REQUEST FOR: CEO ENDORSEMENT
PROJECT TYPE: FULL SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries			
Country(ies):	Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago	**GEF Project ID:**[1]	5304
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO	**GEF Agency Project ID:**	621538
Other Executing Partner(s):	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC); **Brazil**, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture; **Colombia**, Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR), Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (AUNAP); **Costa Rica**, Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura (INCOPESCA); **Mexico**, Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INAPESCA), Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación (SAGARPA); **Suriname**, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries; **Trinidad & Tobago**, Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affair	**Resubmission Date:**	February 20, 2015
GEF Focal Area (s):	IW	**Project Duration (Months)**	60
Name of Parent Program (if applicable):	NA	**Project Agency Fee ($):**	551,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK[2]

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount ($)	Co-financing ($)
IW-2.	Outcome 2.2: Institution for joint ecosystem-based and adaptive management for LMEs and local ICM frameworks demonstrate sustainability.	Core output 2.2: National and local policy/legal/institutional reforms adopted.	GEFTF	1,625,000	5,298,491
IW-2	Outcome 2.3: Innovative solutions implemented for reduced pollution, rebuilding or protecting fish stocks with rights-based management, ICM, habitat (blue forest) restoration/ conservation, and port management.	Core output 2.3: Types of technologies and measures implemented on local demonstration and investments.	GEFTF	4,175,000	11,900,000
		Total project costs		5,800,000	17,198,491

[1] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.
[2] Refer to the Focal Area/LDCF/SCCF Results Framework when completing Table A.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: The **Global Environment Objective** of the project is to reduce the negative ecosystem impact and achieve more sustainable shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region through implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), including bycatch and habitat impact management. The **Development Objective** of the project is to strengthen resilience of coastal communities through promotion of responsible fishing practices and livelihoods enhancement and diversification contributing to food security and poverty eradication.

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes[3]	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount ($)	Confirmed Co-financing ($)
Component 1: Improving institutional and regulatory frameworks for shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and co-management	TA	**Outcome 1.1:** Strengthened regional collaboration on shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch management. **Targets:** *a) The CRFM/WECAFC/ IFREMER working group is functional and actively promoting the implementation of the regional bycatch/discards strategy (output 1.1.2), including collaboration beyond the initial working group membership.* *b) Best practices identified by the project are shared through OSPESCA, CRFM and WECAFC established mechanisms.*	**Output 1.1.1:** Best bycatch management practices in line with B&D and SSF Guidelines disseminated to all countries in the region. **Targets:** *a) At least 3 media products (documentary, brochure, etc.) on best management practices in line with B&D and SSF Guidelines produced for dissemination to project and non-project countries.* **Output 1.1.2:** Regional strategy for shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch management agreed and under initial implementation. **Targets:** *a) A regional bycatch management policy/strategy including regional level recommendations for harmonized regulations on shrimp/bottom trawl bycatch in line with regional priorities, B&D Guidelines and the CLME SAP has been agreed by at least one RFB (hence including endorsement of both project and non-project countries).* *b) At least 5 non-project countries have participated in at least 1 project regional workshop on shrimp/ bottom trawl bycatch issues including the implementation of the regional policy/strategy.*	GEFTF	684,777	2,649,301
		Outcome 1.2: Improved legal and institutional frameworks in the project countries for shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch co-management and EAF. **Target:** *a) At least 3 project countries have their legal and institutional*	**Output 1.2.1:** National legal frameworks for shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch co-management reviewed and amended. **Targets:** *a) Institutions responsible for fishery law and regulations in at least 3 project countries have received training on and have applied the FAO legal assessment tool to evaluate the appropriateness of their legal*			

[3] Baselines and targets will be revisited and further developed during the initial year of project implementation when co-management pilots have been precisely designed.

		frameworks revised (or draft legislation in the process of being approved) as necessary for implementation of co-management and EAF management plans developed under Component 2.	*frameworks for (i) bycatch management and EAF in accordance with the B&D Guidelines and (ii)co-management, including rights-based approaches in accordance with the SSF Guidelines.* *b) Revisions and adjustments in the legal framework proposed in at least three project countries.* **Output 1.2.2:** Institutional structures for EAF and co-management of shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch in place. **Targets:** *a) Functional institutional structures, including multisectoral committees involving both men and women, for shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch co-management exist in at least 3 project countries.*			
Component 2: Strengthening bycatch management and responsible trawling practices within an EAF framework	INV	**Outcome 2.1:** Selected key shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries in the region are successfully co-managed through EAF (including bycatch/discards considerations). **Targets:** *a) Discards have been reduced by at least 20% in at least 5 project pilot fisheries (the discard baseline will be established for project pilot fisheries during year one of the project).* *b) At least 5 shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries management plans (in project pilot sites), taking the B&D Guidelines into consideration, are under implementation.*	**Output 2.1.1:** Information on bycatch (species, volumes, bottom impacts) and monitoring systems improved in selected fisheries (both small and large-scale) in project areas, supporting EAF and co-management, and information shared among countries. **Targets:** *a) Critical bycatch species are known or identified in at least 5 project pilot sites.* *b) Bycatch data monitoring systems are improved according to local needs and provide information for shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch management in at least 3 project countries.* *c) Information is shared in a harmonised and efficient way through the WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER working group and the need for a regional DSS (as defined in the CLME SAP) has been evaluated.* **Output 2.1.2:** Alternative fishing methods, BRD technologies and other management measures identified and adopted by fishers. **Targets:** *a) Technologies and management measures for decreasing bycatch have been analyzed in all project countries (in project pilot sites) and recommendations formulated and presented to competent authorities.* *b) At least half of the project countries*	GEFTF	3,353,381	10,991,735

			have benefited from NOAA BRD testing assistance. *c) The feasibility of alternative fishing methods has been tested in at least 1 project pilot sites and outcomes of these activities are documented and evaluated (including economic viability and level of acceptance by fishers.* *d) Testing results and recommendations shared among all other project countries.* *e) National recommendations for management measures (including modified and/or alternative gears) available in at least four project countries.* *f) Capacities built in the project countries for application of trawling technologies (e.g. pulse trawling) that are more economical, reduce bycatch and less destructive for bottom habitats.* **Output 2.1.3:** EAF training provided and participatory management planning process operational. **Targets:** *a) Government officials and technical staff and fisher representatives have been trained in co-management principles and EAF in all 6 project countries.* *b) EAF shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries co-management plans including bycatch management are developed through participatory approaches in at least 5 project pilot fisheries.* *c) Information on EAF participatory processes is shared amongst the countries and at regional level (through workshop and/or via reports and website).*			
		Outcome 2.2: An enabling environment created including incentives and promoting responsible practices by trawl operators. **Target:** *a) Trawl operators/fishers in at least 5 project pilot sites benefit from at least one type of positive incentive in relation to changes in trawl fisheries bycatch management (e.g. reduced fuel or labour*	**Output 2.2.1:** Drivers of bycatch and discard practices investigated and understood and potential incentives identified for bycatch management. **Targets:** *a) Bycatch and discard drivers are analyzed through collaborative research with fishers/industry in at least 5 project pilot sites and SWOT and feasibility analyses carried out of potential incentives.* *b) Potential incentive packages are tested in at list 2 project pilot sites.* **Output 2.2.2:** New products tested,			

		costs, and/or market based incentives such as price premiums or niche markets).	using sustainable bycatch, with a view to reduce discards. **Targets:** *a) New products and markets using current discards tested in at least 1 project pilot fishery, results evaluated and recommendations formulated for potential application in other fisheries in the region.*			
Component 3: Promoting sustainable and equitable livelihoods through enhancement and diversification	TA	**Outcome 3.1:** Capacities and opportunities for enhanced sustainable and diverse livelihoods created and gender equality promoted. **Targets:** *a) New income generating opportunities for men and women by adding value to products originating from sustainable bycatch and by finding other alternatives to generate local benefits in at least 3 project pilot sites (the indicators and targets for local benefits will be set for each pilot site with local participating stakeholders during year one of the project. Examples of indicators and targets include increase of income and improvement of work opportunities for women and men).*	**Output 3.1.1:** Value chain analysis with focus on the utilisation of bycatch and the roles of gender and vulnerable groups carried out. **Targets:** *a) The utilisation of bycatch investigated and its economic and social value understood at different steps in the value chain.* *b) Gender roles in the shrimp trawl fisheries value chain and in households investigated in at least 2 project pilot sites.* *c) Men and women who are particularly vulnerable to changes in shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries management (e.g. changes in employment and catch/bycatch volumes) are identified and supported, as required and appropriate.* **Output 3.1.2:** Existing and potential non-fisheries livelihood alternatives for both men and women identified along the value chain, and capacity building support provided accordingly, including promotion of decent work. **Targets:** *a) Increased knowledge on current livelihood strategies and options for enhancement/diversification improved in at least 3 project pilot sites (communities).* *b) Support interventions have been carried out in at least 3 pilot sites.* **Output 3.1.3:** Community organisations strengthened allowing for participatory processes (at household and enterprise level) leading to desired livelihood changes. **Targets:** *a) Fisherfolk associations/ cooperatives are in place and contribute to enhanced livelihoods in at least 3 project pilot sites. Where no fisher organisations exist,*	GEFTF	750,873	2,686,630

			formation of at least one fisher/fish workers organisation in at least one pilot site. *Where fisherfolk associations/ cooperatives exist, delivery of minimum of one training workshop to increase fishing communities' capacity to enhanced livelihoods.*			
Component 4: Project progress monitoring, evaluation and information dissemination and communication	TA	**Outcome 4.1:** Project implementation based on results-based management and application of project findings and lessons learnt in future operations. **Target:** *a) The project has achieved its expected outcomes and outputs and lessons learnt are widely disseminated regionally and internationally.*	**Output 4.1.1:** Project monitoring system operational, providing systematic information on progress in achieving Project outcomes and outputs. **Target:** *Eight (8) semi-annual Project Progress Reports (PPR).* **Output 4.1.2:** Mid-term and final evaluations. **Target:** *Two (2) evaluation reports.* **Output 4.1.3:** Project-related "best-practices" and "lessons-learned" published and disseminated in all project countries. **Target:** *Good practices and lessons learnt reports from project countries posted on Project website.*	GEFTF	631,062	410,826
				Subtotal	5,420,093	16,738,491
				Project management Cost (PMC)*[4]	379,907	460,000
				Total project costs	**5,800,000**	**17,198,491**

* During project preparation detailed inputs have been identified and unit costs have been systematically collected for all project management activities. The budget for project management costs has been made based of this concrete information and detailed analysis. Hence, project management costs reflect the real needs of the project. Every effort has been made to reduce PMC to a minimum, which is the current 7%. This is a regional project with activities spread over six countries involving many stakeholders. This increases in particular the travel costs for effective project coordination, monitoring and management.

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME ($)

Please include letters confirming co-financing for the project with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Co-financing	Co-financing Amount ($)
National government	Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (AUNAP, Colombia)	Cash	744,567
National government	Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (AUNAP, Colombia)	In-kind	132,456
Research institute	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR, Colombia	In-kind	2,824,262
National government	Ministerio de Pesca e Aquicultura Gabinete do Ministro (Brazil)	Cash	1,577,189

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

National government	Ministerio de Pesca e Aquicultura Gabinete do Ministro (Brazil)	In-kind	1,577,189
National government	Ministry of Land and Water Resources (Trinidad and Tobago)	Cash	102,344
National government	Ministry of Land and Water Resources (Trinidad and Tobago)	In-kind	1,263,484
National government	Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura (INCOPESCA, Costa Rica)	In-kind	200,000
National government	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (Suriname)	Cash	355,000
National government	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (Suriname)	In-kind	1,330,000
National government	Instituto Nacional de Pesca, Secretaria de Agricultura Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación (SAGARPA, México)	Cash	407,000
National government	Instituto Nacional de Pesca, Secretaria de Agricultura Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación (SAGARPA, México)	In-kind	3,175,000
Private sector	Camara de Pescadores de Puntarenas (CAMAPUN, Costa Rica)	In-kind	300,000
Private sector	Union de Pescadores de Puntarenas (UNIPESCA, Costa Rica)	In-kind	100,000
Private sector	Asociación Colombiana de Industriales y Amadores Pesqueros (ACODIARPE, Colombia)	In-kind	860,000
Private sector	Empresa Colombiana Pesquera de Tolú S.A. (Pestolú, Colombia)	In-kind	150,000
National government	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, USA)	In-kind	450,000
Regional Fishery Body	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)	Cash	630,000
Regional Fishery Body	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)	In-kind	620,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	400,000
Total Co-financing			**17,198,491**

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL, AREA AND COUNTRY[1]

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in $)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)[2]	Total c=a+b
FAO	GEF TF	International Waters	Regional	5,800,000	551,000	6,351,000
Total Grant Resources				**5,800,000**	**551,000**	**6,351,000**

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

2 Indicate fees related to this project

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount ($)	Co-financing ($)	Project Total ($)
Local consultants	975,141	3,400,000	4,375,141
International consultants	592,500	1,200,000	1,792,500

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

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

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF[5]

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Updates Reports, etc.

As in PIF, see section 1.1.5.a. in the FAO Project Document

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

As in PIF, see section 1.1.5.b in the FAO Project Document

A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

As in PIF, see section 1.1.2 in the FAO Project Document

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

The baseline initiatives and investments and remaining barriers that the project seeks to address have been further analyzed and detailed during the full project preparation.

The shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries in the project countries constitute an important part of national and local economies. They are in several ways closely linked to other segments of the fisheries sector that also target shrimp or other species constituting bycatch in the shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries. The adverse impacts of bycatch on ecosystem health and other fisheries, described in the FAO Project Document section 1.1, have been recognized in the project countries and efforts are being undertaken to address these deficiencies.

In the following baseline activities and initiatives taken are described in the case of each country:

In Brazil various actions aiming at the reduction of bycatch in shrimp fisheries are being implemented along the coast. These activities include: (i) evaluation of the effectiveness of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in trawl nets shrimp fisheries off Pernambuco and Alagoas States in north-eastern Brazil; and (ii) introduction of BRDs in small-scale trawl fishing off the southern Brazilian coast in partnership with fishers. Similar projects have also been planned in the North and Southeast regions of Brazil. Through the bilateral cooperation between Brazil and Norway, three projects have been formulated to: (i) manage transboundary stocks in the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean; (ii) manage overexploited fish stocks in the Northeast Region of Brazil; and (iii) reduce discards and other waste in Amazon fisheries. These projects will also promote trilateral cooperation between Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina and will involve, besides Norwegian researchers, research institutions and universities from the three countries. In order to strengthen its institutional and regulatory arrangements, Brazil has taken measures with the creation of the Standing Consultative Committee for the Management of the Shrimp Fishery (CPG-Camarões) in order to develop a better regulatory framework through co-management arrangements. Different types of protected areas are being implemented as part of EAF and in this context gear modifications to avoid bycatch are being tested (in the APA[6] Anhatomirim). In addition, spatial and temporal fishing closures, gear restrictions and no-take zones are implemented to manage the shrimp fishery along the coast. Brazil is also taking part in the working group on shrimp and groundfish of the CLME+ project (see section 4.1 in the FAO Project Document and Box 1 below).

In Colombia, AUNAP has for several years worked with government and non-government partners to collect information on the status of shrimp stock and impact of trawl fisheries, including bycatch and discards. In addition, as

[5] For question 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

[6] Area of Environmental protection as defined by the Brazilian National System of Conservation Units (SNUC)

part of the REBYC-I project (see section 1.1.4. in the FAO Project Document), several activities were implemented including: monitoring of shrimp trawling effort and catches, surveys on stock status and data collection of bycatch, testing of gear modifications and alternative fishing gears to reduce the environmental impact of trawl fishing. Co-management strategies are being put in place in some of the small-scale fisheries in the Caribbean Sea and there is recognition of the need to change the way fisheries are managed, including the introduction of rights-based approaches. There are also projects working to support sustainable livelihoods but they have generally not focused on finding alternative livelihoods in the context of shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries. Still, with regard to small-scale fisheries, work is being done to strengthen livelihoods through improving the value chain. For the next five years, Colombia plans to continue these initiatives as well as monitoring the implementation of fishing regulations. Scientific surveys will be conducted each year on the Pacific and Caribbean coasts to explore the status of stocks and other relevant issues. Colombia has also requested to be part of the working group on shrimp and groundfish under the CLME+ project and would like to use both projects' support to develop a sustainable shrimp fisheries.

In Costa Rica, the large-scale (industrial) shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries are under much pressure as there has been a court decision not to issue any new licences as an approach to phasing out this fishery. Costa Rica has projects on monitoring and data collection of its shrimp trawl fisheries, assessing the status of the target species, and evaluating the economic performance of these fisheries. Current management measures include the use of TEDs, spatio-temporal closures and no-take zones to protect spawning areas. Within the context of the national fisheries and aquaculture development plan, INCOPESCA is planning a number of actions related to bycatch reduction and of fishers' involvement. Since mid-2005, the civil society organizations (CoopeTárcoles R.L. and CoopeSoliDar R.L) are working towards strengthening local capacities of small-scale fishers through the creation of a fishing database that combines traditional knowledge with scientific knowledge to collect information about fishing effort, species caught, main fishing spots, etc. Participatory studies have been carried out in the small-scale fishing community of Tárcoles and the database produced was used to inform decision-making and spatial zoning of the community-based Marine Area for Responsible Artisanal Fishing of Tárcoles (MARAFT) created by the Government in 2009. Some of the positive impacts of the MARAFT, which directed trawlers and other industrial fisheries out of the one-mile zone, include an increase in the shrimp abundance in the Gulf of Nicoya area. Costa Rica is also dealing with the conflicts between the large-scale trawl fisheries and small-scale fisheries, and assessing the socio-economic impacts of a future trawl ban.

Mexico participated in the REBYC-I project that contributed to better bycatch management of the shrimp trawl fisheries in the Pacific mainly through gear technology advancements. Similar work is required for the Atlantic coast and should be conducted in close collaboration with the fishing industry. Several projects in Mexico have shown that bycatch management - through co-management - is a cost effective alternative. This suggests that management plans, which have already been developed, need to be implemented through co-management processes. Mexico has invested in a number of projects with the goal of minimizing the bycatch of non-targeted species and juveniles, and reducing fuel consumption in trawl fisheries. Current and future projects focus, among others, on: (i) the modernization of the shrimp trawling fleet in the Pacific coast; and (ii) development of an infrastructure and analytical basis for the evaluation of new technologies for the conservation and protection of marine resources and the environment, applied to the shrimp trawl fishery. There are currently four different shrimp management plans that have been developed by INAPESCA/SAGARPA in consultation with stakeholders. These plans will be implemented through improved co-management practices, including consultative meetings with the fishing industry. INAPESCA also continues to work on monitoring bycatch and development of BRDs in the Pacific fisheries. More recently, INAPESCA has taken an interest in identifying alternative livelihoods for coastal communities.

In Suriname, a working group is in place at the ministerial level to monitor the continued compliance of the MSC certified seabob (a shrimp species) fishery with applicable criteria and conditions. Several other activities related to the REBYC-II LAC project are also being carried out by the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV), including improvement of the fisheries data collection system, strengthening the collaborative management arrangements on coastal fisheries, updating fisheries management plans and the fisheries and aquaculture legal framework, setting up a training school for fishermen for data collection, provisions regarding fisheries activities, enhancing stakeholder awareness and participation. Suriname is participating in the demonstration pilot case of the policy cycle implementation for shrimp and groundfish fisheries carried out by the CLME+ project.

NOAA is already providing support to Suriname to conduct evaluations of prototype bycatch reduction technology. This support will continue under the project. FAO is currently providing support to a review of fisheries legislation[7].

In Trinidad and Tobago, a new draft fisheries management policy is awaiting cabinet approval. The Fisheries Division continues to support different initiatives related to the assessment and management of the shrimp and groundfish fisheries that are shared with other countries on the north-eastern South American continental shelf. Trinidad and Tobago is part of the CLME+ project and contributes to the policy implementation of the shrimp and groundfish fisheries. The country participated in the REBYC-I project through which data collection and gear trials were carried out. Other specific activities developed in Suriname include the preparation of awareness materials and consultations with the industry. Additional projects will focus on the finalization of the draft Fisheries Management Act for Trinidad & Tobago and incorporation of fisheries concerns into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). In the latter case the activities involve stakeholder consultations and representation of fisheries concerns with respect to the oil and gas production sector and negotiations for fisher folk compensation. Through a project on integrated coastal fisheries management, studies have been carried out on the role of fisheries in poverty alleviation which have increased the understanding of coastal livelihoods. With regard to climate change, Trinidad and Tobago is part of the "Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector" (GEF ID: 5667), a Special Climate Change Funds (SCCF) supported project with FAO as the GEF agency currently under development (see section 4.1).

Co-financing provided by country project partners, WECAFC and FAO

The Brazilian Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture will provide an amount of USD 3 154 378 in co-financing for the REBYC-II LAC project. This funding covers activities directly related to the REBYC-II LAC project in the form of technical coordination and support, national workshops and meetings, and workshop material and media products.

Colombia has committed USD 877 023 from AUNAP and USD 2 824 262 from INVEMAR to co-finance the REBYC-II LAC project. *Universidad del Magdalena* and WWF will contribute in-kind co-financing through staff time and sharing of relevant study results. Likewise, in-kind contributions from the Colombian Association of Owner and Industrial Fishers (ACODIARPE) (USD 860 000) and the Tolu Colombian Fishing Company (Pestolu) (USD 150 000) in the form of time dedicated to project activities are foreseen.

Costa Rica, through INCOPESCA, will contribute a total of USD 200 000 in co-financing through national projects and other activities related to REBYC-II LAC, including in-kind contributions for awareness raising campaigns and workshops, legal and institutional reviews and amendments, establishment of a bycatch data and monitoring system, gear trials and research into sustainable alternative livelihoods. Likewise, in kind contributions from the Puntarenas Fishers' Union (UNIPESCA) (USD 100 000) and from the Fisher's Chamber of Puntarenas (CAMAPUN) (USD 300 000) in the form of time dedicated to project activities are foreseen.

Mexico will contribute a total of USD 3 582 000 as co-financing for the REBYC-II LAC project, including data, sea trials and observer programmes, and staff time for technical support to the project.

The Suriname government will contribute USD 1 685 000 in co-financing for activities complementing the REBYC-II LAC project, including staff time, studies and data, and workshops.

Trinidad and Tobago will contribute USD 1 365 828 in co-financing for the REBYC-II LAC project, including staff time, stakeholder consultations and workshops, data and studies.

FAO will provide USD 400 000 in In-kind co-financing covering staff time, and travel, in addition to what is covered by GEF agency fees, for project technical assistance, particularly with regard to training and support to the implementation of the EAF, B&D Guidelines, and the SSF guidelines.

FAO-SLC/WECAFC will provide USD 620 000 in-kind co-financing covering office space for the Regional Project Coordination Unit, meeting rooms for regional meetings, statistic material and other information and salaries of the staff

[7] Updating Suriname's capture fisheries legal framework (TCP/SUR/Pipeline).

working in the support of the project execution. In addition FAO-SLC/WECAFC will provide USD 630 000 in cash contribution for regional workshops and meetings of the WECAFC Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish and related WECAFC studies to be done, travel and DSA costs of staff, experts and consultants working for the next five years on shrimp and groundfish issues in the region.

Other co-financers include partners as listed in section 1.1.3 in the FAO Project Document. Private small and large-scale sectors will contribute their own and vessel time for gear trials, capacity development and other activities. The RFBs will provide support with regard to information dissemination, networking across the wider region and development of regional policy and strategic advice. NOAA is a key partner for some of the technical work on gear trials and identification of alternative fishing methods. The other project partners have confirmed co-financing of USD 3.1 million.

Remaining barriers to address trawl fisheries bycatch threats on global environmental benefits

As outlined above, there are a number of initiatives at the national level addressing the unsustainability related to the shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries sector. However, there are remaining barriers that need to be addressed in order to reach a situation of effective shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch management, responsible practices and sustainable livelihoods:

- Barrier 1: **Insufficient regional collaboration**

At the regional level, there are RFBs that already work on fisheries management framework development with regard to several transboundary fisheries and target species (e.g. queen conch, lobster, flying fish, billfish and shrimps). There are common concerns with regard to the insufficiencies of current shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch management practices but there is no common management strategy or policy to addressed shared problems in the region in spite of the transboundary character of many resources.

- Barrier 2: **Inadequate institutional and regulatory frameworks at the national level**

While government institutions and legal frameworks for fisheries management exist in project countries, they tend to be inadequate for ensuring effective EAF and co-management practices or for explicitly considering bycatch as part of management requirements (see section 1.1.c in the FAO Project Document). Regulatory frameworks allowing taking bycatch and discards into consideration are generally not in place. There is also a general lack of experience and capacity to implement EAF and co-management. At the national institutional and local community levels, structures and processes are needed that ensure stakeholder participation. Fisher and community organisations – where they exist – generally have insufficient capacities to effectively participate in co-management and decision-making processes.

- Barrier 3: **Lack of relevant information on bycatch and discards**

While most of the project countries have some information on bycatch from earlier and on-going surveys and projects, there is generally only limited data and no systematic and periodically updated data on the impact of shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries, including bycatch quantity and species composition, and potential seabed damage. Better information and monitoring systems at the national level and arrangements for sharing information among countries in the region are needed to support decision making and management processes.

- Barrier 4: **Lack of knowledge on adoption of suitable solutions and management measures**

Bycatch management requires management measures that are, at the same time, dedicated to addressing the bycatch issue and integrated into the overall fisheries management system. Solutions exist in the form of gear modifications (BRDs), alternative gear or other management measures, such as spatio-temporal closures or capacity reductions. However, these gear and management measures need to be adapted to local conditions and accepted by local fishers to be effectively adopted and applied. Hence, in order to develop viable management options, close collaboration with fishers and fish workers – both in the small and large-scale subsectors – through public-private partnerships is imperative and the incentives for changing practices need to be understood and created as required. The focus should be on minimizing unsustainable bycatch and discards. Considering the likely importance of market drivers in

this context, international and regional knowledge and collaboration could constitute a key contribution to this process.

- Barrier 5: **Insufficient capacity and knowledge to promote enhanced livelihoods for men and women**

The limited existing information on bycatch and discards tends to focus on the harvesting part of the fishery system and very little is known about the rest of the value chain and the role of bycatch in livelihoods, food security and poverty alleviation. Women usually play an important role in the postharvest subsector but there is insufficient understanding of how different gender roles are affected by current bycatch and discards practices or how they could be affected if shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries management changes. Efforts to improve fisheries management tend not to consider livelihoods (and vice versa) but, especially in a poverty context and in small-scale fisheries, it is important to take the complexity of coastal livelihoods into account. Accordingly, in order to implement effective co-management, other livelihood dimensions need to be understood and addressed as well. Moreover, considering that resources tend to be overexploited, it would appear that livelihood enhancement and diversification strategies should be sought. However, the capacity to take an integrated and gender sensitive approach to fisheries and bycatch management and livelihoods development, and also effectively support fishing communities in finding alternative livelihood options, is limited in the project countries.

Barriers 1 and 2 will be addressed by project component 1, barriers 3 and 4 by component 2, barrier 3 also by component 3, and barrier 5 by component 3. The solutions, and hence the project components, are interrelated. There will also be a fourth component focusing on project monitoring and information dissemination and exchanges of experiences. Consideration of climate change in fisheries management plans and the need for climate change adaptation and increased resilience of coastal communities in this respect will together with gender be cross-cutting theme throughout the project. The project strategic approach and the components are further described in section 2 of the FAO Project Document.

A.5 Incremental / Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

The baseline scenario and 'business as usual' prospect in the six project countries would mean that shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries management would continue to be ineffective and with limited attention to bycatch and actual adoption of BRDs and co-management practices. Overexploitation of various shrimp and groundfish stocks would continue with the risk of depletion of these stocks. Shrimp and groundfish habitats for reproduction would continue to be threatened and inadequate trawling practices would further deteriorate these essential habitats. While various initiatives are already being implemented (see country baseline information above), there is currently not a focused enough effort taking all the different perspectives into consideration – policy, legal, institutional, technological and socioeconomic – to make a real difference to the way shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch are managed. The REBYC-II LAC project provides the space and encouragement to make this difference and:

- Ensures that the necessary legal and institutional structures are in place providing the enabling environment necessary for long-term solutions for fisheries and bycatch management;
- Contributes to a reduction in discards and unsustainable bycatch, creating both global environmental and socioeconomic benefits to ensure resources are used in a more effective manner with less detrimental biodiversity impact;
- Promotes equitable development and more resilient livelihoods by improving the understanding of how different stakeholder groups, including marginalized groups, women and youth, are affected by shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and the role bycatch play in their livelihoods.

The added value of the GEF financing will allow for a project that provides high-quality technical assistance and capacity building, and effective collaboration among countries, partners and stakeholders – creating national and regional synergies – in a cost effective manner. By addressing the barriers identified above and ensuring local-national-regional-international linkages as well as public-private partnerships, the REBYC-II LAC project will create significant

incremental benefits above the 'non-project' (no GEF funding option) with respect to long-term solutions for environmentally, economically and socially sustainable resource utilization.

Under Component 1 – *Improving institutional and regulatory frameworks for shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch co-management* – the GEF support will enable the development of institutional and legal frameworks that are designed to adequately take the requirements of EAF and co-management into consideration. Particular attention will be given to strengthening organizational structures of fishers and fish workers, including women and youth. The capacity and support required to achieve the necessary institutional and legal transformations are not readily available within the project countries but can be provided through the project. The project will also built on and strengthen existing regional collaboration leading to improved understanding of bycatch issues and common strategies for addressing the pressing unsustainability issues related to the shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries. Accordingly, a platform for effective shrimp/bottom trawl bycatch management, now and in the future, will be created building upon and strengthening existing structures and processes, in particular with regard to stakeholder participation, thanks to the additional GEF funding available.

Under Component 2 – *Strengthening bycatch management and responsible trawling practices within an EAF framework* - GEF's incremental investment will support the development and demonstration of cost-effective measures and practical tools for managing bycatch, reducing discards and hence limiting negative ecosystem impacts. The GEF funding will allow for improved data collection and promotion of standardised methods and arrangements across project countries and the region which will facilitate information exchanges and allow for comparisons between countries. Through the regional and global linkages and expertise, that the GEF funding will allow the project to provide, the identification and development of appropriate management measures and processes, including possible incentives to promote wider adoption of BRD and management measures, as well as monitoring of impacts of the measures promoted, will be facilitated.

Under Component 3 – *Promoting sustainable and equitable livelihoods through enhancement and diversification* – the GEF support will not only enable a better understanding of the impact of bycatch and discards on livelihoods but allow for taking a more holistic approach to livelihood enhancement and diversification, involving both men and women throughout the value chain, in particular in small-scale fishing communities. GEF incremental resources will facilitate the identification of factors of success as well as of the limitations and vulnerabilities of current livelihoods that will help define the needs for capacity building for creating enhanced and resilient livelihoods based on principles of decent work and sustainable bycatch management, increasing national and global environmental benefits. The SSF Guidelines will provide the basis for support and ensure an integrated approach to fisheries management, food security and poverty alleviation in the context of shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch management.

Accordingly, the proposed project builds on and complements the baseline scenario. The GEF-funded alternative will address the above constraints and barriers through regional concerted actions focusing on selected fisheries and pilot cases. The project intends to build on existing investments, institutions and learning processes, seeking to add incremental value and positive impact specifically through promoting stronger regional awareness and participation, skills in addressing bycatch management and livelihood issues. The cost-effectiveness of the project is expected to be high; direct and indirect economic values of sustainable resource utilisation and livelihoods are assumed to exceed GEF investment.

A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:

The risk analysis for the success of the project has been further developed during the full project preparation and mitigation measures have been incorporated in the project design as per the below table (for further detail including assumptions see the FAO Project document section 3):

Risk type	Risk level (High, Medium, Low)	Mitigation measures
Lack of political support for the project, e.g., a change in key policy and decision makers or other events beyond the control of the project leading to changes in policies and/or support for bycatch management and the project.	L-M	Project priorities are in line with overall local, national and regional concerns and are hence strongly anchored in existing policies. Through stakeholder participation, local, national and regional ownership was already established at the project design stage and this broad-based support will be promoted also during implementation.
There is insufficient capacity to support management changes proposed by the project, e.g. with regard to human resources and monitoring systems.	M	The scope of the project has been agreed with relevant authorities. During implementation local, national and regional stakeholders will decide on what management measures should be adopted and hence what is feasible within existing capacities. Moreover, capacity building will be available from the project as required.
Fishers and other private sector actors are reluctant to collaborate with the project.	M-H	By applying a participatory approach and providing capacity building for stakeholders to effectively take part in the project, it will address issues that are of concern to stakeholders ensuring that fishers, fish workers and other private sector actors will be interested in its activities. The work on incentives under Component 2 and on livelihoods under Component 3 will provide opportunities for a broader engagement by the private sector and communities. Stakeholders have been involved and showed interest in participation during the preparation of the project (national consultations and in the project wide workshops in Suriname and in Costa Rica in 2014).
Disagreements or conflicts among resource users, different government agencies/ departments – or central-local levels – or other stakeholder groups with regard to project priorities and implementation mechanisms.	L	A wide range of stakeholders have been consulted and participated in project design and different viewpoints have hence already been identified. As part of project implementation, institutional arrangements and processes will be set up for co-management of the shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries. These arrangements will include provisions for conflict resolution as appropriate. Project implementation will be guided by principles of equitable development and gender equality.
Technical and management solutions (gear modifications, alternative gear and management measures) are not available that provide the desired environmental and sustainable fishing effects and at the same time are acceptable to fishers and other stakeholders in the context of current livelihoods, food security and poverty.	M	Through FAO, information is available on the variety of BRDs, gear modifications and management measures that exist around the world. By working closely together with fishers and other stakeholders, those measures that are most suitable in the particular local situations can be selected, developed and/or adopted as required. The project recognises the potential (short-term) implications on incomes by reducing bycatch and that immediate livelihood needs and improved management requirements must be reconciled. The project does not aim at eliminating bycatch but to make it part of an effective fisheries management plan.
Market-based incentives are difficult to identify and implement because of a lack	M	As a large share of the shrimp caught in the project countries is exported to markets (e.g. USA and EU) where demand for environmentally friendly products is growing, the project will work closely with fishers,

of demand and niche markets. Incentives based on cost-savings are not technologically feasible or attractive enough.		seafood trading companies and other stakeholders to assess and access these markets. Cost-saving technologies exist generally; they need to be identified and adapted to the local situation. International advice and assistance will be provided by the project in this respect and all technological development will be made in close collaboration with fishers and the industry.
Fishing communities are not interested or do not feel able to pursue alternative livelihoods, or it is not possible to find viable options for diversification.	M	It is recognized that many fishers and fish workers see their profession as something more than a way of earning a living – it is a way of life. This makes it difficult to shift the livelihood basis from fisheries to other income generating activities. The project will work closely with fishers and fish workers and take their perceptions into consideration when suggesting livelihood alternatives. Whenever possible, the focus will rather be on enhancing existing livelihoods and finding complementary income-generating activities than changing everything.
Government agencies and other potential partners outside the fisheries sector do not have the interest, time, resources or capacity to engage in the project to provide the necessary non-fisheries inputs (especially important for Component 3).	L	Different partners at the national level were already involved in the project preparation phase. National project teams will set up processes for collaboration with relevant government agencies and other partners at the beginning of the project building on already existing working relationships as appropriate. The project also intends to provide regional/international technical assistance with regard to livelihoods and gender which may be beneficial also to non-fisheries agencies.
Co-funding from partners and collaboration do not materialise as planned and the project experience budget short-comings.	L	The project design will not contain expected results or activities for which funding has not been confirmed. In accordance with GEF requirements, all co-funders must confirm their contributions in writing. Regular reviews of project progress together with financial monitoring during project implementation will ensure that corrective actions can be taken if and as needed.
Climate change is a long-term risk factor but is not likely going to have any measurable impact on shrimp and fish stocks in the project region during the lifetime of this project. Nonetheless, in the long run climate change is likely to have a very significant impact on the stocks and critical habitats, and thereby also on the fisheries.	L	The management measures and tools developed under this project will at least to some extent be applicable in addressing also the impacts of climate change because these measures are adaptive to changes. In case the distribution range of target species changes dramatically due to climate change, the whole structure of the fisheries in the project countries is likely to change. The project design recognizes the need for climate change adaptation. Increased resilience of coastal communities will be the cross-cutting theme throughout the project implementation.

A.7 Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

FAO, WECAFC, and the National Co-executing Partners will coordinate and collaborate with implementing and executing agencies on a range of ongoing initiatives and projects related to fisheries governance and management in the region so as to identify opportunities and facilitate mechanisms for achieving synergies with other relevant GEF-supported projects, as well as with projects supported by other donors. This will also include other FAO activities in the region, to ensure that best practices are incorporated into the project's approaches. This collaboration will include: (i) informal communication between GEF agencies and implementing partners in other programmes and projects; (ii) exchange of information and outreach material among projects; (iii) participation in fora and RFB meetings covering Shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries, with representatives from regional and national institutions, private sector, and civil society organizations. With a view to guaranteeing coordination and collaboration among the different initiatives,

specific coordination functions have been included in the TOR of the Regional Project Coordinator (see Section 4.2 in the FAO Project Document), the results of which must be explicitly included in the project's progress reports.

Coordination with the CLME+ project (GEF ID: 5542), which is in its final stage of development (see Box 1), will be of particular importance. CLME+ will assist the Wider Caribbean Region in improving the management of their shared Living Marine Resources through an EBM (ecosystem based management) approach. The SAP (Strategic Action Plan) for the "*Sustainable Management of the Shared living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large marine Ecosystem and Adjacent Regions*" was developed under the first phase of the CLME. The SAP describes the shared and commonly-agreed vision of the participating countries with regard to the priority interventions, reforms and investments required for ensuring the sustainable provision of goods and services from living marine resources in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). As described above, there is a shrimp and groundfish component in the CLME+ that is of particular relevance to coordination and collaboration with the REBYC-II LAC project.

BOX 1: CLME+ PROJECT AND SHRIMP AND GROUNDFISH

The "Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems" (CMLE+) Project is in final stage of develoment based on the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and agreed under the first phase of the CLME (Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem) project. Building on information obtained during the transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) and through the Case Study on the Shrimp and Groundfish Fishery along the Guianas-Brazil Shelf the SAP includes a strategic focus (Strategy 6) for *Implementing EBM[1]/EAF of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fisheries.* The aim is to develop an EAF regional management plan for the shrimp and groundfish resources on the North Brazil Shelf. The REBYC-II LAC project countries that will be involved in this CLME+ Demonstration Project include Brazil, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico although participating in the overarching CLME+ Project will not be part of this specific demonstration project.

More information on the CLME SAP can be found at http://clmeproject.org/sap/.

In the Gulf of Mexico, the project will coordinate with the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem project (GEF ID: 6952). Likewise, the "Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CCA)" project (GEF ID: 5667), currently under development[8], will generate studies and a better understanding of CC vulnerabilities of the fisheries sector in the Caribbean which will be useful for the REBYC- II LAC project.

Through the close involvement of WECAFC in the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean in Barbados (FAO-SLC), links and coordination with other regional initiatives and projects will be ensured. One of the most promising projects in terms of shrimp and groundfish management, with which collaborative arrangements should be made, is the IADB/FAO project on "Supporting Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management in The North Brazil-Guianas Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem", which also contributes to the WEAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group activities.

Project findings and recommendations will be shared with the relevant RFBs (WECAFC, CRFM and OSPESCA) for region-wide dissemination, adoption and implementation (if relevant). By ensuring participation of project members in the WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on shrimp and groundfish the available regional level arrangements for bringing scientific advice and findings from research to policy makers and managers can be used effectively and successfully, generating region-wide uptake of successful project results.

[1] Ecosystem Based Management.

[8] Full project is expected to start in 2015. For more information, see http://www.thegef.org/gef/project_detail?projID=5667.

Outside the region, the project will collaborate with its ongoing 'sister project', the REBYC-II CTI, in Southeast Asia (GEF ID: 3619), which also has FAO as the GEF agency (see section 1.1.4 in the FAO Project Document).

Finally, FAO and other project partners will promote linkages with international initiatives as appropriate such as the ones listed in Box 7section 4.1 in the FAO Project Document.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1. Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation:

This project draws together a large and diverse group of stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels. During project preparation, many of these stakeholders were involved through participation in national and regional meetings and workshops and the preparation of national subcomponent design reports.

Key project *partners* in the region include[9]:

National authorities responsible for fisheries management: The institutional set-ups vary from one country to another (see section 1.1.3. in the FAO Project Document) but the formal project co-executing partner in each country is the fisheries authority or institute as listed in the basic information box at the front page of this document. Some countries may experience constraints in terms of infrastructure and capacity and the intention of the project is to strengthen the capacities of the national authorities.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector: Small and large-scale fishers and fish workers and related enterprises in both harvesting and accessory activities, such as postharvest processing and marketing, constitute a key group of stakeholders as they are directly concerned by the project and what the project is trying to achieve. Fishers, fish workers and communities tend to be organized in associations or civil society organizations (CSOs - for names of these organisations in each country, see section in the FAO Project Document). There is generally a need to strengthen these organizational structures and build capacity to allow actors to become effective partners in co-management.

The private sector is expected to take a lead role in project activities, including participating in gear trials, and will play a particularly critical role with regard to adopting and scaling up the approaches developed by the project. Communities and CSOs will also play an important role in the work on livelihoods and gender. This is inter-related with the work on co-management and an integrated approach should be taken, in particular in the context of small-scale fishing communities. Collaboration will also be required with commercial entities, i.e. with seafood trading companies, for identifying market incentives.

Private sector. The full involvement of the private fishing sector in the Project is the key to its successful implementation. At the international level it is expected that the Project team takes part among others in the 15th International Frozen Seafood Exhibition (CONXEMAR) to be held in Vigo in October 2015. This is an important event for the Seafood Processing Industry and for the marketing of seafood products. It is further expected that over the years the Project will facilitate various types of Industry Round Tables to discuss about sustainable bycatch utilization and alternative marketing channels. It is also envisaged that the Project will seek and promote potential ways to pilot in at least one participating country on alternative market to the sustainable bycatch products of the shrimp trawl fishery.

The project will also facilitate the creation of a network of key fishing industry partners at international, regional and national level. The participation in the CONXEMAR meeting will be the first significant effort towards this initiative.

[9] Other partners may join the project during implementation. For example, the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research participated in the project preparatory workshop, held in Costa Rica on 1-4 July 2014, and expressed interest in collaborating on project elements relating to alternative fishing methods and gear. Also the University of Mérida in Mexico may collaborate closely with the project.

Regional inter-governmental organizations: Key RFBs are mentioned in section 1.1.c. in the FAO Project Document and include in particular the WECAFC and the CRFM who are formal partners and co-funders of the project. Over the years, collaboration has taken place through, for example, the WECAFC working group on shrimp groundfish fisheries (see Box 2 below) and, more recently, under the CLME project. The CRFM will collaborate with FAO in the delivery of the project, including such areas as data management, fisheries assessment, governance and management, implementation of participatory approaches, and public awareness-raising. The WECAFC is the regional project executing partner and will, in addition to technical collaboration with the project, host the Regional Project Coordination Unit RPCU (see section 4.2 in the FAO Project Document).

BOX 2: REGIONAL COLLABORATION: WORKING GROUPS ON SHRIMP AND GROUNDFISH AND THE WECAFC

The WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish was originally set up in 1979 by countries on the North-Brazil Guianas shelf but it is now open to all WECAFC member countries and partner organizations. The Working Group is currently receiving some support from the Inter-America Development bank (IDB)/FAO project "Investing in ecosystem-based shrimp and groundfish fisheries management of the Guianas-Brazil Shelf". Collaboration with the REBYC-II LAC project will be mutually beneficial providing project countries with access to knowledge and experience, and strengthening the Working Group as a vehicle for regional fisheries management collaboration.

Other important regional organizations and project collaborators include **OSPESCA** which also participated in the project preparatory phase. The regional organizations will play an important role in the project by disseminating project results in their member countries, linking the project to other regional initiatives and promoting the development of regional strategies and approaches.

NOAA: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the primary US federal government agency charged with science and stewardship of living marine resources. It plays an active role in the provision of data, science and technical support to various regionally and globally important fisheries, including in the project region. The NOAA Fisheries Harvesting Systems Unit, based in Pascagoula Mississippi, has been actively involved in the development and evaluation of shrimp trawl bycatch reduction mitigation technologies in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic for more than 30 years. In this project, NOAA researchers will provide support by assisting in project activities related to the identification and development of bycatch mitigation technologies (BRDs).

Universities and research institutes in the region: Several universities and research institutes in the project region have relevant on-going research projects and a wide know-how of the fisheries management and livelihoods issues addressed by the project. The project intends to collaborate with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the University of the West Indies (UWI, Barbados) who provided important inputs into project design, in particular with regard to the livelihoods and gender aspects of Component 3, during project preparation. The project intends also to collaborate with Saint Mary's University (Canada), and particularly the International Community Conservation Research Network based there, specifically concerning interactions of fishery conservation initiatives, fishing community livelihoods and policy aspects. At the national level, it is expected that extensive collaboration will take place between project executing partners and relevant universities and research institutes throughout the project. Collaboration with universities and research institutes will be in the form of technical support to the project from faculty members (e.g. FAO visiting experts programme and experts for technical cooperation), data and knowledge generation (e.g. support to the development of Master and PhD degrees that focus on the various components of the project, joint preparation of training course and manuals, scientific papers, etc.), creation of a platform for exchange among project partners (e.g. students and professionals, good practices, lessons learned from a wide-range of experience), resource mobilization (e.g. developing jointly new project proposals under the scope of the project), capacity development (e.g. study tours to project countries and sites, training courses, mentoring, etc.).

The project will be guided by principles of equitable development and will pay attention to gender. Bycatch issues and project interventions may impact men and women in different ways and this has to be understood and taken into consideration. In particular, special efforts will be devoted to the involvement of women and youth at the institutional level in organizational development efforts and capacity building and in respect of livelihood enhancement and diversification.

The project's implementation arrangements include FAO as the GEF agency responsible for supervision and provision of technical guidance during project implementation. As requested by the six participating countries during project preparation, FAO will also be responsible for the financial execution and operation of the project. The project's main technical and coordination executing partner will be WECAFC and national co-executing partners, in close collaboration with other RFB and project partners including private sector fisheries associations. A regional Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be set up to supervise and support the coordination of project implementation. In addition National Project Committees will be set up in each country to supervise and coordinate the implementation of national project activities.

The national fisheries authorities in the project countries will be the **National Co-executing partners** directly responsible for technical implementation of national project activities, day-to-day monitoring and financial management (in accordance with FAO rules and procedures) of the GEF resources provided to them under the LoAs to be signed with FAO covering the services to be delivered to execute national project activities. The National Co-executing Partners will prepare a national AWP/B for national project activities to be submitted to the RPCU in close collaboration with all partners, including partners involved in the pilot sites. Likewise they will prepare six-monthly national PPR including progress in achieving national project outcomes and outputs, and any risks and risk management measures. Finally they will report on invested co-financing on an annual basis. A **National Project Coordinator (NPC)** will be appointed by each National Co-executing Partner to lead the project execution and support the National Co-executing Partner in all the above mentioned tasks.

The NPC will work in close collaboration with the **local fishers' organizations** in the project pilot sites to guarantee the genuine involvement of relevant stakeholders in the project implementation. The local organizations will appoint a representative to take part in the **National Working Groups (NWG)** that will be created in each country. The NWGs will support the NPC to overlook the technical implementation of national project activities and working plans. This project recognizes that the engagement of local stakeholders (e.g. fishers and fish workers) is essential to the success of the project and will be fundamental to achieve the project's expected outputs and outcomes. The project is applying a participatory approach to effectively involve and ensure a full engagement of fishers, fish workers and other private sector actors in the project activities. A participatory approach was used during the PPG phase and is the methodological basis for the project implementation.

In additional to the NWGs, institutional arrangements and processes will be set up for co-management of the shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries in the pilot areas of each project country. In each project country, the NWGs will collaborate| with the existing co-management and community-based arrangements in place. The organizations listed below have been already identified as potential members of the NWGs and they will facilitate the dialogue and interaction with relevant stakeholders at the local and national level in each country.

- CAMAPUN and CoopeTárcoles, Costa Rica
- Forum of Patos Lagoon and CPG-Camarões, Brazil
- ANPAC and Acordipe, Colombia
- CANAINPESCA and the confederation and federation of cooperatives, Mexico
- VISCO and Visserscollectief, Suriname, and
- Fisheries associations in Trinidad and Tobago.

Although the composition of the NWGs and their Terms of References will be decided in year one of the project, in each country the relevant CSOs, fishers and their organizations, local universities and NGOs have been identified during the PPG phase. It has been agreed by all countries that in each pilot site co-management arrangements should be

strengthened and operationalized, although their *modus operandi* will vary. A thorough analysis will be conducted in consultation with the relevant groups using the above mentioned arrangement as a vehicle to build effective public participation and conflict resolution in the project. This will be done, among others, through local workshops and focus groups with relevant stakeholders. This is a critical part of the NWGs strategy to implement the project activities. Capacity development of stakeholders (government, NGOs, CSOs and fishers) to effectively take part in the project is part of the activities to effectively achieve Outcomes 1.1; 2.1; 2.2 and 3.1.

In all countries, national consultations were held during the PPG phase with CSOs, indigenous peoples, small-scale fishing communities and large-scale fishing industries, local universities and NGOs. During these consultations, the needs and priorities, and the local and national key areas of action of the project, were identified together with the participating stakeholders. In addition, a large number of CSOs, NGOs, fishers and fish workers from Suriname and Costa Rica participated in the inception and log-frame workshops conducted in these countries. Through this intensive national stakeholder participation the local, national and regional ownership was established at the project design stage and this broad-based support will be promoted during project implementation.

For further details on the institutional set up for project implementation and roles and responsibilities of the various partners please see detailed description in section 4.2 of the FAO Project Document.

B. 2. Describe the 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):

Social sustainability and socioeconomic benefits depend on environmental sustainability, especially in the longer-term, and the global environmental benefits created by the project will form the basis for social sustainability of fisheries communities by contributing to safeguarding of the aquatic resources that constitute an important basis for food security.

In the context of project implementation, social sustainability and socioeconomic benefits will be achieved through the participatory project implementation strategy that applies to all project components. In addition, Component 3 addresses livelihoods and gender considerations more specifically with a view to contributing to enhanced and sustainable livelihoods for women and men, a key prerequisite for social sustainability. It is recognised that, in particular in a poverty context and with regard to small-scale fisheries, resource management and social and economic development need to be addressed in parallel. The project will support the implementation of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* (SSF Guidelines - See http://www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines/en.) that provides a framework for governance and development of small-scale fisheries within a context of sustainable resource utilisation and human rights. Principles of equitable development and gender equality guide project implementation and decision-making.

EAF and co-management will be promoted by the project as best practices. Co-management will apply to both small and large-scale fisheries and management arrangement may include both small and large-scale fishers. The possibility of conflicts between different resource users and fleet segments is recognized and will be investigated, monitored and addressed, as required, in the institutional arrangements for co-management implementation.

Specific actions to be taken by the project for strengthening participatory management processes through mobilizing stakeholders to play key roles in the bycatch management include:

- Capacity building of resource users and local government authorities for data collection, monitoring, control and collective decision-making actions.
- Testing EAF to involve local stakeholders through co-management decisions on bycatch reduction and utilization.
- Training local stakeholders by supporting the establishment and strengthening of associations and organizations, which will enable increased and meaningful participation in management, planning and monitoring activities in the selected pilot sites.
- Developing partnerships with the private sector in the pilot sites.

- Developing sustainable economic alternatives for women and men to alleviate pressure on shrimp while simultaneously ensuring livelihoods of local communities and reducing resource use conflicts.
- Working with fishers, women and youth to develop sustainable economic alternatives in case of trawl fishery bans.

B.3 Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

The project strategy of taking a holistic and integrated approach to shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch, working closely with fishers and other stakeholders and also explicitly addressing the need for sustainable livelihoods and gender considerations, was selected after considering the following alternatives:

- *Relying solely on gear modifications and technological solutions*
  The REBYC-I project had a relatively strong focus on fishing technology and development of trawl modifications that are more selective. While the project generated significant results, the experience showed that more was needed to successfully address the complex issues related to bycatch reduction. Gear modifications are important but they are not always the most appropriate tool or they may need to be combined with other management measures. Gear modification solutions also need to be supported by appropriate legal and incentive frameworks to become effective and actually adopted by fishers. Moreover, the socioeconomic drivers behind bycatch and livelihoods and poverty context need to be understood and considered. Shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries are closely linked to other parts of the fisheries sector and livelihoods. In many cases, coastal livelihoods are vulnerable and in need of strengthened resilience – both in general and with regard to possible changes in fisheries systems. To address shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch management concerns, it is hence imperative to also include livelihood aspects and the human dimension in order to achieve sustainable and equitable results – both for local populations and the global environment. While initially the selected holistic approach may be more costly and require more efforts than a more technology focused approach, it is cost-effective in the longer-term because of the sustainability of the results.

- *Developing more selective gear and identifying other management measures through a research based approach, and supporting their implementation mainly through conventional centralised management approaches ('command and control').*
  Ecosystem-friendly fishing gear can be developed through controlled experiments and management measures selected on a scientific basis. A research based approach can be extremely useful and provide fundamental data and knowledge but experience from REBYC-I shows that management solutions need to be tested under and adapted to real conditions. These conditions can vary between different fisheries or even between different vessels. The project will hence build on existing information and experiences (from research and other field activities) and ensure that the identified solutions are tested and adapted to local practices and conditions, that fishers know how and why to use new or modified gear, and that management measures are accepted by concerned stakeholders. To ensure compliance with regulations and uptake of recommendations for changes in fishing practices to promote more responsible fisheries, both positive and negative incentives are needed. The project will hence focus its efforts on developing positive incentive packages and promoting participatory and collaborative management approaches. In addition, the overall livelihoods context will be considered to ensure that changes in management and fishing practices are not disruptive and that fishing based livelihoods are sustainable. The close involvement of stakeholders from the beginning will increase the acceptance of the proposed measures and hence increase the probability of compliance and reduce the costs for surveillance and control activities.

- *Focusing on implementing a limited number of gear modifications and/or management measures broadly in all project countries.*
  If only one or a limited number of management measures – for example a particular type of BRD – were selected for implementation in all trawl fisheries in the project countries, certain economies of scale could apply and more data on the efficiency and effects of the selected management measure could be collected. However, there would be a lack of flexibility with regard to taking local and fleet specific circumstances into consideration. It would also be difficult to have a close and participatory working relationship with fishers and stakeholders because of their large numbers, or resources beyond the means of the project would be required.

The project design is instead based on identifying management and development solutions in a selected number of areas and fisheries in close collaboration with the fishers and fishing communities in these locations, and sharing results and lessons learned widely. In this way, suitable solutions are implemented at local level and a broad-based set of experiences becomes available in a cost-effective way. The information management and communication component of the project will ensure that the data and results generated are available for parallel and future initiatives. Moreover, the work on policies, strategies and institutional structures will provide the mechanisms for scaling up the approach and implementing results more widely in the project countries and region, also after project completion.

The project will build as far as possible on existing investments in institutional frameworks and processes. Cost effectiveness has also been considered in relation to project execution and it is believed that the most cost-effective arrangement is to have the PSU hosted by the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean at the offices of the WECAFC Secretariat. It is expected that the cost-effectiveness of the project will be high; the direct and indirect environmental and livelihood benefits created by the project are expected to exceed GEF investment.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN

The below is the summery of the budgeted M&E plan. For further details please see the FAO Project Document sections 4.5 and 4.6

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budgeted costs
Inception Workshop	RPCU and FAO (BH with the support of the LTO/LTU and the GEF Coordination Unit)	Within two months after the project has become operational	40,000
Project Inception Report	RPCU and BH approved by the LTO and the GEF Coordination Unit	Immediately after the inception workshop	USD 2,550 (one week of the RPC's time)-
Supervision visits and rating of progress in PPRs and PIRs	RPCU and LTO/LTU (and FAO GEF Coordination Unit)	Annual or as required	The visits of the FAO LTO and the GEF Coordination Unit will be paid by GEF agency fee. The visits of the RPCU will be paid from the project travel budget
Impact monitoring "in the field"	National Co-executing Partners (NPCs) and other project participants	Continuously	Financed by co-financing in terms of time of the NPCs and local stakeholders participating in the implementation of EAF management plans
Supervision and validation visits of project progress reported in PPRs and PIRs	RPCU, National Co-executing Partners (NPCs); FAO (BH, LTO, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit)	Annually or as required	USD 71,500 (5 months of the RPC's time and travel costs). In addition the co-financing will be paying for the participation of NPCs and cost of FAO visits will be paid from GEF agency fees
Project Progress Reports (PPRs)	RPCU, with inputs from NPCs and other partners	Six-monthly	USD 15 400 (1.5 months of the RPC's time)
Project Implementation Review report (PIRs)	LTO supported by the RPCU and BH and cleared and submitted by the GEF Coordination Unit to the GEF Secretariat	Annual	Paid by GEF agency fee

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budgeted costs
Project Planning and progress monitoring meetings and Project Steering Committee meetings (annually)	RPCU, National Co-executing partners, and FAO (LTO/LTU and BH)	Annual	USD 180 000
Co-financing Reports	RPCU, National Co-executing partners, and FAO BH	Annual	USD 20 500 (1.5 months of the Operational and Administrative Officer's time)
Mid-term Evaluation	External consultants, FAO Evaluation Office (OEDD) in consultation with the Project team	At mid-point of project implementation	80,000
Final evaluation	External consultant, FAO Evaluation Office (OEDD) in consultation with the project team	At the end of project implementation	80,000
Terminal Report	RPCU, National Co-exe cutting Partners, FAO (BH, LTO, FAO GEF Coordination Unit, FAO TCSR Report Unit	At least two months before the end date of the Execution Agreement	-
Total Budget			**USD 489,950**

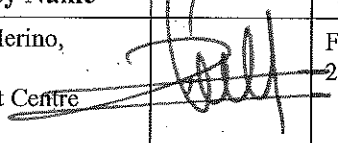
PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

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)*
Mr. Rodrigo Vieira Martins	GEF Operational Focal Point, General Coordinator for External Financing	MINISTRY OF PLANNING, BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, SECRETARIAT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS – BRAZIL	FEBRUARY 26, 2013
Ms. Alejandra Torres Dromgold	GEF Operational Focal point, Head-International Affairs Office	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, COLOMBIA	FEBRUARY 7, 2013
Mr. Rubén Muños Robles	GEF Operational Focal point in Costa Rica	MINAET, DIRECCION DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL, GOBIERNO DE COSTA RICA	JANUARY 25, 2013
Ms. Margarita Pérez Villaseñor	GEF Operational Focal Point, Deputy General Director (SHCP)	SECRETARIA DE HACIENDA Y CREDITO PÚBLICO (SHCP), MEXICO	MARCH 11, 2013
Ms. Henna Uirloo	The Permanent Secretary Environment	MINISTERI VAN ARBEID, TECHNOLOGISHE ONTWIKKELING EN MILIEU, SURINAME	JANUARY 30, 2013
Dr. Joth Singh	GEF Operational Focal Point, Managing Director (EMA)	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (EMA), TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	JANUARY 23, 2013

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

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

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date *(Month, day, year)*	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Gustavo Merino, Director Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla (00153) Rome, Italy TCI-Director@fao.org		February 20, 2015	Daniela Coswig Kalikoski, Fishery Industry Officer, FAO Fisheries Department Petri Suuronen, Fishery Industry Officer, FAO Fisheries Department Rikke Olivera, FAO-GEF Programme Officer for LAC	+390657055034 +390657055153 +390657055701	Daniela.Kalikoski@fao.org Petri.Suuronen@fao.org Rikke.Olivera@fao.org
Jeffrey Griffin Senior Coordinator GEF Unit Technical Cooperation Department FAO					

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla (00153) Rome, Italy Jeffrey.Griffin@fao.org					

ANNEX A:PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found)

Please see FAO Project document Appendix 1

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).

No comments pending from GEFSEC

STAP COMMENT	REBYC-II LAC TEAM RESPONSES
Comment 2: The PIF presents a thoughtful and accurate description of the bycatch problem in the area of focus, the barriers to more sustainable fisheries and bycatch management and presents a realistic baseline scenario of likely future conditions. This assessment of current and likely future conditions contrasts dramatically with the heroic objectives for this five year project. These include the implementation of cost effective solutions to managing bycatch on at least 25% of the trawlers in the project areas (outcome 2a) and a 30% reduction in "unsustainable bycatch" in all pilot areas (outcome 2b). Another target is that more selective trawl gear, or alternative fishing practices, will be used by half the trawlers in the pilot areas (output 2.5). Given the governance context in the pilot areas achieving these numerical targets is highly unlikely unless the pilot sites (that are not identified) are small and unusually tractable. Nothing is said about the basis for making these numerical targets. There is no reference to other world regions where such outcomes may have been achieved in contexts similar to those in the focal area of this project. These numerical targets should be reconsidered and either justified or scaled back.	To realistically achieve the numerical targets in the implementation of effective solutions to manage unsustainable bycatch and reduce discards in trawl fisheries, specific pilot sites have been selected in the project countries. Numerical targets have been reconsidered and scaled back. These targets apply to the pilot sites and are based on a thorough analysis conducted in each project country. The targets of this project are less ambitious than the results already attained in the USA shrimp trawl fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. It is worth noting that the project aims to reduce the unsustainable component of the bycatch, not all bycatch. Part of the current bycatch has the potential to be utilized (instead of discarding) as already taking place in some of the countries. The magnitude and characteristics of bycatch problem in the project countries have been clarified and potential solutions have been identified during the project preparation process. It is clear that some good practices are already in place in the project countries but significantly more is needed to achieve the proposed targets. The pilots sites selected will allow for a further development of good practices. The next step is their replication in a wider context in the project countries and in the region. All pilot sites have specific features. For example, in Costa Rica the pilot site is in Puntarenas where participatory studies have been carried out by the small-scale fishing community of Tárcoles. A database produced has been used to inform decision-making and create a community-based Marine Area for Responsible Artisanal Fishing of Tárcoles (MARAFT) by the government in 2009. Some of the positive impacts include a better spatial zoning which drove trawlers and other industrial fisheries out of the 3 miles coastal zone. This has reduced the conflicts between artisanal and industrial fisheries. Furthermore, trawl bycatch has reduced and an increase shrimp abundance in the Gulf of Nicoya area has been observed by the fishing community. In Suriname a partnership with NOAA is already producing useful underwater performance evaluations of prototype bycatch reduction technology and this collaboration will continue. These two examples have a potential to be scaled up to the other countries.

	Outcome indicators have been further elaborated for all components and are presented in the Results Framework.
Comment 3. Enabling conditions for effective bycatch reductions in this document place the emphasis on legislation and institutional arrangements. Yet throughout the region enforcement of existing fisheries regulations is weak and voluntary compliance is low. This makes it especially important to build other critical enabling conditions. A broad base of constituency is essential that actively supports a bycatch reduction initiative. Greater attention should be given to the challenges of making comanagement operational and in building support within the affected fishing industries and artisanal communities that are the foundation for voluntary compliance with fisheries rules and good practices.	The project ensures that the challenges in bycatch management are dealt with in an integrated manner and in collaboration with all key stakeholders. The barriers and potential incentives for the adoption of good practices will be identified and addressed in each pilot area. The project builds heavily on efforts undertaken in on-going and previous initiatives in the countries that strongly focus on strengthening co-management arrangements such as the Forum of the Patos Lagoon in Brazil and the CoopTárcoles in Costa Rica. Good examples are also the collaborative management arrangements on coastal fisheries in Suriname and Mexico, and the recognition and effort to incorporate rights-based approaches in Colombia. The project will focus on both small-scale and industrial fisheries. In addition the project is partnering with a key research institutes and universities that work in the Caribbean and Latin American region such as the International Community Conservation Research Network of the Saint Mary's University (Canada) and the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the University of the West Indies (UWI, Barbados) which already provided important inputs into project design, in particular with regard to co-management and the livelihoods and gender aspects of Component 3, during project preparation. The potential of using certification processes in promoting the adoption of good practices is included in the work-programme. In Suriname, a working group is already in place at the ministerial level to monitor the continued compliance of the Marine Stewardship Council certification of seabob (a shrimp species) fishery with applicable criteria and conditions. This example could be tested in the other partner countries.
Comment 4. The value chain analysis may yield viable options for economically viable uses of bycatch. It should not be assumed, however, that significant marketing opportunities will emerge or that they will be acted upon. Assumptions that studies and consultations will produce actionable solutions should be reconsidered.	This objective has been scaled back followed by feasibility analyses in project countries. There is substantial interest in the project countries to develop the utilization of bycatch and in some countries there have been projects on this issue. Strong collaboration with the fish processing industry and regional research community is needed to make progress in this area. Revised outcomes, outputs and targets are described in the Results Framework.
Component 5. The risk assessment analysis is unrealistic. Since actions designed to reduce bycatch are in the initial stages of development and testing the barriers to the implementation of	A risk assessment analysis has been conducted by the countries during the PPG phase. Risks and barriers are better understood and are described in section 1 (barriers) and section 3 (risks) of the Project Document. Implementation of

bycatch reduction strategies are not yet known. The fact that a diversity of stakeholders have been consulted and are willing to participate in this program should not be interpreted to mean that fishers will change their practices.	various types of bycatch reduction strategies are taking place in the project counties and were used as one of the criteria to select the pilot sites. Selection of some pilot sites was based on co-management arrangements that are already in place.
Component 6. Component 4 that address project management focus on IW:LEARN and as the key vehicle to disseminate lessons learned from the project. What is lacking is a description of the role of the regional fisheries organizations (OSPESCA, OLDESPESCA, CRFM etc.) currently noted as stakeholders. The involvement of such regional organizations as a key partner (with clear and defined roles) would be strategic to build capacity in one or more of these organizations beyond the project period of five years. Such an approach would supplement the engagement of national governments and the FAO as a UN specialized body as well as WWF and the private sector. Considering the large project area and multiple regional fisheries bodies involved a special purpose vehicle to engage several of them could be considered.	This recommendation is well noted and has been discussed with countries and partners during the two workshops conducted in the PPG phase. The importance of regional fisheries organizations is well understood and fully recognized in the project plan. A more comprehensive description of the role of these organizations has been included in the Project Document section 1.1.3. All countries agreed that the Coordination Unit of the project should be hosted by the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) in Barbados to strengthen WECAFC's capacity. This decision facilitates the implementation of the project given the fact that all project countries are members of WECAFC. In addition, WECAFC together with CRFM and OSPESCA will bring benefits in terms of scaling up project's outputs and outcomes to the wider region facilitating the dissemination of lessons learned from the project to other countries in the region (specific outcomes, outputs and targets are described in detail in the Results Framework). In addition WECAFC will bring an additional co-financing of more than USD 1 000 000 to the project. Furthermore, the strengthening of the CRFM/WECAFC/IFREMER working group on shrimp and groundfish of the North-Brazil Guianas shelf is a strong vehicle for regional fisheries management collaboration.

GEF Council members' comments:

USA's Comments

United States believes that this project represents a valuable effort to manage bycatch in Latin American and Caribbean Trawl fisheries. We would encourage, however, this project to consider ways in which additional countries could be involved.

REBYC-II LAC team response:

When preparing the PIF, based on a recommendation from the GEF secretariat it was decided to scale down the project to a limited number of countries to be able to insure more focused impacts. The countries selected are the ones that had a strong interest in being part of this initiative, but FAO is aware that also other countries are interested in participating in solving this common problem improving the management of bycatch. Additional countries will be involved through the following strategies:

Participating in regional workshops to discuss and present specific activities under the diverse components of the project. In particular other interested countries will via RFBs be involved in the formulation and implementation of the

Regional strategy for shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries and bycatch management (output 1.1.2, where the target is that at least 5 'non-project' countries will participate).

Regional fisheries organizations (e.g. OSPESCA, CRFM, WECAFC) are active partners in the project and will bring benefits in terms of scaling up project's outputs and outcomes to the whole region facilitating the dissemination of lessons learned from the project to other countries in the region. In particular output 1.1.1 on dissemination of bycatch best practices in line with B&D and SSF Guidelines will be targeting all countries in the region.

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS[10]

A. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

PPG GRANT APPROVED AT PIF:			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent To date***	***Amount Committed***
Consultants	86,000	92,979	800
LoA with INVEMAR	13,500	13,743	0
Workshops	58,750	37,327	4,552
Salaries Professional Budget (secondment)	11,320	0	0
Travel	30,430	50,599	0
Total	200,000	194,648	5,352

[10] If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent funds, 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 activities.

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)

N/A