup>6</sup> Conserve and sustainably manage the natural heritage and its biodiversity on land and on sea including strengthening of protected areas on land and sea, based on their management with an ecosystem approach, respecting their natural and evolutionary principles, vital cycles, structure and functions.

<sup>7</sup> Policy 4.4 Prevent, control and mitigate environmental pollution as a contribution to the improvement of the quality of life.

<sup>8</sup> Policy 11.3. Give a thrust to the productive conditions necessary to achieve food sovereignty. In particular subparagraph a.: Promote small-scale fishing through partnership programs, technological support and protection of fishery reserves.

<sup>9</sup> Increase by 5 percentage points the land area under conservation or environmental management until 2013. 4.1.2. Include 2.521 km<sup>2</sup> of coastal marine and continental areas under conservation or environmental management until 2013.

<sup>10</sup> Supplement to Official Register 144 of March 5, 2010.

<sup>11</sup> Objective 1. Consolidate the National Protected Areas System of Ecuador, ensuring the conservation and representativity of land, marine and coastal marine ecosystems. Goal 4. By 2012 the gaps in ecological representativity will have been covered through the establishment of new protected areas within SNAP

<sup>12</sup> Objective 4. Promote integral management of SNAP through the participation of stakeholders in the management of protected areas.

the national protected areas system covering a total area of 390,000 ha under different categories of management accounting for 34% of the continental coastal area of Ecuador.

However, to date not much is known about marine biodiversity in Ecuador, its conservation in the marine protected areas is still a challenge due to the many sectors intervening in these areas and the logistic difficulties of control and surveillance, and many of the protected areas do not include implemented strategies for fisheries management with local communities.

The coastal region remains the basis for significant productive activities, such as fishing, agriculture, port operations and aquaculture and it has the largest population in the country. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, tourism was incipient in the coastal region, but it quickly grew later on concentrated in nodes of development, such as Atacames, Salinas, and General Villamil. In the last 40 years, the establishment of shrimp larvae laboratories, a growing demand for sun and beach tourism and land for vacation homes, and the opening of the *Via del Pacífico* highway facilitated the fast urbanization of the seafont and access to previously inaccessible sites; which is having a negative impact on coastal biodiversity. Fisheries have decreased, mainly due to the absence of fish catch limits and to increased fishing efforts. As a protective measure, the fishery authority declared the first nautical mile as a Bioaquatic Species Production Reserve in 2003,<sup>13</sup> but it has been difficult to implement. Moreover, there are no specific regulations for beachfront fishing (e.g. octopus) or knowledge about the ecology and population status of these resources. The network of protected marine and costal areas should contribute to sustaining fisheries but there is little fisheries management experience within the protected areas.<sup>14</sup> The availability of species such as octopuses, sea cucumbers, and oysters has decreased significantly.

Mangroves are of high value for biodiversity conservation and are an important resource for coastal communities. Executive Decree 1102 issued in 1999, after decades of strong pressure on this ecosystem, provided a mechanism that allow traditional communities that depend on mangroves to have exclusive use and co-management rights to mangroves. Organized users, who meet certain requirements, enter into an “agreement for the sustainable use and custodianship of the mangrove forest,” (concession) that grants them the use of the area for a ten-year period. These concessions may be renewed depending on the performance of the concessionaire group. On their part, the concessionaires must take care of the mangrove and of the resources they use. So far, 40 areas have been granted under concession for a total of 37,166 ha (ca. 25 % of the mangrove areas in the country) providing preferential-use benefits of fishery resources to 1200 direct beneficiaries. The concession mechanism has had a positive impact on the conservation of mangrove ecosystems. From 1969 to date, the disappearance of the mangrove ecosystem due to logging and deforestation has decreased significantly with rates recorded ranging from 12% in 1991 to less than 1% in 2008. However, over-harvesting of the mangrove ecosystem resources is still a significant challenge threatening the mangrove biodiversity. Harvesting of black clams (*concha prieta*) has shown dramatic declines in terms of units per effort. According to historical records the numbers dropped from 400 shells/man/day to the current 105 shells/man/day, and 60% of the harvest consists sizes below the permitted first sexual maturity size (45 cm). The major barriers faced by the mangrove concessionaires are:<sup>15</sup> i) establishment of sound organizational processes; ii) establishment of effective and efficient monitoring and control systems for the areas; iii) establishment of sustainable management of the fishery resources (mainly black clams, mangrove crabs and estuarine fish; and iv) investments in the management of the areas (patrol boats, radio-communications systems, facilities for the post-catch handling of the fish caught and improved access to markets.)

The monitoring and control of marine and costal areas have advanced and the need for coordinated efforts by the relevant authorities is recognized (e.g. fishery, marine, environment, police) with the support of community monitoring. An important development was the establishment of the Control and Monitoring Units (UCV) as an integrating management mechanism. However, there are regulatory gaps that need to be filled in the framework supporting the conservation of costal marine biodiversity resources. Particularly the regulatory framework needs to support an integrated management between sectors of the costal marine zone, sustainable management of

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<sup>13</sup> Agreement 3316 published in Official Register 125 of July 15, 2003.

<sup>14</sup> Fishing activities are carried out in several protected areas (e.g. Manglares Churute Ecological Reserve, Galera-San Francisco Marine Reserve, Puntilla de Santa Elena Coastal Marine Wildlife Production Reserve) but there is little experience in their management. There is some basic experience in the Churute (harvesting of the mangrove crabs) and Galera San Francisco (harvesting of lobsters) Reserves.

<sup>15</sup> See. Coello, S., Vinueza & R. Alemán, 2008. “Performance assessment of the sustainable use and custodianship of mangroves agreements of the coastal zone of Ecuador”. Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador, CI, IUCN.

mangroves and the near shore fishery sector. In the control and surveillance there is also an urgent need to better integrate joint operation by the authorities and supporting communities.

Under the new constitutional framework of Ecuador of 2008, the exclusive competences of municipal governments established are, among others: (1) to delimit, regulate, authorize and control the use of sea beaches, riverbanks and riverbeds, lakes and lagoons,<sup>16</sup> (2) to ensure peoples' access to the use of beaches; and (3) to regulate, authorize and control the use of beach materials. The Organic Code of Land-Use Planning, Autonomy and Decentralization (COOTAD) contains the constitutional mandate and establishes that municipal governments shall issue ordinances to delimit, regulate, authorize and control the use of beaches. Notwithstanding these advances, the gaps in spheres of competences have gained importance in the last few years among the stakeholders: there is a need to update and strengthen the regulatory framework in order to manage and conserve marine biodiversity.

Despite the efforts made by the Ecuadorian State to conserve marine biodiversity, the coastal zone is rapidly degrading. The main causes are:

(1) Accelerated growth of disorderly coastal tourism. In the summer tourism season 2010, more than one million persons visited beach resorts, among them Salinas, Playas and Montañita. The tourism statistics bulletin shows that visits to the Machalilla National Park increased from 28000 visitors in 2005 to 47296 visitors in 2009. This mass travel to the coastal zone of the country brings with it high concentrations of people who throw garbage, generate noise and conduct environmentally harmful behavior (e.g. collection of marine invertebrates; a boom in the use of water vehicles and of motorcycles driving along the beaches). Coello and Macías (2005) estimate the amount of coastal marine garbage to 38 000 t/year, much of which results from mass tourist travel.

(2) Pollution of land sources, mainly garbage, wastewater and pollutant runoff. The majority of coastal municipalities are lacking appropriate garbage and wastewater management systems;

(3) Inappropriate use of coastal spaces by building in unstable sites and sand dunes (e.g. eateries and bars for tourists), which structures alter the coastal dynamics (e.g. breakwaters, settlements in sensitive zones (e.g. marine turtle nesting beaches), circulation of vehicles on beaches and extraction of beach sand);

(4) Failure to manage domestic and street animals that are harmful to wildlife (e.g. marine turtle nests) and cause health problems;

(5) Decreasing fisheries as a result of overfishing and the degradation of habitats;

(6) Overexploitation of mangrove-associated resources, such as black clams and mangrove crabs. There are alarming figures with respect to the status of black clams: harvesting levels have dropped from 400 shells/man/day to 105 shells/man/day, 60% of the harvest is of animals below the reproductive size.

### **Baseline project**

Component 1: To address the urgent need for increasing the protection of coastal marine biodiversity the Government of Ecuador is progressing on plans to incorporate an additional 20% of the coastal zone into some category of protected area. Likewise the government is planning to establish a trust fund to provide financial sustainability to at least three marine and coastal protected areas. The government is also currently developing and implementing management plans in at least five marine protected areas (Galera-San Francisco, Pacoche, Machalilla, Santa Elena and El Morro) and is preparing an emergency project for SNAP areas which seeks to improve facilities and infrastructure in marine protected areas under urgent needs. The government is also supporting the conservation of charismatic marine species, such as sharks, stingrays, marine turtles, mangroves and coral reefs through action plans.

Concrete baseline investments supporting this work include:

(i) Eastern Tropical Pacific Phase 3 project (2011-2014) representing an investment of USD 2 000 000. This project supports the strengthening of management effectiveness of five focal MPAs (Galera, Pacoche, Santa Elena, Machalilla and El Morro), and provides limited funds for the creation of new MPAs. At the national level the

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<sup>16</sup> Before this, regulation of the use of beach and bay areas was the responsibility of the maritime authority based on the Maritime Police Code issued in 1960

project supports policy development, training, outreach and the development of sustainable financing mechanisms relating to MPAs and the implementation of national marine species and habitat action plans.

(ii) The German government's KfW agency is financing Ecuador's National Program to Support Protected Areas (SNAP), which aims to contribute to the conservation of biologic diversity by strengthening SNAP in priority zones and involving regional and local actors. Within this context, authorities (regional, provincial, municipal and local) are expected to assume more responsibilities in the territory through land use planning and by implementing ordinances that meet local economic development purposes and conservation objectives. To sustain this work CI, MAE and KfW are working on creating a trust fund with an initial budget of 2,500,000 dollars.

(iii) Inter-american Development Bank/GEF "Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Project" (EC-X1004) is supporting an investment of USD 8 300 000 total cost (GEF and co-financing), which has two components: (i) Promotion of a network of representative and well managed marine and coastal protected areas; and (ii) Implementation of the National Shark Conservation Action Plan. Through this project Ecuador's Environment Ministry is strengthening 13 existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), creating two new ones, and implementing the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (PAT-Ec).

The government has recognized that there is a need to move from species-by-species protection and conservation in protected areas managed by SNAP to a better integration of the sectors influencing costal marine resources in production landscapes and seascapes through joined land-use planning and conservation processes. Therefore the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs - municipalities) and Conservation International will in the coming years invest an estimated USD 730 000, USD 1 800 000 and USD 1 000 000 respectively in co-financing of the proposed project. These resources will support the elaboration and implementation of priority actions of management plans for selected areas with high importance for biodiversity conservation agreed with sectoral authorities, GADs and users of coastal marine resources including zoning and land-use planning incorporating economic valuation and protection of sensitive habitats and species.

The Government of Ecuador, through the Ministry of the Environment (MAE) and supported by Conservation International and other NGOs conducted in 2008 a performance assessment of the sustainable use and custodianship of mangroves agreements of the coastal zone of Ecuador. The above listed barriers for the sustainable use of mangrove biodiversity in the concession areas were identified and the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with Conservation International will in the next five years invest indicative amounts of USD 430 000 and 1 000 000 respectively in co-financing of the proposed project to strengthen the capacities of local communities concessionaires in sustainable management of mangrove biodiversity. This will also include the establishment of new concessions to increase the coverage of mangroves under conservation and the establishment of a financial support mechanism for mangrove concessions to sustain and compensate the communities for their conservation of mangrove biodiversity. These funds will be supplemented by an estimated USD 1 000 000 from the concessionaires in terms of their man-time and boat-time and investments in equipment for control and management of the mangrove areas

Component 2: Ecuador has also taken concerted fishery management measures to prohibit the inclusion of new fishing boats in the industrial and small-scale fishing fleets, regulated the trawler fishing of shrimp and prohibited the use of fishing gear and harmful methods such as "screens", steel cables in the surface fishing line with many hooks, monofilament nets and beach seines. The government in partnership with research institutions is conducting research, monitoring and elaborating proposals to reduce by-catch. Concerted agreements to prevent an increase of the size of the national fishing fleet are being negotiated. However, in order to improve the implementation of improved regulation and achieve fishermen involvement in the management of fishery resources and important habitats the Ministry of Environment, Sub-Secretariat of fisheries resources, and Conservation international will the coming years promote an increased implementation of sustainable fisheries management strategies in protected areas and areas under mangrove concessions. The co-financing estimated contributions to the proposed project for sustainable fisheries will be USD 975 000 from the Ministry of Environment, USD 700 000 from the Ministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries, USD 1 600 000 from Conservation International, and USD 1 50 000 from mangrove concessionaires communities investing in improving post-catch handling of fisheries resources.



Component 3: Finally, the government is improving the legal framework to ensure the conservation of coastal biodiversity (National Development Plan, the Rights of Nature, Proposed Biodiversity Law). The Ministries of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP) have made efforts to incorporate measures that strengthen marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, among others the protection of five species of marine turtles, five species of stingrays, one species of sea cucumbers and two species of Spondylus shells. However, integration of specific measures for biodiversity conservation in already existing regulations needs further attention and the Ministry of Environment and MAGAP in close collaboration with the GAD will support (estimated USD 500 000, USD 100 000 and 300 000 respectively) a revision of the regulatory frameworks for near shore fisheries management, management of mangroves, and integrated management of coastal marine areas.

### **Project approach**

The proposed project will address the degradation of the coastal zone by means of local and nationwide actions, including actions taken by the national government through the MAE and Sub-Secretariat of Fishery, and allied organizations in particular Conservation International, among others. The project has been structured in three components as follows:

The first project component will focus on the development of integrated management systems for coastal areas of high biodiversity value. Four new conservation areas under sustainable management and conservation will be established in order to harmonize the protection of sensitive zones. These areas have been selected based on the Ecuadorean analysis of marine conservation gaps (Nazca 2005), which identifies 25 marine and coastal zones sub-represented in the National Protected Areas System (NPAS) and which should therefore be of priority for conservation. The four prioritized areas are all characterized by high biodiversity and fragile ecosystems such as mangroves, estuaries, coral reefs, rocky coasts, and estuarine islands. These ecosystems are the habitat for global important threatened species including: Giant Manta Ray (*Manta birostris* –vulnerable IUCN Red List), Manta Mobula (like the *Mobula japonica* and *Mobula thurstoni* -both near threatened IUCN Red List), Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata* –critically endangered IUCN Red List), Scalloped Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna lewini* -Endangered); and lobsters (*Panulirus penicillatus* –least concern IUCN Red List). The conservation areas will include beach zones and the mile for the Bioaquatic Species Reserve Production. The new areas will cover approximately 100 km of the coastal profile (35% of the continental coastal profile) and 15,000 ha of beaches, cliffs and intertidal and subtidal zones.

Integrated and coordinated land-use planning and management will be promoted between sectors involving fishery, aquatic areas, tourism and environmental authorities, GADs, and local stakeholders. Seaboard fishing, tourism<sup>17</sup> and beach occupation activities will be zoned and regulated. Efforts will be undertaken to implement the management of solid waste, waste water and street animals. The integrated management piloted in this project will build the capacities of key stakeholders (GADs, the MAE, the Ministry of Navy Directorate for Maritime Interests (DIGEIN), and the Sub-Secretariat for Fishery Resources (SRP) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP)) and will be used to propose a management model for the entire continental coastal zone. To sustain the developed capacities resources for actions agreed in the management plans of the four priority conservation zones and expansion of the model to other coastal marine zones with unique biodiversity will be incorporated in the budgets of MAE, MAGAP; DIGEIN and Coastal Municipalities.

Support will also be provided to strengthen the management of the mangrove forests under concession to traditional users, and to establish six additional concessions. A financial mechanism will be designed to enable long-term support for the concessionaires in order to cover the necessary investments and compensate for conservation services. Such support may be provided through biddable funds and commitment agreements (of the conservation agreements type). Key stakeholders in the conservation of mangroves are local communities using the services from the mango ecosystem and the project will support the development of their capacities for conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity in the mangrove ecosystems. These capacities will be sustained by giving the local communities user rights to and responsibilities for sustainable resource management and conservation supported by permanent funding and technical support from Naval, Fisheries and Environmental

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<sup>17</sup> For tourism management, the technical standards for the certification of tourist beaches, developed by the Coastal Resources Management Program, will be applied.

authorities, and technical support institutions providing continuity. There will also be support for strengthening the UCVs (control and Surveillance Units) and community monitoring and safeguarding of conservation and protected areas, mangrove concessions and fishery safeguarding zones.

In component two, to supplement the actions of component 1, participatory fishery management systems (FMS) will be developed in the Churute and Galera San Francisco Reserves and in the Manglares El Morro Wildlife Sanctuary as well as in the mangrove concessions, by drawing on previous management experience through the allocation of territorial rights of use. The systems will cover all relevant fisheries in each area following an ecosystem approach. However, certain species mostly subject to unsustainable extraction will be more emphasized. In Churute and El Morro, management systems will be developed with focus on mangrove crab fishery (*Ucides occidentalis*) and coastal demersal fish (e.g. croakers, common snooks). In Galera San Francisco, management systems will be developed with focus on octopuses, sea cucumbers and Pacific bearded brotula. In the mangrove concessions management systems will be developed with focus on mangrove crabs, black clams and estuarine fishes.

The FMS will include the adoption of registers including number of boats, fishing gear, fishermen, fishing objective and related commercial chain for all fisheries in each area under a FMS. The FMS will further be based on: 1) a rights based co-management approach excluding all industrial fishing or fishermen from outside; 2) a baseline of the status of resources for the different fisheries and their economic valuation; and 3) a fisheries management plan for stock recovery and sustainability to be developed and adopted by all involved fishing communities taking into account the recuperation of the economic value of the different fisheries through sustainable management of stocks and supporting ecosystems for reproduction. For the implementation of the fisheries management plan the FMS will provide local communities and managers of conservation areas, MPAs, and mangrove concessions with management tools such as negotiated quotas, max size of fishing effort, zoning and related fishing regulations including zones and/or periods of closure and regulations for fishing gears and methods including the elimination of harvest of species below the reproductive size and catchments of species with global biodiversity importance (species included in outcome 1.1, 1.2). Local monitoring systems of the status of the different fisheries resources will also be established to retrofit the fisheries management plans and FMS.

Experience in these areas will be applied in the development of fishery management in other protected areas and mangrove zones of continental Ecuador. Key stakeholders in this component benefitting from capacity building will be MAE, SRP/MAGAP and local communities depending on fisheries resources. The capacities built will again be sustained by incorporating minimum budget for participatory fisheries management in the budgets of MAE and SRP/MAGAP and giving communities user rights to and responsibilities for sustainable fisheries resource management and conservation linking directly management and conservation to the user rights facilitating a sustainable interest from the communities.

Component three focuses on contribution to the discussion of and support for compliance with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity aspects contained in the regulatory framework in force. To this end, proposals to bring up to date the regulatory framework for the management and conservation of marine biodiversity (i.e. fishery, mangroves and coastal zones) will be prepared through participatory and consultative processes with concerned stakeholders, ensuring the incorporation of biodiversity conservation aspects, such as ecosystem management, integrated management of coastal zones, responsible fishing and use of fishery reserves<sup>18</sup>. Key stakeholders in this component will be MAE, SRP/MAGAP, and DEGEIN in consultation with GADs and local communities. The improved policy and regulatory framework achieved in this component will allow for long term planning and conservation of unique biodiversity of coastal zones and marine fisheries resources and as such will sustain the outcomes of component 1 and 2 including the developed capacities.

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

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<sup>18</sup> Closed or restricted access zones are understood to be those serving to safeguard biodiversity and to contribute to the enrichment of the populations with commercial fishery resources.

The incremental resources from GEF and the co-financing of the project will be invested in:

1. Improving the management of coastal areas of high value for marine diversity, the activities of which will be:
  - a. The development of the biodiversity and social and economic conditions baseline of approximately 100 km of the coastline encompassed by the following sections: a) San Mateo-San Lorenzo (Province of Manabí), b) Salango-Olón (Provinces of Manabí and Santa Elena); c) Engabao-Data de Posorja (Province of Guayas); and d) oceanfront of Isla Puná (Province of Guayas). This will require the recruitment of specialists who will conduct no less than four annual samplings to cover the biological, oceanographic, social and economic aspects of the four selected areas. The biodiversity survey will include intertidal (including reefs when appropriate), subtidal and pelagic environments within the first nautical mile.
  - b. The participatory development of four management plans for the above areas, for which purpose the following will be required: a) the recruitment of a technical team; b) financing for the logistics and structuring of discussion groups.
  - c. The establishment of four new coastal marine conservation areas under sustainable management, The GEF resources will be invested in measures to protect sea turtle nesting areas including management and control of domestic and stray animals.
  - d. The development of control and monitoring plans for all the mangrove concessions and support for capacity building of organizations. Fisherman-to-fisherman contacts and exchange of experiences, drawing on the good practices that already exist.
  - e. Baseline surveys via participatory research processes of the areas that will be proposed for new mangrove concessions (e.g. biodiversity inventory, georeferenciation of harvesting areas, accurate surveys of the total mangrove area.)
  - f. the contracting of a specialists who will design the financing mechanism for long-term support of investment to reinforce the management of the mangrove concession areas.
  - g. Provide technical support to consolidate the management of the UCVs and to prepare integrated monitoring and control plans.
2. Improvement of the fisheries occurring in protected areas of the Natural National Heritage Areas (*Patrimonio de Áreas Naturales del Estado*) (PANE) through the development of fishery management systems for 100,000 ha of protected marine areas in the Galera-San Francisco Marine Reserve (Province of Esmeraldas), which will include management plans for a coastal demersal species of fish (Pacific bearded brotula) and two species of benthonic macro invertebrates (lobster and octopus), with fishery baselines, fishery monitoring, use agreements and zoning. Something similar will be developed for benthonic mangrove invertebrates and estuarine white fisheries in the Mangrove Churute Ecological Reserve and the Mangrove El Morro Wildlife Sanctuary. There will also be participatory development of fishery management plans for all the mangrove concessions.
3. Strengthening of the regulatory framework compliance to include biodiversity conservation and responsible use considerations through the development of projects to support the regulatory framework for the conservation and management of marine biodiversity. For these purpose the incremental resources will finance the recruitment of a coastal, fishery and mangrove management and conservation team. Proposals for adjustment of the regulatory framework will be agreed through participatory discussions between stakeholders.

The GEF incremental resources will support Ecuador's advances in the implementation of NBSAP and compliance with the Aichi Goals, in order to achieve the **following global environmental benefits:**

- a. The conservation and management of coastal marine habitats and ecosystems (15,000 ha), which are of global importance for the nesting and forage of four marine turtle species; golfing (*Lepidochelys olivaceae*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), carey (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and laud (*Dermochelys coriacea*). The distribution of these species is connected with ample zones and marine ecosystems of the planet, according to the FAO's International Action Plan and the Regional Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)

- b. The expansion of the total area under sustainable management and the representation of marine and coastal ecosystems in SNAP and of the global network of protected areas, according to the program of work of the CBD on protected areas<sup>19</sup> and goal 11 of the Aichi Goals. It also includes sustainable management integrating the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in 37,000 hectares of mangroves. The Ecuadorian coastal-marine ecosystems play a disproportionately large role as nursery areas for global marine biodiversity. Efforts to create 4 new marine protected areas and to give greater protection to 37,000 hectares of mangrove ecosystem, along with the implementation of fisheries management systems that ensure a rational exploitation of coastal benthic biodiversity, will allow for the conservation of specific marine species of which many are migratory and with importance for global biodiversity conservation. These species arrives in certain periods each year at the Ecuadorian coasts to find shelter and conditions for reproduction and development of the first live stages in the mangrove and estuarine ecosystems. These marine species includes various threatened species like Giant Manta Ray (*Manta birostris* –vulnerable IUCN Read List), Manta Mobula (like the *Mobula japanica* and *Mobula thurstoni* - both near threatened IUCN Read List), Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata* –critically endangered IUCN Read List), and Scalloped Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna lewini* –Endangered IUCN Read List).
- c. Improvement of fishery resources management in 137,000 ha to recover the stocks of fishery resource species which have been subject to intensive overfishing, according to Goal 6 of the Aichi Goals.

### **B.3. DESCRIBE THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, CONSIDERATION OF GENDER, AND HOW THESE WILL SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL**

In the four protected areas, the project will generate direct benefits for local populations and for tourists by contributing to the performance of well-ordered and responsible tourism activities that ensure good visitor experiences. Tourism development planning is expected to generate new business opportunities for local tourism providers. It should be emphasized that coastal tourism activity facilities (e.g. restaurants, accommodations, handicrafts) normally is an important source of work for women.

Well-planned fishing activities will contribute to improve the harvesting and income of local fishermen. The establishment of fisheries management systems in three protected areas and mangrove concession areas will directly benefit the fishermen who operate within these areas, securing healthy fish stocks with sustainable production potential. Fisheries associated with the capture of invertebrates in the mangrove ecosystem (crabs and shells), and estuarine fisheries involve about 20,000 fishermen, of which at least 15% are women mostly involved in collecting shells in the mangroves of the province of Esmeraldas in the north of the country. This fishery generates USD 54 million annually mostly through sales in local markets.

The capture of Pink Brotula in the San Francisco Galera Marine Reserve involves ca., 200 fishermen who generate between USD 600 and 800 thousand of gross revenue per year. The collection of macro-invertebrates in the same Reserve is done by approximately 500 people, including women and children that capture and collect octopus and sea cucumbers. The commercialization generates income to the population in the order of 800-900 thousand dollars per year. Finally, the lobster catch is involving 300 fishermen from the reserve that generate between 300,000 and 400,000 dollars gross income during the fishing season (6 months per year). This fishery has been declared in a state of collapse due to over 98% of the lobster catch are below the minimum allowed landing size. The actions in fisheries management will as such benefit both local socio-economic conditions and global important biodiversity conservation. This benefit will grow at the end of the project when the implementation of a fisheries management system is extended to the other protected marine areas of continental Ecuador.

The first agreements on sustainable use and concession of mangrove were made in 2000, establishing the first 4 concessions in northern Esmeraldas and in the archipelago of Jambelí in the south. The tool has proven to have a strong ability to prevent shrimp farming aquaculture to continue its expansion at the expense of mangrove ecosystems causing disputes and in some cases armed fighting between shrimp farmers claiming the mangrove areas and communities living in the mangroves. Similarly, the tool of concessions to communities has given a

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<sup>19</sup> Objective 1.1. Create and strengthen the national and regional protected areas systems integrated into a global network, as a contribution to globally agreed goals.

sense of empowerment over fishery resources distributed in the concession areas, which has led to that the resource users have exercised increased conservation of the resources and the withdrawal from the concession areas of foreign fishermen has been encouraged. The strengths and weaknesses shown in many of the concession areas are linked to important aspects such as support and technical assistance, the organizational capacities and political will to support the actions of control and surveillance within the concession areas. The project will as such support the strengthening and expansion of the community mangrove concession system which has already demonstrated high ability in conservation of fragile ecosystem habitat for global important biodiversity and at the same time achieve local socioeconomic benefits. The mangrove concessions themselves generate direct benefits to more than 5,000 individuals who are engaged in the harvesting and collection of black clams, mangrove crabs and blue crabs and white fisheries in the mangrove areas under concession, and indirectly to more than 30,000 individuals who carry out transporting, assembling, selling and research activities, among others.

The formulation of projects supporting the regulatory framework for marine biodiversity management and conservation will have a major impact and provide significant benefits to Ecuadorian society when they are measured against the degrees of compliance and knowledge of the existing legislation. Meaningful informed participation of community groups and women must be ensured.

**B.4. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE 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.**

The main risks that the project might face are presented in the table below:

Main risks	Level of risk	Mitigation measure
Disinterest of the Autonomous Decentralized Governments GADs in conserving their oceanfronts and investing in the improvement of their garbage, drainage and stray animal management systems.	High	During the first project year awareness raising and citizen involvement will be conducted in the zones where conservation areas will be established. There will be local teams to build the participation basis, to clear up doubts, provide reliable information and promote the organization of management committees. In the second year, participatory planning processes will be undertaken to work on zoning and the management plan for each area, and design of agreements between the users of coastal resources.
Reluctance to establish coastal areas under sustainable management by owners of adjacent property, considering that their ownership and access to resources could be negatively affected.	Medium	Awareness raising with focus on property owners and involvement of the same in participatory planning processes
Resistance of the fishermen to become part of fishery management schemes, because they have been used to the free access system.	High	Awareness raising and involvement of fishermen and construction of fisheries management systems within existing protected areas. Initial discussions are already taking place to prepare the grounds. Best experience in mangrove concessions will be shown to traditional users to demonstrate increased harvests and income derived from the implementation of fishery management and conservation of habitats.
Reluctance of part of local population to protect marine turtle nests due to deep-rooted customs of using them in games.	Medium	Awareness raising and involvement will be particular important to mitigate this reluctance
Difficulties of interagency coordination among the entities associated with the management of coastal areas under sustainable management.	Medium	The approach of component 1 will address this risk by establishing the integrated land-use planning and management processes among all sectors operating in the conservation areas under sustainable management
Reluctance of certain segments of the population to comply with the regulatory framework in force for marine biodiversity	Medium	Participatory and transparent processes will be carried out in order to analyze the elements which are an integral part of the regulatory framework for marine biodiversity management and conservation.

conservation and management.		A technical team will provide the relevant information and inputs with respect to concrete cases of benefits derived from coastal and marine biodiversity conservation. A FAO specialist will contribute with input regarding the benefits achieved with the responsible fishing and fishery management which restricts free access to fishery resources.
Changes in coastal dynamics and morphology as a result of increased sea levels and climate change.	Low	A baseline survey will comprise the physical aspects (e.g. coastal morphology and dynamics) of the zones where the new coastal areas under sustainable management will be established and it will be included in programs to monitor climate change indicators. Furthermore, the participatory planning process will include the discussion of potential climate change impacts in the area and the adaptation measures that are necessary.
The management plans of the areas under concession do not facilitate the unification of the approach and the tested strategies for the integral management of ecosystems.	Medium	Required training and technical assistance, the amplification of successful experiences and with the political will to draw up and implement the management plans.
The absence of clear and effective management standards and procedures and of user co-participation in the implementation of same, may cause conflicts and turn out to be inadequate to protect the ecosystems.	Medium	Strengthening of the regulatory framework in specific topics, such as the Fisheries Law, the Law on Coasts and the Revision of TULAS Book V with respect to the management of the mangrove ecosystem.

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

The MAE and SRP are partners in the project and will work on a coordinated basis throughout the implementation. Conservation International Ecuador (CI-E)<sup>20</sup> will be the financial executer of the project and co-technical executer with the Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management of the MAE. The mechanism to be followed will consist in direct communication and coordination between MAE and CI-E for implementing the lines of actions under a work plan to be developed between the two institutions clarifying the outputs and outcomes of each activity. The work plan will include timelines for implementation, identification of roles and responsible, clear protocols for monitoring and evaluation of compliance with commitments, and deadlines and defined formats for progress reporting. The local stakeholders and beneficiaries who will be partners in the execution of the components and subcomponents of the Project are selected according to the conservation strategy. A detailed execution scheme will be developed during full project design.

For coastal marine conservation areas, the key actors are the Ministry of the Environment (MAE)<sup>21</sup>, the Sub-Secretariat for Fishery Resources (SRP), the National Directorate of Aquatic Areas, the Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR), the National Planning and Development Secretariat (SENPLADES), the GADs (i.e. municipalities of Manta, Montecristi, Santa Elena, General Villamil and Guayaquil), port authorities, the administration of the conservation areas, police, representatives of the artisanal fisheries sector, land owners of coastal lands, representatives from the tourism industry, and representatives of local NGOs. These representatives will be part of

<sup>20</sup> CI-E was established through a basic cooperation agreement of functioning (BCAF) between the Government of Ecuador (GoE) and CI Foundation (NGO founded in 1987 under the laws of the state of California, USA) published in the Official Register No. 323 May 10, 2001. The objective of the agreement is the contribution to the conservation of the biodiversity of Ecuador. This agreement initially made for 10 years (article 20 of the agreement) expired in 2011. October 5, 2011 the Secretariat for international Cooperation of the GoE (SETECI) certified, through official letter No. SETECI-ST-2011-0409-O, that on September 6, 2011 CI-E requested to start the process for signing a new BCAF with the GoE and that the request was accepted favorable and has started the procedures that the case merits. The official letter also authorized CI-E, meanwhile, to “execute all activities required to meet obligations in relation to the completion of project(s) under implementation in Ecuador”.

<sup>21</sup> The national environmental authority that is responsible for the administration of SNAP and of the PANE areas.

discussion and decision-making on land-use planning and management through a broad forum for debate, which, depending on the level of participation, could be named: governing council or board of participatory management or management committee. The involvement of the municipalities will be encouraged by offering financial co-financing (from government funds) to invest in the upgrading of solid waste systems, waste water management, and management of stray animals.

For the mangrove concessions areas key players involved in the project will be represented by the presidents of the associations and / or traditional cooperatives of mangrove resource users and fishermen. Units or organizations that provide technical advice to the concessioners should also be included as key stakeholders. Each concession will be administered under the responsibility of the organized group (cooperative or association) holding the concession and it will be accompanied with technical support during the concession period determined by the state (10 years).

The second component will also require collaboration of the MAE and the SRP. It is expected that the experiences in Churute, El Morro and Galera- San Francisco will lay the foundations for future actions in other marine areas within and outside of the protected areas.

The stakeholders providing support to the regulatory framework for marine biodiversity management and conservation are the MAE, the fishery communities and groups, National Marine Authority, Directorate for Aquatic Spaces (DIRNEA), the Environmental Police,<sup>22</sup> SENPLADES, the Vice-Ministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works,<sup>23</sup> and higher-learning and research institutions.

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

The proposed project is complementary to the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation project financed by the GEF (project 3548) with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) as the GEF agency and executed by the MAE (MAE/IDB/GEF). That project has as objective to promote the network of protected marine and coastal areas of Ecuador and shark conservation. The proposed project will also be complementary to the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape project (ETPS) executed by Conservation International and financed, in the third phase of implementation, by The Walton Family Foundation. The ETPS project has the objective of consolidating a regional network of protected marine areas, composed of Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador, and will be one of the co-financing sources for the proposed initiative brought to the table by Conservation International. The ETPS resources will mainly co-finance component 2 activities on establishment of fisheries management systems in Galera San Francisco Marine Reserve and El Morro Biodiversity Refuge.

**Similarities and synergies between the MAE/IDBGEF, ETPS, and the current proposal.** The three projects all aim at promoting biodiversity conservation in situ under schemes of establishment, management and consolidation of protected coastal-marine areas ensuring connectivity at the ecosystem level and management under a network approach. Similarly, the three projects have lines of actions for the protection of species groups with global biodiversity values. Similarities also exist in the strategies the three projects apply to increase management capacity of the involved institutions, capacity to generate information and make decisions based on scientific knowledge and participation of stakeholders. The three project will as such complement each others in the development of capacities and strengthening of the MPA network since they are all “speaking the same language” in terms of strategies and approaches and strictly coordinated through MAE to avoid overlaps.

**Differences and complementarities between MAE/IDB/GEF, ETPS, and the current proposal.** The main differences are that the investments supported by the project ETPS-3 are aiming at consolidating the four MPAs created during the project ETPS-2 (Galera, Pacoche, Santa Elena and El Morro), plus the National Park Machalilla, with emphasis on strengthening the marine monitoring and control providing each MPA equipment, expertise and funds. The IDB-GEF focuses its efforts on developing demonstration projects in the network of coastal marine protected areas as well as in implementing the National Action Plan for Sharks of Ecuador. Four demonstration projects of participatory preparation of zoning plans will be developed. It will be encouraged that

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<sup>22</sup> The Environmental Protection Unit of the National Police of Ecuador is in charge of ensuring compliance with legal provisions on the conservation of nature and protection of the environment.

<sup>23</sup> In addition to public works, such as roads, this ministry manages maritime and port activities through the Undersecretary’s Office for Ports and Maritime and River Transportation.

no-take zones (free from visits and extractive and habitat-altering activities) be incorporated in the zoning plans. The significant differences between the two projects mentioned and the current proposal are the types of marine-coastal ecosystems and as such the fisheries that will be conserved. The proposed project proposes the conservation of coastal and intertidal habitats under-represented in the SNAP according to the Nazca, 2005 Gap Analysis of coastal-marine ecosystems of continental Ecuador as well as the conservation of mangroves -all types of ecosystems not dealt with in the MAE/IDB/GEF and the ETPS projects covering more marine ecosystems. The creation of four new conservation areas and the strengthening and expansion of community mangrove concessions will allow the effective protection of reproduction habitats and habitats for the first live stages of global threatened coastal and marine species found in mangrove, intertidal and estuarine ecosystems.

It should also be emphasized that the proposed project only have limited inputs for strengthening the coastal marine protected area system (as is the main focus of the MAE/IADB/GEF project) but will mainly be focused at integrating the conservation of biodiversity in sectors operating in coastal marine areas with high value biodiversity currently not under protection of established protected areas. While the MAE/IADB/GEF project has main emphasis on the marine component the proposed project will have strong emphasis on discouraging, reducing or eliminating the risk of coastal, intertidal and estuarine biodiversity loss by improving the management of mangrove concessions and by developing fishery management for mangroves and other coastal areas showing high degrees of extractive activity. At the policy and regulatory framework level the MAE/IDB/GEF project is supporting the design of the institutional and legal frameworks for the establishment of the MPA network while the proposed project will concentrate on the incorporation of biodiversity conservation measures in national regulations of: i) fishery; ii) planning and management of mangrove use; and iii) the continental coastal zones of Ecuador, formulated via participatory and consultative processes.

It will also be necessary to coordinate activities with the Sustainable Coasts and Forests projects executed by the Sub-Secretariat for Marine and Coastal Management and financed by USAID, and with the Conservation of Marine Turtles in Ecuador project. The former seeks to improve biodiversity conservation in critical coastal and forest areas and to improve the living conditions of the local populations, and is currently supporting the management of the Machalilla National Park and the Manglares-Churute Ecological Reserve.

Finally, the project also has actions that are complementary to and will be coordinated with several of the projects underway with support from the GEF, among them: the Ibarra-San Lorenzo Corridor (IFAD) and the financial sustainability of the SNAP (UNDP). As for the GoE-IFAD project, most of the actions are geared to the management of on-land forests located in a specific corridor. However, it does include specific actions in mangrove forests, including those located within the REMACAM and which can contribute to the concession management model, in addition to other actions that may provide lessons to improve mangrove management, for example a survey of the water quality, and of capacity building of the local environmental authorities in this region. With respect to the GoE-UNDP financial sustainability project, the action is directed to the PANE protected areas, private forest reserves and a protected community area in a wetland. The lessons learned with respect to the provision of resources based on results and on the regulations to enable the generation of income could be relevant for the improvement of mangrove management.

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

FAO has extensive experience in the sector of Ecuadorian fisheries, especially in the artisanal kind through various technical corporation projects (FAO/TCP/ECU/3103, TDF-04/ECU/00, TCP/RLA/0071, TDF-99/ECU/002, TCP/ECU/4552 and TCP/ECU/3003). Likewise, recent FAO studies presented in the document "60 years of FAO in Ecuador Memoires: 1952 - 2011" on the fisheries situation in Ecuador have identified weaknesses in the management of fishery resources; that directly affected the needs and the living conditions of the artisanal fishermen. Actions to combat these weaknesses are included in the various fisheries projects in Ecuador.

It is important to mention that the report on the situation of the artisan fisheries in the country has contributed to the analysis of the sub-sector and has been the basis of other related initiatives, such as, the National Plan of action for Sharks which is part of the MAE/IADB/GEF mentioned above and which is following up on the objectives of the International Plan of Action on Sharks supported by the FAO. The South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS) maintains actions within the framework of the "Regional Action Plan for conservation of



Sharks, Rays and Chimeras in the Southeast Pacific - PAR Shark" in order to give continuity to the regional work carried out in the implementation of this Action Plan.

FAO and the Sub Secretariat of Fishery Resources SRRPP, have developed dissemination and training activities regarding the code of conduct for responsible fisheries and good practices, fishing technology, arts and rigging, construction and repair of boats, safety at sea, rights of fishing, fisheries management and disaster prevention, all of which have resulted in adoption by artisanal fishermen. The results of these training sessions have been very positive, because they have covered topics, such as the importance of monitoring fish stocks, as well as fishermen awareness on measures to enable their rational exploitation, they have even encouraged the granting of National Development Bank credit lines, as well as access to technology to the artisanal fishery for the creation of family microenterprises improving their quality of life and that of their families.

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

FAO will provide USD 150 000 in cash from TCP projects and facilities related to fisheries and coastal and marine management and related protected areas. Additionally FAO will provide USD 100 000 in in-kind co-financing providing technical advice and support to the project.

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

The project mainly falls within the third focus area of the UNDAF for Ecuador: Environmental sustainability and risk management, and also within the second area related to Production, employment, solidary economic system and food sovereignty. FAO leads the Interagency Thematic Group on Food and Nutritional Security and participates in those related to Environmental Sustainability, Interculturality, Gender, Emergencies and Disasters.

Within the context of the FAO National Framework of Technical Assistance Priorities in Ecuador, this is fully consistent with the Rural Development and Forestry Environment objectives. The monitoring and implementation structure of the FAO representation in Ecuador, includes the main day-to-day management through the Project Task Manager and Operations Officers (Coordinator and Assistant), accompanied by the Programs and Projects Assistant, the Administrative-Financial entity of FAO Ecuador under the supervision of the FAO Representative in Ecuador. The FAO Representation has a fisheries expert supporting the implementation of the co-financing TCP project who will also be supporting the implementation of the proposed GEF project in particular component 2 on fisheries management in MPAs and mangrove concession areas. The fishery expert will also backstop the implementation of monitoring systems of fish species biodiversity indicators mentioned in outcomes 1.1, 1.2, and 2.1. The project will also be supported by the internal group on Environmental Sustainability of FAO Ecuador. This framework is backed up by the establishment of a "Project Task Force" headed by the Regional Fisheries Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit in the Investment Center Division in FAO Rome.

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

**AGENCY(IES)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (Please attach the [country endorsement letter\(s\)](#) or [regional endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>DATE</b> ( <i>Month, day, year</i> )
Marcella Aguiñaga Vallejo	Minister of Environment	Ministry of Environment of Ecuador	November, 25, 2011

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

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

<b>Agency Coordinator, Agency name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b> ( <i>Month, day, year</i> )	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Charles Riemenschneider Director, Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153, Rome, Italy		12 April, 2012	Rikke Olivera, Natural Resource Programme Officer, FAO Investment Centre Division FAO Rome, ITALY	+3906 5705 5701	Rikke. Olivera@fao.org
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