



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and maintenance of ecosystem services in protected wetlands of international importance.		
Country(ies):	El Salvador	GEF Project ID: ¹	5749
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5257
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)	Submission Date:	March 26, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	48
Name of parent program (if applicable):		Agency Fee (\$):	208,219
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> • For SGP <input type="checkbox"/> 			

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)*	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
BD-1	GEFTF	2,191,781	8,791,000
Total Project Cost		2,191,781	8,791,000

* Applying the STAR flexibility mechanism of GEF-5, resources for a total of US\$ 1,364,583 of CC STAR allocation are being channelled to the BD focal area, inclusive of the corresponding contribution to Project Management Cost. Thus, for the FSP a total amount of \$2,191,781 of BD resources are being allocated. Amounts including fees are shown in Table D.

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem services through the creation of new protected wetlands of international importance and the improved management of existing protected wetlands.

Project component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Expanded protected wetland coverage and strengthened institutional and individual capacities for the effective management of protected wetlands of international importance (PWII)	TA	<p>1.1 Two (2) newly established multiple-use protected areas (MUPAs) increase the coverage of the National System of Natural Protected Areas (SNANP) by 20,000 hectares (ha) (number of ha will be confirmed during the PPG phase).</p> <p>1.2. The management effectiveness of three (3) PWII increases by X% as measured by the METT scorecard (the baseline and target values will be established during the PPG phase).</p>	<p>1.1.1. Scientific characterization, local consultations, boundary demarcation, and gazettal of two (2) new MUPAs protect wetlands: a) Jiquilisco Bay wetland and upriver protected wetlands (Jocotal, Olomega) and b) Islas del Golfo de Fonseca (Periquito, Pirigallo, Ilca, and Martín Pérez).</p> <p>1.1.3. Management plans for up to three (3) PWII updated.</p> <p>1.1.2. Wetlands inventory for El Salvador is updated.</p> <p>1.2.1 The institutional and individual capacities of the MARN and other relevant institutions (municipalities and Ministry of Agriculture [MAG]) is strengthened, contributing to the sustainable management of PWII (the number of officials to be trained will be determined during the PPG phase).</p> <p>1.2.2 Properly equipped wetland staff and volunteers enable the timely detection and notification of floods and landslides associated with climate change in three (3)</p>	GEFTF	500,000	1,750,000

¹Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

		<p>1.3. Increased revenue by X percent contributes to the financial sustainability of three (3) PWII (baseline and target values will be determined during the PPG phase).</p>	<p>PWII.</p> <p>1.2.3. Local governance program empowers local communities and municipal authorities to sustainably manage the PWII.</p> <p>1.3.1. Economic environmental compensation from local development projects that alter the surrounding environment and wetland mitigation banking support PWII management.</p> <p>1.3.2. Business plans for new and existing wetland PAs developed.</p> <p>1.3.3. Financial mechanisms are validated onsite and serve to increase the level of funding for three (3) PWII:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor entrance fee scheme piloted and revenues channelized into existing wetland PAs. • Private-Public Partnership (PPP) increases revenues from tourism in wetland PAs. 			
<p>2. Addressing threats to biodiversity, including the presence of invasive species and solid waste and agrochemicals originating in the buffer areas of the PWII.</p>		<p>2.1. Key indicator species of wetland ecosystems (species to be determined during the PPG phase) remain stable in at least four (4) PAs within the interconnected PWIIs of the Jiquilisco Bay Complex and the Jocotal Lagoon in the lower Río Grande de San Miguel watershed.</p> <p>2.2. Pollution derived from agrochemicals, livestock waste, and household and urban solid waste reduced by 50% in three</p>	<p>2.1.1. At least three (3) interinstitutional cooperation agreements (MARN, MAG, Municipalities, Department of Housing and Urban Development [VVDU]) established, including conservation and management committees for monitoring the conservation and sustainable use of BIODIVERSITY in at least four (4) PAs of the Jocotal and the Jiquilisco Bay PWIIs (the PAs are mentioned in the text), as well as their buffer areas.</p> <p>2.1.2. Program for the prevention, reduction, and control of contamination stemming from agricultural activities (e.g., agrochemicals and manure) and human settlements (solid wastes) in two PWII (Jiquilisco Bay and Jocotal Lagoon) and their buffer areas defined jointly with the municipalities, local communities, and the private sector.</p> <p>2.1.3. Incentives program, including green certification for reduced use of agrochemicals in sugarcane cultivation and sustainable livestock management (other incentives to be defined during the PPG phase), promotes biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices and water-related resource use in the buffer areas of four (4) PAs of the Jocotal Lagoon and the Jiquilisco Bay PWIIs.</p> <p>2.2.1. Standards in place to regulate human activities that affect the</p>	GEFTF	1,587,410	6,609,524

		(3) PWII by the end of the project (the target will be confirmed during the PPG).	PWII. 2.2.2. Information monitoring system in place facilitates decision making to reduce the threats to three (3) PWII and articulated with the Environmental Information System (EIS) of the MARN. 2.2.3. Protocol developed to reduce the threats to biodiversity in PWII, including contamination from agrochemicals, livestock waste, and household and urban solid waste. 2.3.1. Strategies for controlling invasive species (water hyacinth [<i>Eichornia crassipes</i>] and the Neotropic cormorant [<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>]) piloted in three (3) PWII and their buffer areas: Jiquilisco Bay Complex, the Olomega Lake, and the Jocotal Lagoon. 2.4.1. Participatory plans developed for the conservation and sustainable use of mangroves and floodplain forest in the Jiquilisco Bay and associated freshwater lagoons in the lower Rio Grande de San Miguel watershed. 2.4.2. Participatory rehabilitation of at least 500 ha of dry forest associated with mangroves allows the protection of key habitat for migratory species.			
		2.3. Reduced presence of two invasive species (water hyacinth [<i>Eichornia crassipes</i>] and the Neotropic cormorant [<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>]) in the Olomega Lake, the Jocotal Lagoon, and the Jiquilisco Bay PWIIs (baseline and target values will be determined during the PPG phase).				
		2.4. Sustainable use and extraction of resources contribute to the conservation of 18,720 ha of mangroves in the Jiquilisco Bay PWII and associated freshwater lagoons.				
Sub-total						2,087,410
Project Management Cost (PMC)				GEFTF		104,371
Total Project Cost						2,191,781
						8,359,524
						431,476
						8,791,000

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	Fund of the Initiative of the Americas (FIAES)	Cash	4,200,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)	Cash	3,671,000
National Government	Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)	Cash	550,000
National Government	Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)	In-kind	350,000
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Program	Cash	20,000
Total Cofinancing			8,791,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY:

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b) ²	Total (\$) c=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	BD	El Salvador	945,586	89,831	1,035,417
UNDP	GEFTF	CC	El Salvador	1,246,195	118,388	1,364,583
Total Grant Resources				2,191,781	208,219	2,400,000

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

	Amount Requested (\$)	Agency Fee for PPG (\$)
• (up to) \$100k for projects up to & including \$3 million	91,325	8,675

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

Trust Fund	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
GEFTF	UNDP	BD	El Salvador	91,325	8,675	100,000
GEFTF	UNDP	CC	El Salvador			0
Total PPG Amount				91,325	8,675	100,000

MFA: Multi-focal area projects; MTF: Multi-Trust Fund projects.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. Project Overview

1. El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America, covering approximately 21,040 km² and with a population of 5.8 million. Despite its small size, the country has numerous regionally and globally important wetlands, including six marine-coastal and inland wetlands of international importance, or RAMSAR sites (Güija Complex, Olomega Lagoon, Jocotal Lagoon Natural Protected Area, the Cerrón Grande Reservoir, Jaltepeque Complex, and Jiquilisco Bay Complex), which are composed of ecosystems with wet variations of tropical dry forest, freshwater and saltwater swamps, reservoirs, islands, and mangrove forests, this latter with a total cover of 38,135 ha. The wetlands of El Salvador provide numerous ecosystem services such as habitat for biodiversity, carbon storage, food supply, timber and firewood, recreation and scenic beauty, and flood control and storm protection. The marine-coastal wetlands of El Salvador include important areas of mangroves in northern Central America as well as diverse types of inland lakes. Within the inland wetlands are species that are found to be at varying levels of threat of extinction, including the frog *Plectrohyla guatemalensis*, the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), and the boa (*Boa constrictor*), among other species.

2. The mangrove ecosystems serve as habitat for highly vulnerable species such as the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*; a critically endangered species), which in El Salvador develops part of its lifecycle in the mangroves and wetland beaches in the Jiquilisco Bay and the Golfo de Fonseca. In addition, there are three other species of sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Chelonia mydas*, and *Dermochelys coriacea*) that nest along the national marine-coastal shores, including the previously mentioned wetlands. The Golfo de Fonseca also serves as either a permanent home or migratory site for different bird species, including a permanent population of the Magnificent Frigate bird (*Fregata magnificens*) on Pirigallo Island. It is also the richest area of gorgonian coral species nationally and serves as important habitat at the regional level (Segovia-Prado, 2012). Recently, new species of fish (*Akko rossi* and *Notarius biffi*) have been identified in the Golfo de Fonseca, which add to the biological richness of the marine-coastal area and the associated wetlands.

3. El Salvador has established the National System of Natural Protected Areas (NSPA), which currently consists of 70 areas with a total cover of 38,459 ha². The SNANP is the central component of the country's strategy for the protection and sustainable use of the country's seven (7) wetlands of international importance (PWII) and their associated biodiversity. The system is managed by the MARN, which has as one of its objectives to consolidate the NSPA through a management approach that, in addition to adequately conserving the most representative terrestrial, freshwater, marine-coastal ecosystems, species, and genetic resources, guarantees the permanent supply of ecosystem services. A summary of the three (3) PWII prioritized for this project is presented below:

Wetland	Associated PAs and area (ha)	Ecosystems and species present	Threats

² MARN. 2010. Análisis de Vacíos y Omisiones de Representatividad para el Pacífico de El Salvador: Conservación de Diversidad Biológica Marino Costera. El Salvador: TNC-PROBIOMA. 104 p.

1. El Jocotal Lagoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - El Jocotal Lagoon Protected Natural Area (PA) (1,571) - Wetland of international importance (4,479) 	Oligotrophic lagoon, dry tropical forest prone to flooding during the rainy season. It is characterized by the presence of patches of <i>Bravaisia integerrima</i> , commonly known as “freshwater mangrove.” Presence of migratory and resident birds, and populations of two species of crocodiles.	Sedimentation, eutrophication of the lagoon and low oxygen levels due to the presence of the water hyacinth (<i>Eichornia crassipes</i>) and contamination from domestic waste.
2. Jiquilisco Bay Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chaguantique PA (53) - Normadía PA (495) - Isla San Sebastián PA (161) - Wetland of international importance (63,500) 	Tropical dry forest adapted to water saturation during the rainy season; transitional forest between mangroves and dry tropical forest adapted to flood conditions (Irlar) characterized by the species <i>Coccoloba floribunda</i> , which is rapidly disappearing due to the expansion of agriculture. Other ecosystems present are mangroves, sandy beaches, and low intertidal and benthic subtidal communities. Species present are a new species of bivalve (<i>Periploma kaiserae</i>), nesting site for the Hawksbill turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>), and the American crocodile (<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>). Site with patches of beach vegetation and is the only location in the country with presence of seagrass (<i>Halodule wrightii</i>).	Water contamination generated by domestic solid waste from nearby communities and from the use of agrochemicals. Loss of habitat due to deforestation and the expansion of agriculture, shrimp farms, and salt mining. Unsustainable fishing. Presence of the Neotropic cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>).
3. Olomega Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wetland of international importance (7,557) 	Dry tropical forest adapted to flooding during the rainy season. Rich population of migratory and resident birds. Presence of <i>Crocodylus acutus</i> and the only location in the country where the freshwater clam <i>Mycetopoda subsinuata</i> occurs.	Water contamination, sedimentation, deforestation, non-bioiversity-friendly cattle ranching, overfishing, and presence of exotic invasive species such as water hyacinth (<i>Eichornia crassipes</i>).

4. The PWII of El Salvador and their biodiversity face numerous threats that have led to loss of important habitat for this biodiversity. For example, in the 1950s, there were 100,000 ha of mangrove, which contrasts with the near 40,000 ha of mangrove that currently exists³. The principal threats are: a) the expansion of agricultural and cattle ranching activities, including tree clearing and fires, as well as the contamination and eutrophication of water bodies; b) the illegal transformation of wetlands due to the demand of land for housing, agricultural crops, and grazing areas for cattle; c) the uncontrolled use of agrochemicals, which causes the eutrophication and contamination of water wetlands through runoff and promotes the development of algae and invasive plants that choke the wetlands, affecting biodiversity traditional fishing, and other activities; d) the accumulation of solid waste generated in urban areas such as Metapán, the metropolitan area of San Salvador, San Miguel, Usulután, and Zacatecoluca, which represent a threat to wildlife when they ingest toxic particulates; e) the presence of invasive species such as the Neotropic cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), which impacts the native fish species (it is estimated that each adult consumes 325 grams of fish each day), contributes to the eutrophication of the water, and creates conflicts with local fishermen; and the water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*), which covers up to 95% of the water surface of the PWII (for example, the El Jocotal Lagoon), affecting the productivity and altering biological cycles of the native aquatic species, in addition to making navigation and fishing difficult; f) the unsustainable extraction of resources, including fishing with destructive methods such as the use of explosives, principally in the Jiquilisco Bay Complex wetland, affecting populations of fish, invertebrates, cetaceans, and the Hawksbill turtle (*E. imbricata*); g) floods associated with climate change (CC) that cause the loss of forest cover, reductions in the populations of threatened or endangered species, as well as the loss of human lives, infrastructure, and crops; and h) groundwater salinization due to alteration of the watersheds and the influence of the Pacific Ocean.

5. **Baseline programs:** Baseline programs total \$26,848,000 USD. During the four years of the project, the Government of El Salvador will invest \$1,130,666 USD (\$282,666.50/year) to cover operational costs (salaries, offices, equipment, other) for the management of the country’s PWII through the MARN’s Wetlands Unit. The Wetlands Unit (created through the Ministerial Agreement No. 160, 2011) has as its principal function to secure the sustainable development of the wetlands. It has coordinated and will support efforts to protect the wetlands as part of the National Program for Wetlands Improvement (PNMH) in El Salvador. In addition, the unit has assessed the current condition of the RAMSAR wetlands in the country and has identified the most threatened sites and areas. This information is included in the “Catalogue of Maps of Prioritized Critical Areas in the RAMSAR

³ MARN. 2013. Estrategia Nacional de Biodiversidad.

Wetlands of El Salvador,” which was developed through a participatory process for each wetland. In addition, a strategy and action plan has been developed for the restoration of the wetlands that includes the management of solid wastes and wastewater; research, environmental governance, and education; wildlife management; information management; and financial management.

6. Baseline investments will also include a Tourism Development Program for the Coastal-Marine Zone of El Salvador. Through the program, the Ministry of Tourism of El Salvador will invest a total of \$6 million USD in Jiquilisco Bay as part of a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The IADB loan will contribute to increasing income and employment generated by the tourism industry in the coastal areas of the La Libertad and Jiquilisco departments where the GEF project will be implemented. It will include the promotion of ecotourism, management of tourism activities, and monitoring of environmental conditions. This baseline investment will also allow the development of tourism infrastructure and the construction of a water treatment plant in Jiquilisco, which will reduce the contamination of coastal wetlands and other ecosystems. In addition, the IADB loan will strengthen local and national tourism governance, including the development of information systems and reporting mechanisms as well as a National Tourism Database. The GEF grant will complement these activities by piloting an entrance fee scheme to generate revenue from the increased visitation that will result from ecotourism promotion through the IADB loan. It will take advantage of the development of tourism infrastructure and data information systems to improve the collection of visitor and service fees and to improve tourism-related services through the promotion of a Private-Public Partnership (PPP). These activities will increase revenue from tourism in wetland PAs, thereby contributing to their financial sustainability.

7. Additionally, through the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency (STP), the Government of El Salvador will invest approximately \$20 million USD in Jiquilisco Bay as part of the Fomilenio2 project. This initiative has funding from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), an independent U.S. government foreign aid agency established in 2004 with the mission of reducing global poverty through the promotion of sustainable economic growth and whose guiding principles are competitive selection, country-led solutions, and country-led implementation (<http://www.mcc.gov>). El Salvador has received funding from the MCC since 2008 through the Fomilenio project, fueling economic growth in El Salvador’s Northern Zone through technical assistance, rehabilitation of roads, credit, and investments in people—including vocational education, better water and sanitation services, and improved energy supply. Through the second phase of Fomilenio (Fomilenio2; MMC funding was approved in 2013) a development strategy will be put into place in El Salvador’s marine coastal fringe, which includes the removal of obstacles for socioeconomic growth and the increase of private sector participation in political reform, including a focus on gender. More specifically, the MCC funding will support the following activities: a) ensure the sustainability of coastal and marine ecosystems as well as local livelihoods; b) enhance local governance through capacity-building for effective territorial planning and citizen participation; c) promote economic investment for wetland-friendly productive activities; and d) promote the environmental certification of sustainable fisheries, tourism, agriculture, and livestock practices. The proposed activities of the GEF grant will complement these activities through the effective management of three (3) PWII and the protection of its associated biodiversity, and addressing the threats to biodiversity in the prioritized PWIIs. Additionally, in 2012, the MARN completed a Strategic Environmental Assessment that was requested by the STP, which recommended that investments be directed towards the restoration of mangroves and wetlands, sustainable fisheries, sustainable tourism, integrated water resource management, environmental sanitation, environmental territorial planning, and capacity building.

8. The long-term solution to mitigate the current threats and to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and maintenance of the PWII and their ecosystem services in El Salvador depends on strengthening the SNANP to improve their management capacity of the wetlands, and the development of strategies to reduce threats to biodiversity, including the pressures derived from invasive species and the generation of solid waste and use of agrochemicals in their buffer areas. The baseline programs and projects, although they are important, will not be sufficient to ensure achieving this solution. In addition, there are two barriers that currently prevent the effective conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity in the PWII:

<p>1. Limited capacity of environmental officials for the sustainable management of PWII</p>	<p>One of the two main barriers to the effective management of the PWII in El Salvador and the conservation of their associated biodiversity is the existence of outdated management plans for the PAs that are part of the wetlands, which makes the planning and control of existing threats deficient. In addition, there is no regulatory framework to regulate activities that contaminate the PWII, particularly the use of agrochemicals in agriculture, wastes generated by cattle, and solid waste originating in urban and residential areas. This is compounded by the lack of information systems that would serve to monitor these and other threats (for example, the presence of invasive</p>
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	species), assess the impact of the initiatives that tend to promote the sustainable use of the wetlands and their associated biodiversity, and facilitate decision-making. There is also limited capacity of the national (MARN, MAG) and local (municipalities) authorities to effectively plan and manage the PWII and their associated PAs. Finally, there is little awareness among the local population and organizations about the importance of these ecosystems and little knowledge about the services they provide, which is why there is little public support for their conservation and for the adoption of best management practices (BMPs) to reduce the pressures on the PAs and their buffer areas.
2. Current environmental programs and strategies are ineffective in reducing pressures derived from invasive species, generation of solid waste, and agrochemicals.	The existing initiatives to reduce threats to the PWII due to the presence of invasive species and contamination from solid wastes and agrochemicals have not been effective since they lack strategies that facilitate the coordination of efforts between the different authorities who influence the management of the wetlands and the PAs. This creates a situation in which the efforts to monitor the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity in these areas are made in an unarticulated form and result in the duplication of efforts. In addition, these initiatives have had limited participation from the municipalities, local communities, and the private sector. As a result, they have lacked the necessary local support to reduce the presence of invasive species, control solid wastes and agrochemicals, and prevent the degradation of the mangroves and facilitate the rehabilitation of the degraded wetlands. In addition, there is a lack of necessary incentives, such as green seals, to motivate the adoption of BMPs by the agricultural sector and other users of the wetlands and their associated biodiversity.

9. **The GEF Alternative Scenario:** The GEF investment will add to the current efforts to sustainably manage the PWII in El Salvador, with benefits for the conservation of the associated national and global biodiversity. The project will benefit the six RAMSAR wetlands in El Salvador and will serve to reduce the threats and pressures placed on them, prioritizing actions to be implemented in the PWII associated with the lower Río Grande de San Miguel watershed: Jiquilisco Bay Complex, El Jocotal Lagoon, and the Olomega Lake.

Component 1 – Expanded protected wetland coverage and strengthened institutional and individual capacity for the effective management of PWII.

10. With support from the GEF project, the MARN will establish the Jiquilisco Bay wetland and upriver protected wetlands (Jocotal, Olomega) as a new multiple-use PA (MUPA), which covers approximately 20,000 ha (the final area will be determined during the PPG phase) and includes the largest and best preserved area of mangroves in eastern El Salvador, as well as estuaries, muddy and sandy sub-tidal zones, herbaceous swamps, flooded grasslands, two freshwater lagoons, and palms. The islands of the Golfo de Fonseca (Periquito, Pirigallo, Ilca, and Martín Pérez) will also be established collectively as a new MUPA. The GEF investment will also allow the development of a national wetlands inventory to maintain and update information about their physical, chemical, biological, geological, and socio-environmental conditions. This inventory will serve as an instrument to prioritize future municipal, national, and regional actions to sustainably manage the different types of wetlands and the conservation of the associated globally important biodiversity. The existing management plans of up to three (3) prioritized PWII will be updated as necessary through a participatory process involving different local and national stakeholders. The updating of the management plans will include the development of technical studies (including biophysical, socioeconomic, and legal) and will follow the existing guidelines established by the MARN for preparing PA management plans.

11. As part of the project’s actions to improve PWII management effectiveness, the institutional capacities of the MARN and other institutions involved in the management of three (3) PWII, such as the municipalities and the MAG, will be strengthened. This will include training activities directed mainly towards strengthening the capability of the MARN to manage the PAs within the PWII to reduce threats to biodiversity. During the PPG phase, the training needs will be assessed, and the number of officials to be trained will be determined, as well as the structure of the training activities (for example, educational modules and type of materials needed, informational visits to the PAs, etc.). In addition to the training activities, a review of the institutional procedures and personnel roles within the MARN for the management of the wetlands will be performed so that the necessary adjustments can be made to the existing institutional systems to achieve an effective effort, as well as to strengthen the implementation of the PNMH. This will include an evaluation of the logistical needs to facilitate management and monitoring activities within the PAs and their buffer areas. To mitigate the impacts from CC associated with flooding and landslides, a wetland CC monitoring team (PA staff and volunteers) will be formed and equipped to effectively detect and inform about these threats. Finally, the management effectiveness of prioritized PWII will be improved through the development of a local environmental governance and awareness-building program for

sustainable management of biodiversity in the PWII, in which the municipalities, local communities and organizations, NGOs, and the private sectors (e.g., agriculture, cattle ranching, and urban development) will participate.

12. The long-term management of the three (3) prioritized PWII will depend on securing sustainable financing sources. To this end, the project will diversify the income sources for the PWIIs. A business plan will be developed for each prioritized PWII that seeks to generate financing from a variety of sources, including government agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and the international cooperation community. Additionally, the project will promote environmental compensation mechanisms related to local development initiatives and wetland mitigation banking as potential mechanisms for revenue generation in support of PWII management. Economic environmental compensation mechanisms are already used in El Salvador and are supported by established regulations that dictate that development projects that may result in significant environmental change must implement prevention, mitigation, and environmental compensation measures. Compensation is mandatory when environmental change is significant and irreversible in a small area, whether private or public. Compensation investments include environmental restoration projects within protected areas, reforestation, and the development of infrastructure. Compensation investments range from \$30,000 USD to \$100,000 USD per development project. This GEF project will prioritize the compensation actions so that these investments are made within the PWII. Initial estimates indicate that up to 10 development projects will require the implementation of compensation actions (e.g., ecological restoration), thereby generating an average of \$650,000 USD in support of PWII management; these estimates will be confirmed during the PPG phase. Wetland mitigation banking is a mechanism that requires developers to compensate for the loss of wetlands by providing funding for the conservation of ecologically equivalent wetlands. During the PPG phase, the amount of income that can be generated from this financial mechanism will be defined (this depends on the average number of EIA-approved projects causing wetland loss/degradation and the fee established by the government that is levied on developers to compensate for this impact). Credits will most likely be provided for conservation activities within the three (3) prioritized PWII, their associated protected areas, and the PWII and/or PA buffer zones, which have a direct impact on the integrity of the wetlands and PAs (e.g., floodplain forest and freshwater lagoons). The risk of net loss of wetlands will be minimized through: a) the continued prioritization of prevention and mitigation over compensation-based schemes; b) extensive capacity-building with key institutions to ensure compliance with credit agreements and with the notion of ecological equivalency; and c) exploration of the possibility of mandating developers to conserve a larger area of wetlands than the actual area impacted by development.

13. Finally, the project will pilot two (2) financial mechanisms for PA revenue generation. First, a visitor entrance fee scheme will be piloted in the three (3) PWII. The Jiquilisco Bay, which in its entirety is a PWII (i.e., Ramsar Site covering 63,500 ha) is a frequently visited site. It is estimated that the area receives 33,200 visitors annually, 90% of whom are nationals and 10% are foreign visitors. Currently, this PWII generates very limited revenue from visitation since a fee of only \$0.50 to \$1.00 USD is charged for parking, and all of the revenue goes to the municipalities. The project proposes charging \$3.00 USD to national visitors and \$10.00 USD to foreign visitors in the form of entry fees. These entry fee amounts are in line with the fees that are charged at the inland protected areas of El Salvador that have a high level of visitation (i.e., Montecristo National Park and El Imposible National Park). Based on the current estimates of visitors and an annual projected increase of 5%, the revenue generated by visitation will total up to \$129,000 USD. Data regarding the number of visitors for the Jocotal Lagoon and the Olomega lake PWII are not currently available, and although the sites receive some visitors, they are not charged an entry fee. During the PPG phase, visitation levels for all three PWII will be fully assessed and the estimates for revenue generated will be completed, as well as the feasibility for implementing measures to increase revenues from tourism. The project will put into place a visitor and service fee system that may include fee collection mechanisms (prepaid and/or onsite collection), visitor gate controls, and reinvestment of revenues in the wetland PAs to support their financial sustainability. Second, the project will promote a PPP between the tourism industry and the MARN for the management of tourism activities in the Jiquilisco Bay PWII, which will result in increased visitation, improved tourism services, and additional revenue for wetland PA management. A detailed feasibility analysis of these mechanisms will be undertaken during the PPG phase to determine the level of revenue generation and financial resources available for the management of the three (3) prioritized PWII.

Component 2 – Address threats to biodiversity, including pressures derived from the presence of invasive species, generation of solid wastes, and agrochemicals in the buffer areas of PWII.

14. Through this component the project will implement specific actions to reduce threats, focusing on two (2) PWII, the Jiquilisco Bay Complex and the Jocotal Lagoon in the lower Río Grande de San Miguel watershed, and achieve long-term environmental benefits. Actions will include the establishment of at least three (3) inter-institutional cooperation agreements among government authorities related to the PAs located at Jiquilisco Bay and its associated protected wetlands (Normandia PA, Chaguantique PA, and San Sebastián Island PA), as well as the El Jocotal Lagoon and the Olomega Lake PWII. The agreements will be established between the MARN, MAG, CENDEPESCA, and the VVDU, and will include joint conservation/management committees to supervise the conservation efforts and management effectiveness of the PAs, as well as following up on the reduction of solid wastes and control of the use of agrochemicals in the PAs' buffer areas. The agreements will be complemented by the implementation of a program to prevent, reduce, and control contamination stemming from agricultural activities, in particular the excessive use of agrochemicals and mismanagement of manure, as well as the wastes created by human settlements in the wetlands and their buffer areas, and will include the participation of the municipalities, local communities, and the private sector. An incentives program will provide benefits to wetland users and promote the use of biodiversity-friendly agricultural and livestock management practices in the buffer areas of the PAs. This will include green certification, particularly for the reduced use of agrochemicals and the sustainable management of manure to reduce pollution, training, technical assistance, among other incentives. The incentives program will be strengthened through actions directed towards raising awareness about the value of biodiversity and the ecosystem services of the prioritized wetlands and the country's wetlands in general among the different stakeholders. The project will monitor a group of key species and will use indicators of the ecological condition of wetlands (indicators to be determined during the PPG phase) in order to assess the impact of the project and to determine the global environmental benefits.

15. The project will also allow the reduction by 50% of the pollution derived from agrochemicals, livestock waste, and household and urban solid waste in three (3) PWII (the target will be confirmed during the PPG). This will include the development of three tools for management and decision-making. First, a regulatory framework that regulates human activities within the PWII and the buffer areas will be developed and implemented to reduce the threats derived from the use of agrochemicals, wastes generated by cattle, and solid wastes that contaminate the wetlands. Second, a monitoring information system will be implemented in the three (3) prioritized PWII to monitor biodiversity in the wetlands and facilitate decision making to reduce the existing threats. Third, a protocol to reduce the threats to biodiversity in PWII, including contamination from agrochemicals, livestock waste, and household and urban solid waste will be developed. The reduction of pollution derived from agrochemicals, livestock waste, and household and urban solid waste in three (3) PWII will have an inter-institutional and multi-disciplinary focus, with not only the participation of the environmental officials, but also the Attorney General's office, the Agrarian Transformation Institute, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, in order to incorporate biodiversity conservation principles into their plans and programs. To achieve this, the project will define a set of indicators to be monitored as well as their impacts that will be integrated into the MARN's Environmental Information System (SIA), which will facilitate decision-making for the effective conservation of biodiversity associated with the wetlands.

16. Strategies to control water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) and the Neotropic cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) will be developed and piloted to reduce the threat of these invasive species in the Jiquilisco Bay Complex, the Olomega Lake, and the Jocotal Lagoon PWII and their buffer areas. In the case of the water hyacinth, this will include biological and mechanical control, reduction of sources of nutrient pollutions, and increased awareness among local wetland users about the threat to biodiversity by these invasive species. The project will also promote the conservation of 18,720 ha of mangroves through the design and implementation of a participatory plan for the sustainable use of these ecosystems in the Jiquilisco Bay and the associated continental wetlands (Jocotal and Olomega lagoons). In addition, at least 500 ha of dry forest that serve as key habitat for migratory birds associated with the mangroves will be rehabilitated, leading to the restoration of the ecological functions of the degraded forests and increasing the productivity of the ecosystems to benefit the local population.

17. **Global environmental benefits.** The project will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of globally important biodiversity associated with the PWII of El Salvador. This includes the bivalves *Nephronaias* sp. and *Mycetopoda subsinuata*, as well as mollusks from the Golfo de Fonseca islands, some of which are only found in that part of the country, and the Pacific seahorse (*Hippocampus ingens*, a vulnerable species). In addition, reptiles such as the American crocodile (*Crocodylu sacutus*) and the spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*); sea turtles, including the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), which use estuarine vegetated beaches of the Jiquilisco Bay for nesting; regionally vulnerable migratory birds, such as the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) and the Yellow-naped Parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*), and nationally threatened bird species such as

the snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) and the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*); and the spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*), which is the only primate living in El Salvador. Tree species include mahogany (*Swietenia microphylla*), cedar (*Cedrela salvadorensis* and *C. odorata*), and mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, and *Avicennia* spp.). The wetlands function as reservoirs of water, areas of reproduction for numerous aquatic species, refuge for juveniles of numerous species, and a resting and feeding place for migratory species. Finally, they buffer the effects of aquatic contamination and extreme climatological events.

18. Innovation, sustainability and scale-up potential: The basis for the ecological sustainability of the actions that will be developed by the project reside in improving the management effectiveness of the PWII and the associated PAs (improved planning, management and participation by local stakeholders, including communities and municipal governments, and monitoring) to reduce the pressures stemming from the expansion of agriculture, urban development, and invasive species. The social sustainability of the project will be achieved through the direct participation of the communities (including women and women-based organizations), the private sector, and local governments (municipalities) in the planning and implementation of activities to reduce threats, including the use of incentives such as green seals for implementing biodiversity-friendly practices. This will be achieved through training and the generation of increased awareness locally about the importance of wetlands, their biodiversity, and the ecosystem services these provide. A gender specialist will be hired to ensure that gender considerations are evaluated during the PPG and incorporated into the project design. The gender specialist will work in coordination with UNDP country office staff to ensure that gender issues and women’s role in the project are properly addressed and are also in line with the United Nations Development Strategy Beyond 2015, particularly with regard to the participation of historically excluded populations such as women. The role of women in the project design, implementation, and evaluation will be defined and included as part of the project’s Stakeholder Involvement Plan. Gender-based indicators will be defined to evaluate the participation of women in the following components of the project: a) training and other empowerment activities; b) the participatory plan developed for the conservation, rehabilitation, and sustainable use of mangroves and floodplain; c) updating the management plans for three (3) PWII; and d) addressing threats to biodiversity, among other participatory activities. Finally, any gender issues that need to be addressed during project implementation will be included as part of the social equity and equality component of UNDP’s social and environmental screening process.

19. The basis for the institutional sustainability of the project lies in the ability of the project to develop regulations for anthropogenic activities that affect PWII and in the establishment of long-term cooperation agreements among agencies related to PA management, as well as in the strengthened capacity of the MARN and its staff to manage the PAs and wetlands. The project has the potential to be replicated at the international level in Central American countries that share similar challenges and opportunities related to conservation and sustainable use of PWII and their associated biodiversity. The project will use the tools available through UNDP and GEF (information networks, forums, documentation, and publications, etc.) to disseminate the good practices and lessons learned in order for them to be used to design and implement similar projects in the region and in other Latin American countries.

A.2. Stakeholders. The following key stakeholders were identified:

Stakeholders/Interested Parties	Role in Project Implementation
Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)	Principal executing entity of the project. Mandated by law, manages the country’s wetlands and PAs. Acts as the focal point for the conventions on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR) and biodiversity, and will be charged with the project’s technical and financial execution.
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)	Designs and implements the country’s agricultural policies. It is a key partner in regulating productive activities around and within the PAs and wetlands. Will participate in joint conservation/management agreements and committees to supervise conservation efforts and management effectiveness of the PAs and to monitor the reduction of solid wastes and controlled use of agrochemicals in the PAs’ buffer areas. It encompasses CENDEPESCA, which is the national authority for fisheries.
Municipalities (at least 10)	The municipalities will participate in defining land use plans to address threats to biodiversity, particularly those related to the use of agrochemicals, wastes generated by cattle, and solid wastes that contaminate the wetlands and PAs. They are key stakeholders in the execution of the project and will benefit from training.
Local communities	The project will involve the local communities who use the PWII and associated PAs. Their participation will be as decision-makers in the planning and execution of the project’s activities and the sustainable use of wetlands, including the participation of women.

Academic Sector and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	The project will establish partnerships with national academic institutions (e.g., José Simeón Cañas Central American University, University of El Salvador) and NGOs (ICAPO, VIVAZUL, MANGLE, ADESCOIM, ADESCOPP) that will provide technical and scientific support to the project, including information related to the baseline of the PWII.
UNDP	The UNDP will provide general technical and administrative support, management tools, and theoretical and practical knowledge to the executing agencies to aid in the execution of the project's activities and the timely and efficient delivery of the desired outcomes.

A.3 Risk

Risk	Level*	Risk Mitigation Strategy
The sustainable use of biodiversity in wetlands is not a priority for new environmental authorities	L	The project staff will inform the new environmental officials about the project, its objective, progress, and achievements, as well as the project's benefits in terms of the sustainable use of the country's PWII and contributions to achieve national and global environmental goals. Different platforms will be used for this, such as the project's steering committee, and learning and knowledge-sharing processes that will be part of the project's monitoring and evaluation plan, site visits to the prioritized PWII, among others.
Difficulty in reaching consensus among the project stakeholders for managing invasive species	M	The project will convene the stakeholders, with support from the MARN, to define consultation mechanisms among the sectors and stakeholders responsible for managing invasive species, as well as those who feel affected (e.g., fishermen), to jointly define strategies to control and reduce invasive species that impact wetlands. In addition, the project will define a participatory plan for stakeholders to facilitate joint decision-making to reduce this threat facing biodiversity in the project's prioritized wetlands.
Climate change (CC) effects	L	Through the establishment of two new PAs and the improved management effectiveness of seven (7) PWII and their buffer areas, the project will increase protected habitat, providing additional refuge areas for numerous species facing potential events associated with CC. The protection of mangroves and the development of sustainable use plans will contribute to mitigating the impacts from extreme hydrometeorological events associated with CC, the reduction of their intensity, and the prevention of erosion with benefits for the wetlands, PAs, and associated biodiversity, as well as neighboring human settlements. The project will establish a network CC monitoring team for the PWII, which will develop early warning actions to mitigate impacts to the wetlands and the local populations.

A.4. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives:

20. This project will coordinate actions with and adopt lessons learned from regional and national initiatives, such as the GEF project *Mainstreaming Biodiversity Management into Fisheries and Tourism Activities carried out in Coastal/Marine Ecosystems*. The objective of the project is to promote inter-sectorial approaches to biodiversity conservation through the tourism and fisheries sectors. This GEF project will be implemented within the regulatory framework that is being developed under the tourism/fisheries mainstreaming project, particularly the development of policies and regulations that promote tourism and fisheries practices that are compatible with biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use (for example the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development, the updating of the National Tourism Policy, and the review of the General Law for the Management and Promotion of Fisheries and Aquaculture). Additionally, stakeholders involved in tourism and fisheries in the Jiquilisco Bay, as well as municipal authorities, will have the capacity and motivation to operate in accordance with the principles of resource sustainability and biodiversity conservation, particularly in facilitating the implementation of ecotourism initiatives associated with protected wetlands and the reduced impacts of tourism and fisheries practices (prevention, reduction, and control of solid waste). Finally, the tourism/fisheries mainstreaming project will establish a solid base for maintaining the existing coverage of mangroves in the Jiquilisco Bay (18,720 ha), which will be further protected by this GEF project through the development of participatory plans for their conservation and sustainable use and the participatory rehabilitation of at least 500 ha of dry forest associated with this ecosystem. Lessons learned from the tourism/fisheries mainstreaming project will be incorporated into the final design of this protected wetland project. The mid-term evaluation of the tourism/fisheries mainstreaming project is currently under way and the results will be reviewed during the PPG so that the lessons learned thus far are appropriately incorporated into the project's design. So far it is recognized that increased awareness is key to encouraging people to change specific negative behaviors with regard to biodiversity. In addition, the monitoring and recording of processes for improving knowledge and adopting new technologies and improving know-how with regard to biodiversity conservation is key for the successful implementation of the

project at the local level. Also, the establishment of partnerships between development agents and other stakeholders involved in the project allows the optimization of resources and the implementation of more far-reaching activities, as well as the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and technologies related to the sustainable management of biodiversity. Finally, it is anticipated that all environmental and social networks established by the tourism/fisheries mainstreaming project within the municipalities and communities of the departments of La Libertad and Jiquilisco will aid in the implementation of this GEF project. Specific coordination mechanisms among the two GEF-funded projects will be fully developed during the PPG phase, but may include periodic meetings among the two projects' staff to share information and knowledge as well as exchange project results and other relevant documentation. Because the tourism/fisheries mainstreaming project is being executed by the MARN with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and the Ministry of Tourism (MITUR) acting as executing partners, coordination between the projects will be facilitated.

21. In addition, the project will follow up on the guidelines that will be defined in the GEF project *National Biodiversity Planning to Support the Implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan*, that will respond to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Plan, including the National Biodiversity Strategy (2013) and its Strategic Plan (projected for 2014).

22. The project will coordinate activities with other initiatives concerning wetlands. This includes the 2012 call for action of the FIAES to finance activities for the resolution of environmental problems in wetlands of international importance. In addition, the project will complement activities to seek alternatives for the management of the Neotropic cormorant (*P. brasiliensis*) in Jiquilisco Bay and Olomega lake PWII, where the FIAES is currently funding the management of the water hyacinth (*E. crassipes*). Efforts will also be carried out in conjunction with the activities and investments that the MARN's National Program for Ecosystem and Landscape Restoration will implement, in particular for the management of micro-watersheds at the lower Río Grande de San Miguel basin. The project will also coordinate actions with the Water Fund project (AECID), which will support the restoration of mangroves, the management of the micro-watersheds associated to this watershed, and the acquisition of a barge for mechanically extracting the water hyacinth in the affected PWII.

B. Description of the consistency of the project with:

B.1 Consistency with National strategies and plans and assessments under relevant conventions:

23. The project is consistent with the Environmental Law, which in Article 74 identifies mangroves as fragile ecosystems, to which any type of alteration is prohibited. The same law identifies in Articles 20 and 21 the requirement for obtaining an environmental permit through an Environmental Impact Study for "works, activities, or projects in wetlands." The project is also consistent with the Natural Protected Areas Law (2005), which states in Article 9 that mangroves, lakes, and lagoons are property of the government. Resolutions have been established through this Law to create PAs, which encompass inland and marine-coastal wetlands.

24. The project is framed within the National Biodiversity Strategy (ENBD) (2013) and focuses particularly on the strategic integration of biodiversity into the economy, as well as the restoration and inclusive conservation of critical ecosystems. The ENBD states as a priority the restoration of mangroves and wetlands, as well as reversing the processes that lead to their degradation, including awareness-building, research, education-training, technology, and financing. The first three themes are congruent with this project. The project will contribute to achieving the following Aichi Targets of the CBD, which was ratified by El Salvador in 1994: a) Target 7: "By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity." More specifically, the project will promote biodiversity-friendly practices in agricultural lands and water-related resource use in the buffer areas of four (4) protected areas (PAs) within the Jiquilisco Bay and Jocotal Lagoon Protected Wetlands of International Importance (PWII); b) Target 8: "By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity." More specifically, the project will develop a program for the prevention, reduction, and control of pollution stemming from agricultural and cattle-ranching activities (agrochemicals and excess nutrients) and human settlements (solid waste) in two PWII (Jiquilisco Bay and Jocotal Lagoon) and their buffer areas; c) 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." More specifically, the project will develop strategies for controlling the invasive species water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) and Neotropic cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasiliensis*) in three (3) PWII and their buffer areas (Jiquilisco Bay Complex, the Olomega Lake, and the Jocotal Lagoon); d) Target 11: "By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are

conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.” More specifically, the project will contribute to improving the management effectiveness of three (3) PWII (Jocotal Lagoon, Jiquilisco Bay Complex, and Olomega Lake) covering more than 75,000 hectares (ha) of coastal and inland wetland areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, with the participation of local communities and municipal authorities; e) Target 12: “By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.” The project will contribute to the reduction of threats to biodiversity of global importance including the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), the spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*), the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*), the Yellow-naped Parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*), and mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, and *Avicennia* spp.); f) Target 14: “By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods, and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.” The project will facilitate the participatory rehabilitation of at least 500 ha of dry forest associated with mangroves that provide key habitat for migratory species; and g) Target 19: “By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared, and transferred and applied.” The project will enhance biodiversity scientific knowledge within the PWII of El Salvador, including the development of an information monitoring system to facilitate decision-making for the reduction of threats to biodiversity.

25. Finally, El Salvador has a Regional Wetlands Policy (Central America) (2002) that has an objective in common with the project, which is to promote mechanisms and strengthen institutional capacity at the local, regional, and national levels for the conservation and rational use of wetlands.

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

26. This project will serve to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of PWII and their associated PAs in El Salvador, as well as prevent and mitigate threats and pressures on the wetlands and globally important biodiversity. The project is consistent with Objective 1 of the GEF BD Focal Area (BD-1): *Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems* and will contribute to achieving *Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas*. The wetlands prioritized for this project are: El Jocotal Lagoon, Jiquilisco Bay Complex, and the Olomega Lagoon, as well as the islands of the Golfo de Fonseca: Periquito, Ilca, Martín Pérez, and Pirigallo.

B.3 The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage for implementing this project:

27. The UNDP has a long history as the implementing agency for GEF projects that are focused on ecosystems management and biodiversity. Currently the UNDP is supervising projects in more than 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), with a total resource mobilization of USD \$156 million (June 2013), and which encompasses an area of approximately 32 million hectares in PAs. The UNDP in El Salvador has an in-country office (CO) with significant experience working with the government and different partners in the integration and conservation of biodiversity, the management of PAs, and sustainable development. The CO has staff with extensive technical experience in the development and promotion of community participation in businesses based on the sustainable management of natural resources, which is critical to eradicating poverty, and promoting social justice and economic development. The CO is currently implementing two GEF projects, *National Biodiversity Planning to Support the Implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan* and *Mainstreaming Biodiversity Management into Fisheries and Tourism Activities carried out in Coastal/Marine Ecosystems*. As such, the organization is in an ideal position to ensure the dissemination of lessons learned and complementarity of efforts.


PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT AND GEF AGENCY

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)
Herman Rosa Chávez	Minister	Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources	February 6, 2014

B. GEF AGENCY) 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/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
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