REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Enhancing National Capacities to manage Invasive Alien Species (IAS) by implementing the National Strategy on IAS		
Country(ies):	Mexico	GEF Project ID:[1]	4771
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	4714
Other Executing Partner(s):	National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO)	Submission Date: Re-submission Date:	December 10, 2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	48
Name of Parent Program (if applicable): ➢ For SFM/REDD+ ☐ ➢ For SGP ☐ ➢ For PPP ☐	n/a	Project Agency Fee ($):	535,455

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount ($)	Cofinancing ($)
BD-2	2.3: Improved management frameworks to prevent, control and manage invasive alien species	2.1. Policies and regulatory frameworks for production sectors: IAS management framework operational as recorded by GEF 5 TT	GEF TF	5,354,545	26,133,760
		Total project costs		**5,354,545**	**26,133,760**

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To safeguard globally significant biodiversity in vulnerable ecosystems by building capacity to prevent, detect, control and manage IAS in Mexico

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount ($)	Confirmed Cofinancing ($)
National IAS management framework	TA	Strengthened IAS policy, institutions and coordination and outreach efforts increase efficiencies in IAS management at the national level to reduce the risk and spread of IAS into vulnerable areas; as measured by an increased total score from 8 to 14 for points 1-4 in the GEF IAS TT (Part V), and an increased total score in the	**1.1 Decision making tools aimed at informing cost effective management decisions to address IAS threats in key landscapes and key sectors (aquarium trade, aquaculture, trade of wildlife and forest products in particular)** • National Invasive Alien Species Information System (NIASIS) operating & guiding sectoral policy and investments • Finalization of the National List of Invasive Species (NLIS) and outreach to support its use for IAS management • Rapid access and dissemination of information to enhance deployment of coordinated actions between institutions (for example IAS National Gateway - web portal) • National IAS experts network established to support decision making and efficient deployment of resources • Development and use of risk analysis methodologies for high risk species / pathways • Development and application of Inspection Tools for IAS that threaten biodiversity • Niche models for IAS dispersion related to climate change • Establish cost coefficients for different IAS management strategies in Mexico	GEF-TF	2,773,561	19,695,285

[1] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

		UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard (adjusted for IAS) from 43 to 76. This delivers: • Improved surveillance and control for the entry of goods and persons into and within Mexico • Restrictions operationalized on imports and uses of exotic species in the aquarium trade, aquaculture, and wildlife and forest products sectors Collectively this increases protection to globally significant biodiversity by reducing the risk of new introduction and spread of IAS into vulnerable ecosystems nationwide	**1.2 Sectorial guidance and regulations in place to strengthen the control of main pathways of IAS to vulnerable areas** • Specific regulatory guidance for IAS control in the aquarium trade, aquaculture, and trade of wildlife and forest products sectors informs decision-making on the ground • Highest risk species / pathways defined through risk analysis • Training on best practices for productive sector stakeholders (companies; associations; relevant management institutions) • Government and private-sector stakeholders in aquarium trade, aquaculture, and wildlife and forest products sectors informed of IAS threats, impacts, and new controls and regulations • Increased state-level oversight and capacity for IAS management in import and production sectors **1.3 Multi-sectoral institutional framework in place to implement National Strategy on Invasive Species (NSIS)** • Draft revised and harmonized existing laws / regulations related to IAS management • Development and application of financial mechanisms to support IAS management • Budgetary coordination between sectors to ensure coherent investments and actions to address threats cost efficiently • IAS Expert Committee formalized to function as the lead national body for implementation of the NSIS • Strengthened capacity for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) systems for IAS at national level • Institutions with trained staff and tools (e.g. data management, risk analysis, control methods & protocols) for IAS management activities			
Integrated IAS management to protect vulnerable globally significant ecosystems	TA	Enhanced IAS surveillance and control strategies reduce introduction rates and contain populations below thresholds that endanger endemic species and their habitats in: 15 islands (6 island groups) totaling 46,420 ha., and 9 mainland protected areas totaling 4,240,349 ha.	**2.1 Strengthened prevention and control of key IAS populations in selected Islands** • Establish and maintain Island Biosecurity Programs, including inspection, quarantine, and Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) systems • Implement education and training to support IAS management for local resource managers, communities, and visitors to the islands • Implement targeted high priority IAS Control & Eradication programs at island sites to reduce severe impacts on native BD • Establish and maintain monitoring programs to ensure effectiveness of biosecurity and IAS control and eradication efforts • **Enhanced IAS surveillance and control strategies reduce introduction rates from productive landscapes and contain populations below thresholds that endanger endemic species and their habitats at selected Mainland Protected Areas** • Strengthen IAS Management capacities and processes for landscapes within and surrounding mainland protected areas • Introduce best practices in IAS management in targeted production sectors to reduce IAS spread • Increase community awareness and participation in IAS management in and around mainland PA sites • Develop and Implement biosecurity programs (prevention; early detection and rapid response) at selected mainland PA sites • Implement targeted IAS control, eradication and monitoring at selected mainland PA sites	GEF-TF	2,326,019	5,194,075

Subtotal		5,099,580	24,889,360
Project management Cost[2]		254,965	1,244,400
Total project costs		5,354,545	26,133,760

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME ($)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Co-financing	Cofinancing Amount ($)
National Government	CONABIO	Grant	$4,657,468
National Government	CONABIO	In-kind	$616,153
National Government	CONANP	Grant	$1,619,075
National Government	CONANP	In-kind	$800,000
National Government	PROFEPA	In-kind	$2,000,000
National Government	SEMARNAT	Grant	$250,000
National Government	SEMARNAT	In-kind	$47,611
National Government	CONAFOR	Grant	$10,000,000
National Government	INECC	Grant	$138,000
National Government	INECC	In-kind	$9,000
National Government	IMTA	In-kind	$1,295,453
National Government	INAPESCA	In-kind	$833,333
Local Government	CESAEM	In-kind	$83,000
CSO	GECI	Grant	$2,595,000
CSO	GECI	In-kind	$180,000
Others	Various Universities*	Grant	$23,000
Others	Various Universities*	In-kind	$311,667
CSO	FCEA	In-kind	$75,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	$600,000
		Total Co-financing	**$26,133,760**

* Various Universities: UAM ($151,667 in-kind); UANL ($3,000 grant); UNAM ($20,000 grant; $160,000 in-kind)

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in $)		
				Project Amount (a)	**Agency Fee** (b)	**Total** c=a+b
UNDP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Mexico	5,354,545	535,455	5,890,000
Total Grant Resources				5,354,545	535,455	5,890,000

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount ($)	Cofinancing ($)	Project Total ($)
International Consultants	117,801	0	117,801
National/Local Consultants	568,165	2,614,223	3,182,388
Total	685,966	2,614,223	3,300,189

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT?

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex E an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

[2] PMC should be charged proportionally to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF[3]

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

No changes. The baseline is described in more details in PRODOC, Section I –PART II: Project consistency with national priorities/plans. Refer also to the following sub-chapters in PRODOC Part I - Section I for additional details: Context and global significance, 'Policy and Institutional and Legal Context'; and Baseline Analysis.

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

The project conformity with the relevant GEF focal area is described in detail in the PRODOC, Part I, Section II – Strategy. A summary is provided in Part I, Tables A and B of this document.

A.3. The GEF Agency's comparative advantage

NA (No changes since PIF approval)

A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address.

The project builds upon a large baseline funding provided by SAGARPA, SENASICA, PROFEPA, CONAFOR, INAPESCA etc. that focuses mainly on IAS for the agriculture, the aquaculture and the forestry sectors. The project seeks to incoproprate key elements of IAS management for BD and ecosystem conservation.

At the PIF stage, the project's financial baseline was not well defined, as there was insufficient data to provide detailed information. At the CEO Endorsement stage, the description of baseline activities and funding levels has been presented in detail. Refer to PRODOC, Part I – Section I, Baseline Analysis, as well as other relevant sections and chapters of the PRODOC .

A. 5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning

The overall design remains the same. The selection of the pilot sites have been finalized and field activities were defined. The outputs necessary to achieve both Outcomes/Components are thoroughly described in the PRODOC, Part I, Section I – Strategy, chapter Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/activities.

The Incremental Cost Reasoning has been carried out and it is summarized in the table below (reproduced from the PRODOC, Section II – Part II).

Incremental Costs Matrix

Benefits	Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Increment (A-B)
Global benefits	Under the **business-as-usual scenario**, priority actions identified in the NSIS would likely remain unfulfilled, as gaps in institutional authority and coordination, and limited resources, would make	The project, which counts on financing from the GEF, government institutions (CONABIO, CONANP, PROFEPA, SEMARNAT, CONAFOR, INECC, IMTA, INAPESCA, CESAEM), NGOs (GECI, FCEA), Universities (UAM, UANL, UNAM) and UNDP will remove	The GEF increment will strengthen IAS management at entry and distribution points, and high priority conservation areas, throughout Mexico. This will produce benefits for globally significant species and ecosystems nationally, including: coastal and

[3] For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter "NA" after the respective question

Benefits	Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Increment (A-B)
	implementation highly difficult. Institutional will, mechanisms and resources to effectively engage with productive sectors that are key IAS pathways would remain weak, and most IAS management would remain focused solely on protecting economic resources with little regard for biodiversity conservation. Understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on IAS dispersion will be absent, preventing decision makers from making effective long-term decisions on IAS prevention and control. In the islands, IAS management would continue on a case-by-case basis, without a setting of priorities or a systematic approach, and without consistent cooperation among stakeholders or mechanisms for sharing information nationally or internationally. Mainland Protected Areas would continue to lack technical expertise or models for IAS management. In the absence of this project, globally significant biodiversity in Mexico, including native / endemic species and natural ecosystems at vulnerable island and mainland PA sites, will continue to be threatened by the introduction, establishment and spread of IAS.	key barriers for the strengthening of the management of IAS that impact biodiversity at entry and distribution points as well as high priority conservation areas (islands, mainland PAs) within Mexico. The GEF project will replace the baseline piecemeal approach with a coordinated and effective IAS management framework for the country. As a complement to national baseline investments in IAS policy and legal development, inspection and quarantine functions, and site-level eradications, the GoM is seeking GEF support to develop improved IAS management systems that protect Mexico's globally significant biodiversity. In line with the GEF focal area strategy for IAS, the project will implement a systemic approach to IAS management while also addressing IAS in the aquarium trade, aquaculture, forest and wildlife products sectors and in targeted areas of high biodiversity value and significant IAS threat. Project activities will be oriented towards maximizing limited national resources to address the most important elements of the threat posed by IAS. As such, the project will place special emphasis on early detection and prevention systems, as well as the use of risk analyses to identify IAS with the most potential environmental and economic impact on Mexico, in order to establish clearly agreed priorities for IAS management interventions. This project represents critical support at a crucial time as Mexico endeavors to implement the new National Strategy on Invasive Species (NSIS), both for the resources and expertise it will provide and for its catalytic effect in bringing other resources and increased attention to the issue of IAS.	marine fish species (1,616), reptiles (804), mammals (535), amphibians (361), birds (1,096) and vascular plants (22,232), many of which are among the approximately 10,000 endemic species identified in the country. Mexico also harbours numerous crop cultivars that represent a resource of great importance in terms of global food security. At the site level, the GEF increment will help to conserve important biodiversity at mainland Protected Areas, including over 900 species of flora and fauna classified under NOM-059, including 211 endemic species. Over 600 of these species are also listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened and Endangered Species. The project also will help to prevent forest degradation and allow natural reforestation to take place, thereby adding to global CO_2 sequestration capacity. At the island sites, the project will help to protect 350 endemic species and sub-species, representing 3.7% of the total number of endemic terrestrial vascular plants and vertebrates in the country. The project also will produce global benefits by helping Mexico to implement the National Biodiversity Strategy of Mexico and its different action plans, thereby fulfilling its obligations as a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and by strengthening the national contribution to the global Aichi Targets, specifically Target 4 on sustainable production, Target 6 on marine and aquatic species, Target 7 on agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, Target 9 on invasive alien species, and Target 19 on knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity.
National and local benefits	Under the **'business-as-usual'** scenario, efforts to guide development of targeted production sectors (aquaculture, aquarium trade, forest and wildlife products) in the prevention, inspection, quarantine and response to IAS introduction and spread will be stymied by a lack of clear regulatory authority,	The project will engage a variety of stakeholders in processes to plan for and implement IAS management. These stakeholders will include associations, companies and individual producers in the aquarium trade, aquaculture, forest and wildlife products sectors, including importers, traders, producers, and distributors, who will be engaged in developing improved prevention and control measures for IAS relevant to their	The project is expected to yield national and local benefits by supporting the more effective IAS management of the aquarium trade, aquaculture, forest and wildlife products sectors, as well as strengthening IAS management for specific productive sector operations in and around high priority conservation areas (islands and mainland PAs), all of which are responsible for various

Benefits	Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Increment (A-B)
	insufficient technical tools and processes, poor understanding of the economic impacts of specific IAS and the costs for different IAS management options, and lack of partnerships between regulatory authorities and business associations and companies. As a result, the focus of governmental and private stakeholders will stay on short-term economic benefits, and import, production and distribution of IAS in these sectors will proceed without weighing the costs and benefits of various activities. In this scenario, economic development will frequently be unsustainable and incur significant opportunity costs for Mexico by damaging / destroying natural ecosystem functions and values. Over time, this will represent a loss to both the national economy and to local stakeholders.	productive activities. Other relevant stakeholders will be managers of operations in these sectors, as well as agriculture and livestock producers and other local residents at selected mainland PA sites, who will be provided with training and information on strategies (biosecurity measures; replacement of exotic species with native species) for improved IAS management in their operations and practices, as well as guidance on new regulations and restrictions relevant to their activities. Stakeholders at Island sites, including local residents as well as fishermen and tourism operators, will be integral to the development and implementation of Island Biosecurity Plans, as well as the implementation of various IAS control, eradication and monitoring programs. In all of these national and local level activities, relevant stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate in IAS planning, priority setting and management, so that IAS management actions balance the needs of these groups and the biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning objectives of the project.	pathways and processes that contribute to the introduction and spread of IAS into Mexico. By reducing the impact of these sectors, through improved biosecurity processes, strengthened regulations, substitution of exotic species with native species, etc., the project will reduce or eliminate IAS impacts that affect the social and economic well being of Mexico's citizens. For example, aquatic ecosystems are highly impacted by IAS; invasive catfish have supplanted native fish species on which local communities depend; and invasive aquatic plant species have a negative impact on water supply, contribute to premature accumulation of sediments in reservoirs and obstruction of water canals and water inlets in hydroelectric installations, etc., while also providing suitable habitat for disease vectors such as dengue fever, helminthiasis, philiarasis, encephalitis, malaria and yellow fever. Other IAS, such as the cactus moth and the lionfish, pose a direct threat to the livelihoods of numerous farmers and fishermen respectively. By safeguarding biological diversity and ecosystems and their services from these and other IAS threats, the project will add considerably to local and national economic benefits.

A.6. Risks

A more thorough risk analysis than that of the PIF has been carried out and is contained in the PRODOC, Section I, Part II – Project Risks. It is reproduced herein.

IDENTIFIED RISKS AND CATEGORY	IMPACT	LIKELI-HOOD	RISK ASSESS-MENT	MITIGATION MEASURES
Governmental agencies / private companies unwilling to share information / data	Low	Moderately Likely	Low	Information and knowledge generation, management and dissemination are key components of this project, including: strengthening of the National Invasive Alien Species Information System (NIASIS); establishment and operation of Information System to measure implementation of the National Strategy on Invasive Species; the creation of participatory networks to support IAS management; and the establishment and operation of an IAS National Gateway. Open-access and the mutual benefits of information sharing will be explicitly included in all of these activities, and in any other agreements for databases, websites, etc. sponsored by the project. Furthermore, the project will raise awareness among government and private stakeholders on the extent of negative impacts of IAS and on the potential benefits to be accrued from working jointly to reduce IAS introduction and spread.
Government unwilling or	Low	Very Likely	Medium	Authority to push through approval of new legislation is beyond the scope of the project partners. The project will mitigate the risk by completing drafts of new/amended laws

IDENTIFIED RISKS AND CATEGORY	IMPACT	LIKELI-HOOD	RISK ASSESS-MENT	MITIGATION MEASURES
unable to pass new IAS laws by the end of the project				and regulations at least one year before the end of the project, so that the relevant authorities within the Government of Mexico can begin the process of legislative approval while the project is still ongoing. In addition, the project intends to propose a range of new/revised protocols under existing laws and regulations that can be used to strengthen IAS control without requiring legislative approval, such as amendments to i) the General Wildlife Law; ii) amended regulations governing the National Service for Health, Food Safety and Quality (SENASICA); iii) the Federal Law of Rights; iv) the Organic Law of Federal Public Administration; and v) laws and regulations on wildlife, forestry and aquaculture products.
Conflicts of interest and different priorities of stakeholders constrain implementation of activities	Medium	Likely	Medium	Mexico's new NSIS prioritizes strengthening partnerships between government, private sector and civil society. In supporting the implementation of the NSIS through this project, the needs and priorities of stakeholders will be identified, and constructive dialogue, joint planning and problem solving will be promoted. A "High Level Committee" for IAS management will be formally established and authorized to carry out inter-institutional coordination for IAS for the first time in Mexico. This committee will be supported by both a "Scientific Committee" to monitor progress made in the implementation of the National Strategy on Invasive Species, and a "Technical Committee", composed of staff from relevant institutions who will be tasked with communicating and coordinating activities related to implementation of the NSIS among all relevant departments within each institution. The project also will foster interest among stakeholders by developing positive market and fiscal incentives and by making the economic and business case for IAS management based on the savings to be derived from reducing IAS impacts. At the national level, the project has secured the cooperation and participation of numerous government institutions and agencies with responsibilities for IAS management. At the state level, the project will work with state-level authorities in at least eight Mexican states to integrate IAS concerns into state-level Biodiversity Strategies, and to ensure that state-level strategies on IAS comply with and support the goals and targets of the National Strategy on Invasive Species (NSIS). In addition, the project will select one state as a pilot where it will assist state authorities in implementing key actions in the Biodiversity Strategy, including those related to IAS management for productive sectors, so as to provide a model for the participation of state authorities in IAS management throughout the country. The project also will develop and implement a pilot for biosecurity activities with the Aquaculture Sector in the State of Morelos, in order to demonstrate how cooperation among state authorities and productive sector companies and associations can be used to address IAS in productive sectors. At the site level, the project will work with local governments, ejidos, resource managers, and producers at 9 mainland PA sites and 6 island sites, where it will test different models for stakeholder participation in planning, prevention, response, control and eradication activities related to invasive species. Both GECI and CONANP have extensive experience in working with local stakeholders at island sites (and at some mainland PA sites) to develop programs of IAS control and eradication; through the proposed project, they will expand this collaboration to involve communities, natural resource users, and production sectors in local IAS committees, in the creation of site-level IAS management plans, and in the design and implementation of site-level biosecurity systems.
Insufficient funding to continue necessary IAS management after the project ends	Medium	Moderately Likely	Low	Governmental support for biosecurity and IAS management has increased in recent years along with an increased awareness of the economic/environmental impacts of IAS. This dynamic is likely to continue. These issues are at the center of many key national development policy frameworks, and the project will take advantage of that to continue to raise awareness, and bring in further information to guide decision making on investments. The project will assist in the development and application of financial mechanisms to support IAS management, especially cost recovery approaches such as taxes, fees, fines, or other charges, in particular to reduce the risk of intentional introductions of IAS that threaten biodiversity. Fees might include permit, registration and inspection fees; fees for quarantine / containment of suspected IAS; fees on disposal of vector material (e.g. contaminated soils); and fees for risk assessments. Alternatively,

IDENTIFIED RISKS AND CATEGORY	IMPACT	LIKELI-HOOD	RISK ASSESS-MENT	MITIGATION MEASURES
				more general fees or levies might be established for IAS prevention costs based on the volume or risk level of imported goods. In addition, the project will assess the possibility of directing the monies collected from fines imposed by PROFEPA and other agencies for IAS infractions, as well as the fees noted above, into a dedicated fund for IAS prevention (or even to establish separate designated funds for management of specific species, pathways, or production sectors). Also, the project will submit a proposal for additional funding for IAS management activities to the Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público (SHCP). In addition to developing new financing mechanisms, the project will support budgetary coordination between sectors to ensure coherent investments and actions to address threats cost efficiently. The project will carry out a study of existing spending on IAS management (by type of intervention, such as prevention, response, control, eradication, etc.; by geographic location and ecosystem type; by type of invasive species and pathway/vector; etc.) among relevant institutions in Mexico. The results of this analysis will be compared with cost coefficients for different IAS management strategies and estimates of the costs of high-impact IAS to the Mexican economy in order to select the most cost-effective approaches for IAS management and to coordinate the spending and interventions of various institutions and partner organizations to implement those IAS management approaches.
Climate change may alter the threats and risks associated with IAS	Medium	Likely	Medium	Climate change may raise the threat of IAS by increasing the disturbances to ecosystem functioning (e.g. frequency/severity of fires, floods, etc.), as well as by changing local climatic regimes (e.g. changes in the frequency or duration of droughts; in the number of frosts; in humidity levels; etc.). Such changes have the potential to decrease ecosystem resilience and create conditions where invasive species can more easily become established. Climatic parameters have been included in the project's risk analysis activities, including the development of niche models to estimate the potential impacts of climate change on the dispersion of high priority IAS. Project partners will take an adaptive management approach, including integrating the results of climate modeling into the priority setting of the National Strategy on Invasive Species, and in revising IAS prevention and response protocols based on changes in the risk profiles of specific IAS in response to climate change, in order to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of new IAS into and within the country.
Increased international trade may introduce unforeseen IAS	Medium	Moderately Likely	Low	The project and its co-financing partners are investing heavily in strengthening the capacity of institutions such as PROFEPA, CONAFOR and SAGARPA (including both SENASICA and INAPESCA) to prevent and reduce the introduction and spread of IAS into and within Mexico. As part of this investment, resources will be directed towards training of inspection staff at these institutions, and providing these personnel with risk analysis tools, inspection protocols, identification materials, and other resources to identify not only known existing IAS threats, but also to improve the ability to plan for, identify, and control potential new threats. In addition, the project will take an adaptive management approach to the evolving threat of IAS introductions and spread due to trade and travel, including developing and using data mining and other predictive tools to continually revise phytosanitary and sanitary measures in response to changing conditions and trends. Risk assessments will be periodically updated to assure that new commodities, pathways and species are accounted for.

A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

Refer to PRODOC, Section IV –PART III: Stakeholder Involvement Plan and Coordination with other Related Initiatives.

The project will be executed by CONABIO, with oversight and coordination functions carried out through the multi-stakeholder IAS Expert Committee, which was established in 2008 to develop the NSIS. Steps will be taken by the PSC and CONABIO to ensure close coordination and communication with related projects to coordinate efforts and to promote information sharing. In particular, strategic coordination with the following projects will lead to improved IAS management and increased benefits for Mexican biodiversity:

In developing niche models of potential climate change impacts on the dispersion of IAS (activity 1.1.10), the project will coordinate with the proposed CONANP project "Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Resilience of Protected Areas to Safeguard Biodiversity Threatened by Climate Change", which is being implemented with support from UNDP-GEF. The CONANP project will be assessing climate change vulnerability and impacts at numerous PA sites in Mexico, including several sites that are targeted by this project (Cañón del Sumidero, Vizcaíno, and the Archipiélago de Revillagigedo). The proposed project will coordinate with CONANP on climate change related activities at these sites, and will seek access to the data being provided to this project from Automatic Meteorological Stations that CONANP and SMN-CONAGUA have already established at 53 PA sites (with more expected in the next few years).

The proposed project "Strengthening Management of the PA System to Better Conserve Endangered Species and their Habitats", currently being developed by CONANP with support from UNDP-GEF, will address conservation of two species that are impacted by invasive / feral species. The Cedros Island Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus cerrosensis)*, endemic to Cedros Island in Baja California, is considered in critical danger of extinction due to the presence of feral dogs in the island and the destruction of its habitat due to out of control forest fires. The proposed project will share lessons learned from the activities at 6 island sites, including information on strategies for control and eradication of feral mammal species. In addition, the Baja California Pronghorn or Peninsular Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana peninsularis*) (IUCN Critically Endangered) has a population now estimated at only around 200 individuals, due to many factors, one of which is competition in its grazing areas from domestic livestock. The proposed project will share lessons learned from the activities at several mainland PA sites to reduce extensive cattle grazing in sensitive ecosystems.

The proposed project will seek to benefit from lessons learned on marine IAS, in particular strategies for control of the invasive Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*), developed by the regional project "Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean", which is being implemented by CONANP with support from UNEP-GEF.

- Strengthening of the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) through innovation and continuous improvement
- Integrated assessment and Management of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem
- Big Bend – Rio Bravo International Park
- Detection of Exotic Marine Invertebrates in the Gulf of California and their possible environmental impacts
- Evaluation of the impact of Giant Cane (*Arundo donax*) in Mexico and possible biological control agents
- Implementation of a biological control program for the aquatic lily in the Rio Santiago
- Attention and Management Program of Exotic Invasive and Feral Species in Natural Protected Areas of Federal Jurisdiction
- Integrated restoration of Mexican islands through eradication of invasive species (focus on mammals)
- Continuous monitoring program for aquatic organisms in frontier rivers
- Program to protect nesting sites for marine birds from IAS
- A multi-disciplinary (government, universities and private businesses) program to improve the sustainability of the aquarium industry
- Various REDD+ initiatives
- Information sharing with the Global Invasive Species Information Network; IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group; North American Plant Protection Organization, and North American Invasive Species Network
- Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity programme in the Gulf of California

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1 Stakeholder engagement in project implementation

Refer to PRODOC, Section IV –PART III: Stakeholder Involvement Plan and Coordination with other Related Initiatives.

The project will be implemented with the participation of a wide variety of formal and informal partners. The roles of the most important of these partners are described in the Stakeholder Analysis (Section I, Part I of the UNDP Prodoc). The project's design incorporates activities and mechanisms to ensure on-going and effective participation by these and other partners in the implementation of the project:

- Project inception workshop to enable stakeholder awareness of the start of project implementation: The project will be launched by a multi-stakeholder workshop, which will provide an opportunity to share updated information on the project with relevant stakeholders. The workshop will also be used to finalize selection of the Project Steering Committee (PSC); to review and make any necessary revisions to the project work plan and budget; and to establish linkages between the staff of the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) and counterparts in relevant ministries and organizations.
- Project Steering Committee to ensure representation of stakeholder interests in project: A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be constituted to ensure broad representation of all key interests throughout the project's implementation. The representation, and broad terms of reference, of the PSC are further described in Section I, Part III (Management Arrangements) of the Project Document.
- Project communications to facilitate on-going awareness of project: The project will develop, implement and maintain a communications strategy to ensure that all stakeholders are informed on an on-going basis about the project's objectives and activities; overall project progress; and the opportunities for involvement in various aspects of the project's implementation.
- Capacity building: Project activities are focused on building the capacity – at the systemic, institutional and individual levels – of the institutions, NGOs, and other stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of initial project investments. Significant GEF resources are directed at building the capacities of MEE at the institutional level to lead ecosystem-level information management and planning for conservation and development, and of ICS and NGO managers of Outer Island protected areas at the institutional and site level to enable more effective PA management.

B.2 Socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

Refer to PRODOC Annex 3 for the UNDP Environmental and Social Screening applied in May 2013 / concluded on 28 Aug 2013.

Mexican society depends heavily on the production of natural systems (20% of the population relies on subsistence production based on natural resources), many of which are threatened by the impacts of invasive alien species. Although studies of the economic and social impacts of IAS in Mexico are quite limited (the proposed project will carry out studies for selected high priority IAS), those analyses that have been carried out indicate the extent to which IAS can impact human wellbeing and health, and therefore the degree to which strengthened IAS management can provide significant national and local benefits. For example, aquatic ecosystems, though modest in size, are crucial for much of the economic activity of marginalized populations, and yet highly impacted by IAS; one study concluded that invasive catfish had supplanted native fish species that were the main source of income for 12,877 persons in the state of Tabasco (another 51,548 persons depended to some degree directly or indirectly on income from these native fish species). Invasive aquatic plant species, such as the Common water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), salvinia (*Salvinia spp*), saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) and giant reed (*Arundo donax*) have a significant negative impact on water supply and contribute to premature accumulation of sediments in reservoirs, restrictions on fishing and recreational activities, obstruction of water canals and water inlets in hydroelectric installations, and reduced efficiency of hydraulic installations. Aquatic weeds also have a direct effect on health by providing suitable habitat for the development of organisms that are vectors for serious and even mortal diseases such as dengue fever, helminthiasis, philiarasis, encephalitis, malaria and yellow fever, among others. The cactus moth poses a serious threat to *Opuntia* cacti, which are the main source of income for 25,000 Mexican households (in 2009, approximately 83,000 hectares were cultivated with Opuntia, producing revenues of US$170 million). Mexico's ocean territories are biologically productive waters of high economic and social value, particularly for local fishermen. The invasive lionfish, however, poses a serious threat to coral reef ecosystems and fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. Many islands and

PAs have the potential to generate tourism revenues that can benefit conservation and local communities, but the attraction of tourists to these sites can be greatly diminished by IAS impacts. For example, the black palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus palmarum*) and red palm mite *(Raoiella indica*) attack coconut and other palms at the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve; these palm species are important for the tourism market as well as for construction. At the Cañón del Sumidero National Park, packs of feral dogs residing within the park pose a threat to visitors to the PA as well as the residents of local communities, and there have been outbreaks of rabies in urban areas bordering the PA. IAS also impact human health by contributing to the spread of new diseases and parasites, as well as increasing exposure to higher and more frequent doses of pesticides and other chemicals that are needed to eradicate and control invasive species. By safeguarding biological diversity and ecosystems and their services from these and other IAS threats, the project will add considerably to local and national economic benefits.

Gender dimensions remain unchanged since the PIF.

UNDP carried out due diligence prior to clearance of the PRODOC and screened the project for potential social and environmental negative effects.

B.3. Cost-effectiveness reflected in project design

For a summary refer to PRODOC, Section I, Part II – Cost Effectiveness Analysis, which is reproduced herein.

The proposed project strategy represents a cost-effective approach to reduce the impact of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystems and thereby generate global environmental benefits. Mexico already has an effective regulatory and institutional framework and capacities for controlling IAS that pose a threat to economic production and human health, which constitutes a strong foundation on which the project can build. For example, at present Mexico has an extensive phytosanitary inspection system, led by SENASICA, with a presence at all of the significant airports, ports and border points of entry into continental Mexico from other countries. In addition, Mexico has a robust system for inspection and prevention of IAS in forest and wildlife products, where PROFEPA is responsible for the inspection of goods at points of entry, SEMARNAT is responsible for the laboratory analysis of any suspected goods, and CONAFOR monitors for forest pests at field sites and at distribution and storage points. Thus, rather than attempting to establish a wholly new set of institutions, personnel, facilities, etc. for managing IAS that impact biodiversity, the project will work with national partners to revise and adapt mandates, protocol, and capacities to enable the scope of the existing IAS management framework to expand to cover IAS that pose a threat to biodiversity.

In addition to building on existing structures and capacities, several elements of the project are designed to specifically address and promote cost effective and efficient approaches to IAS management. By harmonizing regulations and standardizing protocols and mechanisms among different institutions regarding the management of IAS that threaten biodiversity, including early warning, monitoring and blacklisting, the project will improve the efficiency of IAS prevention and control activities. In addition, the project will develop several tools to support broader participation and cost-effective information sharing on the extent, location, and optimal management strategies for invasive alien species in Mexico, including an IAS Experts Network that will allow resource managers and inspectors to quickly and efficiently access relevant experts and knowledge products; and a mobile application and related online tool where the general public can upload photos and data on suspected IAS sightings, which will help CONABIO to increase the capacity to collect and analyze the data that is generated and share it with relevant resource management agencies. Both of these tools, which will be linked to an IAS National Gateway, will facilitate timely and comprehensive information sharing among national IAS experts, easy access to relevant experts for institutional and sectorial stakeholders, and more efficient and cost effective approaches to IAS management. The project will utilize risk analyses to identify IAS with the most environmental and economic impact, as well as establishing cost coefficients for different IAS management strategies (prevention, EDRR, control, eradication, etc.), based on field level activities developed and implemented through the project. These estimates of the most damaging IAS, and the most cost effective techniques for addressing them, will allow decision makers to identify and select the most cost effective IAS management strategies, which will help to guide future policies and priority setting for the National Strategy on Invasive Species, as well as the national protected areas system and the planning work of National Advisory Committee on Mexican Island Territory 2012.

The project also will establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms that will optimize the activities of existing institutions for IAS management, such as the proposed IAS High Level Committee. Among other activities, the committee will seek to integrate and harmonize the activities of those institutions mandated to address the impacts of IAS on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, and those responsible for implementing phytosanitary and zoosanitary measures to address IAS that impact productive activities and human health, so that they are sharing information, coordinating inspection and quarantine activities, and avoiding overlaps in responsibilities. The committee also will work to establish budgetary coordination between sectors to ensure coherent investments and actions to address threats in a cost efficient manner, by identifying critical gaps where IAS management interventions are not being implemented for lack of funding (or possibly areas of duplicated funding), to select the most cost-effective approaches for addressing those gaps, and then to coordinate the spending and interventions of various institutions and partner organizations to implement those IAS management approaches.

At the site level, field-testing of IAS management strategies will take place at island and mainland PA sites where it can build on previous experience in IAS management and where institutional partners (CONANP and GECI) have on-the-ground resources and proven experience in IAS management. At these sites, the project will implement the first integrated systems for IAS management in high priority conservation areas, which will enable mangers to select and deploy the most cost effective and relevant IAS actions over the long term based on improved knowledge and priority setting and planning activities. To date, site level IAS management in high priority conservation areas has been focused heavily on control, eradication and monitoring measures; these activities are typically costly, and in the absence of effective biosecurity measures, need to be carried on indefinitely (control) and/or repeated periodically (eradication). By contrast, the primary emphasis of the GEF funding at the site level will be on preventing the entry and spread of IAS into high priority conservation areas through prevention and early detection and rapid response systems, in order to prevent IAS impacts at the source and thereby avoid costly control and eradication efforts. In addition, the project will carry out education and outreach efforts to local inhabitants to raise awareness about IAS issues and to increase the participation of local inhabitants in IAS prevention and control measures, including working with local CSOs, communities and researchers to establish participatory voluntary monitoring brigades for high priority IAS. While there is some investment for control and eradication (<15% of GEF funds, almost all for control) at the project sites, these activities are being undertaken principally in situations where control and eradication can generate significant global biodiversity benefits for relatively low cost and with a high probability of success.

In selecting among different IAS management options for the different island sites, GECI utilized a decision support system that it has developed in order to prioritize activities and goals for island conservation throughout Mexico. Among other factors, this decision support system takes into account the issue of cost effectiveness of eradication vs. sustained control (where this is possible) vs. reinvasion risk in the long term. Eradication activities will be carried out through this project in situations where eradication is the most technically feasible and cost effective option to sustainably protect island biodiversity from IAS threats. For example, on smaller and more remote islands, eradication of invasive mammals such as cats is not only feasible, but also much less costly than ongoing control efforts, and provides immense benefits for island biodiversity over the long-term (particularly when it is combined with effective biosecurity measures). Furthermore, experience in Mexico and globally shows that the control of rodents is simply not feasible, while sustained control of feral cats is far more expensive than eradication. It is also worth noting that the average cost of removing IAS on Mexican islands (USD 90/ha) is considered a good return on investment for BD conservation compared to other experiences conducted elsewhere in the world; Mexico has invested significantly in control and eradication on islands over the past several decades and has developed effective techniques and capacities that have brought down the costs of these measures over time. Nevertheless, the project design recognizes that IAS control and eradication programs are not always cost-effective, as they deal with the effects rather than the causes of invasions, do nothing to prevent future invasions, and raise questions regarding long-term sustainability and financing. For this reason, control and eradication activities are being paired with the establishment of biosecurity systems, which will not only will protect biodiversity, but also ensure that investments in control and eradication have the highest rates of return on investment.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN

Monitoring and reporting

Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures and will be provided by the project team and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) with support from UNDP/GEF. The Project logframe (Project Results Framework) in Annex A provides *performance* and *impact* indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding *means of verification*. These will form the basis on which the project's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system will be built. The following sections outline the principle components of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and indicative cost estimates related to M&E activities. The project's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will be presented and finalized at the Project's Inception Report following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

The project will be monitored through the following M&E activities. The M&E budget is provided in the table below.

Project start-up

A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 months of project start with those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, UNDP country office and where appropriate/feasible regional technical policy and programme advisors as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan.

The Inception Workshop should address a number of key issues including:

a) Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP CO and RCU staff vis à vis the project team. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff will be discussed again as needed.
b) Based on the project results framework and the relevant GEF Tracking Tool if appropriate, finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
c) Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled.
d) Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
e) Plan and schedule Project Steering Committee meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organisation structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first Project Steering Committee meeting should be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.

An Inception Workshop report is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

Quarterly

Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform. Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS. Risks become critical when the impact and probability are high. Note that for UNDP GEF projects, all financial risks associated with financial instruments such as revolving funds, microfinance schemes, or capitalization of ESCOs are automatically classified as critical on the basis of their innovative nature (high impact and uncertainty due to no previous experience justifies classification as critical). Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot. Other ATLAS logs can be used to monitor issues, lessons learned etc. The use of these functions is a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

Annually

Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR): This key report is prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period (30 June to 1 July). The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements.

The APR/PIR includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual).
- Lesson learned/good practice.
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS QPR
- Portfolio level indicators (i.e. GEF focal area tracking tools) are used by most focal areas on an annual basis as well.

Periodic Monitoring through site visits

UNDP CO and the UNDP RCU will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/BTOR will be prepared by the CO and UNDP RCU and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members.

Mid-term of project cycle

The project will undergo an independent Mid-Term Evaluation at the mid-point of project implementation (February 2016). The Mid-Term Evaluation will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term evaluation will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The management response and the evaluation will be uploaded to UNDP corporate systems, in particular the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC). The relevant GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools will also be completed during the mid-term evaluation cycle.

End of Project

An independent Final Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final Project Board meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidance. The final evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term evaluation, if any such correction took place). The final evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF.

The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response, which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC). The relevant GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools will also be completed during the final evaluation.

During the last three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

Learning and knowledge sharing

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyse, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Finally, there will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

M&E Workplan and Budget

Type of M&E activity	**Responsible Parties**	**Budget US$** *Excluding project team staff time*	**Time frame**
Inception Workshop and Report	▪ Project Manager ▪ UNDP CO, UNDP GEF	Indicative cost: 8,363	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results.	▪ UNDP GEF RTA/Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members.	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop.	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on *output and implementation*	▪ Oversight by Project Manager ▪ Project team	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
ARR/PIR	▪ Project manager and team ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RTA ▪ UNDP EEG	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	▪ Project manager and team	None	Quarterly
Mid-term Evaluation	▪ Project manager and team ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU ▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	Indicative cost: 24,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Final Evaluation	▪ Project manager and team, ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU ▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	Indicative cost: 32,000	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Project Terminal Report	▪ Project manager and team ▪ UNDP CO ▪ Local consultant	0	At least three months before the end of the project
Audit	▪ UNDP CO ▪ Project manager and team	Indicative cost: 12,000	Yearly
Visits to field sites	▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU (as appropriate) ▪ Government representatives	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and operational budget	Yearly
Inception Workshop and Report	▪ Project Manager ▪ UNDP CO, UNDP GEF	Indicative cost: printing costs only, if any.	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results.	▪ UNDP GEF RTA/Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members.	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop.	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on *output and implementation*	▪ Oversight by Project Manager ▪ Project team	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US$ *Excluding project team staff time*	Time frame
ARR/PIR	▪ Project manager and team ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RTA ▪ UNDP EEG	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	▪ Project manager and team	None	Quarterly
TOTAL indicative COST *Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses*		US$76,363	

*Note: Costs included in this table are part and parcel of the UNDP Total Budget and Workplan (TBW) in the PRODOC, and not additional to it.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*
Claudia Grayeb Bayata	Deputy General Director	UNDER-SECRETARIAT OF FINANCE AND PUBLIC CREDIT INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AFFAIRS UNIT DEPUTY GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR NORTH AMERICA, ASIA-PACIFIC AND THE CARIBBEAN	DECEMBER 2, 2011

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date *(Month, day, year)*	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu, UNDP-GEF Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Executive Coordinator		December 10, 2013	Lyes Ferroukhi, Regional Technical Advisor, EBD	+507 302-4576	lyes.ferroukhi@undp.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK[4]

This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in CPAP: Mainstreaming environment and energy
Country Programme Outcome Indicators: Promoted risk disaster and low-emission, resilient and environmentally sustainable development strategies, with a gender and multicultural approach for poverty reduction and equity
Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area: 1. Mainstreaming environment and energy: Technical and institutional capacities to promote environmental sustainability developed
Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program: SO 2 - Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors
Applicable GEF Expected Outcomes: SP 3 - Improved management frameworks to prevent, control and manage invasive aliens
Applicable GEF Outcome Indicators: Policies and regulatory frameworks for production sectors: IAS management framework operational as recorded by GEF 5 TT

Project Strategy	**Objectively verifiable indicators**
Goal	**Globally significant biodiversity is protected from the impacts of invasive alien species in Mexico**

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Indicator</th><th>Baseline</th><th>Target</th><th>Means of Verification</th><th>Risks and Assumptions</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Objective: To safeguard globally significant biodiversity in vulnerable ecosystems by building capacity to prevent, detect, control and manage IAS in Mexico</td>
<td>Strengthened national level invasive species management framework, measured by an increase in total score of the IAS TT:
<table>
<tr><th>Issue</th></tr>
<tr><td>1) Is there a National Coordination Mechanism to assist with the design and implementation of a national IAS strategy?</td></tr>
<tr><td>2) Is there a National IAS strategy and is it being implemented?</td></tr>
<tr><td>3) Has the national IAS strategy led to the development and adoption of comprehensive framework of policies, legislation, and regulations across sectors</td></tr>
<tr><td>4) Have priority pathways for invasions been identified and actively managed and monitored?</td></tr>
<tr><td>5) Are detection, delimiting and monitoring surveys conducted on a regular basis?</td></tr>
<tr><td>6) Are best management practices being applied in project target areas?</td></tr>
<tr><td>TOTAL SCORE</td></tr>
<tr><td>TOTAL POSSIBLE</td></tr>
</table>
Strengthened national capacities for IAS</td>
<td>Scores at Start of Project
<table>
<tr><th>Baseline Scores</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>8</td></tr>
<tr><td>29</td></tr>
</table>
Average score on Capacity</td>
<td>Scores at End of Project:
<table>
<tr><th>Target Scores</th></tr>
<tr><td>3</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>8</td></tr>
<tr><td>25</td></tr>
<tr><td>29</td></tr>
</table>
Average score on Capacity</td>
<td>GEF Tracking Tool applied at PPG, MTR and TE

Scorecard</td>
<td><u>Risks:</u>

- Extreme weather events and/or fires beyond predicted levels.

<u>Assumptions:</u>

- Stability and commitment of governmental institutions throughout project implementation.

- Willingness within the GoM to commit funding / resources to the</td>
</tr>
</table>

[4] In addition to the Project Results Framework, Annex 2 of the UNDP Prodoc contains a table with Output (progress) Indicators and Indicative Activities

	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	management[5], as measured by the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard	Development Scorecard: 43	Development Scorecard by end of project: 76	applied at PPG, MTR and TE	management of IAS that impact biodiversity National and international macroeconomic conditions remain stable.
	Supporting framework for implementation of the National Strategy for Invasive Species (NSIS), as measured by: • National (federal and state level) and international institutions (government, NGOs & Universities) involved in the implementation process of the NSIS	• # of official institutional partners involved in IAS management in Mexico: 8 governmental institutions, 3 Universities, 2 NGOs, 1 State level organization	• 1 additional institutional partner becomes involved in IAS management each year of the project	MoUs for participation in the NSIS	
	• Cost effectiveness of IAS management actions	• No consolidated information on the costs of different IAS management strategies (prevention, response, control, etc.) in Mexico, or how costs differ in varying ecological / logistical conditions	• Cost coefficients, based on IAS management activities carried out at selected project field sites, developed and guiding priority setting of NSIS goals / activities by end of project	Project report on cost coefficients	
	Entry and spread of IAS into 15 islands (6 island groups) reduced through biosecurity inspections of goods/persons who arrive at the islands by air/sea	0% of goods and persons arriving at islands are subject to biosecurity inspections	Goods and persons arriving at islands are subject to biosecurity inspections • 100%: Guadalupe, Socorro, Banco Chinchorro • 50%: San Benito, Espíritu Santo • 25%: Arrecife Alacranes	Reports of inspection authorities	
	Populations of key IAS contained to below thresholds that endanger native species and their habitats, providing additional protection to at least[6]: • 155 endemic species, and 168 species of flora and fauna classified under NOM-059[7], at 15 islands (6 island groups) totaling 46,420 hectares	Populations of selected high impact IAS at sites (low, medium, high; estimates will be validated during year 1 of the project): • Feral cats (*Felis gatus*) on Isla Guadalupe, Isla Espiritu Santo, Isla Socorro and Banco Chinchorro - <u>Medium</u>	Populations of selected high impact IAS at sites by end of project: • 0 on Isla Espiritu Santo and Banco Chinchorro; Low on Isla Guadalupe and Isla Soccoro		
	• 191 endemic species, and 983 species of	• Mice (*Peromyscus eremicus*	• 0		

[5] Institutions / Organizations include: CONABIO, CONANP, CONAFOR, SENASICA, INAPESCA, SEMARNAT, INECC, IMTA, PROFEPA, as well as Universities, NGOs/CSOs, and Private Sector Associations

[6] Overall, 87% of the costs of these control and eradication activities will be paid for with co-financing, and the GEF funding of US$312,500 represents only 5.84% of the overall GEF support for the project

[7] NOM-059: Mexican Official Norm (SEMARNAT-2010, Environmental Protection; flora and fauna species native to Mexico; list of species at risk)

	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	flora and fauna classified under NOM-059, at 9 mainland protected areas totaling 4,240,349 hectares	*cedrosensi*) on San Benito Archipelago – <u>High</u> • Feral goats (*Capra hircus*) on Isla Espiritu Santo - <u>Medium</u> • Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) on Banco Chinchorro – <u>High</u> • Vidrillo (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*) at El Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve – <u>High</u> • Pacific Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) at El Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve - <u>Medium</u> • Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) at the APFF Sierra de Álamos-Río Cuchujaqu – <u>High</u> • Salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) at the APFF Sierra de Álamos-Río Cuchujaqu – <u>High</u> • Giant Cane (*Arundo donax*) (90 hectares) and Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) (120 hectares) at the Cumbres de Monterrey National Park – <u>Medium</u> • Feral dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris)* and feral cats (*Felis gatus*) at the Cañón del Sumidero National Park – <u>High</u> • Lionfish (Pterois volitans) at the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve - <u>Medium</u>	• 0 • 0 • Medium • Low • Medium • Medium • Low • Low • Low		
Component 1: National IAS management framework	% of species being imported into Mexico for the first time that have a risk analyses (for potential impacts on biodiversity) Effective biosecurity systems at productive sector facilities, including: nurseries, breed-	0% Productive sector companies and associations lack knowledge, experi-	100% of species are subject to risk analyses or at least rapid assessments for potential impacts on biodiversity 10 productive sector facilities that deal in IAS with potential impacts on	Risk analysis protocols and manuals HACCP reports, closed circuit	<u>Risks:</u> - State Authorities may not be willing to implement robust IAS management

	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	ing ponds / farms, distribution centers, UMAs and PIMVS[8]	ence and capacities for applying biosecurity protocols or technologies for IAS that impact biodiversity	biodiversity applying Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) systems and/or implementing improved IAS management technologies by the end of the project	technologies implemented	controls for productive sectors - Standards, codes of conduct and certification systems for productive sectors may not be ready for implementation by the end of the project <u>Assumptions:</u> - Institutional willingness to share information and adopt harmonized protocols on IAS - Productive sector players understand the role of IAS management in ensuring long-term viability of their operations - Political will exists to approve and implement strengthened IAS laws and/or regulations
	Regulations under existing legislation to strengthen management authority over IAS that impact biodiversity (laws / regulations that might need to be revised / strengthened include): • Ley General de Vida Silvestre • El Sistema Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agropecuaria y Alimentaria (SINASICA) • Ley Federal de Derechos (LFD) • Leyes y reglamentos sobre vida silvestre, lo forestal y acuícola • Ley Orgánica de la Administración Pública Federal (LOAPF)	Laws and regulations for wildlife, forestry and fisheries are insufficient for prevention, early detection, rapid response, and control and eradication of IAS that impact biodiversity	Regulations for management of IAS that impact biodiversity in wildlife, forestry and fisheries are drafted by the end of the project	Draft laws, regulations, and other legal instruments	
	% of inspectors at points of entry or other inspection sites within Mexico are trained in use of the National List of Invasive Species or in protocols to prevent the introduction/spread of IAS that impact BD	0%	> 90%	Training reports; statistics on # of inspections carried out	
	Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) systems for IAS that impact biodiversity	No EDRR systems exist in Mexico for IAS that impact biodiversity	EDRR systems have been developed and implemented nationally for at least 2 invasive species (e.g. *Cactoblastics cactorum* and *Dreissena polymorpha*) by the end of the project	Official reports of EDRR systems	

[8] UMA (Unidades de Manejo Ambiental) are government authorized centers to support natural resources related production; PIMVS (Predios o Instalaciones que Manejan Vida Silvestre) are facilities wildlife species are bred and managed in a controlled system outside of their natural habitat

	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
					- Institutional willingness to integrate IAS management priorities into existing plans and functions
Component 2: Integrated IAS management to protect vulnerable globally significant ecosystems	Financing for control and prevention activities Sustained control of feral cats (Guadalupe and Socorro) Removal of IAS from selected island sites	USD 0.8 million per year for activities related to IAS management at 6 selected island sites Feral cat populations on two islands having severe negative impact on native species through predation A total of 15 populations of invasive mammals (i.e. rodents, cats and ungulates) have already been removed from the selected island sites between 1998-2012	Average 25% increase of budget for IAS control and prevention in selected island sites by the end of the project Sustained control of feral cats (Guadalupe and Socorro) by end of project • End of year 1: Eradication of feral cats (Espiritu Santo); mice (San Benito Oeste); and 5 species of exotic vascular plants (Arrecife Alacranes) • End of year 2: Eradication of black rats and feral cats on Banco Chinchorro (Cayo Centro) • End of year 3: Eradication of feral goats on Isla Espiritu Santo • End of Project: Post-eradication monitoring completed for 9 IAS (eradicated in years 1-2)	Detailed budget analysis using common methodologies across all sites will be done at beginning, midterm and end of project	Risks: - Deterioration of security conditions could prevent implementation of field activities at some mainland PA sites Assumptions: - Acceptance among local stakeholders at island sites of IAS management restrictions - Willingness within CONANP to increase funding / resources for management of IAS that impact biodiversity - Acceptance among local stakeholders at mainland PA sites of IAS
	Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDDR) systems to prevent the establishment and spread of specific high priority IAS applied at selected mainland PA sites: • Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) at Vizcaino • Mozambique Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) at Tutuaca • Feral cat, feral dogs, and the devil fish *(Loriicaridae fam.*) at Cañón del Sumidero	0 mainland PAs have systems for EDRR (baseline populations to be determined during year 1 of project) • Outcompetes native bird species for food sources • Outcompetes native fish species; changes aquatic environment • Feral cats and dogs prey on native species and transmit diseases; devil fish competes with native fish spe-	4 mainland PAs with operating participatory EDRR systems sites by end of the project, with the following results: • 80% reduction in successful escapes of monk parakeet • No increase in # of water bodies with presence of tilapia • Reduced rate of spread of feral cats and dogs into PA; no increase in # of water bodies with devil fish	Logs of documented EDRR activities	

	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
		cies and transmits diseases			management restrictions
	• Giant cane (*Arundo donax*), vine (*Cassytha filiformis*) and palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus palmarum*) at Sian Ka'an	• Giant cane disrupts aquatic systems; vine kills native vegetation; weevil kills palms	• No increase in area impacted by giant cane or vine; no increase in # of palms impacted by weevil		- Local actors understand the role of IAS management in reducing social vulnerability.
	Best practices for IAS management among productive sector partners at 6 mainland PA sites reduce IAS populations as follows:	Current production sector practices result in the following IAS impacts:	Best practices instituted at 6 mainland PA sites by the end of project, with the following results:	Annual reports of PA Advisory Councils and project monitoring reports	- Productive sector players understand the role of IAS management in ensuring long-term viability of their operations
	• Planting of buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) and pinkgrass (*Melinis repens*) at Tutaca and pink grass (*Melinis repens*) at Sierra de Álamos	• Exotic grasses displace native grassland species and increase the incidence and severity of fires within the PA	• No more planting of buffel grass and pinkgrass		
	• Planting of exotic tree species such as cedro blanco (*Cupressus lindleyi*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and casuarina (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) at Vallee de Bravo	• Exotic tree species reduce habitat for native species and change hydrological conditions	• Planting of exotic tree species ended, and replaced with native tree species		
	• Extensive cattle ranching within PA boundaries at Marismas Nacionales and Sian Ka'an	• Destruction of mangrove seedlings by foraging cattle; pollution caused by livestock waste; negative impacts on re-vegetation	• Cattle ranching restricted in scope (e.g. no access to priority conservation areas such as mangroves)		
	• Aquaculture utilizing exotic trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) at Tutuaca; exotic carp and trout at Vallee de Bravo; various exotic species at Cañón del Sumidero; and Mozambique Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) at Sian Ka'an	• Exotic fish species outcompete native fish species and produce changes in the aquatic environment	• Replacement of exotic aquaculture species with native species; enhanced biosecurity systems for remaining exotic aquaculture operations		

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Comments	Responses	Reference
	GEF Secretariat	
Further details on sustainable financing	During the project design phase, strategies were developed to promote sustainable financing for IAS management in Mexico, including both increased and diversified revenue sources, and strategies / mechanisms for cost effectiveness. These strategies are described below. <u>Development and application of financial mechanisms to support IAS management:</u> The project will carry out an in-depth study coordinated between sectors regarding the feasibility of the development and introduction of financial instruments (e.g. cost recovery approaches such as taxes, fees, fines, or other charges) for IAS management, in particular to reduce the risk of intentional introductions of IAS that threaten biodiversity. Among other possibilities, the study will focus on the options for establishing a dedicated fund for IAS prevention activities based on fees and fines related to IAS management. Fees that might pay into the fund could include permit, registration and inspection fees; fees for quarantine / containment of suspected IAS; fees on disposal of vector material (e.g. contaminated soils); and fees for risk assessments. Alternatively, more general fees or levies might be established for IAS prevention costs based on the volume or risk level of imported goods. In addition, the study will assess the possibility of directing the monies collected from fines imposed by PROFEPA and other agencies for IAS infractions into the dedicated fund for IAS prevention (or even to establish separate designated funds for management of specific species, pathways, or production sectors). Once completed the study will be presented to the national congress and relevant institutions (e.g. Ministry of Economics, SEMARNAT) for their review, and then a conference will be convened with relevant industries, associations and other stakeholders to discuss the feasibility of the proposed financing mechanisms and to initiate on-going and continuous dialogue on funding and cooperation for IAS management. Among the specific outcomes of the study and subsequent dialogue will be the submission of a proposal for additional funding for IAS management activities to the Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público (SHCP). By establishing funding mechanisms for IAS management based on systems of fees and/or fines for IAS-related infractions, the project will facilitate increased and sustainable funding levels for IAS management in Mexico, while also incentivizing public and private actors to shift towards low-risk practices and to substitute the use of exotics for native species. <u>Budgetary coordination between sectors to ensure coherent investments and actions to address threats cost efficiently:</u> The project will carry out a study of existing spending on IAS management (by type of intervention, such as prevention, response, control, eradication, etc.; by geographic location and ecosystem type; by type of invasive species and pathway/vector; etc.) among relevant institutions in Mexico. The results of this analysis will be compared with the cost coefficients for different IAS management strategies (see activity 1.1.11) and the estimates of the costs of high-impact IAS to the Mexican economy (see activity 1.1.12) in order to identify critical gaps where IAS management interventions are not being implemented for lack of funding (or possibly areas of duplicated funding), to select the most cost-effective approaches for addressing those gaps, and then to coordinate the spending and interventions of various institutions and partner organizations to implement those IAS management approaches. The "High-Level Committee" will oversee the process to use the results of this study (and those under 1.1.11 and 1.1.12) to redirect, coordinate and optimize Mexican government interventions for IAS management, in accordance with the goals and priorities of the National Invasive Species Strategy.	UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 89, Activity 1.3.3 UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 89, Activity 1.3.4
Detail on how the project and existing efforts will mesh into a national system.	Within this overall suite of activities to strengthen the multi-sectorial institutional framework for IAS management, particular emphasis will be placed on integrating and harmonizing the activities of diverse institutions responsible for different aspects of IAS management in Mexico, most notably those institutions mandated to address the impacts of IAS on biodiversity and	UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 89,

Comments	Responses	Reference
	ecosystem functioning, and those responsible for implementing phytosanitary and zoosanitary measures to address IAS that impact productive activities (especially agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, and forestry), as well as human health. CONABIO, the project Executing Agency, is well placed to implement such actions. In 2005, SEMARNAT designated CONABIO as the lead technical institution at the national level on invasive species in Mexico, with the mandate to function i) as a coordinating technical institution at national level and (ii) to provide national authorities involved in IAS prevention, control and management with the adequate scientific and technical guidance to conduct their work properly. Thus, while other institutions play a leading role in phytosanistary and zoosanitary measures (SENASICA) and regulation of IAS prevention and control measures (PROFEPA), CONABIO has a role to provide these agencies with necessary technical information and has an important coordinating function to ensure that they work together in a harmonized way on these issues. CONABIO is, in other words, in the position to facilitate that all relevant institutions in Mexico, both "environment focused" institutions and "non environment focused" agencies, work together in the most coherent and cost efficient manner. At present, Mexico has a very strong phytosanitary inspection system, led by SENASICA, with a presence at all of the significant airports, ports and border points of entry into continental Mexico from other countries. In addition, Mexico has a robust system for inspection and prevention of IAS in forest and wildlife products, where PROFEPA is responsible for the inspection of goods at points of entry, SEMARNAT is responsible for the laboratory analysis of any suspected goods, and CONAFOR monitors for forest pests at field sites and at distribution and storage points. However, none of these existing programs includes mandates, protocols or practices for preventing / responding to IAS that do not specifically harm the relevant productive sectors; in other words, these institutional IAS programs do not address IAS that only impact biodiversity. Furthermore, these programs do not include prevention / control of IAS pathways within Mexico, so that there are no biosecurity programs to prevent the introduction and spread of IAS to Mexico's islands or internally between regions and high priority conservation areas. Project proponents recognize that resolving years of fragmented interventions and institutional piecemeal approaches are complex issues to address and the ongoing efforts initiated by the GoM need to be pursued actively. Fortunately, with the publication of the NSIS in 2010, the Government of Mexico now fully recognizes the need for multi-sectorial and crosscutting approaches to IAS control, prevention and management, through an integrated and systematic approach involving both environmental stakeholders as well as actors representing productive sectors and phytosanitary authorities. Indeed, the fact that environmental-focused agencies are highly involved in ongoing IAS management efforts (see Baseline Analysis), and even have the mandate to lead the government effort to harmonize IAS management protocols and strategies (as with the National List on Invasive Species; the National Invasive Alien Species Information System, and the proposed high-level committee for IAS management), demonstrates the government's understanding of the need to find more efficient ways to control the impact of IAS not only in productive sectors but also in sensitive ecosystems of the country. Furthermore, the ongoing effort to create a National List of Invasive Species has started the process of getting key institutions, including CONABIO, SEMARNAT, SENASICA, INAPESCA, PROFEPA, CONAFOR, CONANP, IMTA, and INECC, as well as NGOs and Universities, to work together on identifying high priority IAS; on developing harmonized pre-screening methodologies; on consolidating their individual institutional data on IAS; and on drafting the regulations that will be necessary to support the use of the final, approved list (i.e. clear rules regarding which species are not allowed into the country; request procedures for import permissions; etc.). To support this approach, the project will develop a number of new information systems and harmonized and improved protocols and tools (as described under Output 1.1) in order to coordinate on different aspects of IAS management and to ensure	Activities 1.3.2, 1.3.3 and 1.3.7

Comments	Responses	Reference
	the sharing of resources and information between institutions with a "traditional" IAS management orientation (e.g. SENASICA, CONAFOR, INAPESCA, etc.) and institutions with a stronger focus on IAS management for environmental protection (e.g. CONABIO, CONANP, PROFEPA, etc.). These new and jointly developed information resources, risk analyses, prevention and response protocols, identification materials, etc. will provide practical, day-to-day mechanisms to allow for increased coordination among these agencies. In addition, the new High Level Committee will be authorized to carry out inter-institutional coordination, including coordinating budgeting/spending on IAS management among different institutions and partners, and linking IAS management issues with health, economic, and climate change and biosecurity. The committee also will be supported by a Scientific Committee (to provide advisory services and to act as the leading national body for implementation of the NSIS) and a Technical Committee, which will be composed of at least one staff member from each relevant institution and will be charged with implementing the decisions made by the other committees and communicating and coordinating activities related to implementation of the NSIS among all relevant departments within each institution. In order to further strengthen institutional coordination, the project will develop standardized protocols for: 1) communication procedures and protocols for responding to new IAS invasions and other time-sensitive IAS management issues; 2) delineation of institutional responsibilities and sharing of contact information for key persons in each institution; and 3) mechanisms for sharing information on current and potential new joint initiatives. In addition, once the National List of Invasive Species has been finalized, SEMARNAT and SAGARPA will sign a formal agreement (Acuerdo Secretarial) whereby they agree on the prohibitions, restrictions and management plans that must be applied to species on the list, including IAS that impact BD and IAS that may only impact economic activities, human health, and other factors. The project also will establish harmonized standards and training programs for IAS management across key institutions, including training on specific issues (i.e. risk analysis; biosecurity and EDRR systems; control, eradication, and monitoring techniques; economic analyses, etc.) so that the various institutions can share information and resource more effectively. This effort will support the strategy of the project to build on existing institutional capacities (e.g. the existing teams of inspectors at SENASICA, CONAFOR and PROFEPA, among others) and to integrate and include IAS that impact biodiversity into their mandates and programs, rather than to try to build a separate and costly parallel structure.	
For the site level projects, include plans for outreach to and education of local communities and CSOs (on island and near PAs) to help prevent IAS introduction.	During the project design phase, strategies for education and outreach on IAS-related issues to local communities and CSOs were developed for the 6 selected island sites and the 9 mainland PA sites. These strategies, along with associated strategies for enhancing participation by local communities, organizations, and businesses on IAS management and the site level, are described below. <u>Island Sites:</u> To generate understanding and support for IAS management interventions at the 6 selected island sites, the project will carry out environmental education activities for resource managers (government agencies and NGOs), local residents, visitors, and other current and potential users of the islands. The thematic focus will be to provide users with information on the ecological value of the islands, the threats posed by IAS, and the details of the new Island Biosecurity Programs, whose success will depend highly on local stakeholder participation and support. The project will take advantage of publicly available platforms (e.g. websites, radio spots, newspaper and television media); will distribute printed information on IAS to all fishermen and other selected island users; and will install permanent media (e.g. posters and signs) on the importance of routine screening measures of persons and goods traveling to the islands. The project will also carry out workshops for awareness raising of personnel of management institutions (SEMAR, CONANP, SCT, etc.), local residents, and productive sector partners (tourism operators, fishermen, salt producers), including both those based on the islands and those based at points of embarkation (ports, airports) to the islands.	UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 95, Activity 2.1.2

Comments	Responses	Reference
	In addition, in order to enable these stakeholders to participate more fully and effectively in IAS management activities, the project will implement capacity building in IAS management for managers and current and potential users of the selected islands / island groups. The capacity building will focus on 3 thematic areas: 1) Preventive Actions (identifying pathways and transport mechanisms of IAS to the islands, with an emphasis on identifying introduction vectors, especially ships); 2) Control Actions (a detailed review of all landings, as well as detection monitoring on the islands); and 3) EDRR (elimination of newly introduced populations using monitoring and trapping practices). To enable these actions, the project will provide training workshops in IAS monitoring for local communities, to enable their participation in EDRR activities, as well as training of personnel of management institutions (SEMAR, CONANP, SCT, etc.) and productive sector partners (tourism operators, fishermen, salt producers) in biosecurity actions and in IAS monitoring and implementation of EDRR systems. <u>Mainland Protected Area Sites:</u> The project includes a suite of activities to increase community awareness and participation in IAS management in and around mainland PA sites. The IAS Management Committees at each mainland PA site will coordinate and implement activities to raise awareness and facilitate participation of local stakeholders in IAS management. To raise awareness about IAS impacts and management options, the site-level IAS Committees, in partnership with local NGOs and others, will organize and deliver workshops on IAS-related issues for current and potential visitors / users of the PAs to raise awareness of IAS threats, to explain new biosecurity protocols and restrictions, and to share information on effective IAS management practices. The project also will develop and disseminate information materials on IAS to the general public and to schools, including printed information (posters, brochures, signs, leaflets and manuals) and media products (e.g. TV and radio announcements, videos, etc.) that explain IAS issues and emphasize biosecurity measures, such as the importance of routine screening measures for persons and baggage when entering PA sites. At the Cumbres de Monterrey National Park, the project will work in partnership with an existing education and awareness program on invasive species in cooperation with the Conservation Program for Sustainable Development (PROCODES) and Parks Canada. In addition, the project will promote community participation in IAS management in areas within and surrounding the selected PA sites. Site-level PA management staff (with guidance and monitoring from the IAS Management Committee at each site) will organize workshops and training for local residents and other stakeholders (PA staff, university researchers, NGO staff) in order to establish surveillance and reporting groups to enable early detection and reporting of IAS within and nearby the PAs (these groups will be modeled on similar groups of farmers and veterinarians who find and report diseases and pests in productive sectors). These local stakeholders will be provided with identification sheets and information on how to contact PA managers to report on IAS sightings (including how to access and report to the participatory IAS tools established at the national level by CONABIO (see Output 1.1). As one example, at the Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve, the project will train and equip the staff of community monitoring brigades and a local bird monitoring network to enable them to identify, monitor and control invasive birds, mammals and flora in the ANP. At three sites (Los Tuxtlas, Cumbres de Monterrey, and Cañón del Sumidero), project activities will be integrated with ongoing programs of PROCODES that focus entirely on community management of natural resources.	UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 97, Activity 2.2.4
STAP Review		
Climate Change Risks: In the specific case of risks derived from climate change, the PIF focuses on increased risk of disturbances, particularly fire. It should be noted that changes	Recognition that various changes in climatic regimes (e.g. changes in the frequency or duration of droughts; in the number of frosts; in humidity levels; etc.) may cause disturbances to ecosystem functioning (e.g. frequency/severity of fires, floods, etc.) is integrated into the project design. The project activity on climate change modeling (activity 1.1.10) and the risk analysis discussion of climate change impacts now recognize this issue directly. Furthermore, integration of the analyses of climate change effects on IAS dispersion and impacts will be integrated into IAS risk analyses and inspection tools (activities 1.1.6 and 1.1.7) as well as the site-level Island Biosecurity Programs (activity 2.1.1) and Mainland PA IAS Management Plans (activity	UNDP Prodoc, Para 87, Activities 1.1.6, 1.1.7, 1.1.10; Para 95, Activity

Comments	Responses	Reference
in the climatic regime per se (e.g. decrease in the number of frosts, increased humidity, etc.) can significantly alter the spread of IAS and therefore should be considered as well.	2.2.2).	2.1.1; Para 97, Activity 2.2.2; Para 102, Risk Analysis
Information / Data – Spending and Use of Existing Resources: A typical timeline of invasive species management practice can be described as follows: risk assessment, arrival and early detection, management control (and/or eradication), and adaptation. Upstream investments tend to be much less costly and more effective than downstream investments. STAP acknowledges and welcomes investments in data collection and information management across management and scientific institutions, as this will enhance efforts to understand potential IAS threats and detect arrivals before they are well established. STAP encourages proponents to use existing databases and information management tools (please see for instance http://www.cabi.org/isc/; http://i3n.iabin.net/) wherever possible before building unique datasets, and consider appropriate interoperability standards.	The project design incorporates several coordinated initiatives to enhance information sharing and participation in IAS management in Mexico. In addition, as suggested by STAP, for the most part these efforts build on existing initiatives and ensure inter-operability and shared access. Among the key information sharing activities are: • **Strengthening of the National Invasive Alien Species Information System (NIASIS):** The project will strengthen the existing NIASIS, an information system managed by CONABIO that includes detailed information on invasive species taxonomy and biology; sites and pathways of introduction; and in the future will include potential dispersion and ecosystem impacts of IAS under current and future climate change scenarios. The NIASIS will link different existing information sources, including national (SEMARNAT, IMTA, PROFEPA, INECC, CONANP) and international (GISIN, NAISN) IAS databases, building on collaboration that has already been initiated between CONABIO, SEMARNAT and SENASICA (SAGARPA) on the standardization of information with regards to pests and sanitary threats (see Baseline Analysis). By strengthening the NIASIS, the project will improve the availability, updating and exchange of information on IAS, allowing for a comprehensive diagnosis of IAS at the national level, projections of new or expanded invasions, improved priority setting for interventions, informed decision-making on sectorial policies and investments, and easy access to information for decision makers and other users. • **Establishment and operation of Information System to measure implementation of the National Strategy on Invasive Species:** The project will establish an information management system, similar to that established by the PECC (Programa Especial de Cambio Climático), to monitor the implementation of activities and the achievement of objectives described in the National Strategy on Invasive Species (NSIS). This information system will focus on consolidating and making available information on IAS management (past, ongoing and future projects; partners; budgets; etc.) throughout Mexico. The information system will be an open system in which any institution / organization / university can both access and enter information. • **Creation of Participatory Networks to support IAS management:** The project will develop an IAS Experts Network (modeled on the Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe or DAISIE system), which will allow users to find contact information for experts in Mexico on specific IAS issues or species. In addition, the project will support ongoing efforts by CONABIO to establish a mobile application and related online tool (based on the i-Naturalits system, a successful model of citizen science in the United States), where the general public can upload photos and data on suspected IAS sightings and ask other participants to identify the species; the project will help CONABIO to increase the capacity to collect and analyze the data that is generated and share it with relevant resource management agencies. Both of these tools, which will be linked to the IAS National Gateway (see 1.1.4), will facilitate timely and comprehensive information sharing among national IAS experts; easy access to relevant experts for institutional and sectorial stakeholders; and more efficient and cost effective approaches to IAS management • **Establishment and operation of an IAS National Gateway:** The current on-line, public system for accessing and sharing information on IAS in Mexico is a "wiki-style" page where requests for information are handled on a case-by-case basis and typically are not resolved quickly. CONABIO will convert this existing web portal into an interactive system that is directly linked to the NIASIS, so that information contained in the NIASIS database (lists of IAS; maps; risk analyses; etc.) is available and can be searched by the general public, experts and decision-makers.	UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 87, Activity 1.1.1 UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 87, Activity 1.1.2 UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 87, Activity 1.1.3 UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 87, Activity 1.1.4

Comments	Responses	Reference
Approach to Aquatic and Marine Ecosystems: Greater clarity is required on the extent to which aquatic and marine ecosystems will also be addressed; inclusion of some concrete examples of problematic IAS affecting these systems would also be useful.	We agree that further clarity was needed on how the aquatic and marine ecosystems would be addressed by the project. Please refer to paragraphs 4; 19-23; 56-57 on the impact of IAS on aquatic systems. In general, the project is directly addressing IAS impacts on aquatic ecosystems through activities to improve prevention of the entry and spread of aquatic IAS at points of entry and at aquaculture production sites, including: • Finalization of official National List of Invasive Species allows for controls on the import of aquatic IAS • Risk assessments completed for high priority aquatic IAS (as identified on the NLIS) • Import, breeding and distribution more secure through better information systems / tracking of exotic species, application of biosecurity measures, capacity building of personnel, and participation in certification systems • Assessments completed on the location and characteristics of production facilities, including production capacity; species / varieties (imports and production) with potential impacts on biodiversity; and the origin and destination of products (produced, imported, commercialized) • Training provided to key agencies on inspections of exotic aquaculture and aquarium trade products and response procedures to exotic invasive species alerts • Importers, producers and traders aware of risks regarding IAS due to outreach efforts, and involved in participatory systems of IAS management, including adoption of voluntary codes / voluntary certification systems and/or adoption of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) systems • Implementation of a pilot state-level program for IAS management in the aquaculture sector in Morelos state, which is the primary producer of ornamental fish species in all of Mexico In addition, the project is directly addressing aquatic IAS at a number of mainland PA sites by improving biosecurity systems and promoting the replacement of exotic fish with native fish species, including exotic trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) at Tutuaca; exotic carp and trout at Vallee de Bravo; various exotic species at Cañón del Sumidero; and Mozambique Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) at Sian Ka'an. With regard to marine IAS, for the most part these are not being addressed in the project, based primarily on the much higher level of known impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems from terrestrial and aquatic IAS; in many mainland PA sites and islands, these invasive species are considered the single most important threat to biodiversity. IAS in the marine environment, by contrast, are believed to have a lesser impact; just as importantly, efforts to manage marine IAS are typically tremendously expensive and difficult to achieve. The exception to the project's focus on terrestrial and aquatic species is the lionfish (*Pterois volitans*), which is an imminent and significant threat to marine biodiversity and habitat (coral reefs) in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. The project partner INAPESCA will carry out studies of the potential to develop commercial products for fishmeal produced from high priority IAS (lionfish and catfish), and the development of products and markets (livestock, fish and crustacean production facilities) in states most impacted by those species (Tabasco, Campeche, Chiapas, Michoacán, Quintana Roo, Veracruz, and Yucatan), so as to increase harvesting of these IAS. In addition, at the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, the project will support an existing program for control and commercialization of the lionfish, where PA authorities, municipalities, researchers, CSOs, schools, and universities are jointly participating in monitoring and capture of the lionfish; outreach campaigns to raise awareness of the threat and to promote the consumption of lionfish; and encouraging commercialization of the lionfish as a food product.	UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 88, Output 1.2 UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 97, Output 2.2 UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 97, Output 2.2
Criteria for Site Selection: The criteria for the selection of the preliminary list of island	The site selection processes for the 6 islands / island groups and 9 mainland PA sites both involved multiple criteria, including biodiversity importance and IAS criteria, and also numerous other criteria. For each island site, the following attributes were considered (in order of importance): Number of endemics; important reproduction and nesting habitat for seabirds and mammals	UNDP Prodoc, Env. Context,

Comments	Responses	Reference
and mainland protected areas that will be targeted in the project is not clear. They seem to have been selected on the basis of their biodiversity importance, but no IAS-related criterion is mentioned. Are these indeed areas where IAS-related problems are particularly critical? Some brief mentions to the main IAS in at least some of the cases would be useful.	(e.g. Areas of Importance for the Conservation of Birds, or sites of the Zero Extinction Alliance); number of species listed in any risk category in national legislation (the NOM-059-SEMARNAT of 2010); richness of flora and fauna species; low probability of reintroduction of IAS; feasibility and costs for implementing eradication. For each mainland PA site, the list of criteria used was: 1) ecosystem representativity; 2) number of species listed under NOM-059 (native flora and fauna at risk); 3) number of IAS present; 4) overlap of specific IAS at multiple sites (as a measure of replication potential); 5) biological interactions between IAS and native species; 6) human use of IAS; 7) productive sectors active at each sites; and 8) potential IAS distribution in a projected 2050 climate change scenario. The sites selected for this project are indeed sites where IAS-related problems are critical. Invasive Alien Species have posed a significant threat to the native / endemic species on Mexico's islands for many years. 12% of the endemic birds and 20% of endemic mammals on Mexican islands have gone extinct due to IAS. In most cases, it has been invasive alien mammals (rats, mice, dogs, cats, sheep, rabbits, goats) that have been responsible for the extinction of endemic species (cats alone have caused the extinction of at least 10 endemic rodents on islands). On Socorro island, a population of Merino sheep introduced in the middle of the 19th century caused immense habitat destruction, feeding on endemic plants and removing vegetation that resulted in increased soil erosion and habitat loss for native plants, reptiles and endemic birds. As for mainland PAs, IAS continue to cause losses of biodiversity and reduced ecological productivity and services within these protected sites. Degradation of forests and pastures within and around PAs from burning, overgrazing, and timber felling has allowed IAS to gain a foothold in many natural ecosystems. In fields surrounding many PAs, exotic agricultural varieties as well as pests have spread into PAs, with negative impacts for native flora and fauna. Details on the specific IAS threats at each of the selected sites are provided in the Site Information Sheets in Annex 3.	Paragraphs 10-11 and 14 UNDP Prodoc, Annex 3
Coordination: Project success, as outlined in the PIF, is predicated to a significant degree on effective inter-agency coordination. While STAP concurs, this coordination seems to be limited to relevant federal agencies. Sub national government agencies (state or local) normally also play an important role in IAS management. Examples from other countries on inter-agency cooperation in IAS management (Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand) would seem to indicate that success in inter-agency coordination depends largely on the effectiveness of directives from the Executive	We fully agree with the reviewer that coordination will be key. This issue is captured in several of the risks categories in table 10. At present, State governments in Mexico are minimally involved in IAS-related management activities. However, 8 Mexican states are in the process of developing state-level Biodiversity Strategies, and several more are expected to begin this process in the next few years. The project will use this process as an opportunity to integrate IAS-related issues into the state biodiversity strategies, and thereby to establish a mandate for state-level institutions to focus on these issues. In addition, some states (e.g. Morelos) are taking steps to establish institutions at the state level to replicate the role of CONABIO at the national level, including implementation of the state biodiversity strategies. Therefore, the project will also work with these nascent state-level biodiversity institutions to prioritize and address IAS-related issues. CONABIO will conduct a series of workshops with representatives of state governments (as well as universities and NGOs) who are responsible for developing and implementing state biodiversity strategies in order to facilitate the inclusion of IAS management into those strategies, and to ensure that state-level strategies on IAS comply with and support the goals and targets of the National Strategy on Invasive Species (NSIS). At the local level, at the island sites GECI has implemented and will continue to implement IAS management activities that rely heavily on the participation of local people and organizations, as well as cooperation with the local representatives of federal institutions such as PROFEPA, CONANP, SEMAR, SEMARNAT (all islands in Mexico are Federal territory and thus do not fall under the purview of state authorities). Similarly, the work of CONANP and other agencies responsible for IAS at mainland sites has traditionally involved local authorities. For example, in the case of the lionfish, federal, state and municipal authorities, institutions and stakeholders on the Yucatan Peninsula worked together to develop a strategy on how best to control the lionfish, with resources provided by institutions at different levels and an action plan developed by and involving resource managers at all levels of government. Another example was the effort to combat the Cactus Moth invasion that took place in Quintana Roo	UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 88, Activity 1.2.5

Comments	Responses	Reference
Office. STAP would suggest that the risk of failure in coordination of effort across government, and thereby to project success, is under estimated in section B4.	state in 2006. In this case, a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment (with international support from USDA and IAEA) led to the eradication of this invasive species, whereas the post-eradication monitoring was the responsibility of the national level Office of Plant Health working in coordination with the Quintana Roo State Committee on Plant Health and with support from local PA staff. The proposed project will build on these and other models for ensuring effective collaboration and participation among national, state and local actors. Finally, it is important to note that most of the IAS prevention, inspection, quarantine, EDRR, control, eradication and monitoring activities that take place in Mexico, including those supported by the proposed GEF project, take place at the site level (entry points; processing/distribution/storage sites for productive sectors; high priority conservation areas) where Federal institutional staff (e.g. PROFEPA; SAGARPA; SEMARNAT; CONANP) regularly work on a close basis with local authorities at different levels.	
Public Outreach and Stakeholder Participation: Once invasive species are established, public outreach and engagement are essential to effectively control, adapt to, or eradicate these species. As currently described, the PIF does not adequately outline the role of public engagement or outreach to the success of this project. Nor it does describe how the involvement of local stakeholders (e.g. those involved in fishing and tourism in islands) will be effectively engaged in active prevention of introduction, spread control and in some cases eradication of IAS. STAP wishes to draw the attention of proponents to the ongoing GEF project "Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean". This project is addressing numerous IAS challenges that also affect Mexico (e.g. Lionfish Petrois volitans) and have also adopted a similar strategy to	The project design includes numerous activities to ensure outreach and education on IAS issues, as well as stakeholder participation at the project sites. At the national level, the project will **implement education and awareness campaigns on IAS for policymakers, private land owners, NGOs, volunteer groups and the general public.** The project will support the development and dissemination of materials on IAS (threats/risks/impacts in Mexico; management activities/strategies; etc.) for the general public, with a focus on 10 terrestrial and 10 aquatic invasive alien species identified using the rapid assessments (see activity 1.1.6). These general outreach materials will include flyers, field guides, posters, canvases, manuals, stickers/pins, etc., as well as the development and broadcasting of programs on the priority aquatic and terrestrial IAS for radio and television, possibly including a video series on the problem of IAS in general terms in Mexico, a radio series focusing on specific species / issues, and dissemination through various internet portals. The project will also target several specific stakeholder groups. The project will organize and implement at least one workshop on invasive species (three days and one day of field) for journalists, including both those familiar with IAS issues and others who could become advocates for IAS management to improve reporting on the issue. The project also will generate and disseminate communication materials among legislators on IAS, and will lead field trips each year for 15 legislators to study IAS issues. The project also will seek to influence legislators by producing and disseminating quick guides or syntheses of timely information (based on findings from activity 1.1.7), including relevant data and concrete suggestions for changing institutional guidelines and rules for IAS management. To reach schoolchildren, the project will support the development of on-line educational content on IAS; and will implement a pilot program on IAS issues targeting 400 teachers and 4,000 children per year in Veracruz State. Finally, the project will support the development of exhibitions on IAS at specific locations in different states (zoos, museums, shopping malls), with a primary focus on a program on IAS issues, including displays of invasive plant species, for visitors to the Jardín Botánico de Queretaro (targeting 30,000 visitors over the 4 years of the project). Botanical gardens in Mexico are well organized and meet regularly, so the project will support this pilot exposition at the Queretaro garden, and will implement a survey of visitors to determine their preferences. The results of the survey, along with guidelines on the development of materials that can be adapted for each garden's locale, will then be made available on-line (on the CONABIO website) and through meetings for all botanical gardens in Mexico. At the island sites, the project will implement education and training to support participatory IAS management. The project will carry out environmental education activities for resource managers (government agencies and NGOs), local residents, visitors, and other current and potential users of the islands. The thematic focus will be to provide users with information on the ecological value of the islands, the threats posed by IAS, and the details of the new Island Biosecurity Programs, whose success will depend highly on local stakeholder participation and support. The project will take advantage of publicly available platforms (e.g. websites, radio spots, newspaper and television media); will distribute printed information on IAS to all	UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 89, Activity 1.3.8 UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 95, Activity 2.1.2

Comments	Responses	Reference
that outlined in this PIF. In addition, this project appears to have developed an effective public outreach and education component.	fishermen and other selected island users; and will install permanent media (e.g. posters and signs) on the importance of routine screening measures of persons and goods traveling to the islands. The project will also carry out workshops for awareness raising of personnel of management institutions (SEMAR, CONANP, SCT, etc.), local residents, and productive sector partners (tourism operators, fishermen, salt producers), including both those based on the islands and those based at points of embarkation (ports, airports) to the islands. In addition, in order to enable these stakeholders to participate more fully and effectively in IAS management activities, the project will implement capacity building in IAS management for managers and current and potential users of the selected islands / island groups. The capacity building will focus on 3 thematic areas: 1) Preventive Actions (identifying pathways and transport mechanisms of IAS to the islands, with an emphasis on identifying introduction vectors, especially ships); 2) Control Actions (a detailed review of all landings, as well as detection monitoring on the islands); and 3) EDRR (elimination of newly introduced populations using monitoring and trapping practices). To enable these actions, the project will provide training workshops in IAS monitoring for local communities, to enable their participation in EDRR activities, as well as training of personnel of management institutions (SEMAR, CONANP, SCT, etc.) and productive sector partners (tourism operators, fishermen, salt producers) in biosecurity actions and in IAS monitoring and implementation of EDRR systems. At the mainland PA sites, the project will implement community awareness and participation in IAS Management in and around mainland PA sites. The IAS Management Committees at each mainland PA site will coordinate and implement activities to raise awareness and facilitate participation of local stakeholders in IAS management. To raise awareness about IAS impacts and management options, the site-level IAS Committees, in partnership with local NGOs and others, will organize and deliver workshops on IAS-related issues for current and potential visitors / users of the PAs to raise awareness of IAS threats, to explain new biosecurity protocols and restrictions, and to share information on effective IAS management practices. The project also will develop and disseminate information materials on IAS to the general public and to schools, including printed information (posters, brochures, signs, leaflets and manuals) and media products (e.g. TV and radio announcements, videos, etc.) that explain IAS issues and emphasize biosecurity measures, such as the importance of routine screening measures for persons and baggage when entering PA sites. At the Cumbres de Monterrey National Park, the project will work in partnership with an existing education and awareness program on invasive species in cooperation with the Conservation Program for Sustainable Development (PROCODES) and Parks Canada. In addition, the project will promote community participation in IAS management in areas within and surrounding the selected PA sites. Site-level PA management staff (with guidance and monitoring from the IAS Management Committee at each site) will organize workshops and training for local residents and other stakeholders (PA staff, university researchers, NGO staff) in order to establish surveillance and reporting groups to enable early detection and reporting of IAS within and nearby the PAs (these groups will be modeled on similar groups of farmers and veterinarians who find and report diseases and pests in productive sectors). These local stakeholders will be provided with identification sheets and information on how to contact PA managers to report on IAS sightings (including how to access and report to the participatory IAS tools established at the national level by CONABIO (see Output 1.1). As one example, at the Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve, the project will train and equip the staff of community monitoring brigades and a local bird monitoring network to enable them to identify, monitor and control invasive birds, mammals and flora in the ANP. At three sites (Los Tuxtlas, Cumbres de Monterrey, and Cañón del Sumidero), project activities will be integrated with ongoing programs of PROCODES that focus entirely on community management of natural resources. Finally, the proposed project will seek to benefit from lessons learned on marine IAS, in particular strategies for control of the invasive Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*), developed by the regional project “Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the	UNDP Prodoc, Paragraph 97, Activity 2.2.4

Comments	Responses	Reference
	Insular Caribbean". CONANP is the leading institution in Mexico for that project, and as a key partner in this project, will ensure that information sharing takes place between the two projects.	

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS[9]

A. DESCRIBE FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IF ANY:

N/A

B. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent To date***	***Amount Committed***
1. Baseline and Technical Analysis of National Capacities and Needs for Integrated IAS Management	46,600.00	44,625.87	0.00
2. Demonstration Sites in FSP: Baseline Assessment and Technical Studies to further define the Scope of Demonstration Actions	17,000.00	20,917.54	0.00
3. Definition of implementation arrangements and final preparation of project proposal including feasibility analysis and budget	36,400.00	19,432.01	15,024.58
Total	100,000.00	84,975.42	15,024.58

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used**)**

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

[9] If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.