GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND:GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Implementation of the strategic plan of Ecuador's Mainland Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Network		
Country(ies):	Ecuador	GEF Project ID:[1]	9369
GEF Agency(ies):	CI	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Other Executing Partner(s):	Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management (MAE), CI-Ecuador	Submission Date:	01/11/2016
GEF Focal Area(s):	BD, LD	Project Duration (Months)	48
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities ☐ IAP-Commodities ☐ IAP-Food Security ☐	Corporate Program: SGP ☐	
Name of parent program:	[if applicable]	Agency Fee ($)	523,197

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES[2]

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	**Trust Fund**	**(in $)**	
		GEF Project Financing	**Co-financing**
BD-1 Program 1	GEFTF	5,364,449	26,853,145
LD-2 Program 3	GEFTF	448,854	2,246,855
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
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(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
Total Project Cost		**5,813,303**	**29,100,000**

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To substantially improve the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity through an effective coastal and marine protected areas network in mainland Ecuador

Project Components	**Financing Type[3]**	**Project Outcomes**	**Project Outputs**	**Trust Fund**	**(in $)**	
					GEF Project Financing	**Co-financing**
1. Establishing the foundations for the efficient operation of the MPA network	TA	1.1. Institutional, legal and technical capacity to efficiently manage the MPA network substantially improved	1.1.1. Institutional and administrative arrangements for MPA network management completed and adopted by the Ministry of Environment. 1.1.2. Curricula for specialized training of MPA officers, prosecutors and judges	GEFTF	4,459,000	21,000,000

[1] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.
[2] When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on *GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF*.
[3] Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

			designed and executed. 1.1.3. Regulatory framework for tourism in marine protected areas updated. 1.1.4. Guidelines to efficiently incorporate MPAs into coastal zone management designed and disseminated. 1.1.5. Guidelines for moving from conflict to collaboration with key stakeholders (fisheries, tourism, and coastal activities) in MPAs designed and disseminated.			
		1.2. Effectiveness in detecting and sanctioning infractions in MPAs considerably increased	1.2.1. Regulatory framework and procedures for detecting and sanctioning infractions updated. 1.2.2. Equipment and facilities for efficient law enforcement installed and operational. 1.2.3. Specific monitoring, control and surveillance plans for critical MPAs designed and under implementation.			
		1.3. Financial mechanism for long term sustainable financing of the MPA network significantly improved	1.3.1. Dedicated account and financing within the Protected Areas Fund (FAP) to sustain the network of MPAs established and in operation.			

2. On-the-ground active learning	TA	2.1. Lessons learned from pilots are fully incorporated into new/updated regulations and guidelines for MPAs management	2.1.1. Two pilots to test new guidelines and regulations on the integration of MPAs within integrated coastal management plans designed and implemented. 2.1.2. Lessons from pilot projects and the analysis of their applicability to the Ecuadorian coast documented and disseminated to the key stakeholders	GEFTF	650,000	5,000,000
3. Strengthening connectivity of mangroves with inland ecosystems within the MPA network	TA	3.1. Connectivity between coastal mangroves and adjacent inland habitats within the MPA network improved	3.1.1. Inventory of priority areas for habitat connectivity completed. 3.1.2. Pilot interventions in two areas to improve habitat connectivity implemented. 3.1.3. Lessons learned documented and adopted by the Ministry of Environment. 3.1.4. Guidelines to enhance or re-establish habitat connectivity between mangroves and inland habitats designed and disseminated.	GEFTF	427,480	3,100,000
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
			Subtotal		5,536,480	29,100,000
			Project Management Cost (PMC)[4]	GEFTF	276,823	0
			Total Project Cost		5,813,303	29,100,000

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: ( )

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

[4] For GEF Project Financing up to $2 million, PMC could be up to10% of the subtotal; above $2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount ($)
Beneficiaries	Cooperatives/ local stakeholders	In-kind	1,000,000
Government	Municipalities and province	In-kind	3,500,000
Government	Ministry of Enviroment (MPAs and Undersecretary of marine and coastal affairs)	Unknown	19,600,000
CSO	WildAid	In-kind	2,000,000
GEF Agency	Conservation International	Grant	2,000,000
GEF Agency	Conservation International	In-kind	1,000,000
Total Co-financing			29,100,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS [a)]

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)[b)]	Total (c)=a+b
CI	GEFTF	Ecuador	Biodiversity	(select as applicable)	5,364,449	482,800	5,847,249
CI	GEFTF	Ecuador	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	448,854	40,397	489,251
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total GEF Resources					5,813,303	523,197	6,336,500

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)[5]

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes ☒ No ☐ If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: $150,000				PPG Agency Fee: 13,500			
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee[6] (b)	Total c = a + b
CI	GEFTF	Ecuador	Biodiversity	(select as applicable)	140,138	12,612	152,750
CI	GEFTF	Ecuador	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	9,862	888	10,750
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total PPG Amount					**150,000**	**13,500**	**163,500**

[5] PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to $50k for PF up to$2m (for MSP); up to $100k for PF up to $3m; $150k for PF up to $6m; $200k for PF up to $10m; and $300k for PF above $10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

[6] PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS[7]

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	516,779 *Hectares*
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	100 *Hectares*
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	*Number of freshwater basins*
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	*Percent of fisheries, by volume*
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO_{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	*metric tons*
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	*metric tons*
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	*metric tons*
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	*ODP tons*
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	*Number of Countries:*
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	*Number of Countries:*

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area[8] strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

1. The global environmental problems (or climate change adaptation problems if this is an adaptation project), root causes and barriers that need to be addressed:

1. Ecuador is located on the northwest coast of South America; it is one of the 17 megadiverse countries of the world and is part of the Tumbes – Chocó – Magdalena and the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspots (Mittermeier et al., 1997; Myers et al., 2000; Mittermeier et al., 2005; Brooks et al., 2006). It has a total land surface of 257,217.08 km^2, of which ca., 3% correspond to the Galapagos islands.

[7] Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the *GEF-6 Programming Directions*, will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCF.

[8] For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

2. The country has a marine area that is about four times the total area of the country, with very valuable marine and coastal biodiversity. The marine territory is part of four ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) of the Eastern Tropical and Temperate Pacific: a) the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor, b) the Galápagos Archipelago and its Western Extension, c) the Carnegie Ridge – Equatorial Front, and d) the Gulf of Guayaquil (SBSSTA, 2014).

3. The Ecuadorian mainland has 21 of the 27 marine and coastal ecosystems globally recognized as important for biodiversity conservation (10 of the 14 marine and 11 of the 13 coastal ecosystems) (Salm et al., 2000).

4. The country is part of the Tropical East Pacific marine province as well as five marine ecoregions, two in the mainland (i.e., Panama Bight and Guayaquil) and three in the Galapagos Islands (Spalding et al., 2007). This variety of environments is partially the result of particular oceanographic conditions. The Ecuadorian mainland is at the convergence of two large marine ecosystems (i.e., the Pacific Central-American Coastal and the Humboldt Current). Here the cold waters of the Humboldt Current meet the warm waters of the Panama Bight, forming the equatorial front, which moves seasonally depending on the strength of the currents. In addition, the country is subject to major climate fluctuations: El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO).

5. Coastal and marine biodiversity is a valuable asset that sustains a number of important activities such as fisheries, aquaculture, tourism and agriculture. For example, exports from fisheries and aquaculture (mainly the Whiteleg shrimp, *Litopenaeus vannamei,* from shrimp farms) were, respectively, 16% and 17% of non-oil exports in 2013 (in total about USD3.3 billion). Ecuadorian fisheries capture a range of local (e.g., Mangrove Crab, *Ucides occidentalis;* Mangrove cockle, *Anadara tuberculosa;* Central Pacific anchoveta, *Centengraulis mysticetus;* Thread herring, *Opishtonema* spp.) and shared stocks (e.g., Mahi-mahi, *Coryphaena hippurus*; Merluccid hake, *Merluccius gayi,* Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*), and sustain about 60,000 artisanal fishermen. The coastal zone and protected areas are a major destination for foreign and domestic tourists. Between 2003 and 2013, the number of visitors to the protected areas of the mainland increased from 265,845 to 1,241,834. (Calderón, 2015).

6. Marine conservation is important in the Ecuadorian political agenda. The 2009-2013 national development plan included Goal 4.1.2: to incorporate 2,521 km^2 of coastal-marine and land areas under conservation or environmental management by 2013 (SENPLADES, 2009). In addition, the 2013-2017 development plan includes Goal 7.2: to increase mainland Ecuador´s coastal and marine ecosystems under conservation or environmental management by 817,000 ha (SENPLADES, 2013). For the latter goal, the baseline surface under conservation or environmental management was 440,800 ha in 2012.

7. Coastal and marine protected areas (MPAs) have been a major tool for biodiversity protection, and this mechanism has significantly advanced over time. The first Ecuadorian MPAs were the Parque Nacional Machalilla and the Reserva Ecológica Manglares Churute, established in 1979, with a total area of 98,287 ha. As of 2015, 18 MPAs total 13,816,779.40 ha of coastal and marine habitat. However, 96.3% of this total area corresponds to the Galapagos Marine Reserve ; the 17 MPAs from the Ecuadorian mainland cover 516,779.40 ha of which 63.2% is marine area (see Figure 1).

8. Four MPAs from the mainland are key biodiversity areas because of the regular occurrence of globally threatened species at the site:
    a. Refugio de Vida Silvestre y Marino Costera Pacoche. Year round nesting of Pacific ridely sea turtle, *Lepidochelys olivacea* (vulnerable[9]).
    b. Parque Nacional Machalilla. Nesting beaches and feeding areas of Green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas* (endangered). Nesting of Hawksbill sea turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata* (critically endangered). Seasonal aggregation (July – September) of Manta ray, *Manta birostris* (vulnerable) on Isla de la Plata.
    c. Reserva Marina El Pelado. Feeding ground of Hawksbill Sea Turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata* (critically endangered).

[9] Unless indicated, conservation status refer to the global condition as listed in the IUCN red list of threatened species.

d. Reserva de Producción Faunística Manglares El Salado. Occurrence of American crocodile, *Crocodylus acutus*, classified as vulnerable worldwide, but critically endangered in Ecuador (Carrillo et al., 2005).

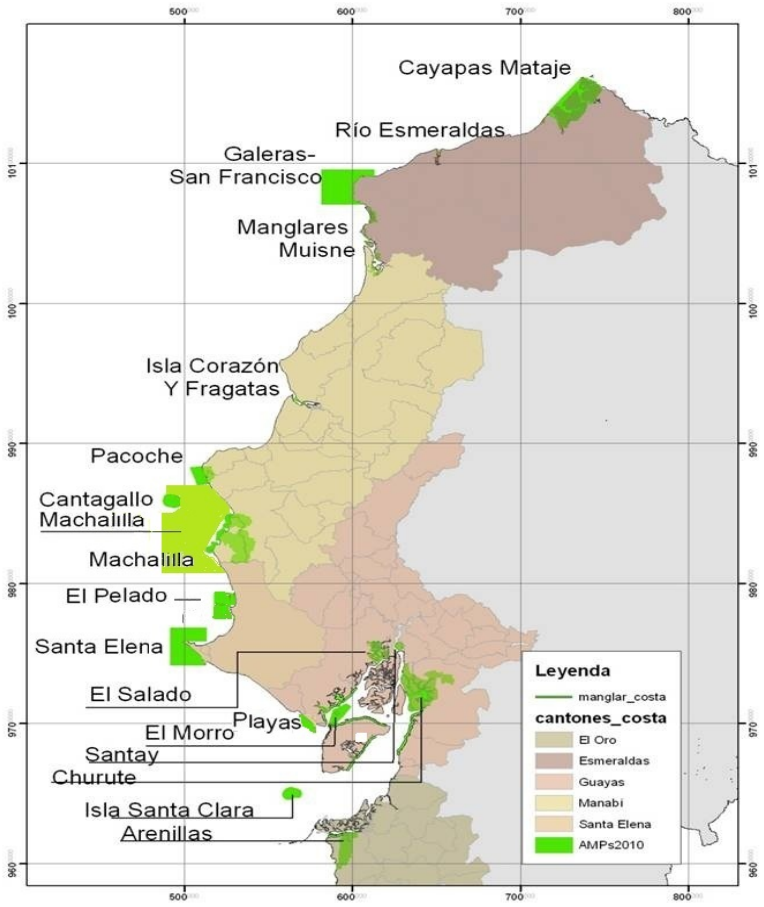

Figure 1: Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of Mainland Ecuador

9. In addition, five MPAs include Ramsar sites: (i) Parque Nacional Machalilla, (ii) Reserva Ecológica de Manglares Cayapas-Mataje, (iii) Reserva Ecológica Manglares Churute, (iv) Refugio de Vida Silvestre Isla Santa Clara, and (v) Área Nacional de Recreación Isla Santay. These areas cover 99,070 ha, which corresponds to 34.5% of the country´s protected areas.

10. In the past years, there have been important government investments to increase personnel, fund management activities, and address key pressures to the MPA network. As a result, management effectiveness of some MPAs has increased. The Ministry of Environment also increased their investment by raisingthe allocation for protected areas from USD2.7 million in 2003 to USD21 million in 2012 (current values) (MAE, 2005; MAE, 2013a).

11. There is also the Protected Areas Fund (FAP) with capital assets totaling US$28 millon[10]. The FAP is a trust fund established in 1999 that provides long-term co-financing for basic operating costs of public protected areas (abbreviated PANE). Currently only seven MPAs of the mainland, out of the existing 17, receive funding from FAP[11]. In terms of increased management effectiveness, for example, the Machalilla National Park increased

[10] Source: http://www.fan.org.ec/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=133

[11] i.e., (1) Parque Nacional Machalilla, (2) Reserva Ecol**ó**gica Manglares Churute, (3) Reserva de Producci**ó**n Fauna Manglares El Salado, (4) Reserva de Producci**ó**n Faun**í**stica Marino Costera Puntilla Santa Elena, (5) Refugio de Vida Silvestre Isla Coraz**ó**n, (6) Refugio de Vida Silvestre Marino Costero Pacoche, and (7) Reserva Marina Galera San Francisco.

management effectiveness from 51.1% in 2004 to 73.8% in 2012 (MAE, 2007; Ulloa & Tamayo, 2012) using the GEF-BD/SP2 Tracking Tool. The combined management effectiveness of 13 MPAs increased from 22.3% in 2008 to 44.8% in 2015 (Paguay, 2015).

12. A major recent step has been the establishment of a network of coastal and marine protected areas to administer the mainland´s MPAs under the jurisdiction of the Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management (SGMC) of the Ministry of Environment, and a corresponding ten-year strategic plan. These were developed as part of the GEF project, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (GEF ID: 3548).

13. The MPA network's ten-year strategic plan has four major goals:
    a. To strengthen the administrative and technical capacities to manage and develop the network of MPAs,
    b. To incorporate MPAs into integrated coastal management processes,
    c. To integrate MPAs into the Ecuadorian seascape with connectivity along the Carnegie ridge, and
    d. To integrate MPAs into the coastal landscape, ensuring connectivity with terrestrial protected areas, forests and wetlands.

Environmental problems

14. Ecuador's mainland coastal and marine biodiversity is threatened mainly by (i) increasing habitat loss and fragmentation, and (ii) overexploitation of fishery resources.

Habitat loss and fragmentation

15. The main causes of coastal and marine habitat loss and fragmentation are (i) accelerated coastal development for urban development, tourism, farming, aquaculture, and other purposes, and (ii) pollution from land-based sources (e.g., agricultural and land runoffs, untreated wastewater and solid waste discharges, mining-related pollution).

16. In the past 50 years the coastline has been subject to rapid development of the waterfront due to installation of shrimp larvae laboratories during the 1980s, the construction of the Pacific Ocean road[12] in the 1990s, and the growing demand for space for tourism and land for beachfront construction of hotels, vacation homes, urban infrastructure and access roads. This has facilitated access to previously unreachable places and fragmented the natural connectivity between shorefront and inland habitats, which is adversely affecting coastal biodiversity.

17. A key environmental problem is the loss of the habitats that form the transition between mangroves and inland ecosystems. This transition area is located in private lands. Despite being important to ensure ecological connectivity, it is being degraded or transformed into other land uses, mainly agriculture and urban development.

18. For example, in the Cayapas – Mataje estuary (close to the border with Colombia), the natales and guandales are being transformed into coconut and African palm oil plantations. Natal is the common name of the tidal flood plain forest of the Equatorial Choco which is characterized by the dominance of nato (*Mora megistosperma*) (MAE, 2013); these are flooded forest that thrive in brackish conditions. Guandal is the common name of the floodplain flooded forest of the Equatorial Choco ecosystem which is characterized by species like Caracha coco (*Otoba gordoniifolia);* Coca *(O. novogranatensis);* Acai palm *(Euterpe oleracea);* Zaputi *(Symphonia globulifera);* Peinecillo *(Apeiba membranacea);* Carbonero *(Hirtella carbonaria)*, among others (MAE, 2013). The guandal is also a flooded forest, which is adjacent to mangroves and natales, but thrive in non-brackish areas. Although there is scant information about natales and guandales in Ecuador, these habitats are prevalent along the Choco biogeographic region, from Panama to Ecuador (del Valle, 1996; del Valle, 2000; Urrego & del Valle, 2001; CEPF, 2005). They have been affected by logging, altered water flows and change of land use, but there are no specific actions for their conservation.

[12] The "vía del Pacífico" or "troncal del Pacífico" is a primary road which follows the coastline, starting at the international Mataje bridge (Esmeraldas province) and ending at Salinas (Santa Elena province).

19. Also, in the Gulf of Guayaquil, the natural connection between mangroves and terrestrial ecosystems (e.g., lowland semi-deciduous forest of Jama-Zapotillo and deciduous lowland forest of Jama-Zapotillo) is being lost due to expansion of farming and urbanization. Therefore, coastal and marine biodiversity of global importance which thrive on mangroves and coastal forests is threatened. Examples of which include sea turtles[13], the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), the neotropical otter[14] (*Lontra longicaudis*), and the crab-eating racoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*).

Overexploitation of fishery resources

20. Over-exploitation is depleting fisheries stocks and threatening the ecological integrity of the marine and coastal ecosystems. A number of Ecuadorian fisheries have collapsed (e.g., sea cucumbers *(Isostichopus fuscus);* green lobster *(Panulirus gracilis);* red lobster *(P. Penicillatus)*; shell spondylus *(Spondylus calcifer* and *S. princeps)* and others are severely declining (e.g., back shell *(Anadara tuberculosa)*; groupers). The main causes of over-exploitation are increasing fishing pressure, deficient surveillance and enforcement, and inadequate fisheries regulations (open access is the main policy). The root cause is the increasing local and international demand for seafood, ranging from top quality tuna to cannonball jellyfish (*Stomolophus meleagris*).

Examples of environmental problems in coastal and marine protected areas

21. MPAs have been a major tool for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation. However, despite important advances, the MPAs of the mainland are, at large, small and attached to the coastline. In general, existing MPAs have been created taking advantage of opportunities and favourable conditions, using the limited scientific information that has been available. Therefore, there are obvious gaps to ensure functional connectivity and a number of coastal and marine habitats and ecosystems are not covered by the national system of protected areas. Furthermore, the natural transition from mangroves to inland ecosystems, such as tropical and dry forests of the Tumbes – Chocó – Magdalena Biodiversity Hotspot, is being rapidly lost due to changes in land use.

22. MPAs face strong pressures mainly from fisheries, tourism and coastal development. Most fishermen are reluctant to respect MPAs and there is scarce understanding of the value of protected areas to sustain fishery resources.

23. In addition, the coastline is a major destination mainly for national visitors. Perrone et al., (2009) reported that the beaches are the main destination of about 63% of national tourists. In the past years, during high season, the number of visitors has overpassed the management capacity in certain sites of some MPAs, like Isla de la Plata (Parque Nacional Machalilla), Puerto El Morro (Refugio de Vida Silvestre Manglares El Morro) and Área Nacional de Recreación Isla Santay.

24. MAE estimates that visits to the Parque Nacional Machailla increased from 28,000 visitors, in 2005, to 180,000 visitors, in 2013. Impacts to biodiversity include invertebrate collection, destruction of coastal vegetation, vehicle circulation on the beaches, and disturbance of biota by activities like snorkel diving and whale watching.

25. It is estimated that mass tourism generates about 38,000 t/year of waste (Coello & Macias, 2005), but most coastal municipalities have limited capacity to handle waste. Moreover, tourism motivates further development of the coastline to build roads, promenades, hotels and vacation houses. Along the coastline, local governments encourage infrastructure and economic development of the shorefront with little consideration of the impacts on native biodiversity and existing MPAs. All this generates frequent tension and conflicts.

Main barriers

26. The government of Ecuador has made substantial progress in strengthening individual MPAs, but this has proven insufficient. A major step has been to adopt a systemic approach and create an MPA network to set common management tools appropriate for the coastal and marine environment, establish cost-efficient shared resources

[13] Four species of sea turtles nest on the Ecuadorian mainland: (i) green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), (ii) olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), (iii) hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and (iv) leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*). It has been documented that after nesting hawksbill turtles use mangroves as a main foraging area.

[14] Categorized vulnerable in the Ecuadorian red list (Tirira, 2011).

(e.g., surveillance mechanisms that serve a number of MPAs), and facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among MPA teams.

27. The strategy to scale up from a set of individual MPAs to a functional ecological network of coastal and marine protected areas has two phases: (1) first advance to a management-based network (i.e., establishing common approaches and consistency in aspects such as enforcement and governance), and (2) afterwards evolve to form an ecological network that ensures natural connections and resiliency.

28. However, moving towards managing an MPA network is a big challenge. Current international experience shows that developing an MPA network is a major undertaking, especially to mainstream key principles like connectivity and resilience, and to build adequate governance (UNEP-WCMC, 2008; Solandt et al., 2014).

29. A limiting factor in the future years will be a reduced flow of government funding to protected areas. The collapse of the global crude oil prices has negatively affected the Ecuadorian economy. The World Bank estimates that the oil prices will remain low during the following decade. As a result, the government budget of 2016 will have a reduction of about 18% with respect to 2015. As mentioned before, funding of protected areas has become highly dependent on government funding. Budget cuts will reduce the performance of MPAs and will further limit surveillance and control.

30. The main barriers which limit addressing current pressures on MPAs and the development of the MPA network are:
    - **Barrier 1:** The Ministry of Environment, and particularly the Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management (SGMC), has limited experience with protected areas network management. MAE has largely advanced in harmonising the management of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP). However, this will be the first subset of protected areas to be managed as a functional network. In addition, current national experience with conservation corridors is limited and mainly in terrestrial protected areas.
    - **Barrier 2:** Current administrative and legal arrangements are frail. In 2009, the SGMC was assigned to manage the mainland´s MPAs. However, there have been significant difficulties because MAE´s institutional and administrative arrangements do not fully support delegated management of a set of protected areas. The creation of the MPA network set the challenge to develop new internal structures and arrangements. In addition, current legal and institutional arrangements are insufficient to establish and administer connectivity corridors. There is only a set of guidelines for conservation connectivity[15], with a specific focus on terrestrial corridors.
    - **Barrier 3:** There is limited capacity to administer the new network. The idea of an MPA network has matured over the last decade, and the personnel from SGMC and MPAs have advanced on a *de facto* network exchanging experience and learning. However, personnel turnover has limited the development of common culture and practice. There are no training courses and guidelines to orient newcomers and MPA staff on key aspects such as governance, conflict management and marine surveillance.
    - **Barrier 4:** Current legal tools are insufficient. There are major limitations to administer fisheries and tourism within MPAs, and to sustain enforcement and sanction of infractors. There are no specific regulations to administer fisheries in MPAs[16]. Also, the existing special regulations for tourism in protected natural areas (issued in 2003) are insufficient for the current situation. Existing loopholes limit the ability to legalise tourist operators in several MPAs, and to sanction the infractors. Finally, there is limited coordination with other control bodies like the coastguard and the fisheries authority. Current sectoral regulations do not establish mandatory collaboration among agencies dealing with users of coastal and marine resources, and leave several loopholes that limit prosecuting and sanctioning infractors.

[15] Acuerdo Ministerial 105, published on 2 December 2013.
[16] The Galapagos Marine Reserve has special regulations for artisanal fisheries. There is no equivalent for the MPAs in the mainland.

- **Barrier 5:** The systems for surveillance and enforcement are deficient and cannot contain the strong pressure from illegal activities. Existing control systems are insufficient to detect and detain infractors. Equipment and facilities are very basic and modern cost-efficient equipment, like long-range video cameras and radio links, are lacking. There is a proposal to establish a network-wide surveillance and control system (WildAid, 2014; WildAid, 2015a), which optimises resources, but there have been serious limitations to secure funding.
- **Barrier 6:** MPAs are not articulated with local governments' plans and actions. Local governments have not fully internalised the principles and practices of integrated coastal management. Therefore, municipal and provincial plans and actions not always consider the impacts and pressures they generate to neighbouring MPAs and coastal and marine biodiversity at large. In several protected areas, there is frequent tension and conflict regarding issues such as construction of infrastructure on the waterfront, control of street animals, and inadequate disposal of garbage and sewage.
- **Barrier 7**: Funding is insufficient. Despite the important increase in government funding for the SNAP, several MPAs do not receive sufficient resources to fulfil their basic operation. In addition, during the past decade, funding for protected areas has relied mostly on government support. The contribution of government funding to the SNAP budget increased from 35% in 2003, to 94% in 2012 (MAE, 2015). Overdependence on a single source of funding has proven frail under the current conditions of declining oil prices (the main income source of the country). FAP funding is useful, but only 41% of the existing MPAs access this source.
- **Barrier 8:** Coastal communities and stakeholders are unaware of the value and need of ecological connectivity. There is little understanding of the dynamic needs and natural connection between marine, coastal and inland habitats and ecosystems. Therefore, decisions on land use changes do not consider the impacts on habitat fragmentation and creation of barriers which impede wildlife movements such as roads and monoculture plantations.

2. The baseline scenario and any associated baseline project:

- **Baseline scenario**:

31. Without an intervention to reinforce the capacities of the SGMC, it seems unlikely that the newly established MPA network will rapidly consolidate. This will in turn, limit that Ecuador addresses connectivity among existing MPAs and advance in the creation of coastal and marine corridors and offshore MPAs. In addition, existing conflicts with coastal communities and user groups will continue and exacerbate. In this scenario, it seems improbable that new governance arrangements will rapidly be developed.

32. Existing surveillance and control mechanisms cannot cope with the growing pressure from tourism, fisheries, and coastal activities. Therefore, the pressure from unregulated and illegal activities will continue to endanger valuable biodiversity. For example, the seasonal aggregations of the giant manta ray on Isla de La Plata (i.e., 1,296 and 1,579 individuals recorded, respectively, in 2012 and 2013) would continue to be affected by artisanal fishers which illegally operate within the protected area. Also, MPAs will not be able to serve as reservoirs and sustenance for fisheries[17], therefore having negative impacts on food availability and the economy of coastal communities and the country.

33. In addition, the existing mechanisms and practices cannot cope with the growing pressure from coastal development. Therefore, it is probable that valuable coastal and marine biodiversity could be lost. For example, sea turtle nesting beaches would continue to be affected by beachfront construction, intensive tourism and

[17] Currently, no MPA has a no-take zone. It is known that no-take zones enhance biodiversity and contribute to sustain fisheries, but there is strong opposition from the main stakeholders and current control and surveillance cannot enforce the zoning schemes outlined in the management plans. The strategic plan of the MPA network includes the target that each protected area has a no-take zone (i.e., areas closed to human activities) of at least 30% by 2025. This will allow to have a core system of no-take zones in the country.

marine debris. Likewise, critical habitats that link marine and terrestrial ecosystems, like natales and guandales, will continue to deteriorate or even disappear.

- **Baseline projects**:

34. The government of Ecuador will continue to provide main funding for the MPAs and the SGMC. The annual expenditure for MPAs is approximately USD 3.4 million (information from FY2012) invested in current expenditures to pay rangers salaries, maintainance of vehicles and the basic cost of control and surveillance activities. In addition, the FAP will continue to provide financial resources for basic operating costs of about USD 60,000 per protected area per year. The FAP was created with the support of the project: "ECUADOR – National System of Protected Areas Project (GEF ID: 945))" that was financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the World Bank. Two additional GEF Trust Fund grants were made: a USD 3.7 million GEF grant to the Ministry of the Environment (Ministerio del Ambiente or MAE) to ensure the conservation and management of Ecuador's biodiversity for socially sustainable development by strengthening the national protected areas system (SNAP for Sistema Nacional de Areas Protegidas GEF ID: 3829); and a USD 4.3 million GEF Trust Fund grant to the National Environment Fund (Fondo Ambiental Nacional or FAN) to create a stable, long-term source of endowment funding to support SNAP. In 2012, three MPAs received funding from the FAP for a total amount of USD 180,500. These MPAs are Parque Nacional Machalilla, Reserva Ecológica Cayapas – Mataje, and Reserva Ecológica Manglares Churute (FAN, 2013). Currently, seven MPAs receive funds from FAP, and starting in 2016, the aim is to include all public protected areas from continental Ecuador with a plan to increase the FAP.

35. Regarding land-based pollution, MAE´s National Program for Comprehensive Solid Waste Management (PNGIDS) supports municipalities to improve their solid waste management systems. The goal is to eliminate open dumps by 2017. In addition, PNGIDS implements a permanent campaign to promote responsible disposal of garbage by residents and tourist along the coastline.

36. Since 2013, the Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR) is implementing the National Program of Tourist Destinations of Excellence (project K001 MINTUR) with a total investment of USD 9.9 million. The project will end in 2017 and includes Puerto López among the nine priority destinations and four coastal cities among priority complementary destinations. Of these, Salinas has direct influence on the Reserva de Producción de Fauna Marino Costera Puntilla de Santa Elena. In 2013, Puerto López was designated as the first tourist protected area, and the project has supported municipal urban planning and tourism regulation and the construction of tourist infrastructure which contributes to controlling the impacts on the Parque Nacional Machalilla.

37. Conservation International (CI) is implementing the fourth phase of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape project (ETPS), with financial support from the Walton Family Foundation. The ETPS will continue to provide direct support to five MPAs[18] until 2017 (total investment USD 1.5 million). CI also operates the Global Conservation Fund, which will provide co-financing to create a FAP subaccount for MPAs as part of the proposed project.

38. WildAid is implementing actions to strengthen marine surveillance and control along the Ecuadorian mainland. It supported the design and implementation of the Ecuadorian vessel monitoring system (VMS) and, since 2014, is focusing on improving MPA´s control systems.

39. Our project will build on the accomplishments of the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (GEF ID: 3548) project, implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This project will close during 2015 and has supported the creation of the MPA network, the preparation of a control and enforcement strategy, and estimates of environmental services from MPAs.

[18] i.e., Parque Nacional Machalilla, Reserva Marina Galera San Francisco, Refugio de Vida Silvestre Pacoche, Refugio de Vida Silvestre Manglares El Morro, and Reserva de Producción Faunística Puntilla de Santa Elena.

3. The proposed alternative scenario with the proposed project, with a brief description of the expected outcomes and components of the project:

40. The contribution of the GEF will expedite mainstreaming a more holistic approach to coastal and marine conservation by facilitating the prompt implementation of the current MPA network strategic plan. The project will contribute to improve the management and conservation of coastal and marine areas. The key contributions will be:
    a. to assist the process to scale up to an MPA network,
    b. to improve the capacity for detection, detention and sanction of infractors,
    c. to increase the financial sustainability of the MPA network,
    d. to advance incorporating MPAs into integrated coastal management processes, and
    e. to gain experience and prepare tools to improve connectivity with coastal and marine areas.

41. The alternative scenario will be improved by integrating the management of at least 516,77919 ha (the existing MPA network) with coastal and marine areas that provide inland and seaward connectivity. Having robust and resilient MPAs will in turn (i) protect valuable biodiversity and critical habitats, (ii) contribute to maintain environmental services, and (iii) sustain fisheries and other coastal activities.

42. The project is consistent with the GEF-6 Objective 1 of the Biodiversity Focal Area (*BD1:Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems)*. The project´s primary objective is to advance the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity through an effective MPA network. The project specifically aligns with *Program 1: Improving Financial Sustainability and Effective Management of the National Ecological Infrastructure* since the focus is to set the foundation for an effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected MPA network. Overall, the project will boost the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and create the foundation to efficiently operate the MPA network (*BD1 Outcome 1.1.*) In addition, a portion of the GEF grant will be channelled to improving the long term sustainable financing of the MPA network through the creation of a subaccount with diverse sources of funding (*BD1 Outcome 1.2.*)

43. This project is also consistent with *LD-2: Forest Landscapes*: *Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people, Program 3: Landscape Management and Restoration.* This is evident through pilot projects in areas that maintain natural connectivity between mangroves and inland ecosystems but are under threat. These pilot projects will implement interventions, incentivize local groups to conserve and maintain natural connectivity, improve management of remaining forests, and restore native vegetation, all of which support the project's primary objective.

44. The project´s objective is to advance the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity through an effective MPA network. The focus of the project is to set the foundation for an effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected MPA network.

45. The overall target is to improve management effectiveness of individual MPAs and the network as a whole. Current baseline of MPA effectiveness is an average of 42% for the current 17 MPAs (Paguay, 2015), according to the GEF-BD/SP2. The overall target is to increase the average management effectiveness by at least 10% during the project (for an overall average of 52% by the end of the project).

46. The self-assessment tools for MPA networks developed by Day & Lafoley (2006) and OSPAR (2007) will be tested and applied, first during the PPG to set the baseline, and later during project implementation.

[19] This surface will, most probably, increase. The project GEF ID: 4770 has a goal to create four new MPAs with a total surface of about 15,000 ha.

47. The resources from the GEF will support Ecuador´s efforts to comply with Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Specifically Target 11 (Protected Areas, Landscapes and Seascapes)[20] by improving the management of coastal and marine protected areas. A key component of this project is targeting the connectivity between and conservation of mangroves and adjacent inland habitats while improving the management of remaining native forests and vegetation. In addition, resources will be spent on raising the awareness of key stakeholders on the importance of the value of ecological connectivity between marine, coastal and inland habitats and ecosystems.

48. The project is organized into three components:

Component 1. Establish the foundations for the efficient operation of the MPA network.

49. This line of work will focus on (i) strengthening the capacities to administer the MPA network and the surveillance and control system, and (ii) establishing a subaccount into FAP to provide long-term funding to MPAs and the network. Three outcomes are expected:

Outcome 1.1. Institutional, legal and technical capacity to efficiently manage the MPA network substantially improved.

50. To address barriers 1 and 2, the project will prepare the instruments (e.g., internal policies, procedures and guidelines, job and professional profiles) to adjust the administrative mechanisms to sustain and foster the MPA network within the operational structure of the Ministry of Environment, which governs the national system of protected areas. Also, the project will design and implement the governance arrangements needed to scale up from individual MPAs to a functional network.

51. Learning and experience from the project will serve to prepare and implement three sets of guidelines that will contribute to address barrier 3:
    a. Guidelines to impart MPAs with coastal zone management (outputs 1.1.4). These guidelines will orient existing and future MAE staff on tools and methods to build collaboration with local governments and social networks to mainstream MPAs into the coastal landscape.
    b. Guidelines for moving from conflict to collaboration with key stakeholders (output 1.1.5). These guidelines will provide tools and methods to manage conflicts and to implement a proactive approach of stakeholder bonding.

52. In addition, specialized training courses will be developed to train MPA officers. These courses will be articulated within the framework of MAE´s Professional Training Program for protected areas personnel (called "Aula Verde" in Spanish) and will focus on providing tools for key tasks such as (i) Applying law enforcement in MPAs[21], (ii) managing tourist carrying capacity, (iii) integrating conservation with coastal management, (iv) building collaboration with key stakeholders, and (v) promoting inland and seaward ecological connectivity.

53. The courses will also incorporate learning from the project and the three guidelines to be generated (i.e., outputs 1.1.4, 1.1.5, and 3.1.4). There will also be tailor-made courses for prosecutors and judges. It is expected that most courses will be on-line and complemented with video tutorials to facilitate training of new MPA staff, prosecutors and judges. The project will aim to train all existing MPA staff (approximately 80 people).

[20] Target 11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

[21] This type of course will be open to other competent authorities (e.g., coastguard, fisheries inspectors) to promote synergies and collaboration.

54. To address barrier 4, the project will support the processes to update the regulatory framework for tourism in MPAs[22] through a partnership between MAE and the Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR), and in consultation with key stakeholders. The new regulation will include provisions for the administration of tourist operations in coastal and marine corridors. Current legal gaps facilitate illegal operations and increased pressure to visit sites.

Outcome 1.2. Effectiveness in detecting and sanctioning infractions in MPAs considerably increased.

55. There is a strategy and specific plans to strengthen the surveillance of the MPAs and the entire network (WildAid, 2014; WildAid, 2015; WildAid, 2015a). Therefore, the project will support their implementation by:
    a. Updating the regulatory framework[23] and procedures to facilitate the detention and prosecution of infractors and the coordination and collaboration among the coastguard, SRP, police and MAE (this will contribute to address barrier 4);
    b. Installing equipment and facilities for detection and detention such as radio links, long-range video cameras and automatic identification system stations (this will contribute to address barrier 5);
    c. Preparing at least three monitoring, control and surveillance plans for the most critical MPAs[24] (this will contribute to address barrier 5).

56. It is expected that the GEF will finance about USD 2.0 million to expand the facilities for detection and detention, and WildAid and Conservation International will raise a similar amount to complement this investment. Additional contributions are expected from the coastguard, SRP and MAE.

Outcome 1.3. Financial mechanism for long term sustainable financing of the MPA network significantly improved

57. To address barrier 7, the project will contribute at least USD 4.0 million to create a specific subaccount within FAP, earmarked to fund basic operating costs of the MPAs and the network. It is envisioned that about USD 2.0 million from GEF resources will be invested in FAP. Conservation International will invest at least a similar amount from the Global Conservation Fund, the Walton Family Foundation or other donors. Additional contributions will be sought during project implementation.

58. It is envisioned that during the PPG phase, the financial needs assessment and gap analysis will be estimated and defined to include a financial sub-strategy for the MPA network. Based on FY12 figures, the government of Ecuador provides approximately USD 3.4 million for rangers' salaries, maintainance of vehicles and the basic costs of the control and surveillance activities. In addition, based on FY12 figures, the FAP subaccount provides approximately USD 180,000 per year for the MPA network.

59. With the USD 4 million trust fund that this project will establish, given an average interest rate of 4%, the trust fund will be able to generate at least USD 160,000 per year, which is equivalent to almost 88% of the current contribution of the FAP. While it is recognized that the USD 4 million initial contribution will not be suffient to cover a significant financial gap, it is expected that this project will seed a trust fund that will grow over time. Over the life of the project, additional sources of funding wil be identified for the trust fund to cover the financing gap of the MPA network.

Component 2. On-the-ground active learning.

[22] The existing framework are the Special Regulations for Tourism in Natural Protected Areas, issued in 2003 and modified in 2008 and 2009. The current regulations do not fully integrate tourist activities like whale watching, snorkel and SCUBA diving, and sport fishing. Existing legal loopholes facilitate illegal operations because MPA administrators cannot establish limits and issue permits for certain activities.

[23] It is expected to introduce improvements at the level of regulations (called "reglamentos" in Spanish). Reglamentos are legal norms that make operational the laws, these are issued by the President via Executive Decrees.

[24] A specific monitoring, control and surveillance plan for Machalilla National Park was prepared by WildAid (2015a).15

60. To address barrier 6, this component will focus on generating lessons and experience on integrating MPAs into the coastal ecosystem and therefore to advance the development of the MPA network. This component has one outcome:

Outcome 2.1. Lessons learned from pilots are fully incorporated into new/updated regulations and guidelines for MPAs management.

61. There will be two pilot interventions on articulating MPAs with coastal management processes and local governments (i.e., municipal and provincial) and key stakeholders. The central element is to explore new approaches to move from the present focus on conflict resolution to more modern methodologies of proactive conflict management, stakeholder bonding and building trust and interdependence (Buckles, 1999; Boutilier & Svendsen, 2001; Newman & Dale, 2005; Goldstein, 2011; Ojha et al., 2013; Ratner & Smith, 2014; Ruttinger et al., 2014).

62. Thus far, the relationship between MPA managers (law enforcement staff) and local stakeholders (mainly fishermen and the tourism sector) has been rather antagonistic, due to several factors including the fact that the benefits of MPAs are not adequately understood not only by natural resource users but also by the MPA managers themselves, the costs of restricting access to and use of natural resources to achieve sustainability is perceived to be high for local stakeholders, and the overall function and roles of MPAs have not been sufficiently communicated at different levels.

63. The details of the two pilots will be developed in a participatory manner during the PPG, but preliminarily there is interest in piloting tourism and fishery activities in the MPA network. Using participatory methods, the project will bring together as many stakeholders (see Stakeholders Table in section 2 below for more details) as possible to discuss the trade-offs of MPAs vis-à-vis the different and competing interests of different stakeholders, analyse what are their benefits (improving ecosystem health, increasing abundance, age/size, composition, biomass and yield of stocks and the spillover to neighboring areas, conserving biodiversity, improving recreation value and opportunities, etc.), costs (restricting access to resources according to zoning, increasing congestion in non-protected areas, initial decreasing in income, etc.) and how the costs will be fairly distributed among different stakeholders (international, national, and local).

64. It has been estimated that there are about 6,000 artisanal fishermen harvesting crab, black shell, lobster and demersal fish in and around MPAs. They tend to be skeptical about the benefits that they can receive from MPAs as they see them as impediments to their traditional practices. Small scale pilots implemented in some MPAs have demonstrated that artisanal fishermen are very interested in collaborating with MPA managers on issues that help them resolve, for instance, issues of territorial rights, compliance with laws and regulations while increasing or at least maintaining income, etc.

65. The MPA network hosts approximately 15,000 people linked to formal and informal tour operations that provide several services such as food, lodging, transportation, etc. Tour operations are generally more amenable to support MPAs because they can more easily perceive the benefits (e.g. natural scenery) that they provide to the industry. However, the poor regulation of informal tourism within and around MPAs generates negative impacts to marine and coastal environments, including waste generation that is not properly disposed, park fee evasion, unfair competition, violation of zoning regulations, etc. The involvement of the tourism sector will be ensured through the establishment of tourism concessions within key MPAs that includes capacity building and learning opportunities, spatial planning to avoid negative impacts on sensitive areas, and promoting economic benefits to tour operations along value chains.

66. The pilots will serve to gain experience to develop the governance arrangements needed to address simultaneously local needs with network-level requirements. In addition, the pilots will explore mechanisms to mainstream MPAs into local governments' planning processes, and to build support for no-take zones within the MPAs.

67. The lessons learned will be documented and systematised into guidelines (i.e., output 1.1.6) to be used by MPA teams. The sites for the pilots will be identified during the PPG.

Component 3. Strengthening connectivity of mangroves with inland ecosystems within the MPA network.

68. To address barrier 8, this component will focus on setting the ground for inland connectivity of the MPA network, as well as to conserve threatened habitats like guandales and natales. It is expected that these actions will contribute to mainstream the concepts of ecological connectivity into coastal and marine conservation by sensitising and raising awareness of key stakeholders and developing practical experience and guidelines. This component has one outcome:

Outcome 3.1. Connectivity between coastal mangroves and adjacent inland habitats within the MPA network improved.

69. The degree of connectivity from mangroves to inland ecosystems will be mapped and assessed. Then, key priority areas will be identified and two sites will be chosen for pilot interventions. Mapping will take advantage of MAE´s satellite images and information which was used to update the mainland´s ecosystems map (MAE, 2013b; MAE, 2013c).

70. It is expected that priority areas will be those that still maintain natural connectivity and are under high pressure of being degraded / fragmented or converted to other land uses. Remaining natales and guandales will most probably be among the priority areas, but there are other sites that have obvious interesting conditions such as Puná Island and Cerro Blanco Protected Forest.

71. The pilots will allow:
    a. to obtain detailed information about the condition of the transition areas and their threats;
    b. to understand landowners' interests, views and motivations regarding land-use changes on remaining native forests and vegetation;
    c. to sensitise stakeholders about ecological connectivity;
    d. to plan and implement interventions and to motivate / incentive local groups (e.g., landowners, farmers, shrimp farmers) and authorities (e.g., municipal and provincial governments) to conserve and maintain natural connectivity, improve management of remaining forests, and restore native vegetation; and
    e. to derive lessons on tools and approaches to be used in other parts of the coastline.
    f. Guidelines to enhance or rebuild interlinkages between mangroves and inland habitats (output 3.1.4). These guidelines will provide tools and methods to advance in conserving existing connections, prevent man-made barriers to connectivity and rebuild functional connections. It is expected that these guidelines will be a starting point to mainstream ecological connectivity into coastal and marine management.

72. Behind all this work will be the ideas of (i) improving management of remaining native forests and vegetation, and (ii) establishing corridors between estuaries and inland ecosystems. It is expected that at the end of the project, through the pilots, at least 100 hectares of private lands will be under sustainable management to improve ecological connectivity. Also, based on the experience of this component, the project will prepare the legal and administrative foundation to establish future terrestrial and marine corridors.

73. Learning will be documented and systematised into guidelines (i.e., output 3.1.4) to be used by MPA teams and other stakeholders.

4. Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions to the baseline (refer to the GEF guidelines):

74. GEF resources will lever additional funds (i) to expand the FAP trust fund to secure long-term financing of basic operating costs of the MPA network, and (ii) to invest into improving the capacity for detection, detention and sanction of MPA offenders. In addition, GEF resources will be invested into gaining experience on integrating MPAs into the coastal landscape by using new approaches to build collaborative relationships with stakeholders,

and to advance on building connectivity between mangroves and inland ecosystems.

75. GEF incremental resources will lead to a boost in the implementation of the new ten-year strategic plan of the Ecuadorian MPA network and to address key barriers for the process to scale up from a set of MPAs to a functional network.

76. This project will take advantage of and build on current investments by MAE to increase direct funding to protected areas and by Conservation International´s Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape project which has strengthened management in five MPAs: Galera-San Francisco Marine Reserve, Machalilla National Park, Pacoche Wildlife Refuge, Santa Elena Marine Reserve and El Morro Wildlife Refuge.

77. The project will contribute to setting the ground for synergic management of MPAs through an effective network that is integrated into the Eastern Pacific seascape and the Tumbes – Chocó – Magdalena landscape.

78. The resources from the GEF will support Ecuador´s advances to comply with Aichi biodiversity targets (in particular target 11[25]), and to progress towards the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, in particular goal 14 -- to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources -- and the following targets:
    - By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
    - By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

5. Global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits:

79. The Ecuadorian MPA network will contribute to conserving important coastal and marine habitats and ecosystems that sustain a number of globally important and threatened species such as marine turtles and sharks and valuable shared fishery resources (e.g., Mahi-mahi, Coryphaena hippurus).

80. The project will contribute to improved management of at least 516,779 ha of coastal and marine protected areas, most of which are of global significance, recognized as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and RAMSAR sites. It will also promote sustainable management and/or restoration of that at least 100 ha of private lands that link mangroves with inland habitats.

81. Improved management of the MPA network will conserve nesting and foraging areas for olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea* – vulnerable in the IUCN red list), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas* - endangered in the IUCN red list), hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata* - endangered in the IUCN red list) and leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea* - vulnerable in the IUCN red list).

82. It will also contribute to the conservation of other migratory species such as humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and manta rays. For example, during the northern hemisphere summer, the southeast Pacific population of the humpback whale migrate to the warm waters from Ecuador to Costa Rica to reproduce and breed. Also, in Isla de La Plata there are seasonal aggregations of the giant manta ray, *Manta birostris* (vulnerable in the IUCN red list), and ocean sunfish (*Mola mola*). These are large migratory marine animals that use ample ocean areas of the planet. In addition, the Reserva de Producción Faunistica Manglares El Salado provide refuge to the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), which is listed as critically endangered in the Ecuadorian red list26.

[25] Target 11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

[26] The American crocodile is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN red list.

83. Improved management of the natural transition between mangroves and inland habitats will contribute to conserve endangered species that thrive in this areas like *Carlowrightia ecuadoriana*, (Acanthaceae family) an endemic herb found in Puna island which is considered Critically Endangered, the Near Threatened neotropical otter (*Lutra longicaudis*), the crab-eating racoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*), the Spectral bat *(Vampyrum spectrum)*, and the Harmles Serotine *(Eptesicus innoxius)*; and the Smoky bat *(Amorphochilus schnablii*, Vulnerable). There is very little information about the biota which thrive in guandales, natales and other plant formations, therefore the project will contribute to increase knowledge on their status and conservation actions.

6. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up:

Innovativeness

84. The three main elements of innovation for Ecuador are (i) to acquire hands-on experience on developing a functional national MPA network, (ii) to explore new approaches to build collaborative relationships with stakeholders, and (iii) to investigate means to conserve connectivity between mangroves and inland habitats and ecosystems.

Sustainability

85. According to Article 14 of the Constitution of Ecuador, the protected areas and the recovery of critical and threatened marine ecosystems and coastal ecosystems are an institution and a mandate that inter alia make viable the right of people "to live in a healthy and ecologically balanced environment that guarantees sustainability and good living". For this reason, the Constitution of Ecuador declared of public interest the preservation of the environment, conservation of ecosystems, biodiversity and the integrity of the genetic patrimony of the country, the prevention of environmental damage and the recovery of degraded natural areas "(second paragraph of Article 14 of the Constitution).

86. Similarly, the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador establishes that the national system of protected areas ensure the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological functions. The system will be integrated by the state, autonomous decentralized, community and private subsystems, and its rectory and regulation shall be exercised by the State. The State shall allocate the necessary financial resources for the financial sustainability of the system and encourage the participation of communities, peoples and nations that have ancestrally inhabited protected areas in their administration and management.

87. Sustainability is guaranteed by the annual expenditure for 17 MPAs and the Undersecretsariat of the Coastal and Marine Affair (ca., USD 4,900,000) that will continue to be provided by the Government of Ecuador, and the financial returns of FAP to support the MPA network. The FAP program decentralizes the channelling of funds to the protected areas mechanism, which clearly define the eligible areas, the mechanisms of accountability and monitoring and evaluation processes. These actions are supported by initiatives aimed at:
    - Supporting the strengthening of control and monitoring systems
    - Facilitating participatory planning processes in Protected Areas
    - Supporting and generate information on the actual financing needs of Protected Areas

88. The capitalization of FAP comes from two main sources: trust funds contributions and extinguishable contributions[27]. The main contributors of the trust funds are the Ecuadorian state and the German government through debt swaps; the GEF-World Bank and private contributions; while contributors of the extinguishable funds have been mainly the Andean Community of Nations, the cooperation of the government of the Netherlands, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and Conservation International.

[27] "Extinguishable contributions": Funds that are not included in the FAP trust fund and do not generate income; but support some specific actions linked with the FAP during a short time.

89. The MPA´s subaccount will be administered by the National Environment Fund for Ecuador (FAN) as part of the Protected Areas Fund. FAN has impeccably managed the FAP account and investment portfolio since 1999. It is intended that the FAP´s subaccount will provide long-term complementary funds to sustain basic MPA operation even under scenarios of financial crisis.

90. It is expected that social sustainability will result from a new approach to interact with stakeholders and novel governance mechanisms will foster social capital to sustain the advance of the MPA network.

91. The Ministry of Environment guarantees institutional sustainability since the MPA network is an integral part of the National System of Protected Areas, and empowers the Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Affairs in the management of marine protected areas and mangrove ecosystem.

Potential for scaling up

92. Knowledge and outcomes from the project will facilitate further expansion of the network by creating new MPAs and building seaward and inland connectivity corridors.

93. The experience from the project will be useful to the other four countries that are signatories of the Regional Network of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas of the Southeast Pacific, and other developing countries which are building national MPA networks.

94. The pilot work on maintaining connectivity between mangroves and inland habitats and ecosystems can be expanded in other parts of Ecuador and the Tumbes – Chocó – Magdalena Biodiversity Hotspot.

2. Stakeholders. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations (yes ☒ /no☐) and indigenous peoples (yes ☐ /no☒)? If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

95. The following table summarize key stakeholder roles in the project. Nonetheless, a full stakeholder analysis will be conducted during PPG, with focus on the key stakeholders of the pilot sites.

STAKEHOLDER	ROLE	EXPECTED ENGAGEMENT IN THE PROJECT
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES		
Undersecretary of marine and coastal management (MAE)	Administer the MPA network and mangrove areas, and orient integrated coastal management	The Minister of Environment (MoE) is Ecuador's focal point for GEF 6. The **Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management (MAE)** is the unit of the MoE will serve as the government lead for 'on-the-ground' implementation activities. Executing Agency.
Undersecretary of natural patrimony (MAE)	Oversee and guide the SNAP and formulate national policies for protected areas	Collaborate to harmonize MPA policies and strategies
Undersecretary of Fisheries (MAGAP)	National fisheries authority	Collaborate to enhance surveillance and enforcement.
Ministry of Tourism	National tourism authority	Collaborate to enhance surveillance and enforcement. Draft new regulation for tourism in MPAs.
National Directorate of Aquatic Spaces (DIRNEA)	National maritime authority, oversees the coastguard	Collaborate to enhance surveillance and enforcement. will contribute to strengthen the detection, detention and prosecution of infractors.

STAKEHOLDER	ROLE	EXPECTED ENGAGEMENT IN THE PROJECT
Local governments (municipal and provincial)	Administer coastal territories, responsible for public services and environmental management	Direct participation in pilots to integrate MPAs into coastal management scenarios, enhance MPA network governance and conservation of the natural linkage between mangroves and inland habitats and ecosystems
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs)		
Conservation International Ecuador	Promote biodiversity conservation	Co-executing agency/ strategic partner
WildAid	Promote biodiversity conservation	Provide technical expertise to enhance marine surveillance and enforcement
PRIVATE SECTOR		
Tourist operators	Operate within and nearby MPAs	Direct participation in pilots to integrate MPAs into coastal management scenarios, and to enhance MPA network governance
Fishermen	Fish within and nearby MPAs	Direct participation in pilots to integrate MPAs into coastal management scenarios, and to enhance MPA network governance
Landowners	Development activities in their private land adjacent to mangroves	Direct participation in pilots maintain connectivity between mangroves and inland habitats and ecosystems

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Are issues on gender equality and women's empowerment taken into account? (yes ☒ /no☐). If yes, briefly describe how it will be mainstreamed into project preparation (e.g. gender analysis), taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

96. Women are key stakeholders in a large number of activities that occur within and adjacent to the MPAs. These activities range from direct collection of cockles in mangroves and invertebrates on tidal pools, to running restaurants and hotels, to run MPAs and local governments.

97. Every effort will be made by the Government of Ecuador and CI to advance gender equality in the project. To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's Gender Mainstreaming Policy, the executing entity will develop a Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP) during the PPG phase of the project. The aim of the GMP will be to identify needs and opportunities to mitigate potentially adverse effects of the project on men and women, as well as promote gender equality an aspect of the project.

98. The GMP will include an assessment of gender roles, responsibilities, uses, and needs relating to the environment/natural resources on which the project will be based (e.g., patterns, participation in management, etc.), as well as both short-term and long-term costs and benefits of the project to men and women. It will also include potential roles, benefits, impacts, and risks for women and men of different ages, ethnicities, social structure, and status. Specific actions and activities will be identified to ensure that gender-related adverse impacts of this project are appropriately avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated.

99. The GMP will explicitly describe the actions and processes to be put in place during the PPG and implementation phases in order to ensure that women and men: 1) receive culturally compatible social and economic benefits, 2) do not suffer adverse effects during the development process, and 3) receive full respect for their dignity and human rights. Finally, the GMP will provide specific indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress towards gender equality within the project.

100. The Government of Ecuador and CI have procurement procedures that explicitly recognize the promotion of gender equality as a standard business practice. As a result, gender equality will be taken into consideration through their procurement programs when sourcing staff, equipment, and consultants.

101. The following is a list of examples of project elements that are particularly gender-sensitive and thus focal areas for the GMP. The project team will need to ensure that:

Component 1

- Institutional arrangements, regulations, training courses and guidelines are gender sensitive in terms of participation, instructional design, and use of language.
- Detection and detention facilities and procedures can be effectively operated by women and men.

Components 2 and 3

- Community consultative and participatory processes are designed to facilitate equal participation, mutual respect, and collective decision making by women and men.
- The potential project impacts (positive and negative) on both men and women are taken into consideration during the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).
- Presentations of results and lessons learned reach both women and men.
- All publications resulting from the project use gender sensitive language and are made equally accessible to men and women.

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

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

Risk	Level of risk	Mitigation measure
Delay in fund raising of co-finance contributions. [Financial]	Medium	Currently, a number of donors have interest in marine conservation. However, it is possible that Conservation International and WildAid might not find prompt response from donors or find limited interest in using the FAP trust-fund mechanism. Both organizations have already initiated the search for donors and will initiate fund raising campaigns once the PIF is approved by the GEF.
Difficulties of interagency coordination among the entities related to surveillance, detention and prosecution of offenders. [Operational]	Medium	Collaboration among key authorities[28] exists and MAE has signed some framework agreements. During PPG, specific agreements will be signed to secure strategic support to the MPA network. In addition, key authorities will directly participate in the preparation of the plan of work for outcome 1.2.
El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). [Natural]	Medium	ENSO and PDO are natural climate fluctuations that have direct impact on the biodiversity and society of the southeast Pacific Ocean. During 2015 El Niño conditions developed between weak and moderate. By 8 October 2015 there was a probability of 95% that El Niño will continue through Northern Hemisphere winter 2015-16, gradually weakening through spring 2016. During PPG and project implementation climate conditions will be monitored, mainly through NOAA climate prediction centre.
Climate change	Medium	Climate change might result in stronger and more frequent climate fluctuations. During PPG and project implementation the potential impacts of climate change will be always considered into planning and decision making.
Reluctance of users of natural	High	Fishermen and tourist operators are used to the generalized

[28] i.e., MAE, DIRNEA, SRP, police, MINTUR.

Risk	Level of risk	Mitigation measure
resources to establish no take zones inside the MPAs. [Political]		open use of MPAs. The experience on establishing closed zones has been tortuous and complicated. During PPG, as part of the stakeholder analysis, it will be investigated the willingness to accept no take zones and the main concerns. This information will be used to prepare the intervention strategy in the pilot sites and the project´s communication strategy. During project implementation, there will be actions to raise awareness on the benefits of no take zones. Also, the project team will establish and maintain direct communication and information channels with these key stakeholders and will try to establish relations of trust to encourage change of attitudes towards no take zones.
Disinterest of key stakeholders and local governments in participating / integrating pilot interventions. [Political]	High	During PPG, social and political conditions will be considered during site selection. On each site, a combined stakeholder analysis and social network analysis will be conducted to identify key stakeholders and their relationships. This will be the basis for the design of the project´s participation / communication strategy. In addition, during the first year of the project awareness raising and citizen involvement actions will be conducted in the pilot areas.
Changes in political directions	High	It is common to have changes of authorities (e.g., ministers, undersecretaries). In addition, there will be national elections in 2017. During PPG and project implementation clear communication channels will be maintained with the pertinent authorities. If changes occur, the new authorities will be immediately informed of the project situation.

5. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives.

103. The project will use inputs from the following GEF projects:
    a. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (GEF ID: 3548) implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This project will close during 2015 and has supported the creation of the MPA network, the preparation of a control and enforcement strategy, and estimates of environmental services from MPAs.
    b. Sustainable Financing of Ecuador´s National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) and Associated Private and Community-managed PA Subsystems (GEF ID: 3829) implemented by UNDP. The project prepared a national strategy for financial sustainability of the SNAP and has provided direct support to the Reserva Marina Galera San Francisco.

104. The project will coordinate with the GEF project Coastal Fisheries Initiative – Southeast Pacific (GEF ID: 5573) which is under preparation to be implemented in Ecuador and Peru by UNDP. This project is part of FAO´s Coastal Fisheries Initiative programme and will focus on improving fisheries governance and mainstreaming ecosystem-based management and RBM.

105. The project will complement the GEF project Integrated Management of Marine and Coastal Areas of High Value for Biodiversity in Continental Ecuador (GEF ID: 4770), implemented by FAO and executed by MAE and Conservation International. The objective of that project is to develop an integrated management approach for the use and conservation of coastal and marine areas of high biodiversity value, by establishing conservation areas, strengthening mangrove concessions and integrating biodiversity in fisheries management with conservation area. The key points of interaction are:
    a. Advancements in creating new MPAs in collaboration with local municipalities will be an important

input to the present project in particular to outline governance system for the network. Also the new MPAs will be part of the network and will be managed accordingly.

b. The experience on rights-based fisheries management in five MPAs will provide valuable inputs to advance on the establishment of no-take zones within the MPAs.

106. The present project will also coordinate with the GEF project Coastal Fisheries Initiative – Southeast Pacific (GEF ID: 5573), which is currently under preparation, to be implemented in Ecuador and Peru by UNDP. This project is part of FAO´s Coastal Fisheries Initiative programme and will focus on improving fisheries governance and mainstreaming ecosystem-based management and RBM, from what is known so far, interaction with multiple use marine protected areas. Therefore, there might be clear complementarity in the aspects of governance for individual MPAs and the network as whole.

107. Finally, the project will coordinate with the pertinent initiatives of Conservation International, WildAid and other NGOs working on marine conservation. It will also establish communication and coordination with the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) with regards to the Regional Network Southeast Pacific (RNSEP).

6. Consistency with National Priorities. Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessements under relevant conventions? (yes ☒ /no☐). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.

108. The project is consistent with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2001-2010. In particular will support compliance with strategic guidelines 1 (consolidate and enhance the sustainability based on native biodiversity), 3 (balance conservation pressures with sustainable biodiversity use), and 4 (ensure respect and fulfilment of individual and collective rights of citizens to participate in decisions concerning resource access and control, and ensure that the benefits of conservation and biodiversity use and of the knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities and policies be fairly and equitably distributed).

109. The government of Ecuador is currently managing a consultation process to socialize an updated version of the NBSAP. The draft documents indicate that the updated NBSAP closely links with the 2001-2010 version and maintains Strategic Guidelines 1,3 and 4, thus, this project will continue to have good alignment with the country's priorities to the CBD.

110. The project is in line with goal 7.2 of the development plan 2013-2017 (SENPLADES, 2013) to increase to 817,000 ha the surface of mainland´s coastal and marine territory under conservation or environmental management.

111. The project will contribute to accomplish the following objectives of the Strategic Policy and PIan of the National Protected Areas System of Ecuador 2007-2016 (MAE, 2007a):

- Objective 1. Consolidate the National Protected Areas System of Ecuador, ensuring the conservation and representation of land, marine and coastal marine ecosystems.
- Objective 2. Contribute to the effective management of SNAP, through capacity building of the National Environmental Authority and other agencies responsible for the administration and management of the subsystems.
- Objective 4. Promote integral management of SNAP through the participation of stakeholders in the management of protected areas.
- Objective 6. Achieve financial sustainability in the long term for PANE and implement financial mechanisms for the management of other subsystems of SNAP.
- Objective 8. Improving governance of PANE, through the management of conflicts of land tenure in the context of constitutional provisions and national and international instruments.

112. The project is in line with the National Climate Change Strategy (MAE, 2012a) and will contribute to specific objective 5: to conserve and sustainably manage the natural patrimony and the terrestrial and marine

ecosystems to contribute with their capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change. In particular the following 2017 expected results:

- **Result 1**. Promote the conservation of terrestrial and marine-coastal biodiversity through actions aimed at maintaining the areas under conservation or management and consider the need to expand these areas, based on the analysis of the dynamics of ecosystems and the potential species´distribution according to probable climate change scenarios.
- **Result 2**. Strengthen actions to achieve ecosystem connectivity through the use of tools such as biological corridors, in the most vulnerable ecosystems to increase the capacity of mobility and adaptability of species under potential climate change scenarios.

7. Knowledge Management. Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

113. The project will utilize and share learning and best practices through existing mechanisms like GEF IW:LEARN, IUCN´s World Commission on Protected Areas, and CPPS´ Regional Network of the Southeast Pacific (RNSEP).

114. Specific products of the project will be disseminated through specialized training courses developed to train MPA officers, MPA staff, prosecutors and judges. These courses will be articulated within the framework of MAE´s Professional Training Program for protected areas personnel (called "Aula Verde" in Spanish) and will focus on providing tools for key tasks such as (i) Applying law enforcement in MPAs, (ii) managing tourist carrying capacity, (iii) articulating conservation with coastal management, (iv) building collaboration with key stakeholders, and (v) promoting inland and seaward ecological connectivity. The courses will also incorporate learning from the project and the three guidelines to be generated related with: (i) Guidelines to efficiently incorporate MPAs into coastal zone management designed and disseminated; (ii) Guidelines to enhance or re-establish habitat connectivity between mangroves and inland habitats designed and disseminated; and, (iii) Guidelines for moving from conflict to collaboration with key stakeholders (fisheries, tourism, and coastal activities) in MPAs designed and disseminated. It is expected that most courses will be on-line and complemented with video tutorials to facilitate training of new MPA staff, prosecutors and judges; but also professional from the Academia, using technological platforms come from MAE, National Planning Secretariat (SENPLADES) and National Science and Technology Secretariat (SENECYT).

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

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT[29] 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 SGP OFP endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*
Dr. Daniel Ortega	Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	**01/08/2016**

[29] For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies[30] and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date *(MM/dd/yyyy)*	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Miguel Morales		01/11/2016	Orissa Samaroo	7033412550	osamaroo@conservation.org

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (APPLICABLE ONLY TO NEWLY ACCREDITED GEF PROJECT AGENCIES)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required **GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template** to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

[30] GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF