GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Child Project Information

Child Project Title
Guatemala Mesoamerican Forest IP Project: Securing benefits for the well-being of local communities and the ecosystems of the Maya Forest

Region Guatemala	GEF Project ID 11275
Country(ies) Guatemala	Type of Project FSP
GEF Agency(ies) IUCN	GEF Agency Project ID P04538
Project Executing Entity(s) WCS The Nature Conservancy	Project Executing Type Others CSO CSO
GEF Focal Area (s) Multi Focal Area	Submission Date 6/14/2024
Type of Trust Fund GET	Project Duration (Months) 60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 10,708,870.00	Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b) 963,798.00
PPG Amount: (c) 300,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (d) 26,997.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 11999665	Total Co-financing 61,042,492.00
Project Sector (CCM Only) AFOLU	

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, to offer a snapshot of what is being proposed. The summary should include: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? ii) as a child project under a program, explain how the description fits in the

broader context of the specific program; (iii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

This project is part of a GEF regional programme called Critical Forest Biomes for Mesoamerica. At the regional level, there will be a knowledge management platform to share experiences between countries, prioritise issues and identify and propose actions that will enable progress to be made in the region towards the management of these critical ecosystems within the framework of the four components identified in the proposal. At the country level, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama will have a national project, where actions will be implemented in the territory within the framework of each component and the national landscapes identified, contributing to achieve the objectives of the Critical Forest Biomes for Mesoamerica GEF regional programme. For Guatemala, these landscapes are the Maya Forest of Guatemala (department of Petén) and the municipalities of Concepción Las Minas and Esquipulas (department of Chiquimula) in the territory of El Trifinio. In most cases, the selected landscapes are in Key Biodiversity Areas, which are located in bordering areas because they are ecosystems whose extension transcends more than one country.

Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve, covering more than two million hectares, is considered a haven for biodiversity, cultural heritage and a provider of vital ecosystem services. Due to deforestation, mainly caused by cattle ranching, monocultures and illegal logging, the Maya Forest has suffered significant forest loss, especially in the central, southern and western Petén region, affecting communities living within and in the buffer zone of the MBR and facing poverty and climate vulnerability. In the Trifinio region, a tri-national zone located at the intersection between Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, the Trifinio Biosphere Reserve, La Fraternidad, also faces significant threats, such as deforestation and degradation, caused by the expansion of the agricultural frontier, illegal wildlife trafficking, mining and invasive species. Both regions are highly vulnerable to climate change, with an expected increase in droughts and torrential rains in the Central American dry corridor region.

The objective of the project is to contribute to the protection of critical ecosystems in the prioritised regions of the Department of Petén, the Selva Maya and the Trifinio area in Guatemala, while improving the well-being of local communities. The project aims to i) strengthen governance and protection of natural resources; ii) address deforestation, forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management, restoration of degraded forest lands and conservation efforts; iii) mobilise funding for sustainable forest management inside and outside protected areas; and iv) promote regional cooperation and knowledge sharing.

The project objectives will be achieved through four interrelated components: 1) Strengthen enabling conditions for the protection, conservation and restoration of primary forests; 2)Acceleration of the protection and restoration of the Trifinio and Selva Maya Biosphere Reserves ; 3) Increased investment in forest landscapes and positive livelihoods ; and 4) Promoting knowledge management, exchange, cooperation and coordination .

This project is designed to deliver global environmental benefits (GEF BEM) in biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation and forests. It will contribute with the following GEF core indicators: 691,338.0 ha of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (GEF Core Indicator 1), 21,379.4 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration (GEF Core Indicator 3); 19,035.0 ha of landscapes with improved practices (GEF Core Indicator 4); 12,738,964.0 of Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (GEF Core Indicator 6); 1 shared ecosystem under improve management (Core indicator 7) and 10,103 persons benefiting from GEF-financed investments by gender (GEF Core Indicator 11).

Child Project Description Overview

Project Objective

The objective of the project is to contribute to the protection of critical ecosystems in the prioritised regions of the Department of Petén, the Selva Maya and the Trifinio area in Guatemala, while improving the well-being of local communities. The project's objective will be achieved by i) strengthening governance and protection of natural resources; ii) promoting sustainable forest management, restoration of degraded forest lands and conservation efforts; iii) mobilising funding for sustainable forest management inside and outside protected areas; and iv) promoting regional cooperation and knowledge sharing.

Project Components

1. Strengthen enabling conditions for the protection, conservation and restoration of primary forests

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,340,041.00	9,699,949.00

Outcome:

1.1: Strengthened local, national and regional governance mechanisms in support of the conservation of primary forests.

1.2: Conservation of primary forests prioritized by the main national and regional policy and regulatory instruments.

1.3: Enhanced multi-sectoral platforms for forest conservation and management.

Output:

1.1.1: Awareness and advocacy plan for the protection and conservation of primary forests as well as the restoration of degraded forest land, targeting policy makers, sectoral bodies and the private sector, and with a gender and social inclusion approach

1.1.2: Strengthen local and national governance structures to improve the effectiveness of protection and conservation of primary forests, with a gender and social inclusion approach.
1.2.1: Updated cross-sectoral policies, regulations and instruments that support the protection and conservation of primary forests at national and sub-national levels.
1.2.2: Information to support evidence-based decision-making on forest conservation interventions.

1.3.1: National multi-sectoral platforms established or strengthened.
1.3.2: Affirmative actions to integrate indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes.

2. Acceleration of the protection and restoration of the Trifinio and Selva Maya Biosphere Reserves

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
5,527,792.00	30,536,457.00

Outcome:

2. 1: Improved protection of primary forests in protected areas and restoration of degraded forest land.

2.2: OECMs that protect the integrity of primary forests and enhance functional connectivity identified and enhanced.

2.3: 21,379ha of degraded forest land to increase primary forest connectivity restored.

Output:

2.1.1: Strengthen protected area management tools and instruments.

2.1.2: National assessment of the risk of collapse and extent of critical Mesoamerican forest biomes.
2.1.3: Information on the contribution of protected areas, local communities and indigenous peoples to the conservation of primary forests and the advancement of the global biodiversity framework to support evidence-based decision making.

2.2.1: National frameworks or protocols for the implementation of Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs).

2.2.2: Establishment of national networks of Small and Medium Forest Enterprises (SMFEs) to support the conservation of primary forests.

2.3.1: Updated assessment of priority areas for landscape restoration in the Mesoamerican Forest.

2.3.2: Restoration of degraded forest land in key community restoration priority areas.

3. Increased investment in forest/natural landscapes and positive livelihoods

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
2,217,772.00	11,433,983.00

Outcome:

3.1: Increased financial resources for primary forests conservation and restoration of degraded forest lands.

3.2: Environmental and conservation initiatives for forests identified and increased.

Output:

3.1.1: National analyses of financing gaps and barriers to investment in the conservation of primary forest, the restoration of, degraded forest lands and forest-related livelihoods.

3.1.2: Innovative financing instruments and tools to increase investments in the protection of primary forests, restoration of degraded forest lands, protected areas, SMFEs and forest-related livelihoods.

3.1.3: High-level dialogue meetings to mobilise financial resources through bilateral, multilateral, private and philanthropic channels to sustain long-term conservation of critical forest biomes.

3.2.1: Innovative mechanisms to promote environmental, forest-conserving initiatives.

3.2.2: Innovative business models to develop environmental goods, services and conservation for forests

3.2.3: Project preparation mechanism to enable access to private, national and development funding.

3.2.4: Promotional and high-impact events to accelerate demand for products from sustainably managed secondary forests and deforestation-free raw materials from Mesoamerica.

4. Promoting knowledge management, exchange, cooperation and coordination

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
978,819.00	6,180,639.00

Outcome:

4.1: National and regional coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests Improved

4.2: Lessons on models for protection and conservation of primary forests and restoration of degraded forest lands available worldwide.

Output:

4.1.1: Coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests and restoration of degraded forest lands.

4.1.2: Long-term national and regional communication plan to mobilise support for the conservation of primary forests, degraded forest lands and critical forest biomes.

4.2.1: National information on critical forest biomes (e.g. biodiversity and social information, forest management models, regulations).

4.2.2: Lessons learned from the Project and its contributions to the Integrated Programme, models of forest management and governance and integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes documented and disseminated at regional and global level.

4.2.3: South-South cooperation/knowledge exchange with other critical forest biomes, including IP workshops and events, dialogues and community of practice.

4.2.4: Annual regional knowledge-sharing workshops.

4.2.5: Harmonised planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the annual programme.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
134,500.00	287,442.00

Outcome:

Project Monitoring

Output:

Annual, mid-term and final evaluations completed.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1. Strengthen enabling conditions for the protection, conservation and restoration of primary forests	1,340,041.00	9,699,949.00
2. Acceleration of the protection and restoration of the Trifinio and Selva Maya Biosphere Reserves	5,527,792.00	30,536,457.00
3. Increased investment in forest/natural landscapes and positive livelihoods	2,217,772.00	11,433,983.00
4. Promoting knowledge management, exchange, cooperation and coordination	978,819.00	6,180,639.00
M&E	134,500.00	287,442.00
Subtotal	**10,198,924.00**	**58,138,470.00**
Project Management Cost	509,946.00	2,904,022.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**10,708,870.00**	**61,042,492.00**

Please provide Justification

CHILD PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

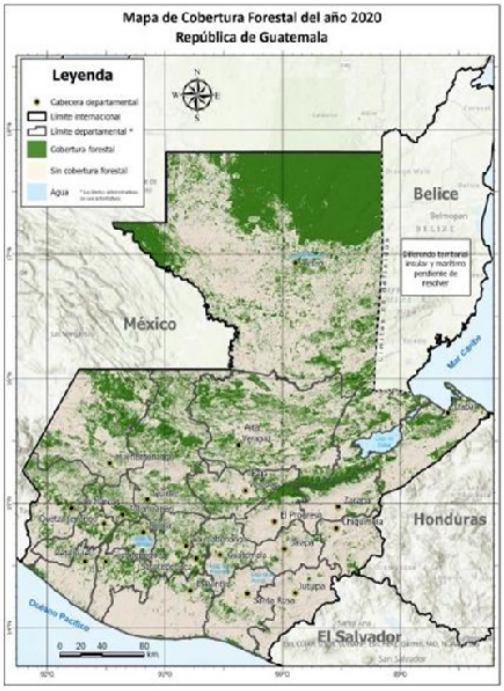
Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Since this is a child project under a program, please include an explanation of how the context fits within the specific program agenda. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Guatemala is located in Central America, bordered to the north and west by Mexico, to the east by Belize, to the southeast by Honduras and to the south by El Salvador and the Pacific Ocean. With a population of over 17 million, Guatemala is considered a lower middle-income country and has experienced steady economic growth in recent years, supported by prudent monetary and fiscal policies of the government. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the country had one of the lowest economic declines (-1.8%) in the LAC region[1][1] . However, poverty and inequality rates remain among the highest in the region. Almost half of the population is rural (47%), and approximately 1 in 5 of the economically active population depend exclusively on agricultural, forestry and aquaculture production[2][2] . According to Guatemala's Multidimensional Poverty Index, 61.6% of the population lives in poverty. [3][3]

Guatemala is known for its rich biodiversity and different ecosystems. However, deforestation, environmental degradation and climate change are factors that have a negative impact on biodiversity, natural resources, ecosystems and the quality of life of local communities and indigenous peoples. Almost 33% of Guatemala's territory (3,468,476 ha) is made up of protected areas of different management categories, whether national, municipal and/or private[4][4] . These areas, in addition to protecting the country's biodiversity, are important for providing livelihoods for local communities and indigenous peoples,

ecosystem and environmental services (particularly water), and act as a natural barrier to extreme weather events[5][5] . The country also has an estimated forest cover of 33.3% of the territory, approximately 3,601,567 hectares (see Figure 1). Figure 1)[6][6] . Of this figure, 381,032 ha are intact forest landscapes within the country's protected areas[7][7] .

Figure 1. Map of forest cover, year 2020



According to the National Forest Institute of Guatemala (INAB), the department of El Petén has the largest forest cover in the country, with 1,639,237 hectares of forest, representing 45.51% of the country's total cover[8][8] . This forest mass is what is known as the Maya Forest, which is of great regional and global importance. The Mayan Biosphere Reserve (RMB), with an area of 21,602.04 km², is the largest set of protected natural areas in Guatemala. The region is known as a paradise of biodiversity, recognised for its cultural heritage and as a provider of vital ecosystem and environmental services for Guatemala

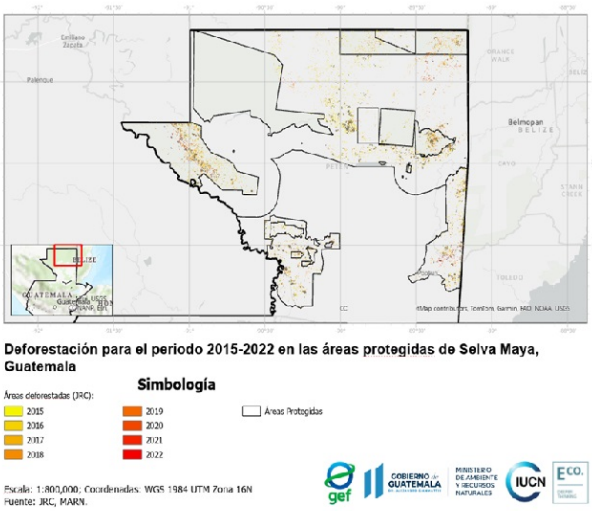
and neighbouring countries, as well as globally, for which it was recognised as a Biosphere Reserve in 1990 by UNESCO. It has 2,800 species of flora, equivalent to 34% of the vascular plant species in Guatemala, 513 species of birds, equivalent to 71% of the bird species in Guatemala, 62 species of amphibians, equivalent to 43% of the amphibian species in Guatemala, 122 species of mammals, equivalent to 64% of the mammal species in Guatemala and 95 species of reptiles, equivalent to 39% of the reptile species in Guatemala[9][9] .

In addition to the Maya Forest of Petén, the Trifinio region, located on the border between Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, is also of great environmental importance. The region is home to a great diversity of ecosystems, including tropical forests, wetlands and protected areas that are vital for the provision of ecosystem and environmental services and livelihoods of local populations. The region has several basins, including Lempa, an important transboundary river basin shared by Guatemala. Honduras and El Salvador. The Trifinio-Fraternidad Tri-national Biosphere Reserve (RBTF) covers 148,500 hectares, of which 14.80% is in Guatemala. The RBTF has two globally important biomes: tropical and subtropical moist broadleaved forests; and tropical and subtropical dry broadleaved forests. It has 39 species of plants, 79 species of mammals, 27 species of bats, 294 species of birds and 9 species of amphibians and reptiles[10][10] .

Both regions are part of the Mesoamerican primary forests and were chosen as project intervention areas because of their high environmental and cultural importance and have

experienced significant levels of deforestation and degradation in recent decades. Between 2000 and 2020, Guatemala had an extremely high rate (32%) of loss of intact forest landscapes (IFL). More recent data (2016-2020) also show a significant increase in the average annual rate of IFL loss in the country. In addition, using data generated by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), Figure 2 shows deforestation between 2015 and 2022 in the Selva Maya region. In the department of El Péten, where Selva Maya is located, the figure reached 109,544 ha of deforestation. Meanwhile, in Trifinio, deforestation reached 3,277 ha, including 893.6 ha within the Montecristo Nature Reserve.

Figure 2. Deforestation in the period 2015-2022 in Selva Maya protected areas



Based on the data collected by the technical studies produced during the project design phase, the analysis for the Trifinio region at both the project intervention area (AIP) and ecosystem level shows an average annual loss of

intact forest of 47 ha/year and 41 ha/year, respectively, corresponding to an annual loss of intact forest of approximately 1% in both cases. Over the next six years, the loss of intact forest in Trifinio is likely to reach up to 24% of the reference forest in 2022 and 22% of the entire ecosystem. Forest degradation is expected to increase by 19% in the project intervention area and 20% at the ecosystem level over the same period.

For the period of analysis (2015-2022), both at the level of the project intervention area (AIP) and the ecosystem, an average annual loss of undisturbed forest of 32,575 ha/year and 34,436 ha/year, respectively, was detected, corresponding to 6% annual loss of this forest in both cases. Over the next six years, the loss of intact forest in the project intervention area is likely to reach up to 49% of the reference forest in 2022 and 50% in the entire ecosystem. Forest degradation is expected to increase by 30% for the AIP and 25% for the ecosystem over the same period. Figures 3 and 4 present land use change between 2015 and 2022 in the Trifinio and Selva Maya regions.

Figure 3. change of use / coverage period 2015-2022 Trifinio Guatemala [11][11]

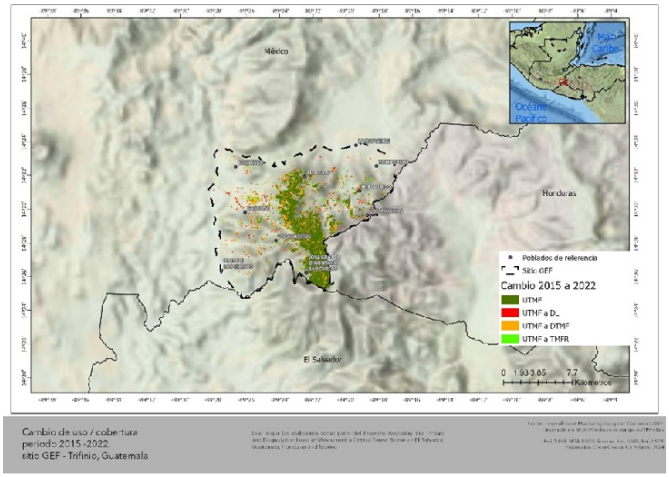
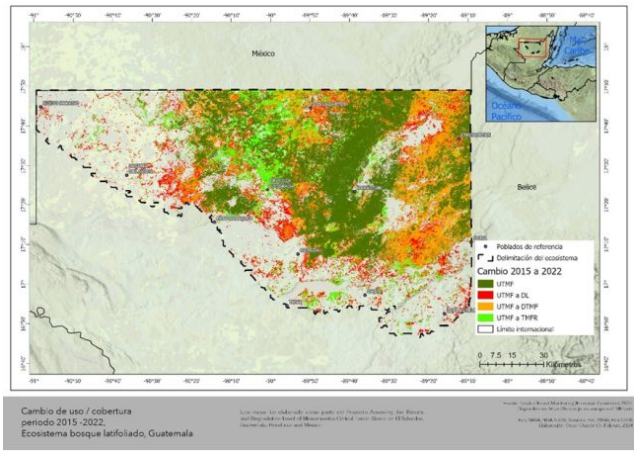


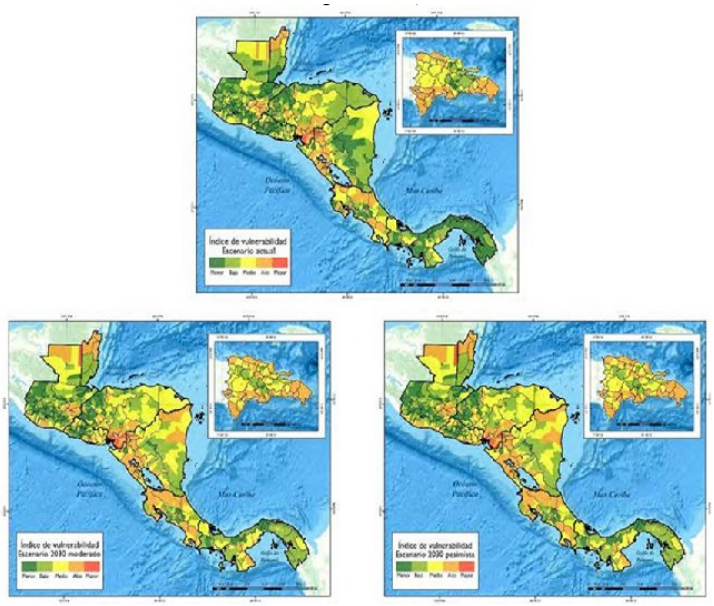
Figure 4: Change in Use/Coverage Period 2015-2022 Selva Maya Guatemala



In addition to deforestation and forest degradation, climate change and extreme weather events in Guatemala also affect biodiversity and accentuate social and economic problems such as food insecurity, poverty, migration, impact on infrastructure, among others. Given that most areas in Guatemala, including the project intervention areas, have precarious livelihoods (limited sources of income and food), low adaptive capacity of the agricultural sector to extreme climate events as a result of limited access to land, technical assistance and productive infrastructure, the country presents high systemic vulnerability and very high climate risks. According to the climate vulnerability analysis of the agricultural sector for Central America developed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Climate Change Adaptation Plans and Vulnerability Atlas developed by

the government of Guatemala[12][12] , the Selva Maya and Trifinio regions already present the highest vulnerability indices in the country (medium and high), which are expected to worsen with projections for 2030 and 2050 under moderate and pessimistic climate change scenarios (see Figure5.

Figure 5. Central America and Dominican Republic: Current Vulnerability Index for Agriculture and under a Moderate and Pessimistic Climate Change Scenario, 2030 AND 2050[13][13]



More specifically, ECLAC data show that the Selva Maya region in Guatemala presents a high and increased climate vulnerability for the agricultural sector under current climatic conditions. This region is ranked among the most vulnerable in all of Guatemala, with a combination of high exposure to factors such as droughts, high sensitivity to changes in temperature and precipitation, and an adaptive capacity that varies between medium and high in some municipalities. Future scenarios under SSP2-4.5 and SSP5-8.5 indicate that the Selva Maya will experience an increase in vulnerability, especially in areas of high and medium vulnerability, highlighting the need for adaptive and mitigation actions under the proposed project. On the other hand, the Trifinio forest shows lower vulnerability. This is likely to contribute to forest degradation and consequent biodiversity loss.

Drivers of deforestation and environmental degradation

Ecosystem services are essential for human existence and for ensuring the quality of life of communities, therefore the loss of biodiversity has a significant impact not only on the environment, but also for local communities, both economically and even at social and welfare levels. According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, around one million species face extinction, many of which will become extinct within decades unless action is taken to reduce the drivers of biodiversity loss[14] . Species extinctions represent an irreversible loss of global diversity and its inherent value and negatively affect the function, productivity and resilience of ecosystems[15] .

Globally, climate change is expected to amplify existing threats to biodiversity, such as land-use change, water pollution, soil pollution and overexploitation of wild species. Deforestation due to agricultural expansion and other human activities is causing significant loss of biodiversity, loss of natural resources and loss of water quality, and climate change is expected to exacerbate these trends. Climate change will also affect the adaptive capacity of species, linked to their migratory capacity, which depends on the configuration of the landscape.

A number of threats and factors influence biodiversity loss, including land use change, habitat loss and fragmentation due to agricultural expansion, for example, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution and the introduction of invasive species[16][16] . In the case of Guatemala, livestock expansion, extraction of trees and other vegetation, as well as hunting, urban development and agricultural expansion have been the main drivers of the loss of natural forests and, consequently, their biodiversity[17][17] .

According to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), the main causes of deforestation in El Petén from 2006 to 2016, were cattle ranching with 50.3% (95,889 ha), the unsustainable use of timber products production with 32.7%, the advance of the agricultural frontier with 14.6%, among others; with an estimated annual loss of 19,082 hectares[18][18] for 2016. Besides that, at least 12 activities have also been identified by the National Council of Protected Areas of Guatemala (CONAP) as sources of pressure that generate damage to the Focal Management Elements[19][19]. The identified activities threatening Guatemala's Focal Management Elements (the jaguar, the scarlet macaw, the broadleaf forest, the water system and

wetlands) include deforestation, illegal logging, extensive agriculture and livestock farming.

Furthermore, according to the Master Plan of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, illegal human activities are the main threats to the conservation elements. The plan states that forest fires, illegal cattle ranching, change of land use for agricultural and/or cattle ranching purposes, as well as encroachment processes, are in some cases associated with a criminal structure or illicit activities. Forest fires have been identified as a recurrent threat that marks and is the beginning of a cycle of encroachment processes and the subsequent change of land use, which is destined for logging and mainly cattle ranching.

Given the lack of information, the analysis could not identify the main current threats causing damage to the forest in the Trifinio area of Guatemala. However, it seems clear that, according to the reported results, there are socio-economic drivers that are mainly generating degradation processes. Nevertheless, potential pressures associated with non-forest land uses and residential development could affect the forest ecosystem in the Trifinio project area in the future.

Underlying causes:

Behind the drivers of deforestation and environmental degradation in Guatemala are several underlying and interrelated causes. At the core are the poor living conditions

of rural populations. Many of the communities, including indigenous communities living mainly in the buffer and multiple use zones (MUZ) of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, for example, live in situations of poverty and with limited access to services such as education, health and basic sanitation, and rely heavily on agriculture for their subsistence, as well as livestock and natural resource exploitation, which makes these communities highly vulnerable to external factors such as climate change and climate variability.

Furthermore, although there are several regional and national policies related to forest and biodiversity conservation in Guatemala, there is still a weak institutional presence, weak enforcement and weakened local governments. Government entities do not have sufficient financial, technical and human capacity to ensure the integration and monitoring of conservation initiatives at regional, national and local levels.

Baseline:

Policy and regulatory framework:

To address these challenges, Guatemala has an institutional and policy framework that supports the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forests. These policies guiding sustainable management and restoration of forests are essential, as they provide the basis for actions to reduce

deforestation and forest degradation[20][20] . The proposed project will therefore build on this policy and regulatory framework to support transformational change. Key policies, strategies and plans at the national level include:

- Forestry Law (Decree Law 101-96)
- Law on Forestry Incentives for Small-Scale Landowners with Forestry or Agroforestry Vocation (PINPEP) (Decree-Law 51-2010)
- Law for the Promotion of the Establishment, Recovery, Restoration, Management, Production and Protection of Guatemalan Forests - PROBOSQUE (Decree-Law 2-2015)
- Law on Protected Areas (Decree Law 4-89) and its Regulation (cite correctly)
- Framework Law on Climate Change (Decree 7-2013)
- Law on the Protection and Improvement of the Environment (Decree 68-1986)
- National Strategy for Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
- Low Emission Development Strategy
- National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy
- National strategy for sustainable low-emission livestock farming
- National Biodiversity Policy and Strategy and its Action Plan

However, while it is clear that there is political will and an appropriate policy framework to facilitate the implementation of the project to support transformational change through the conservation and safeguarding of

Guatemala's IFL, there is still a need to strengthen policies and raise awareness among national decision-makers.

At the local level, there is a gap related to the formulation, updating and/or modification of public policy instruments and regulatory frameworks. There is, for example, a need and opportunity to update forest plans and land-use planning policy guidelines in the project municipalities, including social inclusion strategies. The baseline analysis also identified the need to update the master plans of protected areas and create guidelines for the territorial planning of buffer zones, in coordination with CONAP, INAB, MARN and MAGA.

Governance:

The governance framework related to the environment, forests and protected areas in Guatemala is based on the existing legal framework that guides the administration and responsibility of these areas. One of its strengths is the presence of a large number of actors who have common objectives and interests for the protection of the ecosystem. Some of the actors at different levels of governance are presented below, and a table summarized the main stakeholders, and their roles and responsibilities are presented in Table 1 :

- At regional level:

The Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) is part of the Central American Integration System (SICA). The CCAD is an organisation formed by the environment ministers of the Central American countries; its mission is to 'Develop a regional regime of environmental cooperation and integration that contributes to improving the quality of life of the populations of its member states'. The Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) is also an important SICA organisation that is relevant and participates in the governance framework described.

In the Selva Maya region, the Strategic Coordination Group (GEC) formed by the National Council of Protected Areas of Guatemala (CONAP), the Belize Forestry Department, the National Commission of Protected Areas of Mexico and the CCAD is involved in efforts to advance the Trinational Integral Strategy for the Selva Maya. The GEC works in coordination with the Operational Coordination Group (GOC), made up of protected area directors and other territorial partners.

With the aim of strengthening transboundary cooperation agreements in protected areas, the GIZ project 'SICA: *Supporting biodiversity and climate change monitoring in the Selva Maya'* funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the IUCN project Selva Maya II, funded by the KfW Development Bank, will support the strengthening of coordination between the

different institutions that are part of the Selva Maya Strategic Coordination Group (SCG). Guatemala's National Council of Protected Areas, Belize's Forestry Department and Mexico's National Commission of Protected Areas, as well as international actors and civil society organisations from the three countries, are involved in the efforts to promote the Integral Strategy for the Selva Maya and currently, the seven components of the Integral Strategy for the Selva Maya are the following: management and sustainable use of the Selva Maya, protection and control, knowledge for decision making, social participation, regional coordination and leadership, visibility and positioning, and financial sustainability).

In the Trifinio region, the coordination platform is the Management Committee of the Trifinio Fraternidad Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, composed of Local Governments, Associations, Civil Society Organisations, Producers' and Tourism Associations, Forest Owners, Water Boards, Youth and Women's Organisations. Some of its objectives are:

- Promote the conservation of biodiversity,
- Enhance ecosystem services and promote sustainable use of natural resources;
- Contribute to the reduction of the effects of climate change and its adaptation;
- Promote models based on successful experiences implemented in the framework of the Trifinio Plan,

- Strengthen the trinational integration process, exchange of experiences and cross-border cooperation.

The Central American region also has spaces for dialogue with indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities. The Indigenous Council of Central America (CICA) is a regional organisation of the Indigenous Peoples of Central America, which is governed by cosmogonic principles of the Peoples and their traditional organisations in pursuit of the exercise of the rights of autonomy and self-determination and is part of SICA. Another example is the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB), which aims to be a space for coordination and exchange of territorial authorities that manage or influence the main forest masses of Mesoamerica; and the Central American Indigenous and Peasant Agroforestry Community Coordinating Association (ACICAFOC), whose mission is to facilitate access, use and sustainable management of natural resources for indigenous, peasant and Afro-descendant communities in Central America.

- At the national level

In Guatemala, the main governing bodies responsible for developing and implementing policies, programmes and instruments that promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests, soils and water are the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP), the National

Forest Institute (INAB) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA).

- Local level

Municipal governments are responsible for territorial management and public investment in their mandate of political-administrative division. They are an important part of the governance of the RBM and the RBTF since, from the public sphere, their territorial planning involves organisation at the level of the Departmental Urban Development Councils (CODEDE), the Municipal Development Councils (COMUDES) and the Community Urban and Rural Development Councils (COCODES) as part of the System of Development Councils as part of the System of Development Councils. The Mesas Agroclimáticas (MTAs), mostly at departmental level, also play an important role throughout the Guatemalan territory. Action involves the availability and management of municipal public resources for the promotion of public investment, but among their other functions governs inter-institutional planning and coordination.

One of the main constraints to governance in Guatemala is the limited budget for institutions dedicated to monitoring and safeguarding protected areas. This budget is mainly used to cover the salaries of rangers and basic operational costs associated with monitoring services, such as ranger and guard patrols. Despite these resources, the areas of coverage are wide and include not only monitoring activities, but

sometimes also additional activities such as research commissions or accompaniment.

Forest and biodiversity conservation:

The main instrument for forest conservation in Guatemala is the protected areas. Decree Law No. 4-89 Law of Protected Areas and its Regulation - 18-2016 (its reforms Decrees No. 18-89, 110-96 and 111-97 of the Congress of the Republic) is with which the System of Protected Areas (SIGAP) was created. Its objective is to ensure the optimal functioning of the essential ecological processes of the vital natural systems for the benefit of all Guatemalans, to achieve the conservation of the country's biological diversity, to achieve the capacity for sustained use of the species and ecosystems in the national territory, and to defend and preserve the nation's natural heritage. The same Decree established CONAP as the highest governing and coordinating body of the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas (SIGAP) .[21][21]

Regarding the areas of intervention of the project, the MBR was designated as a protected area under Decree 5-90, and the RBTF under Governmental Agreement No. 939-87, which was replaced by Decree Law 4-89, Law on Protected Areas.

At the operational level, the Master Plan of the Maya Biosphere Reserve is the technical instrument that governs the reserve and on which its use and exploitation are based

as activities that can be carried out. The Master Plan for the reserve as a whole is defined according to Resolution Number 734/2015 of the Executive Secretariat of the National Council of Protected Areas, Update of the 'Master Plan of the Maya Biosphere Reserve'. Although there is a Master Plan from 2015, it is in the process of being updated, according to CONAP staff. Likewise, when considering the declarations of protected areas, it is declared by Decree Number 64-95 of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, Law Declaring Complexes I, II, III and IV in the south of Petén as Protected Areas.

For the Trifinio region, the RBTF Master Plan has been under preparation with the support of international cooperation with Germany, through KfW. The Master Plan will become the guiding document for spatial planning, management and development of the Trifinio Biosphere Reserve. It contains the policies, general guidelines and programmes for the management, conservation, research, planning, public use, among others, of the reserve.

In addition to the establishment of protected areas, other conservation initiatives, such as 'Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures' (OMECs), should be recognised for their contribution to biodiversity conservation. OMECs are areas that are achieving effective, long-term in situ conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas. According to the CBD, OMECs are 'geographically defined

areas, distinct from protected areas, that are governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where appropriate, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values'. They can be designated under a range of governance regimes and implemented by a diverse set of territorial actors (private landowners, cooperatives, or other landholders).

In Guatemala, there is no official policy or regulation on the definition of SMFEs, although there are efforts by the institutions, which shows the interest in having an instrument, as well as potential areas that can be defined and supported. Above all, there is interest and political will on the part of national institutions such as CONAP to develop the issue and initiate the implementation of the OMECs.

Table 1. Actors' roles and responsibilities

Actor	Role and Responsibilities
CONAP	The role and responsibility is the administration and direct monitoring of the protected areas. In this sense, it is responsible for the administration, protection and management of the areas that make up the Maya Biosphere Reserve. It leads and articulates, together with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the functioning of the multi-stakeholder platform. It will also provide technical assistance. They carry out patrols, make seizures, and conduct and follow up on the demands that are required in accordance with the applicable regulations and legislation, with the support of the Nature Protection Division (DIPRONA).
CECON	The Centro de Estudios Conservacionistas de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala is dedicated to the knowledge and conservation of biological biodiversity and is in charge of the administration of biotopes within the Selva Maya, these being: Cerro Cahuí Biotope, San Miguel la Palotada - El Zotz Biotope. It also manages the biotopes Naacthún - Dos Lagunas close to the Mexican border with an extension of 30,719.00[22][22] hectares and the biotope Laguna del Tigre - Río Escondido, although this is not part of the Selva Maya, it stands out as an important entity with the administration of important biotopes[23][23] . The role and responsibilities of the

Actor	Role and Responsibilities
	Centre are framed within its assignments as a joint administration with CONAP of the areas under its responsibility, contributing to research within the protected area, having a role of collaboration and technical assistance to sustainable economic initiatives within the areas under its responsibility.
Tri-national Trifinio Plan Commission (CTPT)	Its functions include acting as a permanent coordinating and consultative body. Serve as a high-level forum to discuss sustainable development issues in the Trifinio Region. Approve annual policies, plans and programmes. Review and approve adjustments and updates to the Trifinio Plan. Accept donations and receive non-reimbursable technical and financial cooperation required for its functioning and strengthening. Approve the annual operational plans of the Tri-national Executive Secretariat. Obtain the opinion of the Trifinio Plan's Consultative Committee. Promote financial cooperation. Approve its own operating regulations and the operating rules of the Executive Secretariat and the Consultative Committee.
IDAEH	The Institute of Anthropology and History of Guatemala, which belongs to the Ministry of Culture and Sports (MCD), is legally mandated to administer and manage archaeological sites within the Maya Forest. The Institute maintains a joint administration with CONAP of the Tikal and Mirador-Río Azul National Parks. Immersed within IDAEH is the Department of Pre-Hispanic and Colonial Monuments (DEMOPRE), whose role is the protection, consolidation and maintenance of Guatemala's historical and archaeological sites; IDAEH also has authority over monuments, artefacts, and other aspects of the nation's cultural heritage, as well as the promotion of historical, ethnographic and folkloric studies. As identified and recorded in the Inception Report, this institution could also contribute to component 4.1. of the project, especially in improving national and regional coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests as some sacred sites of great importance are still covered by forests within the protected areas and in order to maintain the architectural structure, no restoration has been carried out in most archaeological sites, only research and consolidation. Also, it was recorded that can add to component 4.1.2. are the long-term regional communication plan to mobilise support for the conservation of primary forests and critical forest biomes; as well as the shared management of the cultural and natural part of a protected area. This Institute is in charge of the shared administration of the national parks Tikal and Mirador Río-Azul and other secondary archaeological sites such as Uaxactún; therefore, its action is relevant for the implementation of the project; in the Tikal National Park, the department of Community Relations together with MAGA, are supporting the communities located in the periphery by providing tomato seedlings to women and creating a better livelihood.
Local governments	They participate as responsible for planning and public investment in each municipality. They support with the generation and updating of economic, social and environmental information of each municipality; in the department of Petén, some municipalities have the Environment and Natural Resources Section and in coordination with INAB, they provide alternatives in the communities for forestry incentives for conservation.
MARN	The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) leads together with CONAP the establishment of the multi-stakeholder platform. It also fulfils its function and role of providing specific technical assistance services for restoration-related activities, environmental impact assessments and licensing and permitting.
INAB	Its role will be to provide technical assistance to community members who have forestry incentives, as well as the validation and granting of new ones. Also, technical assistance for forest harvesting processes.
MAGA	Role of providing productive technical assistance for the different economic initiatives developed within the reserve. It plays a relevant role in accompanying livestock producers in the application of the sustainable livestock farming strategy. Together with the Ministry of Economy (MINECO), it contributes to the search for specific markets for the cooperatives' products.
ACOFOP and SOTZIL	The Association of Forest Communities (ACOFOP) represents 24 community-based organisations in Petén, with the objective of 'promoting socio-economic development and improving the quality of life of the communities through sustainable forest management'; among this community group are the forest concessions, which benefit from the use of timber and non-timber resources and incentives respectively. ACOFOP's role is to provide technical guidance to the concessionaires through licences, which are provided by CONAP. And the forest concessionaires are responsible for minimising threats and risks in their areas, avoiding illegal logging and hunting, forest fires, among other threats and risks. Assist with the monitoring and control of threats and report threats to the authorities in a timely manner.
COMUDES	The role of the Municipal Urban and Rural Development Councils (COMUDE), are configured as the coordinating body for participation at the municipal level and are made up of the corresponding municipal mayors and other representatives of political society and civil society, including a representative of the NGO. Through the municipal nurseries and the conservation of areas on the banks of rivers and water sources, coordination from the COCODES and the support of the COMUDES or other conservation projects, for the management of funds.

Actor	Role and Responsibilities
COCODES	The Community Urban and Rural Development Councils are structures created to promote the coordinated participation of the population and are responsible for development planning and public management at the local level. Their role is community representation complementary to associations and cooperatives. They have a role of protection, development, monitoring and control of the areas within their jurisdiction. Communities such as Socotzal, El Porvenir, Uaxactún, Cruce a la Colorada, El Ramonal II, Aguadas Nuevas and Yaxhá. They have extensive local knowledge of their territory and address sustainable problems and solutions. COCODE proposes productive projects for the conservation of strategic areas in inter-institutional coordination with CONAP and INAB for the management of projects through Probosque.
NGOs (PROPETEN, BALAM, Rain Forest Alliance, Rainforest Alliance, etc.)	The role and participation of NGOs is in the framework of the implementation of their projects in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Efforts are geared towards contributing to landscape restoration, sustainable development, building resilience to climate change and ecosystem monitoring and reporting progress on ecosystem improvement through their interventions, as well as sharing experiences and lessons learned/good practices with the project executing unit. Finally, to make and propose joint initiatives for economies of scale. Among them is PROPETEN, working in 21 communities foresight and control of forest fires, and in 04 communities agroforestry systems with cocoa (Theobroma cacao) to initiate a baseline. BALAM carries out research, institutional strengthening, environmental and citizen training. Rain Forest Alliance promotes conservation and sustainable development programmes, provides technical assistance to companies and organisations linked to forestry and sustainable agriculture in the department of Petén.
DIPRONA	The Nature Protection Division (DIPRONA), of the National Civil Police (PNC), is an entity in charge of taking care of the flora and fauna in the national territory, arresting transgressors of nature and raising awareness among the population not to destroy the country's natural assets; it works in coordination with CONAP, its role is important for the project because of the applicability of the law if there is illegal logging or encroachment that affects biodiversity and it captures the offender on the spot.
MP	The Public Prosecutor's Office for Crimes against the Environment carries out the investigation work when it has criminal news that affects the environment or natural resources, in order to clarify the reported facts, as it is the entity of the criminal prosecution to establish the participation of the person indicated as possibly responsible.
OJ	The Judiciary is responsible for the conservation of the environment, and to this end it created the Pluripersonal Court of First Criminal Instance, Drug Trafficking and Crimes against the Environment, to follow up on the complaints of the MP, its role is important because it is the one that passes sentence for an environmental crime.
Entrepreneurs (hoteliers, tour operators, restaurants).	As entrepreneurs they are part of the platform to receive and inform about actions or activities in economic matters that may imply negative impacts to the Reserve. They contribute with technical information on production levels and good sustainable practices. They implement the recommendations derived from the multi-stakeholder roundtable. They support with the monitoring and control of threats. In the area of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, the service providers are an entity that provides a source of economic income to the communities that are in the periphery of the protected area; proposing a charging system, such as an environmental seal or other mechanism for the conservation of the ecosystems for the benefit generated by the ecosystems as a tourist attraction.
Livestock farmers	In the department of Petén, the Petén Livestock Association (AGANPET) is located, which provides an opportunity to create alliances for the design and execution of lines of action in the project, with the support of MAGA as the governing body for economic activity.
International, multilateral organisations **(IDB, FAO, TNC, GIZ, others)**	They contribute information related to their projects, share good practice, lessons learned and technical guidance on policy and intervention strategies for the benefit of the Reserve.
INGUAT	The Guatemalan Tourism Institute (INGUAT) in the Master Plan for Sustainable Tourism 2015-2025, mentions in the Tourism Sustainability Programme as one of its results that the host communities involved in the conservation and sustainable use of areas with tourism potential. In the department of Petén, there is a Delegation for the formulation of clear proposals to unify efforts in the area of conservation. Technical collaboration in the framework of its sphere of action for the strategic promotion of tourism for the conservation of ecosystems. The leadership of the platform results in the necessary lobbying of bodies that do not have a presence and participation in the multi-stakeholder platform but can contribute to the efforts to preserve the Reserve.
CONRED	The National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) is the body responsible for coordinating disaster risk management with public and private institutions, national and international organisations, and civil society at different territorial and sectoral levels, as an integral strategy that contributes to sustainable development. It

Actor	Role and Responsibilities
	is a key actor for the Project, due to the forest fires that are reactivated in protected areas. Its role is to provide training to all actors in two phases (preventive and reactive), provide information on early warnings (most communities in Petén use these alerts and/or guidelines to burn their fields), and carry out fire drills. There is close coordination with government institutions (municipalities, CONAP, INAB, among others).
Ministry of Defence	The Ministry of Defence through the Jungle Operations Battalion, BEOS, must carry out operations for the protection of the MBR, together with DIPRONA, and CONAP for its protection.
Academia, civil society	As social groups that live within the reserve and share commercial, organisational and labour relations, among others, and that can contribute to the rational use of resources. The academy is fundamental for research and the contribution of student interns to help with monitoring and conservation practices.
CONADUR	National Council of Urban and Rural Development belongs to the 'National System of Development Councils.' It is the main means of participation of the Mayan, Garifuna, Xinka and mestizo population in public management and in the process of democratic development planning, taking into account the principles of national, multiethnic, pluricultural and multilingual unity of the Guatemalan nation. CONADUR is the coordinating body at the national level responsible for formulating urban and rural development policies and territorial planning.
MINFIN	Ministry of Public Finance plays a pivotal role in ensuring that Guatemala's financial resources are managed responsibly and effectively, contributing to the country's economic stability and growth The Ministry is responsible for budget preparation and management, revenue collection, financial regulation, public sector financial management and public financial reporting. The ministry recently published Guatemala's sustainable financing framework.
INGUAT	The National Institute of Tourism (Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo, INGUAT) in Guatemala is the government agency responsible for promoting and developing the country's tourism industry. Its roles and responsibilities include: Tourism promotion, development, research and statistics, as well as cultural and heritage preservation, stakeholder coordination and strategic planning and policy development.

Financial mechanisms:

Forest financing in Guatemala is supported by various initiatives and agreements. The most relevant are currently:

- **US-Guatemala Debt Swap (FCA): approved by the United States in 2008, its objective is to offer developing and qualified countries the opportunity to reduce concessional debts contracted with the United States, while generating funds to conserve important areas of their tropical forests. In Guatemala, more than US$19 million has been invested through this mechanism between 2008 and 2023; the resources have been executed by the administrator, the Foundation for Conservation in Guatemala (FCG).**

- **Forestry Incentive Programmes PROBOSQUE and PINPEP: Executed by INAB, its objective is to promote and encourage forestry development in the country through sustainable forest management, reduce deforestation of forest lands, promote reforestation of degraded forest areas and increase their productivity.**

- **Emission Reduction Programme (ERP): agreement signed between the WB and the Government of Guatemala in 2021, which is expected to generate 9.25 million tonnes of CO emission reductions$_2$ and 1.77 million tonnes of CO removals$_2$ during the 5 years of implementation, within the framework of the Carbon Fund.**

- **Financial Support Trust for Producers of the Guatemalan Coffee Sector: Executed by the National Coffee Association (ANACAFE), its purpose is to provide financial support to producers of the Guatemalan coffee sector, by granting credits to coffee producers, in accordance with the provisions contained in Decrees Numbers 31-2001; 12-2013; and 4-2019 of the Congress of the Republic, in Public Deed No. 802 authorized on 24-10-2001 and its modifications and in the regulations of Credit and Trust Operations.**

- **The National Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FONACON): Administered by CONAP, it is a financial instrument created by Governmental Agreement No. 264-97, dated 24 March 1997, whose creation responds to the need and priority of financially supporting institutions dedicated to the protection, conservation and restoration of natural resources. It is currently undergoing a process of redesign.**

The main actors in financing associated with forests and farming systems are:

- **Fundación para la Conservación en Guatemala[24][24] : established in 2000 as a private, non-profit, non-partisan organisation with conservationist purposes, its mission is to support initiatives for inclusive conservation, sustainable development of natural and socio-cultural heritage and adaptation to climate change in Guatemala and the Mesoamerican region, through the provision and efficient**

and transparent management of resources and technical assistance to related organisations.

- National Forest Institute (INAB)[25] : created in 1996, it is an autonomous, decentralised state entity with legal personality, its own assets and administrative independence, whose mission is to implement and promote the instruments of the national forest policy, facilitating access to the forest services provided by the institution to the actors of the forest sector, through the design and promotion of programmes, strategies and actions that generate greater economic, environmental and social development of the country.

- National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP): created by Legislative Decree 4-89, its mission is to promote and foster the conservation of Protected Areas and Biological Diversity, planning, coordinating and implementing the necessary conservation policies and models, working together with other actors, contributing to the growth of sustainable development in the country.

- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA): MAGA aims to promote integral rural development through the transformation and modernisation of the agricultural, forestry and hydrobiological sector, and offers various lines of financing to support farmers and small producers, such as: Agricultural Subsidy: this aid is aimed at small farmers and seeks to improve infrastructure and livelihoods in the agricultural sector; the 'Support facility for financing micro, small and medium-sized enterprises', through a CABEI credit facility; and FONAGRO (National Fund for the Reactivation and Modernisation of Agricultural Activity), to promote the financing of productive projects[26] .

- Ministry of Culture and Sports (MICUDE): The Institute of Anthropology and History (IDAEH) is an institution attached to the Ministry of Culture and Sports and is responsible for the administration of some protected areas in the MBR and also has some funding lines.

- National Coffee Association (ANACAFE): is a private public service institution, founded by the Coffee Law in 1960, its mission is to represent the national coffee growers, looking after the interests of the sector; it is responsible for providing effective services to achieve sustainable, competitive and quality coffee growing.

In addition to national actors, it is important to mention the role of international cooperation and its contribution as

resource mobilisers, especially organisations with strong work in forest conservation, with the potential to access funds, such as the Green Climate Fund; Other cooperation actors that can mobilise their own resources or those of other specialised funds dedicated not only to the protection, conservation and restoration of forests and landscapes, but also to territorial economic development (even more so in Multiple Use Zones within protected areas) include UNEP, GIZ, TNC, WRI, WCS, IDB, and FAO. Some of the forest-related initiatives implemented in Guatemala include:

- RELIVE - REsilient Livelihoods of vulnerable smallholder farmers in the Mayan landscapes and the Dry Corridor of Guatemala (FP145), funded by the GCF and implemented by FAO.

- Forest values: Innovative partnerships for forest restoration, funded by the BMZ (German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) and implemented by Oro Verde Forest Foundation, Defensores de la Naturaleza (FDN) and Heifer International.

- Transforming the Maya Forest Region, funded by USAID in Mexico, and privately funded support for Community Development in the Maya Forest in Guatemala, both implemented by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

- Support to the preparation of the Sustainable Forest Management Project, financed by the IDB and executed by INAB.

- Biodiverse Landscape Fund, funded by the UK government and implemented by WCS and its partners.

- Protection of the Trifinio Biosphere Reserve, funded by the German Development Bank (KfW) and implemented by the Trifinio Plan Secretariat.

However, these initiatives and actors are not sufficient to address the funding gap to curb deforestation and land encroachment, and forest and biodiversity conservation in Guatemala. Limited budgets, legal restrictions on the distribution of public funds through third parties and the limitation of their eligible activities, as well as limited knowledge for the development of effective fundraising strategies (spin off companies, development of membership schemes, corporate alliances based on corporate social responsibility, etc.) and the development of impact financing proposals are some of the barriers related to financial mechanisms.

Knowledge management:

The current framework of knowledge capture and exchange strategies related to forest conservation in Guatemala is composed of different structures and actors that work and contribute to advancing the issue within the project intervention areas. National institutions such as CONAP[27] , the Centre for Conservation Studies of the University of San Carlos de Guatemala (CECON-USAC) and INAB are examples of key actors involved in the generation and management of knowledge related to forest conservation in Guatemala. In addition, national and international non-governmental organisations are also present in the project intervention area and have been working on the generation of knowledge

and lessons learned on relevant issues related to biodiversity and forest conservation. The following platforms for knowledge capture and exchange were identified:

Platform	Impact/Area	Actors
Strategic Coordination Group (SCG)	Impact: Regional Area: Maya Biosphere Reserve (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala)	Forestry Department of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management of Belize (MSDRM), the National Council of Protected Areas of Guatemala (CONAP), the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas of Mexico (CONANP), the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD).
Coordinating Committee of the Maya Biosphere Reserve	Impact: National Zone: Maya Biosphere Reserve (Guatemala)	Central government: the municipal governments of the six municipalities that share the reserve's territory; the army; civil society, represented by non-governmental organisations; community organisations and international cooperation.
RBTTF Tri-national Steering Committee	Impact: Regional Area: Trifinio Fraternidad Tri-national Biosphere Reserve (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador)	Made up of 5 representative and accredited members from each Local Management Committee.
RBTTF Local Steering Committee	Impact: National Zone: Trifinio Fraternidad Tri-national Biosphere Reserve (Guatemala)	Central Government, Municipalities, Commonwealths, Civil Society Organisations, Academia, Producers' Associations, Tourism Associations, Private Enterprise, Water Boards and Environmental Monitoring Committees, Youth Organisations, Women's Organisations, Protected Area Co-Managers.

Associated baseline projects:

In addition to the baseline described above, there are several key ongoing initiatives and investments supporting conservation in Guatemala, both in the Selva Maya and the Trifinio region, which are well aligned with the overall objectives of the proposed project.

As the two project intervention areas are shared with neighbouring countries, Guatemala participates in several

regional initiatives and projects aimed at the conservation and sustainable management of Mesoamerican forests. The project will coordinate actions with the following initiatives:

- ***The 5 Great Forests of Mesoamerica initiative*: a recently launched programme supporting the conservation of the last remaining large forests in Mesoamerica. Implemented by the European Union (EU) Team composed of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Expertise France, and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), The five-year initiative (2023-2027) aims to support the scaling up of multi-country partnerships of diverse actors and align the efforts of the EU and its Member States to enhance a holistic and integrated approach to the protection and sustainable use of the Great Forests of Mesoamerica and the Trifinio Region. The Initiative secured some $25.5 million in additional EU funding at COP 27.**

- ***Mesoamerican Peoples and Forests Alliance* that supports the rights of indigenous *peoples* and local communities and forest conservation.**

- ***Selva Maya II*, implemented by IUCN and aimed at improving management effectiveness in natural protected areas.**

- **The trinational freshwater agenda, and the IPLC Programme promoted by TNC in Mexico, Guatemala and Belize.**

- **WCS *Biodiverse Landscapes Fund*, which aims to support national and local governments, park authorities and communities to achieve long-term sustainable management and use of natural resources.**

- ***Building resilience in the SICA region under a synergistic approach between mitigation and adaptation with a focus on the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector (abbreviated AFOLU 2040).*** **This initiative is coordinated by CAC and CCAD and will be important for the governance and knowledge management components of the project.**

At the national level, in addition to the policy and regulatory framework, the project will also coordinate with the following initiatives:

- **INAB's *Sustainable Forest Management Project*, which works to improve the efficiency of public forestry services.**

  - **The work being carried out by the Forest and Climate Change Fund in Petén to develop and implement innovative forest management models and generate value-added products.**

  - **Different forest conservation projects implemented by The Nature Conservancy in Guatemala, *particularly on another scale, the design and promotion of the Fund for the Conservation and Restoration of the Petén Forests (FCRP)*[28][28] .**

Guatemala's political will along with the described initiatives, investments and policy framework are well aligned with the objectives of the proposed project to support a transformative shift towards conservation and sustainable management of the Maya Biosphere Reserve and Trifinio Fraternidad. In addition, the proposed project presents a valuable opportunity for Guatemala to participate in an Integrated Critical Forest Biomes Programme with other countries. This programme offers significant potential for knowledge sharing, partnership building and scaling up the

conservation and sustainable management of Guatemala's forests.

Long-term solution:

The current baseline situation is complex and, without integrated, multi-level intervention to reduce pressures, levels of deforestation and forest degradation within the Maya and Trifinio Biosphere Reserves are likely to continue to increase. Four major transformations are therefore needed to change the current situation:

1. Change societal attitudes towards primary forests to ensure that their intrinsic value and contributions to society are recognised, valued and paid for.
2. Strengthen policy and implementation processes, ensuring: (i) that there is multi-sectoral policy coherence, (ii) that decisions are made based on evidence of the social benefits and costs of intervening in primary forests, and (iii) that public funding and green financing mechanisms effectively support forest conservation.
3. Strengthen land governance in primary forest areas, ensuring that local communities' rights to their lands and territories are recognised and enforceable.
4. Change the living conditions of people living where primary forests are located, ensuring that they can have a decent standard of living from positive forestry and non-forestry activities.

The long-term objective of the project is to strengthen the conservation and connectivity of Guatemala's primary forests, both in the Selva Maya and in the Trifinio region, contributing to sustaining the livelihoods of local communities and society at large. This will be done by addressing the current causes of environmental degradation to promote the protection, conservation and restoration of primary forests through

diverse land uses (e.g. secondary forests, agroforestry systems, farmland), while sustaining the livelihoods of local communities. This will contribute to the conservation of globally important biodiversity and mitigate the effects of global climate change.

In the medium term, achieving this strategy involves creating enabling conditions for change by focusing on: (i) inclusive conservation of existing forests; (ii) capacity building to mitigate environmental degradation factors by promoting forest-related livelihoods to increase economic opportunities for rural communities, involving rural women and youth; (iii) strengthening local, national and regional governance; and (iv) developing enabling conditions to sustain long-term change and action (e.g. adequate long-term financing and raising awareness of the value of forests and their contribution).

Barriers:

The proposed project will seek to address the following barriers identified during the project development process:

- Barrier 1 - Limited capacity and support for protected area management and implementation of other effective area-based conservation measures (Policy)

The Central American region faces important challenges in terms of environmental governance to support forest management and area-based conservation measures. At the national level, according to national stakeholders,

CONAP and its partners stand out as the most relevant actor working with protected areas in Guatemala. CONAP not only acts as the lead agency for protected areas, but also as an integrator of conservation processes. However, it also stands out as a weakened institution that needs to be strengthened in terms of financial resources, human capacities, transparency, equipment, training, innovation and technology, as well as in scope and results, and administrative processes, among other aspects. The premise is that if CONAP is weakened at the protected areas level, the entire national system of protected areas will be weakened. For example, CONAP is responsible for updating protected area master plans; however, it is unable to move forward with the review and approval process in a timely manner.

CONAP and other key stakeholders involved in conservation efforts in Guatemala also have limited capacity to ensure the protection, monitoring and control of protected areas and conservation measures. The RBM and RBTF lack the necessary human and financial resources to strengthen monitoring activities within protected areas. Documentation needs to be developed to better record governance in terms of monitoring and control within the protected area and the allocation of resources to define the technical scope of all actors with a specific role contributing to the protection of natural resources.

In addition, the country does not yet have a formal policy and regulatory framework in place for the definition and implementation of the OMECs, although efforts are being made by both CONAP and MARN. The lack of capacity to establish this framework reduces the potential for scaling up conservation actions in the country.

- Barrier 2 - Limited mechanisms for transboundary forest conservation (Technical)

Progress has been made in implementing mechanisms for transboundary forest conservation. For example, in the Selva Maya, the competent authorities have created a Strategic Coordination Group (GEC) and an Operational Coordination Group (GOC) to develop transboundary collaboration, and several projects have been launched based on these platforms. However, the SCG cannot establish binding agreements and the OCG relies on the voluntary commitment of protected area managers. The main challenges for transboundary collaboration include the following:

(i) different levels of priorities;

(ii) divergent organisational structure and mandates;

(iii) different legal frameworks;

(iv) different level of political support for formal cross-border collaboration; and

(v) the level of resources available and the capacity to undertake collaborative action.

This makes it necessary to reinforce existing cross-border collaboration mechanisms for the Selva Maya and the Trifinio, in the case of Guatemala.

- **Barrier 3 - Weak local and regional governance (Institutional):**

This barrier is exacerbated by limited effective regional communication between authorities in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador (in the case of the Trifinio region) and Guatemala, Mexico and Belize (in the case of the Selva Maya), possibly stemming from lack of will, different political priorities and cultural disparities, among other factors. Despite efforts to strengthen incentives, policies and the regulatory framework, there is a need to integrate forest management into national and local land-use planning and zoning.

- **Barrier 4 - Insufficient financial resources to sustain long-term efforts to conserve and restore intact forests (Financial)**

The region faces significant challenges and obstacles that hinder development and access to innovative financing and investment for forest conservation. Firstly, local communities living in the region face difficulties in accessing grants, credit and finance, especially those without recognised land and rights. Poor understanding of the financial products offered by

private funds and banks, coupled with insufficient specialised technical assistance, hinders the effective use of financial resources by local communities, including small farmers. The flow of investment into reforestation and forest protection in the country is limited, due to the low profitability of timber and fruit farms and the low level of income of communities in rural areas.

Institutions such as CONAP, INGUAT, INAB and other funds[29] with international organisations are present in the project area and work in protected areas to help fill the funding gap. However, their funds are not sufficient to fully achieve long-term conservation and restoration objectives. These institutions face limited budgets, legal restrictions on the distribution of public funds through third parties and limitations on their eligible activities. Innovative financial mechanisms are therefore required to support the sustainability of conservation efforts and their results.

- Barrier 5 - Society does not recognise, value or pay for the value of intact forests (Social)

The exceptional value of Mesoamerican primary forests and their ecosystem services often goes unnoticed. Without incentives for conservation, these forests are perceived only as sources of timber and areas for development.

Furthermore, ecosystem services are not quantified and monitored in the region, and forest environmental services are not integrated into the country's system of national accounts. This results in a lack of specific policies aimed at protecting these primary forests and a low willingness of the population to pay for environmental services due to a lack of recognition and valuation of the benefits provided by forest and natural landscapes.

- Barrier 6 - Limited coordination between conservation and development initiatives (Informative)

At different levels, various initiatives are being implemented and planned that can contribute to forest protection and restoration. For example, the AFOLU 2040 Regional Initiative, the Big 5 Forest Initiative, investments from the Forest and Climate Change Fund, the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund, the UK Biodiverse Landscapes Fund, the GEF Small Grants Programme and the IKI Small Grants Programme, among others. The various donors and implementers try to collaborate as much as possible. However, there is no coordination mechanism at the regional level that could facilitate strategic synergies to advance the conservation of intact forests. Insufficient coordination between initiatives can lead to duplication of efforts, contradictory programmes and reduced impact.

In addition, coordination is also limited at the national and local levels in Guatemala. For example, in the Selva Maya,

CONAP, the government agency responsible for the management of the country's protected areas, shares management responsibility with other institutions designated as co-managers. These institutions include Centro de Estudios Conservacionistas de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (CECON-USAC), Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza, INAB, Instituto de Antropología e Historia (IDAEH), the municipality of San José and private sector companies. The governance of the co-administration is supported by the respective Management Plan of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, but at the level of administration and territorial planning, there are Forest Management Plans, Master Plans and some Special Territorial Management Plans. In Trifinio, the governance structure of the Trifinio Fraternidad Transboundary Biosphere Reserve is based on the Trinational Management Committee and in the RBT (Guatemala) it is the Local Management Committee (Guatemala) composed of: National Directorate of the Trifinio Plan, CONAP, The National Forest Institute (INAB); the Municipalities of Esquipulas, Concepción Las Minas and Quezaltepeque; as well as representatives of the Community Development Councils located in the RBT. In addition, coordination with MARN is also essential in environmental matters.

However, this governance system still needs to be strengthened. Considering that technical capacities and tools are limited, as are monitoring activities and cross-sectoral

and multi-level coordination with key actors working to reduce threats within the reserves, there is also limited capacity of national agriculture and forestry programmes to promote inter-institutional coordination and implementation of measures aligned with conservation objectives. The capacity of national agriculture and forestry programmes to promote inter-institutional coordination and implementation of measures aligned with conservation objectives is also limited. There is therefore a strong need for support related to capacity building of local stakeholders and strengthening governance systems to ensure transparency, accountability of decision-making and ensure the conservation of forest areas.

Incremental rationale for GEF funding

In the baseline scenario, national institutions, local governments and civil society organisations have limited capacities and knowledge on how to integrate conservation and natural resource management priorities into their long-term strategies, land-use zoning plans and governance programmes, and there is a lack of coordination between protected area agencies and other organisations promoting agricultural, livestock, tourism and other productive activities that affect the protection and integrated management of primary forests. GEF funding will provide evidence of ecosystem service benefits from forest conservation and restoration, taking into account evidence of climate change

adaptation and economic development, thereby increasing political capital to incentivise forest conservation. To achieve improved conservation and connectivity at scale, GEF funding will catalyse new and additional funds for forest conservation in Guatemala, including innovative financing approaches that work with private sector actors, and through engagement and outreach with international climate and conservation finance providers.

Furthermore, despite efforts to strengthen incentives, policies and the regulatory framework, there is a need to integrate forest management into land-use planning and zoning at local, national and regional levels to drive coherent regulation and financing for sustainable forest and protected area management. GEF funding therefore represents an opportunity to generate innovative models of environmental governance, conservation and financing for the Selva Maya and Trifinio regions. Integrated forest management is a unique and well-recognised governance effort in which Guatemala can bring innovative mechanisms linking forest and water management to the Central American region. Also, at the national level, the project will build on and adapt existing mechanisms to foster cross-sectoral regulation and policies beyond the project's target areas.

In line with the GEF Regional Integrated Program "Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biomes", the Guatemala Child project interventions will focus on strengthening multi-level

governance and policy coherence, mobilizing new and additional funding, and enhancing regional cooperation, knowledge sharing and awareness raising. The Project will work to facilitate transformational change that supports the conservation and protection of the Guatemala's critical forest biomes through a set of targeted interventions that address the main threats of deforestation and forest degradation. The proposed project will build on baseline projects and existent policy and regulatory framework to deliver global environmental benefits using a 4-pronged approach:

Under Component 1, GEF project activities will support the strengthening of the enabling environment. Specifically, the project funds will be used to support the development and dissemination of information related to the protection and conservation of primary forests, their importance and value in terms of ecosystem services generated and environmental, social and economic benefits in Guatemala. Component 1 will also contribute to strengthen local and national governance structures and their coordination and strengthen national and sub-national policies, regulations and instruments for the protection and conservation of primary forests. This component will promote transformational change reflected in increased awareness among decision makers, community representatives and the private sector of the irreplaceable value of forests in addressing social and development challenges.

Under Component 2, the project will integrate efforts with other projects and initiatives to provide the necessary catalytic support to activities in the territory that improve connectivity between Pas. GEF resources will contribute to improve the management of protected areas through the review of management plans, capacity building and equipment. It will also contribute to generate information on the contribution of protected areas, local communities and indigenous peoples to the conservation of primary forests and the advancement of the global biodiversity framework to support evidence-based decision-making. In addition, it will support the identification and increase in area of other effective conservation measures (OMECs) that protect the integrity of primary forests and enhance functional connectivity and will finance the restoration of forest degraded areas.

Under Component 3, the project will support the development and implementation of innovative financing instruments and tools to increase the investments in primary forest protection, restoration of degraded forest lands, protected areas, water conservation, Small and Medium Forest Enterprises (SMFEs) and forest-related livelihoods. It will also support the dialogue among different stakeholders to mobilize financial resources through bilateral, multilateral, private and philanthropic channels. Component 3 will also finance capacity building to improve the development of innovative business models and the access to financing to develop and provide environmental goods and services and conservation for forests.

Finally, under Component 4, GEF will support knowledge production and dissemination to provide an enhanced evidence base to support decision making and enhance the promotion and investment in interventions for the protection and conservation of primary forests.

Objective and justification of the project:

The deterioration and loss of forest landscapes and biodiversity is the central problem that the project aims to address in Guatemala, focusing on the protection and restoration of forest ecosystems to ensure their conservation and long-term viability.

In this way, the project aims to 'maintain the ecological integrity of the forest intact and restore degraded areas and productive landscapes with the participation of communities and a rights-based approach'. The project aims to implement actions to safeguard and protect the areas in question and work on effective restoration that contributes to the maintenance of biodiversity, fire prevention to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, increase livelihood benefits for rural families to increase their income and improve their quality of life, and preserve

ecosystem services in general. To achieve this, the Project aims to strengthen national and regional governance articulated with the other national projects that make up the regional project, strengthen the management of Protected Areas in Guatemala, restore the connectivity and integrity of primary forests, promote partnerships with diverse actors, promote and strengthen forest value chains, strengthen multilevel governance and policy coherence, mobilise new and additional resources, among others. In this sense, the objective of the Project is to ensure the benefits for the good living of local communities and the ecosystems of the Selva Maya and the Trifinio.

By focusing on the main remaining intact forest landscapes (IFLs) of Guatemala (Selva Maya, IFL 2020 mapping team), where an estimated 32% of IFL extent has been lost in the last two decades, the project offers a major opportunity to address deforestation and degradation of primary forests and provide multiple global environmental benefits, including reducing human-induced extinction of threatened species, improving PA management effectiveness and expanding the coverage of conserved areas.

[1] World Bank (n.d.) Panorama de Guatemala, https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/guatemala/overview#1

[2] FAO (n.d.) Guatemala at a glance, https://www.fao.org/guatemala/fao-en-guatemala/guatemala-en-una-mirada/ru/

[3] Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network, (2023), Guatemala, https://www.mppn.org/es/paises_participantes/guatemala/#:~:text=Source%3A%20%C3%8DIndex%20of%20Multidimensional%20Poverty%20of%20Guatemala&text=58%2C6%2D64%2C7,included%20in%20the%20MIPM%2DGT.

[4] Convention on Biological Diversity (n.d), Guatemala Country Profile, https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile?country=gt

[5] Protected Areas System, SIGAP 2018.

[6] INAB (2022) Informe de Labores, Guatemala City, https://www.inab.gob.gt/images/memoria_de_labores/INFORME%20DE%20LABORES%202022.pdf

[7] GIS analysis produced in the context of the project development based on IFL mapping: The IFL Mapping Team. 2006-2021. Available at: https://intactforests.org/data.ifl.html

[8] INAB (2023), Plan Quinquenal 2023-2027, Guatemala City, https://siplan.segeplan.gob.gt/documentos/22740_55000_POM%202023-2027%20INAB.pdf INAB (n.d.) Portal Sistema de Información Geográfica, Portal de Consulta https://sig.inab.gob.gt/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fe80b004cfe34f9c9c407ccad325d172

[9] CONAP. 2015. Master Plan for the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Second Update. Volume 1. Guatemala. 316pp

[10] Trifinio Plan (2024), https://acortar.link/j7DiUb

[11] The acronyms in the figure are: UTMF: Undisturbed Tropical Moist Forest, DL: Deforested Land, DTMF: Degraded Tropical Moist Forest, TMFR: Tropical Moist Forest Regrowth

[12] The Climate Change Adaptation Plans of the 22 departments and the Vulnerability Atlas represent tools that strengthen the National Planning System and are the result of coordination between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN), and the technical support of the international organisation Rainforest Alliance, which strengthen the National Planning System.

[13] J. Rodríguez Rubí, Análisis de vulnerabilidad agrícola al cambio climático para la región del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA), (LC/MEX/TS.2023/38), Mexico City, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2023. Available at: https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c05514e9-3c82-4fb7-a338-812b6f1603d1/content

[14] IPBES. (2019). Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services (summary for policymakers). IPBES Plenary at its seventh session (IPBES 7, Paris, 2019). Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3553579

[15] OECD (2019), Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/a3147942-en.

[16] SCBD (2014), Global Biodiversity Outlook 4, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, http://www.emdashdesign.ca (accessed 30 March 2019).

[17] Report on ECAs

[18] MARN (n.d.) Sistema Nacional de Información sobre cambio climático, Guatemala City, https://snicc.marn.gob.gt/Busqueda/Resultado?powerbi=https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiYjk0ODRlMjktMjZlNi00OTgyLWEwMTMtNjQ5ODkzZjc3ZjRlIiwidCI6IjhmYmFhNWJmLTJlY2MtNGRjOC1iNTZiLThmOTJlMzA3ZjA3NiIsImMiOjR9

[19] The Focal Management Elements are elements of biodiversity that are the object or priority in the management of protected areas (SINAC, 2014. Costa Rica). In the case of CONAP it considers: the jaguar, the scarlet macaw, the broadleaf forest, the water system and wetlands.

[20] WWF (2023), Protecting and Restoring Earth's Forests by 2030', World Wide Fund for Nature, https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/we-re-off-track-to-protect-and-restore-forest-by-2030-here-s-how-we-can-change-course.

[21] Legislative Decree 4-89, Law on Protected Areas and its reforms (Legislative Decrees 18-89 and 110-96).

[22] SIGAP database

[23] https://cecon.ccqqfar.usac.edu.gt/nachtun-dos-lagunas/

[24] IUCN member institution.

[25] IUCN member institution.

[26] Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food. Catálogo de Trámites | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food -MAGA- (tramites.gob.gt)

[27] Including the Centro de Seguimiento y Evaluación del CONAP, Guatemala (CEMEC), CEMEC in Guatemala is an institution dedicated to the monitoring and evaluation of natural protected areas and natural resources. It works in collaboration with other organisations and agencies to monitor and evaluate biodiversity, protected area management and governance in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Some of the activities and tools used by CEMEC include: Hot Spot Monitoring: CEMEC records and analyses data on forest fires and burns in the Selva Maya region. This helps to control and liquidate fires more effectively. (CONAP: Technological tools contribute to the control and liquidation of forest fires in the Selva Maya (conap.gob.gt).SMART (Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool): CEMEC uses this system to integrate data and generate statistics that support the management of different protected areas in Guatemala. SMART allows monitoring and evaluation of the conservation status and compliance with regulations in these areas.Experience and Technology Exchange: CEMEC collaborates with other institutions, such as the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) of Mexico. In joint meetings, experiences are shared and advances in monitoring and evaluation systems are discussed. (Meeting between CONABIO (Mexico) and CEMEC (Guatemala) : Selva Maya).

[28] According to the meeting with TNC, the fund is designed, but investments are lacking for its operationalisation.

[29] Such as the National Climate Change Fund (FONCC) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

B. CHILD PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole, including how it addresses priorities related to the specific program, and how it will benefit from the coordination platform. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The proposed project will work to facilitate transformational change that supports the conservation and protection of the Guatemalan Selva Maya through a set of specific interventions that address the main threats of deforestation and forest degradation highlighted in the previous section. The Theory of Change aims to achieve transformational change through the following transformational levers:

- **Governance and policy coherence**: through inter-institutional coordination with various public and private sectors, strengthening capacity for integrated land use planning.
- **Financial leverage**: Mobilise new and additional funds for CFB conservation through innovative financing that includes blended finance, PES, carbon offsets and biodiversity.
- **Innovation and learning**: Incorporate target group perceptions and technical indicators in the conservation of critical ecosystems into strategic planning.
- **Multi-stakeholder dialogues**: Support high-level dialogues both to align and enhance existing programmes and to develop new initiatives and partnerships to enable and incentivise forest conservation; Facilitate high-level roundtables with private sector leaders to support and enable conservation and deforestation-free commitments and actions to drive market access and recognition of nature-positive activities.

The figure presented below shows the identified theory of change for the project. During the project design phase, the main problem identified was the degradation and loss of intact forest in the region, mostly due to agricultural and cattle expansion, in the case of Guatemala. Following the identification of the main issue, a set of six main barriers were identified, based on the local context and baseline. To help overcome these barriers, the project will follow the structure of the Mesoamerican Forest Programme and is articulated around four interrelated components focusing on: strengthen enabling conditions for the protection, conservation and restoration of primary forests (component 1), the acceleration of the protection and restoration of the Trifinio and Selva Maya Biosphere Reserves to increase ecosystem resilience (component 2), Increased investment in forest/natural landscapes and positive livelihoods to promote people resilience (component 3), and Promoting knowledge management, exchange, cooperation and coordination (component 4). All this in line with an inclusive approach that includes special conditions to facilitate the access of women and youth to national and municipal programme offerings. The way the project intends to address the identified barriers is summarized below.

- Barrier 1: Limited capacity and support for protected area management and implementation of other effective area-based conservation measures – Addressed by Component 1 and 2
- Barrier 2: Limited mechanisms for transboundary forest conservation - Addressed by Component 2
- Barrier 3: Weak local and regional governance - Addressed by Component 2
- Barrier 4: Insufficient financial resources to sustain long-term efforts for conservation and restoration of intact forests – Addressed by Component 2
- Barrier 5: Society does not recognize, value or pay the value of intact forests – Addressed by Component 3

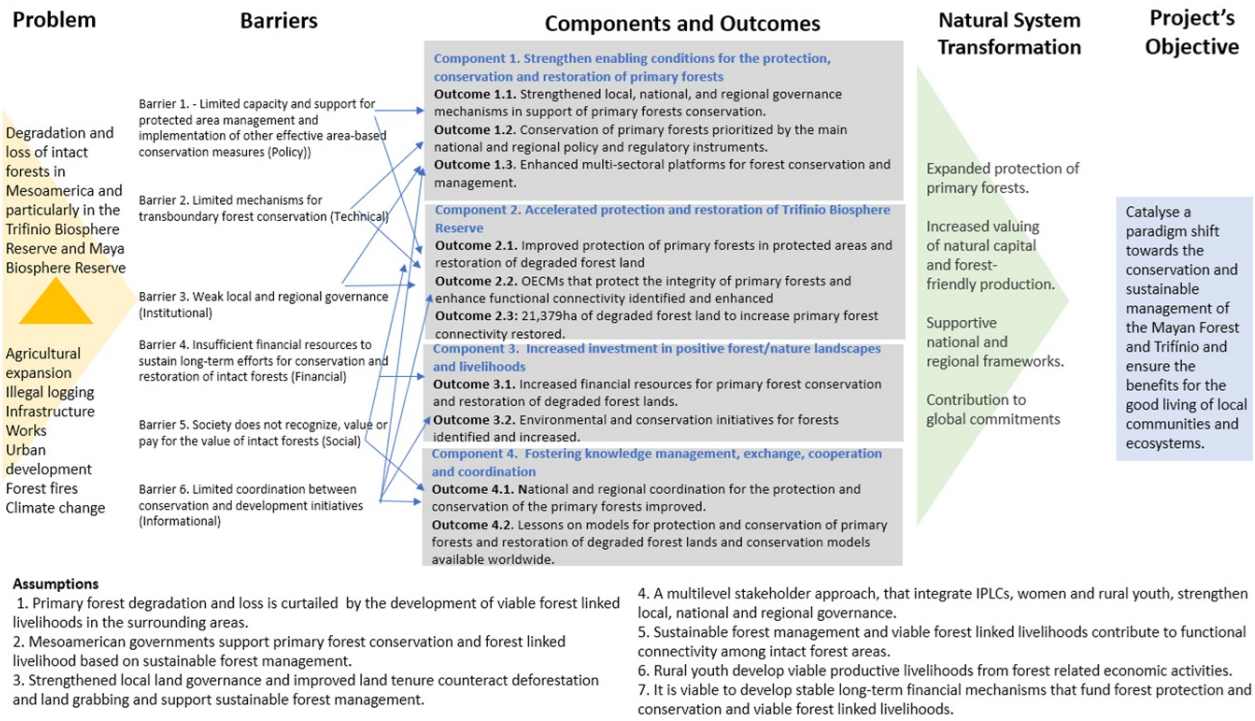
- Barrier 6: Limited coordination between coordination and development initiatives – Addressed by Component 4

Based on a series of assumptions defined taking into consideration the local context, the project's results and outcomes are expected to generate a natural system transformation that will include expanded protection and resilience of primary forests, increased valuing of natural capital and forest- friendly production, supportive national and regional frameworks and contribution to global commitments. All this will therefore contribute to achieve the project's overall objective of catalyse a paradigm shift towards the conservation and sustainable management of the Mayan Forest and Trifinio and ensure the benefits for the good living of local communities and ecosystems.

This project is part of a GEF regional program called Critical Forest Biomes for Mesoamerica. At the regional level there will be a knowledge management platform that will allow sharing experiences between countries, prioritizing topics and identifying and proposing actions that will allow the region to advance towards the management of these critical ecosystems within the framework of its four components identified in the proposal. At the country level, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama will have a national project, where actions will be carried out in the territory within the framework of each component and the identified national landscapes. For Guatemala, these landscapes are the Mayan Forest of Guatemala (Petén department) and the municipalities of Concepción Las Minas and Esquipulas (Chiquimula department) in the territory of El Trifinio. In most cases, the selected landscapes are in Key Biodiversity Areas, which are located in bordering areas because they are ecosystems whose extension transcends more than one country.

The actions of the national projects will be carried out in each country landscape and through component 4 (knowledge management) and the Regional Program, interactions will be promoted between the different States and national actors that allow increasing and strengthening collaboration between countries to improve management of these ecosystems through existing governance strategies and platforms for each case.

Figure 6: Theory of Change Diagram



Component 1: Strengthen enabling conditions for the protection, conservation and restoration of primary forests.

Component 1 will support the sensitisation of decision-makers and the strengthening of the public policy and governance framework conducive to the conservation of primary forests in the Trifinio and Selva Maya regions of Guatemala. It will contribute to high-level cross-sectoral dialogues and exchanges to facilitate the development of enabling policies and sound land-use planning that recognises the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Key organisations and actors in charge of forest conservation will be strengthened to improve forest conservation and protection and promote sustainable forest management and governance, generating differentiated public policies from a territorial and thematic perspective, as well as promoting a comprehensive and inclusive vision.

Evidence will be generated on the multiple benefits generated by the protection and conservation of the natural forest, as well as the results generated by the implementation of restoration actions through the Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy, the Sustainable Livestock Strategy with low emissions, mainly in those areas where there are deforestation fronts. To this end, assessments of ecosystem services (e.g. water quantity and quality, water catchment, potential erosion, etc.) will be carried out. erosion potential, etc.) to demonstrate the importance of conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests as an effective strategy for adaptation and mitigation of global climate change. This transformational change will be reflected in increased awareness among decision-makers (e.g. CONAP, MAGA, municipalities, municipal and departmental development councils) and community leaders in concessions and the private sector of the irreplaceable value of primary forests in addressing social and development challenges.

Component 1 will be implemented through the following outcomes, outputs and activities:

- **Outcome 1.1. Strengthened local, national and regional governance mechanisms in support of the conservation of primary forests.**

  - **Output 1.1.1. Awareness raising and advocacy plan for the protection and conservation of primary forests as well as the restoration of degraded forest lands, targeting policy makers, sectoral entities and the private sector and with a gender and social inclusion approach.**

Activity 1.1.1.1.: Develop information to provide inputs to support the Regional Programme's awareness campaign.

3. Specific information related to the protection and conservation of primary forests, their importance and value in terms of ecosystem services generated and environmental, social and economic benefits in Guatemala will be developed in close coordination with the Regional Programme implementation team in order to provide inputs to the Programme's awareness raising campaign with respect to regional needs and target audiences.

Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop and implement an awareness campaign for the protection and conservation of primary forests, including social inclusion strategies.

An awareness campaign for the protection and conservation of primary forests will be developed focusing on different target groups, such as the public sector, civil society organisations (CSOs), community members and landowners, and the private sector. The campaign developed will include a communication strategy and will be implemented at national and municipal level in the two target regions of the project, Trifinio and Selva Maya. With the development and dissemination of tailor-made communication materials addressed to specific target groups, the aim will be to raise awareness on, among others, the value of primary forests, the importance and means of protection and conservation, the importance of a common effort and the involvement of the different target groups, the existing incentive mechanisms. The awareness campaign will be based on an inclusive approach that considers and integrates specific aspects related to gender equity, youth and older people, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups, including their key roles and contribution to forest conservation and restoration. The awareness raising campaign will also be

carried out to ensure complementarity with other awareness raising initiatives[1][30] being carried out in the project region.

Activity 1.1.1.3: Develop dissemination strategies for the results of the studies and frameworks to be carried out by the regional scientific and technical advisory group.

The project will support the construction of a strategy for the dissemination of data and analysis results related to biodiversity and connectivity of primary forests in Guatemala to contribute to the regional scientific and technical advisory group. The regional scientific and technical advisory group aims to liaise for joint programming of results between regional projects of different donors; knowledge management of regional information and state of the art data and information; promote the integration of a scientific group if needed to discuss key issues related to conservation standards, best practices for sustainable use of natural resources, safeguards and improvement of livelihoods of local communities. This activity will share and disseminate information and results generated by the different scientific groups, including those of other projects.

- **Output 1.1.2 Strengthened local and national governance structures to improve the effectiveness of protection and conservation of primary forests, with a gender and social inclusion approach.**

Activity 1.1.2.1: Develop a work plan and roadmap to strengthen the SIGAP co-administration system and develop a diagnosis and enhance the technical capacities of municipalities in forest and biodiversity management.

A roadmap and work plan will be developed to strengthen the CONAP-led co-management system. This will include a diagnosis to refine the identification of gaps, the development of the work plan, the implementation of the strengthening strategy to facilitate and systematise processes, decision making, communication and transparency mechanisms of CONAP's co-administration system. In addition, the project will support the elaboration of a diagnosis of the technical capacities of the municipalities in forest and biodiversity management and the development and implementation of capacity building strategies focused on environmental regulation, forest and biodiversity management and conservation for municipal officials (it is estimated that 23 people will be trained: 13 targeted officials for capacity building activities in the Selva Maya region and 10 targeted officials for Trifinio). Capacity building will be carried out through 2 workshops to be held in year 2 of project implementation). This activity will be carried out in close coordination with the lead agencies of the region and the municipalities.

Activity 1.1.2.2: Support Local Advisory Committees (COALs) as key local governance structures.

The project will support the establishment of the Trifinio Local Advisory Committees (COAL) and Selva Maya COAL as working groups formed at the local level to address specific issues and solutions to increase forest protection and conservation in the communities and the region. The committees will be made up of community members, local leaders, owners of private protected areas, representatives of the agricultural, livestock, timber and tourism sectors, and representatives of governmental or non-governmental organisations, ensuring equal participation of women and men, and the inclusion of indigenous people and youth. This activity involves the participation of stakeholders and the elaboration of the committees' terms of reference, which will define objectives, operational aspects, participants, initial actions and responsibilities. The project will also support biannual meetings (2 per year) where discussions will be held, progress of defined activities will be reviewed and next steps will be defined.

Activity 1.1.2.3: Formulate a roadmap to strengthen the Mayan Biosphere Reserve and Trifinio Biosphere Reserve Committees and strengthen the Tri-national Trifinio Biosphere Reserve Committee.

An assessment will be carried out to analyse the main gaps and needs for strengthening the Mayan Biosphere Reserve and Trifinio Biosphere Reserve Committees and a roadmap and work plan will be developed. In addition, the project will support the facilitation of biannual meetings. This activity also includes strengthening the Tri-national Trifinio Biosphere

Reserve Committee and the Selva Maya Tri-national Committee by supporting and facilitating engagement and coordination with the Trifinio COAL and Selva Maya COAL, whose representatives will be supported to participate in the biannual meetings of the Tri-national Committee. The roadmap developed will incorporate a gender and social inclusion approach to conservation and facilitate access and full participation of women, youth and indigenous peoples in the committees.

Activity 1.1.2.4: Support the implementation of the governance programme of the master plan of the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) and Trifinio Biosphere Reserve (TBR).

In close coordination with CONAP (and other partners such as KfW[2][31] and Plan Trifinio in the case of TBR), the project will support the review and update of relevant aspects in the Master Plans of both project intervention regions and support all necessary steps (stakeholder consultation for approval and publication) for the Master Plan to become an official governance and governance strengthening instrument for: MBR: (i) contribute to the conservation and restoration of the biological diversity of the MBR and maintain its integrity, ecological functionality and ecosystem health, as a fundamental part of the Maya Forest, (ii) contribute to the conservation and recovery of archaeological zones, as well as to the enhancement of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Reserve, (iii) contribute to improve the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and cultural heritage, through the participation and commitment of the whole society, in a way that contributes to human well-being, and (iv) promote the development and strengthening of research, monitoring, environmental education, sustainable livelihoods and the formation of local capacities that contribute to the management of the reserve/BRT: (i) contribute to the conservation of forest landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation; and (ii) promote socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable economic and human development. This activity also expects that participating organisations in this group will be able to contribute to operational strategic coordination processes.

- **Outcome 1.2. Conservation of primary forests prioritized by the main national and regional policy and regulatory instruments**

  - **Output 1.2.1: Updated cross-sectoral policies, regulations and instruments that support the protection and conservation of primary forests at national and sub-national levels.**

Activity 1.2.1.1: Elaboration and/or updating of the Municipal Forestry Plan and municipal land-use planning policy guidelines in the project municipalities, including social inclusion strategies.

In complementarity with the efforts of the Secretariat of Planning and Programming (Segeplan) which developed the *Methodological Guide for the elaboration of municipal* development and land use *plans in Guatemala**[3]***[32] , and in order to improve policy and regulatory instruments in the project's target areas to support the conservation and restoration of primary forests at the municipal level, the project will support the updating (for municipalities that already have the instrument)[4][33] and development of the Municipal Forest Plans as well as the Municipal Development and Land Use Plans with a gender and social inclusion approach.

Activity 1.2.1.2: Updating of guidelines and regulations for land use in the zones of and multiple use in the Trifinio and Maya Biosphere Reserves.

In close coordination with MARN, CONAP, INAB and MAGA, the Ministry of Public Finance (MINFIN). the Committees of Trifinio and the Maya Biosphere Reserve and COALs, the Guatemalan Tourism Institute (INGUAT), the Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOFOP), the National Council of Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR), the Municipal Urban and Rural Development Councils (COMUDE) and the Community Urban and Rural Development Councils (COCODE) and in alignment with the Municipal Forest Plans and the Municipal Development and Land Use Plans, the project will support the updating of guidelines and regulations on land use in the multiple-use zones of the Trifinio and Maya Biosphere Reserves so that agricultural, livestock and forestry activities are implemented in a sustainable manner, contributing to the conservation and connectivity of the forests.

- **Output 1.2.2: Information to support evidence-based decision-making on forest conservation interventions.**

Activity 1.2.2.1: Support data collection on the potential of reduced deforestation to reverse the global risk of species extinction.

Specific consultations and studies will be carried out to assess the potential of primary forest conservation in the project areas to reverse species extinction risk using STAR metrics and the IUCN Red List. The process will confirm the presence of endangered species and the severity and extent of threats affecting them, so that the extent to which conservation of forest ecosystem integrity can contribute to safeguarding threatened species can be identified. The information generated will be focused on concrete recommendations for the implementation of actions in the territory promoted by the actors in the project landscapes[5][34] . This activity (as well as activity 3.1.1.1.1) will support the clarification of the contribution of PAs to the prevention of species extinction risk through the protection of primary forests.

Activity 1.2.2.2: Assessment of losses and damages caused by the effects of climate change and its alterations on natural ecosystems that have an impact on the local economy.

Through a consultancy, an assessment of the loss and damage caused by climate change and its alterations to natural ecosystems that impact on the local economy, e.g. in terms of water security, will be carried out in the two project intervention areas. The assessment will also provide an estimate of the cost of inaction and guidance on possible mitigation and adaptation measures that could be included in decision-making planning processes at local, regional and national levels. In addition, the project will support the collection of data on water sources, flows and supply within the Maya Biosphere Reserve[6][35] . This activity (as well as activity 3.1.1.1) will support clarification on the contribution of PAs to reducing climate change losses through the protection of primary forests.

- **Outcome 1.3 Enhanced multi-sectoral platforms for forest conservation and management**

  - **Output 1.3.1. National and multi-sectoral platforms established or strengthened.**

Activity 1.3.1.1: Drafting of the rules of procedure of the AFOLU Guatemala National Board.

A regulation for the functioning of the AFOLU Guatemala Roundtable will be developed to align strategies and ensure coherence with national and environmental objectives, including the

elaboration of a protocol for the participation and inclusion of civil society comments on the issues addressed by the AFOLU Guatemala Roundtable, whose main objective is to promote an integrated approach to landscape restoration, for the rehabilitation and conservation of forest areas, the establishment of biological corridors through the adoption of resilient agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, and the transformation of agricultural areas through the adoption of sustainable low-carbon practices to increase productivity and achieve land degradation neutrality.

▪ **Output 1.3.2: Affirmative actions to integrate indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes.**

Activity 1.3.2.1: Develop affirmative action protocols to include women, rural youth and indigenous peoples in programme implementation plans.

The project will develop guidance and provide training to the Programme of Forest Incentives for Small Forest or Agroforestry Land Owners (PINPEP), the Programme of Incentives for the Establishment, Recovery, Restoration, Management, Production and Protection (PROBOSQUE), and the Programme of Emission Reduction (PRE), and will develop adapted participation methodologies (quotas) to increase access to subsidies and services from these institutions to women and landless youth and to strengthen the participation of women and young people in these institutions, and the Emission Reduction Programme (PRE), and will develop adapted participation methodologies (quotas) to increase access to subsidies and services from these institutions for landless women and youth and to strengthen local governance and improve effectiveness in forest protection and conservation. Government representatives will be trained to ensure that gender-transformative change is generated through a government-led, community-based process. Training will be delivered through 3 annual workshops to be held in years 3, 4 and 5 of project implementation (Estimated 50 people trained).

Activity 1.3.2.2: Strengthening civil society participation to inform the work of the AFOLU National Roundtable

This activity will support a consultation and strengthening of civil society participation to inform the work of the AFOLU national roundtable. A workshop will be held to collect information together with civil society that will be systematised in a guide and suggestions to inform the work of the AFOLU national roundtable. The project will ensure that representatives of women, rural youth and indigenous peoples participate in this activity.

Component 2: Acceleration of the protection and restoration of the Trifinio and Selva Maya Biosphere Reserves

Component 2 will address weak capacity and lack of resources for protected areas and the management of other effective conservation measures (OMEC), implement biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring programmes, address illegal activities and invest in restoration with vulnerable local communities. The project will increase and strengthen multi-sectoral capacities in support of the National Forest Institute (INAB) and the executive secretariat of the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP), to ensure the functioning of monitoring and control tools, and expand resources for the justice system and strengthen staff to increase their capacity to deal with complaints of environmental crimes. The project will integrate efforts with other projects and initiatives to provide the necessary catalytic support to activities in the territory that improve connectivity between PAs

through restoration actions, integrated management for forest fire control[7][36] and achieve conservation of the Trifinio and Selva Maya ecosystem. Contributions from the deployment of Nature Based Solutions (NbS) such as agroforestry and silvopastoral systems will be made visible in global conventions through improved information exchange between Ministries, Institutes and Secretariats (e.g. MARN, CONAP, INAB, MAGA, SEGEPLAN, INGUAT), aligned to the targets and reporting to global initiatives (e.g. Restoration Barometer for the Bonn Challenge, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework(K-M GBF). This component will strengthen existing information systems such as SNICC, SNIBgt and SIFGUA, as well as the existing PA monitoring system (SMART-CONAP), implement a participatory multi-criteria analysis to prioritise conservation and restoration sites and innovative capacity building and management tools based on the needs of PA managers, ACOFOPs and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and private forest concessions. This component will be implemented with both Selva Maya and Trifinio stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of PA management and expand the conservation area beyond the national PA network through the OMECs.

○ **Outcome 2.1. Improved protection of primary forests in protected areas and restoration of degraded forest land**

- **Output 2.1.1: Strengthened protected area management tools and instruments..**

Activity 2.1.1.1: Update protected area management plans.

The results of the application of the GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) point to the deficiency of PA management effectiveness in the project management area. The tool was completed for all protected areas included in the preparation of the Concept Note[8][37] . The selected protected areas were based on an analysis of the overlap with the intact forest landscape, undisturbed forest cover and deforestation (2015-2022), as well as the importance of the areas for biodiversity protection. Gaps and needs identified included the need to update the Master Plans of the areas, as well as the need to strengthen financial and human resources and equipment (see activities 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.1.3). In this activity, the project will support the review and development of the master plans (management plans) of the PAs located in the project intervention area, as well as a half-day workshop for each PA to carry out an assessment of management effectiveness based on the baseline developed using METT during the project development phase. This activity also includes the application of METT at mid-term and at the end of the project phases to measure progress in the management effectiveness of the selected PAs.

Figure 7 shows the parts of intact forest landscape and protected areas for which METT results were received in the Selva Maya. Figure 8 shows land use change compared to the intact forest landscape in the Selva Maya region (see Annex 1 for data).

Figure 7: Intact forest landscape *in protected areas in the project intervention zone in the Selva Maya.*

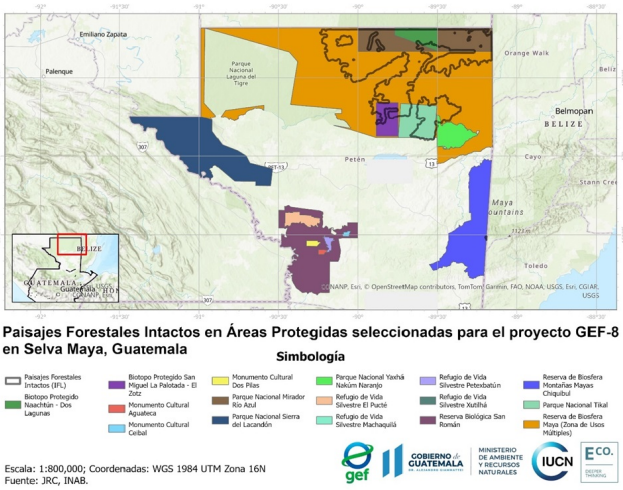
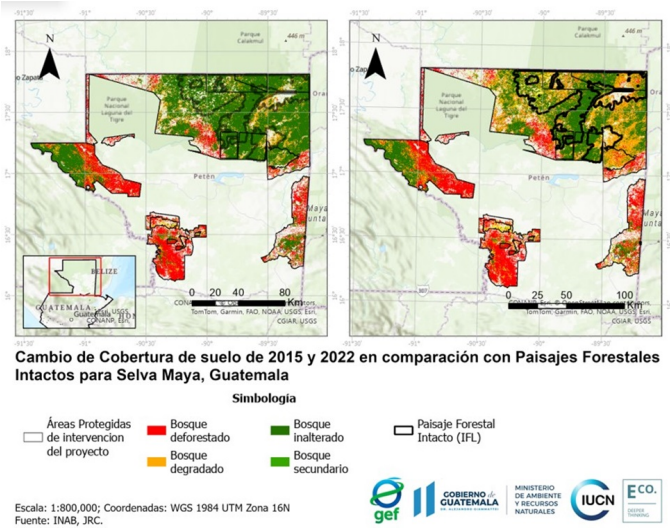


Figure 8: Land use change and intact forest landscape in protected areas in the Selva Maya region.



Activity 2.1.1.2: Strengthen protected areas through a forestry technician and equipment.

An assessment of the capacity and equipment needs of 14 protected areas listed in activity 2.1.1.1 (to which METT was applied during the project development phase) will be carried out and a strategy for the sustainability, operations and maintenance of the equipment and support provided will be developed. During the implementation phase of the project, PAs will be improved by hiring a forest technician and acquiring equipment such as computer equipment, quad bikes, GPS, drones and photo trapping. However, government commitment will be needed after the project implementation period to ensure the sustainability of this activity.

Activity 2.1.1.3: Training of local rangers.

Training will be provided to local rangers in 14 protected areas on how to use tools such as GIS, drones and photo-trapping to improve monitoring of their areas and on financial and operational planning to improve management of the areas. The project will finance the development of the capacity building module and the training will be delivered through 1 workshop to be held in year 2 of project implementation . In addition, the activity will support the strengthening of the integrated operations centres (IOCs), and the development of the outlines, competency standards to implement the 'school for rangers and forest firefighters' (in coordination with activity 2.1.1.4). The training will be focused on forest rangers, forest firefighters (activity 2.1.1.4) and also for the training of

'community resource rangers' to act in the core zones that make up the protected areas. (Estimated that 46 people will be trained: 28 forest rangers and 18 community resource rangers).

Activity 2.1.1.4: Improve forest fire management capacity in the Selva Maya region.

In order to support the Government of Guatemala in meeting the request made by the different environmental organisations[9][38] involved in conservation and sustainable development efforts in the protected areas of Petén, the project will contribute to the improvement of coordination, capacities and equipment necessary for the prevention and combat of forest fires in the region, in articulation with the actions that will already be carried out with the instrument on integrated fire management developed by the Government of Guatemala. (It is estimated that 40 people will be trained).

▪ **Output 2.1.2. National assessment of the risk of collapse and extent of critical Mesoamerican forest biomes.**

Activity 2.1.2.1: Prepare a national assessment of the risk of collapse and extent of critical Mesoamerican forest biomes.

In year 1 of project implementation, a detailed diagnosis will be carried out to assess the risk of collapse and extension of critical biomes in the Mesoamerican Forest, including relevant information from the project intervention area and providing guidance on additional and complementary actions (to those proposed in this project) that could be implemented by different actors from the public and private sectors and civil society organisations.

▪ **Output 2.1.3 Information on the contribution of protected areas, local communities and indigenous peoples to the conservation of primary forests and the advancement of the global biodiversity framework to support evidence-based decision-making.**

Activity 2.1.3.1: Conduct ecosystem accounting assessments focusing on primary forests in the Maya Biosphere Reserve and Trifinio Biosphere Reserve.

In this activity, the Guatemala project will implement ecosystem accounting assessments[10][39] in coordination with academia and the relevant National Central Bank to update information on the functions of ecosystem assets and the ecosystem services they provide, with a specific focus on primary forests, following the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA)[11][40] .

Activity 2.1.3.2: Calibrate Species Threat Reduction and Recovery assessment approaches.

In this activity, the project will use and calibrate the potential of Species Threat Reduction and Recovery (STAR)[12][41] to assess the contribution of primary forest protection to reducing species extinction risk, inform conservation management plans in the project intervention area and support threat monitoring based on

global data layers (e.g. Global Forest Watch, NASA GEDI, NASA/USGS Landsat, and NASA/NOAA VIIRS, Smart-fire).

- **Outcome 2.2: OMECs that protect the integrity of primary forests and enhance functional connectivity identified and enhanced.**

  - **Output 2.2.1: National frameworks or protocols for the implementation of Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs).**

    Activity 2.2.1.1: Establish national regulations and instruments to make OMEC operational in Guatemala.

In this activity, the project will support the identification of institutional instruments that will support the development of the design of a national guide or regulation and an instrument to formalise and operationalise the OMEC in Guatemala. This could include the design of possible incentives/benefits of OMEC implementation (see Component 3). Gender inclusive approaches will be considered during the implementation of the activity.

- **Output 2.2.2 Establishment of national networks of SMFEs to support the conservation of primary forests.**

Activity 2.2.2.1: Assessment, identification and systematisation of OMEC in the project site and pilot dissemination of knowledge for the implementation and improvement of OMEC in Guatemala.

In Trifinio, 15,927 ha were identified as potential areas to become OMEC areas, while in the Selva Maya region, 85,864 ha were identified (see Figures 9 and 10). Based on this pre-identification of potential areas, a methodology and a GIS application and website for recognised OMECs in Guatemala will be developed. Based on a rapid application of the criteria and indicators for OMEC evaluation, a prioritisation and delimitation of some communities will be carried out in coordination with CONAP to establish at least 19,000ha as OMEC in the context of the project, and to implement a knowledge dissemination strategy for the implementation and improvement of OMEC in Guatemala (as a pilot that can be scaled up in other communities and regions of the country). Gender approaches will be taken into consideration during the implementation of the activity to ensure meaningfully participation of women in the decision-making process. To establish areas as OMEC in the context of the project, the target is an area of 19,035 hectares corresponding to:

- 62% of the sum of undisturbed tropical rainforest in Selva Maya and undisturbed tropical rainforest identified in Trifinio.

Figure 9: Potential areas to become OMEC identified in the project intervention area in Trifinio – Guatemala

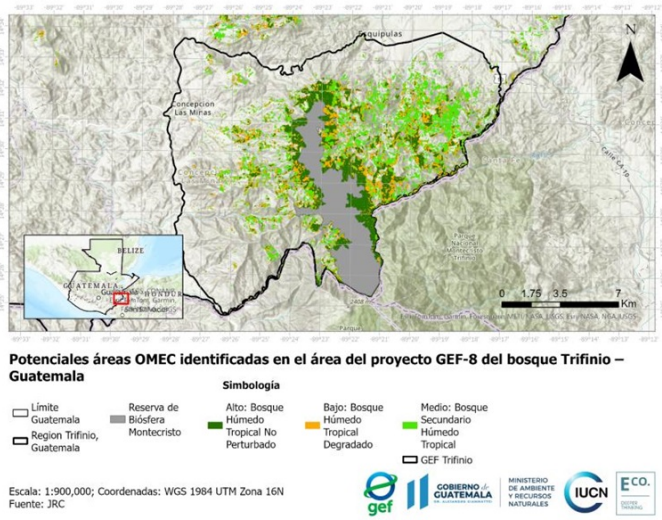
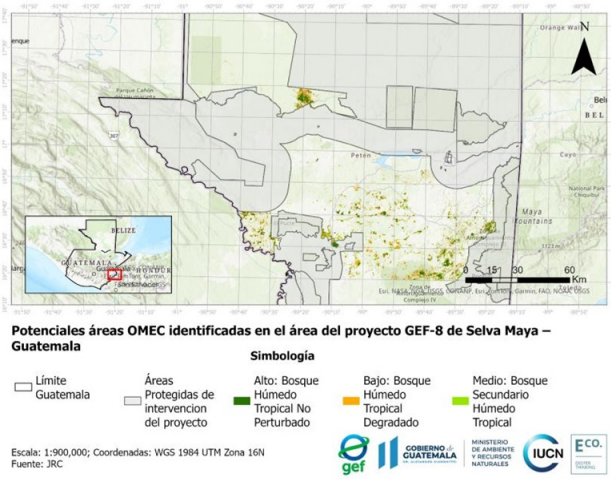


Figure 10: Potential areas to become OMEC identified in the project intervention area in Selva Maya - Guatemala



Activity 2.2.2.3: Support the recognition of OMEC in the project intervention area.

Based on the systematisation methodology set out in activity 2.2.2.2, the IUCN guidelines for management effectiveness assessment and the national framework established for OMEC in Guatemala in A.2.2.1.1, the project will support recognition and assessment of OMEC throughout the project intervention area, contributing to a better understanding of the contribution of OMEC in Guatemala to forest protection and connectivity, biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Mesoamerican critical forest biome and their needs to achieve forest conservation objectives. This activity also includes monitoring the OMEC, as well as addressing their needs to deliver conservation and biodiversity outcomes[13][42] .

- **Outcome 2.3: 21,379ha of degraded forest land to increase primary forest connectivity restored.**

  - **Output 2.3.1: Updated assessment of priority areas for landscape restoration in the Mesoamerican Forest.**

Activity 2.3.1.1: Validate restoration activities at local level according to the ROAM action plan 2018-2022.

During the project development process, potential restoration areas (Figure 11 and Figure 12) totalling 118,064 ha in Trifinio and at least 247,980 ha in the Maya Biosphere Reserve were identified. The project will support a participatory selection and validation process of areas to be restored, following the ROAM methodology[14][43] and using as input the potential areas identified during the project design and other local organisations (e.g. PACUNAM, WCS). This activity will be implemented in coordination with other projects and partners[15][44] that have also identified areas for restoration. The identification and validation process will be carried out through 2 workshops that will take place in year 1 of project implementation at community level. The GEF project will contribute to the restoration of 21,379 hectares, prioritising interventions such as natural regeneration, riparian forest restoration, fire prevention and forest protection, sustainable forest management, silvopastoral systems and crop diversification (particularly tree crops).

Figure 11: Potential areas to be restored in Trifinio-Guatemala.

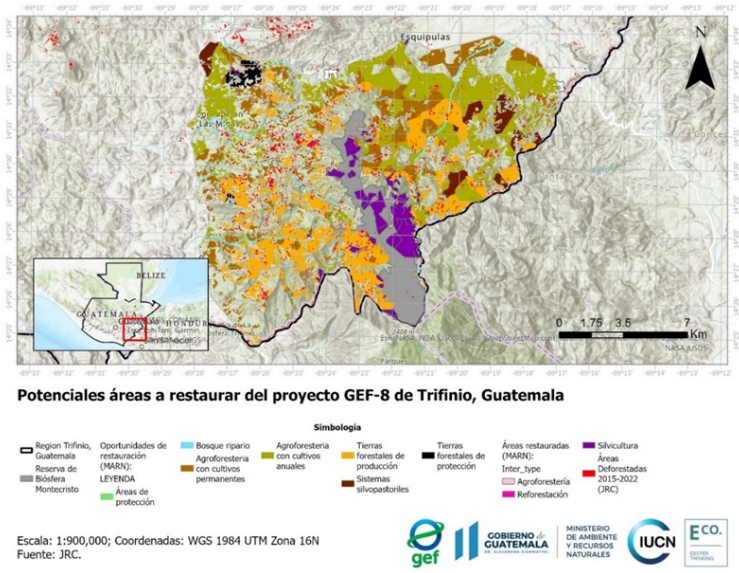
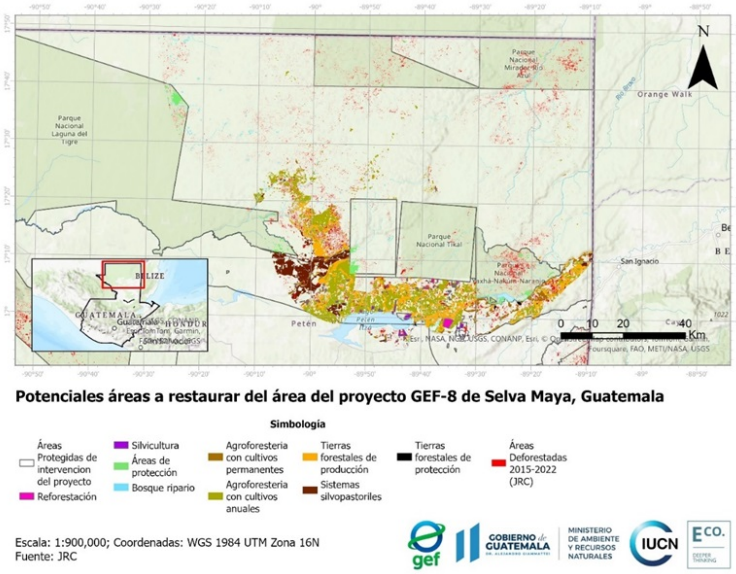


Figure 12: Potential areas to restore in the Selva Maya - Guatemala.



Potenciales áreas a restaurar del área del proyecto GEF-8 de Selva Maya, Guatemala

- **Output 2.3.2: Restoration of degraded forest land in key community restoration priority areas..**

Activity 2.3.2.1: Support the implementation of projects under local community management with the participation of women and private sector partners.

The project will support the implementation of nurseries, community gardens, and agroforestry systems. Priority projects will be identified with communities and in partnership with CONAP, INAB, ACOFOP, TNC, the Forest and Climate Change Fund (FCCF) and PACUNAM. The project will finance the necessary studies and plans for the implementation of restoration activities and ensure that women and youth participate in the prioritisation of community restoration areas[16][45] and benefit from the projects to be supported.

Component 3: Increased investment in forest/natural landscapes and positive livelihoods.

To address the lack of private investment in conservation and deforestation-free supply chains, it is proposed to design financial and investment incentives and instruments that favour the conservation and restoration of forest landscapes and protected natural areas, mainly in southern Petén where there has been a significant expansion of palm monoculture. These actions will be carried out with the participation of local communities, indigenous peoples, women and youth. The main interventions include 1) support in certification processes and bankable business solutions through the establishment and operation of a project preparation service to translate sustainable strategies into green investment plans and projects for financing by the public and private sectors, 2) the design of innovative financing models designed in collaboration with the public and private sectors to catalyse investment in conservation and restoration (i.e. debt-for-nature swaps, green/biodiversity bonds, payment for water services schemes) and 3) the development of public-private partnerships and financial literacy campaigns to facilitate resource mobilisation (impact investment and market incentives such as carbon credits). Innovative financing instruments will be designed to mobilise additional resources in both landscapes (Trifinio and Selva Maya). While in the Selva Maya instruments such as biodiversity or carbon credits can be considered, in Trifinio the focus will be on innovative transboundary payment for hydrological services, building on existing IDB studies on the design of a regional water fund.

- **Outcome 3.1: Increased financial resources for primary forest conservation and forest degraded land restoration.**

  - **Output 3.1.1: National analyses of financing gaps and barriers to investment in the conservation of primary forests, the restoration of forest degraded lands and forest-related livelihoods.**

Activity 3.1.1.1: National assessment of financing gaps and potential for increased investment in primary forests, degraded forest lands and forest-related livelihoods.

Financial gaps and potential possibilities[17][46] to increase investment in primary forests and forest-related livelihoods will be identified through a national assessment. This activity - in complement to activities 1.2.2.1 (species extinction risk) and 1.2.2.2 (climate change losses) - will also contribute to the clarification of the contribution of PAs to the prevention of extinction risk and climate change losses through the protection of primary forests.

  - **Output 3.1.2: Innovative financing instruments and tools to increase investments in primary forest protection, restoration of degraded forest lands, protected areas, SMFEs and forest-related livelihoods.**

Activity 3.1.2.1: Support the implementation of financial instruments to enhance the protection of primary forests.

In this activity, the project will support the development and implementation of financial instruments, such as the Fund for the Conservation and Restoration of Petén Forests (FCRP)[18][47] , by contributing to the design, implementation and initial investment.

Activity 3.1.2.2: Develop and enhance financial mechanisms /Instruments capable of mobilising funds to support sustainable, deforestation-free income-generating activities and facilitate access to compensation funds and credit for small farmers involved in conservation efforts in the project area.

The project will enhance existing financing initiatives by supporting the design of credit lines for the capitalisation of relevant and sustainable financial initiatives and for the facilitation of access to credit[19][48] to small farmers involved in deforestation-free activities in the project intervention area. The initiatives to be supported include: i) the Forestry Incentives Programme PROBOSQUE - PINPEP: Executed by INAB, with

the objective of promoting and fostering forestry development in the country through sustainable forest management, reducing deforestation of forested land, promoting reforestation and increasing its productivity; and ii) the Financial Support Trust Fund for Producers in the Guatemalan Coffee Sector: Implemented by the National Coffee Association -ANACAFE-, whose objective is to provide financial support to producers in the Guatemalan coffee sector, through the granting of credits to coffee producers. The project will ensure that credit lines are designed to facilitate access to women, youth and indigenous people, following environmental and social safeguards and a commitment to support only deforestation-free initiatives. In this activity, the implementation of incentive mechanisms for the implementation of OMEC could also be supported.

Activity 3.1.2.3: Promotion of discussion for the development of a financial mechanism for water conservation.

The Guatemala project will contribute to the discussion around the development of a financial mechanism for water conservation in the Trifinio/Fraternidad area. This activity will promote the dialogue of multiple stakeholders in the governmental and private sectors in to discuss the implementation of measures and actions that contribute to water conservation in Guatemala and achieve GEF Core indicator 7.4 linked to IW focal area.

- **Output 3.1.3: High-level dialogue meetings to mobilise financial resources through bilateral, multilateral, private and philanthropic channels to sustain long-term conservation of critical forest biomes.**

Activity 3.1.3.1: Promote high-level dialogue meetings to mobilise financial resources through bilateral, multilateral, private and philanthropic channels.

In coordination with the regional coordination project, the project will support the organisation and implementation of high-level dialogue meetings to mobilise financial resources through bilateral, multilateral, private and philanthropic channels to sustain the long-term conservation of critical forest biomes. The meetings will be annual in years 2, 3 and 4 of project implementation and the objective is to discuss and agree on specific financial commitments from the different institutions.

- **Outcome 3.2: Environmental and conservation initiatives for forests identified and increased.**

  - **Output 3.2.1: Innovative mechanisms to promote environmental, forest-conserving initiatives.**

Activity 3.2.1.1: Support compensation schemes for contribution to biodiversity protection targeting small landowners in the project area.

In this activity, and in coordination with 3.1.2.1 (which will support the development and implementation of financial instruments, such as the Fund for the Conservation and Restoration of Petén Forests (FCRP)), support will be given to compensations for contribution to biodiversity protection, using as verification criteria, data generated with red list of ecosystems and potential for Species Threat Reduction and Recovery (STAR)[20][49] . The MARN will also be supported in the development of an incentive programme to encourage voluntary activities to reduce or absorb greenhouse gas emissions in line with article 19 of the Framework Law on Climate Change (LMCC)[21][50] .

Activity 3.2.1.2: Capacity building and knowledge exchange on sustainable production issues in agriculture, forestry and other sectors related to relevant value chains and income generation.

At the community level, in complementarity and coordination with other partners also investing and present in the project intervention areas, the project will support capacity building and knowledge sharing on issues related to sustainable production in agriculture, forestry and other sectors, such as tourism, linked to relevant value chains and income generation. Capacity building will be carried out through annual workshops (years 1 and 2 of project implementation) at the community level. The topics will be defined together with the communities and the project will contribute to the design and implementation of capacity building (estimated that 90 people will be trained: 10 in each community). Gender approaches will be taken into account during the implementation of the activity to ensure meaningful participation of women in the capacity building activities.

- **Output 3.2.2: Innovative business models to develop environmental goods and services and conservation for forests.**

Activity 3.2.2.1: Training of extension agents on financial instruments and development of business plans to access credit.

36. Extension agents in the target municipalities of both project intervention areas will see their capacity strengthened through the 'training of trainers' approach for the development of business plans that will enable them to access credit lines. Extension agents benefiting from the capacity building will be committed to provide training at community level to improve their access to credit and implement pro-forestry measures. The training will be delivered in 2 workshops (one in the department of Petén and one in Chiquimula) in year 1 of project implementation (estimated that 30 people will be trained: 5 in each municipality). Gender approaches will be taken into account during the implementation of the activity to ensure meaningful participation of women in the trainings.

Activity 3.2.2.2: Support capacity building of COALS and local communities developing business plans to access credit lines.

37. The extension agents trained under Activity 3.2.2.1 will provide training at the community level for the development of business plans to access credit lines for the implementation of measures for the production of environmental goods and services and conservation for forests. This activity will also be implemented complementary to activity 3.1.2.2 (creation of credit lines) and the FCCF credit lines[22][51] for forest management and timber production, as the fund exists, but investment is still needed for the development of sound business plans. Capacity building will take place in 1 workshop at community level in year 2 of project implementation and will be designed on the basis of an inclusive social and gender approach.

- **Output 3.2.3: Project preparation mechanism to enable access to private, national and development funding.**

Activity 3.2.3.1: Support feasibility studies and project documentation to catalyse access to additional funds.

The project will support the development of feasibility studies and the preparation of project documentation to catalyse access to other funds, public or private, regional or international, aimed at increasing the protection and connectivity of primary forests.

- **Output 3.2.4: Promotional and high-impact events to accelerate demand for products from sustainably managed secondary forests and deforestation-free raw materials from Mesoamerica.**

Activity 3.2.4.1: Develop promotional and high-impact events to accelerate demand for environmental goods and services and forest conservation.

The project will organise and implement annual promotional events to disseminate information on forest-friendly environmental goods and services and conservation and to accelerate demand for forest-friendly environmental goods and services and conservation. Relevant public and private sector stakeholders will be invited and dialogue will be facilitated to improve market access for organisations, cooperatives or community members providing forest-friendly goods and services. This activity will be coordinated in line with the EU's deforestation-free regulation, and in association with component 3 'Producing with a future' of the EU's Large Forests of Mesoamerica (GBM) Programme. Component 3 of the GBM programme is led by GIZ and aims to support transformative multi-country and multi-stakeholder initiatives enhanced for deforestation-free and low-carbon production and sustainable trade in GBM.

Component 4: Promoting knowledge management, exchange, cooperation and coordination

In Selva Maya and Trifinio, there are data gaps and a lack of adequate tools to guide adaptive management and demonstrate the global environmental benefits associated with forests. This component will provide capacity building and knowledge sharing among institutions and actors[23][52] , and support the implementation of the Selva Maya Integrated Strategy 2030 and participation in South-South exchange (Mesoamerica, Amazon IP).

- **Outcome 4.1: National and regional coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests improved.**

- **Output 4.1.1: Coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests and restoration of degraded forest lands.**

Activity 4.1.1.1: Ensure the participation of Guatemalan representatives in regional platforms.

41. The participation of the project representatives from Guatemala in the meetings organised by the Regional Coordination Platform will be guaranteed by the project for all the necessary logistics for the face-to-face meetings.

- **Output 4.1.2: Long-term national and regional communication plan to mobilise support for the conservation of critical forest biomes.**

Activity 4.1.2.1: Create national communication content to support the implementation of the Regional Programme's communication strategy.

42. The Guatemala project will contribute to the development of communication materials to support the implementation of the Regional Programme's communication strategy. Informative and persuasive content, including publications, videos and social media campaigns, will be developed to raise awareness and mobilise support for the conservation of primary forests and critical forest biomes. By disseminating this material through various communication channels, including websites, newsletters and public events, stakeholders will engage diverse audiences and foster a shared understanding of the importance of forest conservation and the exceptional value of its ecosystem services to society. This activity will help to build public and political support for conservation efforts, strengthen regional cooperation and promote the objectives of the Regional Programme.

- **Outcome 4.2: Lessons on models for protection and conservation of primary forests and restoration of degraded forest lands made available worldwide**

  - **Output 4.2.1: National information on critical forest biomes (e.g. biodiversity and social information, forest management models, regulations).**

Activity 4.2.1.1: Develop relevant information to support the regional scientific platform for knowledge exchange on Mesoamerican Forests.

In this activity, the project will support the systematisation of all relevant information to provide inputs to the regional knowledge platform for the exchange of information on Mesoamerican Forests. This activity will be implemented in close collaboration with the Integrated Regional Programme.

- **Output 4.2.2: Lessons learned from the programme, models of forest management and governance and integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes documented and disseminated at regional and global level.**

Activity 4.2.2.1: Develop and disseminate case studies that include good forest management and production practices, governance models and integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes.

The project will also support the systematisation and development of case studies so that good forest and agricultural management practices that contribute to the conservation and protection of forests, governance models and the integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes can be disseminated at local, national and regional levels. This activity will be implemented in collaboration and coordination with representatives of government institutions and civil society organisations (i.e. MARN, MAGA, CONAP, INAB, INGUAT, CONADUR, COMUDEs, COCODEs, ACOFOP, NGOs).

Activity 4.2.2.2: Organise national knowledge-sharing workshops.

45. Annual national knowledge sharing workshops (years 4 and 5 of project implementation) will be organised for knowledge sharing among multi-sectoral stakeholders (government, private sector, CSOs such as MARN, MAGA, MINFIN CONAP, INAB, CONRED, INGUAT, CONADUR, COMUDEs, COCODEs, ACOFOP, NGOs, International organizations, entrepreneurs) involved in project activities.

- **Output 4.2.3: South-South cooperation/knowledge exchange with other critical forest biomes, including IP workshops and events, dialogues and community of practice.**

Activity 4.2.3.1: Develop material and coordinate knowledge exchange with other critical forest biomes.

In this activity, the project will support the systematisation of specific data and the development of communication materials for knowledge exchange with other critical forest biomes (e.g. Amazonia and Congo).

Activity 4.2.3.2: Participate in South-South cooperation/knowledge exchange events.

The Guatemala project will also contribute to the organisation and implementation of South-South cooperation/knowledge exchange events. In addition to contributions for general logistics, the project will finance the participation of representatives from Guatemala. The participation of at least 2 representatives of the Guatemala project in 2 global events and 2 regional events, in addition to the annual meetings, is foreseen.

- **Output 4.2.4: Annual regional knowledge-sharing workshops.**

Activity 4.2.4.1: Develop material for annual workshop to exchange lessons on models of primary forest protection and conservation with regional and international organisations.

In this activity, the project will support the systematisation of all relevant information to provide input to the annual regional knowledge exchange workshops. This activity will be implemented in close collaboration with the Regional Integrated Programme.

Activity 4.2.4.2: Participate in annual regional knowledge-sharing workshops.

The project will contribute to the organisation and operationalisation of annual regional workshops (years 2-5 of project implementation) for knowledge exchange between the other projects and the regional coordination programme. In addition to the contributions for general logistics, the project will finance the participation of the representatives of Guatemala (MARN).

- **Output 4.2.5: Harmonised planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the annual programme.**

Activity 4.2.5.1: Develop Guatemala's inputs for annual programme planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

This activity involves the collection, systematisation and analysis of project information necessary to provide inputs for annual programme planning, reporting, monitoring and physical and financial evaluation of the project. It will be carried out in close collaboration with the other projects and the regional programme.

[1] For example, the project '*Biodiversity Conservation in Guatemala Activity*' of the Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza (FDN), financed by USAID. A mechanism for complementarity and coordination in the dissemination strategy will be sought and an analysis will be made of what information will be disseminated by the project.

[2] The Master Plan of the Trifinio Fraternidad -RBT- Biosphere Reserve is being developed with the support of the international cooperation with Germany, through the KfW. The Trifinio Biosphere Reserve is part of the Trifinio Fraternidad Tri-national Biosphere Reserve. Master plans for the areas that make up the RBT have been prepared but have not been approved or published.

[3] https://portal.segeplan.gob.gt/segeplan/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Guia_PDM_OT.pdf

[4] There are 11 municipalities in the Department of Chiquimula, Trifinio region (Chiquimula, Jocotán, Esquipulas, Camotán, Quezaltepeque, Olopa, Ipala, San Juan Ermita, Concepción Las Minas, San Jacinto, San José la Arada) and 12 municipalities in Petén, Selva Maya region (Dolores, Flores, La Libertad, Melchor de Mencos, Poptún, San Andrés, San Benito, San francisco, San José, San Luis, Santa Ana, Sayaxché, Las Cruces, El Chal).

[5] It will also take into account (for 1.2.2.1 and 1.2.2.2.2) the instruments generated by the Government on climate change (including REDD+ and Low Emission Development strategies) to foster the implementation of actions according to the conditions of the region.

[6] The data collected in this activity will help to expand and improve the Geoportal developed by the Conservancy at Selva Maya.

[7] The National Strategy for Fire Management in Guatemala is a crucial instrument to address in a comprehensive and long-term manner the problems and negative impacts of fire in the country. This strategy, which covers the period from 2023 to 2032, aims to minimise the devastating impacts of forest fires while promoting beneficial effects on ecosystems and Guatemalan society.. INAB, 2019.

[8] Yaxhá Nakum - Naranjo National Park (PNYNN); 2. Mirador Rio Azul National Park (PNMRA); 3. Chiquibul Mayan Mountains Biosphere Reserve (RBMMCH); 4. Tikal National Park (PANAT); 5. Sierra de Lacandón National Park (PNSL); 6. Ceibal Cultural Monument; 8. Aguateca Cultural Monument; 9. Dos Pilas Cultural Monument; 10. Petexbatún Wildlife Refuge; 11. Naachtún Las Lagunas Biotope; 12. San Miguel La Plotada - el Zotz Biotope; 13. 14. Montecristo National Park (Trifinio).

[9] WCS, Environmental Justice Forum, ARCAS, WWF, ACOFOP, BALAM, Calmecac, TNC, Rainforest Alliance, Conexión, swisscontact, NPV, FUNDAECO, Defensores de la Naturaleza, among others.

[10] Including reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

[11] Integrated and comprehensive statistical framework for organising data on habitats and landscapes, measuring ecosystem services, tracking changes in ecosystem assets and linking this information to economic and other human activities. https://seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting

[12] Mair, L et al., (2021). A metric for spatially explicit contributions to science-based species targets. Nat. Ecol. Evol. 1-8. https://doi.org/10.1038 /s41559-021-01432-0

[13] IUCN. 2023. Other area-based conservation measures (OMEC): conceptual guide and guidelines for their identification and monitoring in Central America. Available at: https://www.iucn.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/otras-medidas-de-conservacion-basadas-en-area-omec-2023-12-15-2-1_0.pdf

[14] The data used by INAB is the barometer of catering (Available at: https://restauracionforestal.inab.gob.gt/index.php/mapas) and Forest landscape restoration opportunities in Guatemala (2018. Mesa Nacional de Restauración del Paisaje Forestal de Guatemala. Available at: https://www.inab.gob.gt/images/publicaciones/guatemala_oportunidades_de_restauracion_en_guatemala.pdf) and a Forest Landscape Restoration Toolkit.

[15] Projects and partners with which activity 2.3.1.1 will be coordinated: Selva Maya II (IUCN/ KFW Development Bank), Biodiverse Landscapes Fund (WCS/UK DEFRA).

[16] Profitable restoration models will be prioritised for community groups based on previous experience in the area.

[17] The national gap assessment should include suggestions for increasing the designation of funds from other ministries to support the conservation processes of primary forests and associated livelihoods.

[18] FCRP is a fund that has been designed by TNC to promote forest conservation and restoration in the Selva Maya region. According to information provided by TNC during the project development process, the FCRP has already been designed, but still needs support to become operational.

[19] Including products within credit lines that promote risk sharing along chains/systems.

[20] Mair, L et al., (2021). A metric for spatially explicit contributions to science-based species targets. Nat. Ecol. Evol. 1-8. https://doi.org/10.1038 /s41559-021-01432-0

[21] **Framework Law on Climate Change - Decree 7-2013. ARTICLE 19. Compensation for emissions.** When greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels are greater than those that would be produced if they were produced by non-fossil fuels, they must be compensated through the development of projects and activities that reduce or absorb such emissions / The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources shall develop an incentive program to encourage voluntary activities to reduce or absorb greenhouse gas emissions / The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources shall develop the corresponding regulations. Available at: Ley Marco de Cambio Climático - Decreto 7-2013 - Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (marn.gob.gt).

[22]FCCF - Investing in business models for tropical forest restoration

[23] From Belize, Mexico and Guatemala (e.g. the Mesoamerican Virtual Centre of Excellence in Forest Monitoring, CMICEF) in the case of Selva Maya and Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras in the case of Trifinio.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this child project, including framework and mechanisms for coordination, governance, financial management and procurement. This should include consideration for linking with other relevant initiatives at country-level (if a country child project) or regional/global level (for coordination platform child project). If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

IUCN is the Implementing Agency (IA) of the GEF and will be responsible for the overall quality assurance and supervision of the project, while the Executing Agencies (EAs), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) for Trifinio and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for Selva Mayan, will manage and execute the GEF funds, under the supervision of IUCN.

Governance and technical advice:

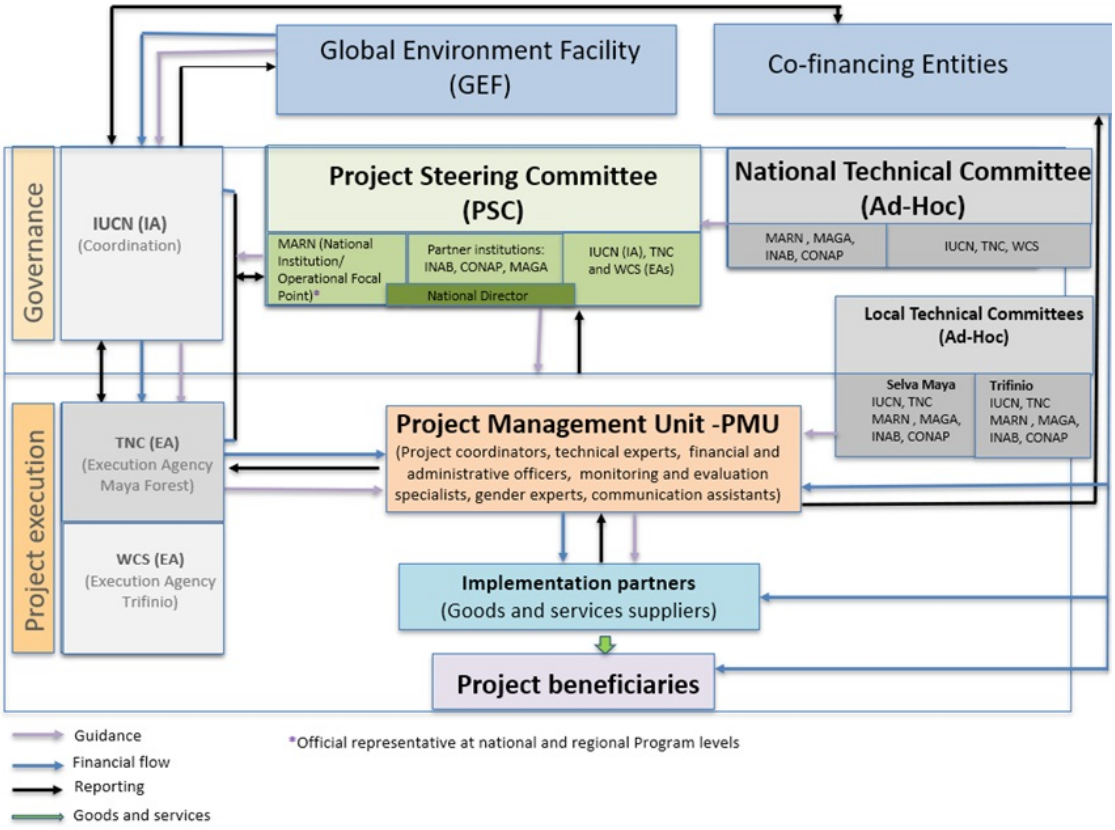
A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established as the highest level of project governance and to provide strategic guidance for the project. The PSC has the role to provide overall guidance and recommendations; ensure that the project maintains its objectives and achieves the expected results; address project issues raised by the Project Management Unit (PMU); review and validate the annual project work plan; monitor project risks and mitigation measures implemented and validate the annual project implementation report. The PSC will also be responsible for appointing a National Coordinator. The PSC will be chaired by MARN as the national focal point of the Guatemala project and as Guatemala's representative at the Regional Programme level. IUCN, as GEF Implementing Agency, will act as Secretariat of the PSC. PSC members (MARN, IUCN, CONAP, Plan Trifinio, TNC, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) and National Forest Institute (INAB) are expected to meet at least every 12 months.

To improve the coordination and planning of activities, a national technical committee will be established, composed of representatives of MARN, MAGA, CONAP, INAB, TNC, WCS and IUCN The technical committee will be consulted ad hoc and provide technical advice when requested by the PSC. Two local technical committees will also be established in both regions targeted by the project with representatives of the same institutions composing the national technical committee. The local committees in selva Maya and Trifinio will be consulted and provide technical advice when requested by the PMU.

Implementation:

Execution agencies will recruit a project management team with experience in managing international funds to establish the Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU will be composed of a TNC-based team (a technical project coordinator and policy and governance specialist, a biodiversity specialist, a financial mechanisms specialist, a learning and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialist, a gender expert, a communication expert, a financial and administrative assistant); and a WCS-based support team (a biodiversity coordinator and technical expert, a governance and financial mechanisms specialist, a

monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialist, a gender expert, a communication expert, a financial and administrative assistant), who will be recruited through a competitive process based on the implementing agencies' fiduciary and procurement guidance. The PMU will coordinate directly with the project implementation team in the implementing agencies and will be responsible for carrying out day-to-day implementation by coordinating and supporting project implementation, overseeing activities throughout the project life cycle and operating in close consultation and coordination with local governments and other relevant stakeholders.



Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this child project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

n/a

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed project in Guatemala will leverage existing initiatives to maximize results and cost-effectiveness. It will work alongside projects being implemented in the region by ACOFOP, Asociación Balam, and various other organizations.

ACOFOP's 'Tenure facility' and 'More prosperous and resilient landscapes' initiatives align with the project's goals. Asociación Balam brings complementary efforts like watershed management and ecological restoration projects.

IUCN's project Selva Maya II will also be an important related project to enhance complementarity and synergy of efforts. The two project will be able to work together to leverage efforts in increasing participation of local communities in the planning and management of protected areas through close collaboration of project

implementation teams. Coordination between the teams will work towards the combination of efforts to avoid overlapping activities and enhance complementarity.

The project also complements and gains co-financing from HEIFER's 'Restoration Training' program, which trains farmers in climate-smart practices and disaster resilience. This directly supports the project's activities on community-managed projects and sustainable production training.

Furthermore, co-financing will be provided by:

- Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala (cash and in-kind)
- Defensores de la Naturaleza (in-kind) through its USAID-funded biodiversity conservation activities
- Fundación Naturaleza para la Vida (in-kind) across all project components, including monitoring and evaluation
- The Nature Conservancy's Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Support Programme will contribute cash and in-kind support, particularly for local forest protection and sustainable use initiatives. Similarly, WWF's 'Saving Nature, Empowering People' project in Guatemala will co-finance community livelihood activities.

Finally, all project components will receive co-financing from Guatemalan government ministries (MARN, INAB, CONAP) and international organizations (WCS, TNC, CALMECAC Foundation). This collaborative approach ensures the project builds upon existing efforts and leverages expertise and resources for a more significant impact.

Table On Core Indicators

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	691338	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	691338	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Biotopo Naachtún Las Lagunas	102817	Strict Nature Reserve		30,719.00			53.00		
Biotopo San Miguel La Plotada – el Zotz	30606	Strict Nature Reserve		34,934.00			66.00		
Monumento Cultural Aguateca	12570	Natural Monument or Feature		1,683.00			29.00		
Monumento Cultural Ceibal	302086	Natural Monument or Feature		1,512.00			48.00		
Monumento Cultural Dos Pilas	12572	Natural Monument or Feature		3,120.00			29.00		
Parque Nacional Mirador Rio Azul (PNMRA)	30604	National Park		116,911.00			54.00		
Parque Nacional Sierra de Lacandón (PNSL)	30605	National Park		202,865.00			60.00		
Parque Nacional Tikal (PANAT)	197	National Park		55,005.00			71.00		
Parque Nacional Yaxhá Nakum - Naranjo (PNYNN)	342460	National Park		37,160.00			73.00		
Refugio de Vida Silvestre El Pucté	102910	Wilderness Area		16,695.00			22.00		

Refúgio de Vida Silvestre Petexbatún	115079	Wilderness Area		4,044.00			22.00		
Reserva Biológica San Roman	30618	Strict Nature Reserve		60,878.00			22.00		
Reserva Biosfera Trifinio (Montecristo)	26621	National Park		2,127.00			46.00		
Reserva de Biosfera Montanas Mayas Chiquibul (RBMMCH)	30614	National Park		123,685.00			47.00		

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
15100	21380	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland	3,500.00	4,866.00		
Rangeland and pasture	1,600.00	1,365.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00	15,149.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
34180	19035	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6,000.00	19,035.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
21,977.00	0.00		

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6,203.00	0.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Undisturbed Tropical Rainforest of the Maya Forest and Trifinio			19,035.00		

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	948095	12738964	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	1870656	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	948,095	12,738,964		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	1,870,656	0		

Anticipated start year of accounting	2024	2024		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem	Lempa	Lempa		
Count	1	1	0	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagonostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministeral Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN throgh participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Lempa	4	1		

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	3,000	3,031		
Male	7,000	7,072		
Total	**10,000**	**10,103**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

-Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management: 691,338ha

Sum of the areas designated as Protected Areas within the project area for the Trifinio Maya Forest and Selva where the project will be implemented.

Indicator 1.2 Improved management effectiveness of terrestrial protected areas: 691,338ha:

Selva Maya region: 689,211 ha with improved management effectiveness.

Trifinio region: 2,127 ha with improved management efficiency.

Mayan Forest:

Protected areas supported in the intervention area of the GEF-8 project in Selva Maya – Guatemala include: 1. Yaxhá Nakum - Naranjo National Park (PNYNN); 2. Mirador Rio Azul National Park (PNMRA); 3. Chiquibul Mayan Mountains Biosphere Reserve (RBMMCH); 4. Tikal National Park, 5. Sierra de Lacandón National Park (PNSL), 6. San Roman Biological Reserve; 7. Ceibal Cultural Monument; 8. Aguateca Cultural Monument; 9. Dos Pilas Cultural Monument; 10. Petexbatún Wildlife Refuge Refugio, 11. Biotope Naachtún Las Lagunas, 12. Biotope San Miguel La Plotada - the Zotz and 13. El Pucté Wildlife Refuge. A total área of 689,211 ha Will be targeted.

Trifinio:

The protected area supported in the intervention area of the GEF-8 project in the Trifinio region -– Guatemala is the Montecristo National Park, totalling 2,127ha.

-Indicator 3: Area and ecosystems restored: 21,379.40 ha

The information used to establish the area of land and ecosystems under restoration (indicators 3.1 and 3.2) was:

1) As a baseline: the sum of the areas identified by the Guatemala project as having restoration potential, following the criteria below: continued:

- all deforested areas between 2001 and 2022 of the Joint Research Centre (JRC): 894 ha deforested in the project intervention area in Trifinio and 141,406 ha deforested for Selva Maya, where "Forest Restoration" would be implemented;
- restoration opportunities generated by the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) applied by INAB where 112,581 ha were identified for the Trifinio forest and 102,954 ha for Selva Maya where: riparian forest, agroforestry, forest lands for production and protection, silvopastoral systems, among others, could be implemented.
- In total, 118,064 ha could be restored in Trifinio and 247,980 ha in Selva Maya.

2) Different types of catering:

- Area of degraded agricultural land under restoration ("Cropland" and "Grassland and pasture"); and

- Area of forest and forest land under restoration.

Indicator 3.1 - Area of degraded agricultural land under restoration: 6,231 ha

Arable land: 4,866ha.

Grassland and pasture: 1,365ha.

Indicator 3.2 - Area of forest and forest land under restoration: 15,149 ha

-Indicator 4: Area of landscapes with improved practices: 19,034.60

Sum of the areas where OMEC could potentially be implemented within the project area. According to the analysis conducted to identify potential areas for OMEC located around the Montecristo National Park, a total of 15,927 ha was identified. In addition, 85,864 ha were identified as having potential for OMEC in the Selva Maya region. The areas identified as OMEC include virgin tropical rainforest (high OMEC potential), degraded lands (low potential) and secondary forest (medium potential). In addition, these areas are not official protected areas of Guatemala and have medium to very high-water recharge potential.

Indicator 4.1: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (Indicator 4.5 - Terrestrial OECM supported): 19,034.60 ha

The project target for the Core indicator 4.1, Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (also related to Indicator 4.5, Terrestrial OECM supported) was estimated based on the assessment of areas where OMEC could potentially be implemented in the Selva Maya region as well as in the Trifinio region in Guatemala. According to the analysis conducted to identify potential areas for OMEC located around the Montecristo National Park in Trifinio, a total of 15,927 ha was identified. In addition, 85,864 ha were identified as having potential for OMEC in the Selva Maya region. The total of these areas identified as potential OMEC include “Undisturbed Tropical Rain Forest” (high OMEC potential), “Secondary Tropical Humid Forest” (medium potential), and “Degraded Tropical Rainforest” (low potential). The project’s support to OMEC will be focused on the “Undisturbed Tropical Rain Forest” areas, which are the high potential areas for OMEC. The target is an area of 19,035 hectares (16,829.28+2,205.34) corresponding to:

- 62% of undisturbed tropical rainforest identified in Selva Maya (62% of a total of 27,144 ha) = 16,829.28 ha; plus
- 62% of undisturbed tropical rainforest identified in Trifinio (62% of a total of 3557 ha) = 2,205.34 ha. The exact areas will be identified, systematized and named during the project implementation phase.

-Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated: 12,738,964 metric tonnes of CO2.

The "Mitigated greenhouse gas emissions" for Guatemala were performed using the EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT) version 9.4.1. The calculations were based on the assumption of a humid tropical climate with highly active clay soils, with an implementation phase of 5 years and a capitalisation phase of 15 years for the project. The global warming potential was calculated using the AR6 figures for 100 years. Emission reductions from avoided deforestation were based on the assumption of a tropical moist deciduous forest type, which is converted to grassland, starting from 435,730 ha (Core Indicator 4) and reducing by 49% to 223.514 ha without the project and by 48% to 226,580 ha with the project (using the areas and deforestation rates taken from the baseline studies, which can be found in the tables in the "Calculations" tab of the EX-ACT spreadsheet). Afforestation/reforestation efforts on 13,678 ha (of riparian and production forest in Indicator 3.2) resulted in a land-use change from degraded land to planted tropical moist deciduous forest, as well as 1,471 ha (of previously deforested land in Indicator 3.2) resulted in a land-use change from degraded land to tropical moist deciduous forest (by natural regeneration). Other land use changes included restoration of degraded land to 569 ha of agroforestry, 4,297 ha of parkland and 1,365 ha of silvopasture, all involving reduced tillage and low carbon organic matter input, and no biomass burning. The management of forest degradation involved an initial degradation of 42% of the rainforest, rising to 57% without the project (calculated from the figures in the baseline studies which can be found in the "Calculations" tab of the EX-ACT spreadsheet) and 56% with the project, all without fire.

Indicator 6.5: Carbon sequestered or avoided emissions in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector (direct): 12,738,964 metric tonnes of CO2e.

Indicator 7: Shared aquatic ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

The project will contribute to the discussion around the development of a financial mechanism for water conservation in the Trifinio/Fraternidad area.

-Indicator 11: 10,103 persons (3,031 women/7,032 men)

Direct beneficiaries: 10,103 people

The entire population of the communities in the project intervention areas (people who benefit from conservation activities, sustainable use or restoration of the areas, investments in restoration and sustainable land management) and people who will participate in capacity building at local, regional and national level will directly benefit from the project. The direct beneficiaries were estimated taking into account the local census and the knowledge of the communities.

Indirect beneficiaries: 106,291 persons (31,887 women/ 74,404 men)

Includes the population of the municipalities in the project target area (people benefiting from biodiversity conservation, sustainable use or restoration, investments in restoration and sustainable land management, support for climate change mitigation and capacity building).

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Substantial	According to climate predictions, Guatemala will be strongly affected by climate change, especially due to its high vulnerability. Rural livelihoods and forests are expected to be severely affected. Mitigation strategies: Ensure alignment of programme actions with national and regional climate change strategies and action plans.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	See preliminary ESMS (Annex D) Mitigation strategies: Prepare and implement action plans for indigenous peoples, gender issues and stakeholder participation.
Political and Governance	Low	Although Guatemala has experienced periods of political instability, the situation has improved in recent years and government institutions have been involved in the design of the project. Mitigation strategies: Maintain fluid communication with relevant authorities at regional, national, sub-national and local levels. When changes in authorities occur, report progress and provide information.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	At both national and regional (SICA) levels, policy and strategic frameworks are broadly supportive of the Programme's objectives. Policy coherence will be strengthened and maintained at regional level through close collaboration with CCAD, CAC and national government authorities (CONAP, INAB, MARN and MAGA). Mitigation strategies: Maintain fluid communication with key stakeholders to foster policy coherence. Present objective information to support sound analysis and decision-making.
Technological	Low	The project has been designed on the basis of input received from countries during an inception workshop, ensuring coherence at the programmatic level Mitigation strategies: Maintain a participatory approach during project implementation.
Financial and Business Model		
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	Institutional capacities to execute project activities are insufficient. Mitigation strategies: Establish alliances with partners that can support the development of relevant capacities. The technical, financial and operational capacity of the project executing entities that will be executing the project has also been verified in a due diligence process.
Fiduciary	Low	IUCN, as well as the GEF Guatemala Project Agency, have strong financial management and financial control systems in place. Mitigation strategies: no additional measures required.
Stakeholder	Low	Transformational change will require strong stakeholder engagement and participation throughout programme implementation. Mitigation strategies:

		Prepare sound stakeholder analyses and action plans. Ensure communication and collaboration with key stakeholders during programme implementation.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The project presents a moderate overall risk and mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise any potential negative impact on the implementation of the project and the achievement of the expected results.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies, including the specific integrated program priorities, and country and regional priorities, Describe how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements, such as through NDCs, NBSAPs, etc.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed project will contribute to four of the Global Environmental Benefits of the GEF and the GEF-8 programming architecture: (i) conserve biodiversity, (ii) mitigate greenhouse emissions, (iii) advance sustainable land management, and (iv) improve water-food-energy ecosystem security in the Trifinio forest-water system. The project is also aligned with the GEF forest strategy, which focuses on maintaining and restoring the integrity and functionality of forest ecosystems to combat the global crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and pollution.

The proposed project will contribute to another initiative linked to the GEF multi-country collaboration through the International Water Facility in the Trifinio area, to broaden the dialogue on solutions and evidence on the contribution of forests to water management in the upper and middle zone of the transboundary Lempa river basin -Guatemala/El Salvador-. The transboundary water model to manage the Trifinio hydrological system will provide specific tools, adapted governance mechanisms, regulation, communication and optimised water management practices considering key water recharge areas and forests in the Trifinio aquifer for investment towards water security (quality and quantity). Differentiated integrated strategies will be established that take into account the conservation of transboundary ecosystem services, social equity and economic development, with special attention to the importance of forests, PAs and OMECs in mitigating cumulative water stress due to climate change.

The programme will draw on the experiences and lessons learned from the following projects:

- Integrated Management of the Montecristo Tri-national Protected Area (GEF ID 2686) implemented from 2006 to 2011 by the IDB in El Salvador, Guatemala.
- Tropical forest protection and watershed management in the Trifinio region in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras implemented from 2012 to 2018 by GIZ and the Tri-national Commission for the Trifinio Plan.

The programme will coordinate actions with the following ongoing initiatives:

- Protection of the Trifinio Transboundary Biosphere Reserve sponsored by KfW and implemented by the Tri-national Trifinio Plan Commission.

- The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by UNDP in all Mesoamerican countries.

In addition to GEF initiatives, the project is also aligned with SICA regional policies and instruments, including:

- The Regional Environmental Strategy Framework (2021-2025): The project is in line with the strategic line 'Sustainable Forests and Landscapes' of the ERAM and contributes to the four expected results (4.1 to 4.4) which focus on landscape governance, increased forest restoration, increased value of forests and the development of instruments, tools and mechanisms for the sustainable use of forests.

- Regional Climate Change Strategy: The project is in line with strategic objective 1.3 to reduce the vulnerability of forest ecosystems and biodiversity through policies, incentives and scientific knowledge creation. Action 1.3.2 focuses on the development of policies and economic incentives, including the implementation of payment for ecosystem services, implementing REDD processes, and including a gender perspective.

- Regional agri-environment and health strategy (2009-2024): The project will help advance three action lines: (i) Action line 2.5, action 2.5.2 to reduce emissions from deforestation, (ii) Action line 3.1, action 3.1.3 to improve the management of protected areas, and (iii) Action line 4.5 to incentivise and strengthen businesses linked to conservation.

- Regional Strategic Programme for Forest Ecosystem Management: The project will contribute to the four components of PERFOR: (i) component 1 focusing on strengthening governance, including land rights, participation of indigenous peoples and women, (ii) component 2 including the empowerment of community forestry, (iii) component 3 including the development of new financial instruments, including payment for forest ecosystem services, and (iv) component 4 including the establishment of cross-sectoral policies and plans and the promotion of forest restoration.

- Trifinio Plan: The project is in line with strategic action 3 of the 2010 - 2020 strategy, which focuses on integrated natural resource management with emphasis on the conservation of water-producing ecosystems, including the development of financial mechanisms to strengthen protected areas and the protection of critical areas.

- Rural Youth Strategy for the SICA region (2022-2030): Project activities will support the implementation of this strategy in the targeted intact forest landscapes.

- Regional Policy on Gender Equality and Equity of the Central American Integration System PRIEG/SICA (2014-2025): In line with this policy, the project will take affirmative actions to encourage women to participate in governance and decision-making processes and in the development of productive initiatives linked to the forest.

At the national level, the project is aligned with several policies and instruments related to biodiversity, climate change and forestry. These include:

- Guatemala's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2012 - 2022: The project is aligned with Axis 2: Conservation and restoration of biological diversity and Axis 3: Sustainable use of biological diversity and its ecosystem services;

- Guatemala's National Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions Development Strategy: Project activities will contribute to achieving Guatemala's target of reducing 1.236 million tonnes of CO2 e in the period 2019-2050, with a combination of avoided emissions and direct removals within the forestry and land use sector.

- National REDD+ Guatemala Strategy (2020-2050)- ENREDD+: The project is aligned with the objective of the ENREDD+ which is oriented towards the articulation of forest governance to create or operate existing public policy instruments that allow the incorporation of different actors and social and productive processes in the reversal of the causes of deforestation through recovery and protection actions.

- National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy of Guatemala: Mechanism for the Sustainable Rural Development of Guatemala 2015 - 2045: The project is in line with the following objectives:

    - Strategic Objective 1: Restore the forest landscape through sustainable mechanisms that increase the supply of ecosystem goods and services that increase employment, incomes of the beneficiary population and contribute to competitiveness.

    - Strategic objective 2: Restore Guatemala's degraded forest landscape to restore and maintain biodiversity through the provision of ecosystem goods and services for improved livelihoods.

    - Strategic Objective 3: Promote the development of technical, financial and administrative capacities of state institutions, Indigenous Peoples, community organisations and the private sector in decision-making for the effective and transparent implementation of the objectives of the ENRPF.

    - Strategic Objective: Strengthen governance in the territory through decentralisation and the integration of stakeholders to reach agreements and consensus aimed at restoring the forest landscape.

7. The project is also aligned with the following international frameworks:

    - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The project's objective to promote conservation and restoration of forest is directly in line with the main goal of the UNFCCC to mitigate GHG emissions. Forest conservation contributes directly to maintain carbon stocks and reduce emissions coming from deforestation.

    - United Nations Framework Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD): The project is directly contributing to the UNCBD's aim to conserve biological diversity by preserving habitats and ecosystems that support diverse species of fauna and flora.

    - Kumming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: The proposed project outcomes will directly contribute to achieving the framework's targets 1, 2 and 3 to reduce threats to biodiversity, as well as targets 10 and 11 related to meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the child Project Description (Section B).

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the child project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the child project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Child Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement**.**

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ;

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the Child project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B “Child project description”?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed child project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided. This includes budget for linking with and participation in knowledge exchange activities organized through the coordination platform.

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the child project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

Some of the socio-economic benefits that the project will support are:

- Improved livelihoods for local communities:

The project focus on supporting community-managed projects and sustainable production practices (Component 1 & 2) will lead to increased income and improved living standards for people living near the Selva Maya forests.
Activities like capacity building for forest and biodiversity management (Component 1) will also equip local actors with valuable skills for future similar initiatives.

- Sustainable forest management:

The project emphasizes protecting primary forests through various activities (Component 1 & 2) which will lead to a more sustainable approach to forestry, potentially creating long-term economic benefits.

- Ecotourism potential:

Protecting the Selva Maya's biodiversity could enhance the region's ecotourism potential, which has the potential for creating new jobs in the tourism sector and generate income for local communities.

- Knowledge sharing and capacity building:

The project's collaborative approach (Component 2) with local and international organizations will lead to knowledge sharing and capacity building within communities. This will empower them to manage resources more effectively and contribute to long-term sustainability.

- Gender and social inclusion:

As the project emphasizes incorporating women, youth, and indigenous peoples, this could ensure a more equitable distribution of project benefits and promote social inclusion.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	5,354,583.00	481,912.00	5,836,495.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	892,431.00	80,319.00	972,750.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	892,431.00	80,319.00	972,750.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	1,784,861.00	160,637.00	1,945,498.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	297,477.00	26,773.00	324,250.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	Grant	297,477.00	26,773.00	324,250.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	International Waters	International Waters: IW IP Contributions	Grant	1,189,610.00	107,065.00	1,296,675.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**10,708,870.00**	**963,798.00**	**11,672,668.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount ($) 300000

PPG Agency Fee ($) 26997

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	150,005.00	13,500.00	163,505.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	25,001.00	2,249.00	27,250.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	25,000.00	2,250.00	27,250.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	50,001.00	4,500.00	54,501.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	8,334.00	749.00	9,083.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	8,333.00	750.00	9,083.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	International Waters	International Waters: IW IP Contributions	33,326.00	2,999.00	36,325.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**300,000.00**	**26,997.00**	**326,997.00**

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	6,000,000.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources					**8,000,000.00**

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)

CFB MesoAmerica IP	GET	10,708,870.00	61042492
Total Project Cost		**10,708,870.00**	**61,042,492.00**

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Civil Society Organization	ACOFOP	Grant	Investment mobilized	1500000
Civil Society Organization	BALAM	In-kind	Investment mobilized	5100000
Recipient Country Government	CONAP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	11017136
Civil Society Organization	Defensores de la Naturaleza	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4000000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1300000
Civil Society Organization	Fundacion Naturaleza para la vida	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	180000
Civil Society Organization	HEIFER	Grant	Investment mobilized	1500000
Recipient Country Government	National Institute of Forest-INAB	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	24070000
GEF Agency	IUCN	Grant	Investment mobilized	6578844
Civil Society Organization	The Nature Conservancy TNC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Civil Society Organization	WWF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400000
Civil Society Organization	CALMECAC	Grant	Investment mobilized	1200000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1430825
Civil Society Organization	WCS	Grant	Investment mobilized	550000
Civil Society Organization	Association of Natural Private Reserves	Grant	Investment mobilized	70748

Civil Society Organization	Association of Natural Private Reserves	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	494939
Civil Society Organization	FUNDAECO	Grant	Investment mobilized	450000
Civil Society Organization	FUNDAECO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200000
Total Co-financing				**61,042,492.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The proposed project in Guatemala mobilized additional investments from the Calmecac Foundation, the Association of Private Natural Reserves of Guatemala, The Nature Conservancy, Heifer International – Guatemala and ACOFOP. In addition, it will work alongside projects being implemented in the region by IUCN, ACOFOP, Asociación Balam, and various other organizations. ACOFOP's "Tenure facility" and "More prosperous and resilient landscapes" initiatives align with the project's goals. Asociación Balam brings complementary efforts like watershed management and ecological restoration projects. IUCN's project Selva Maya II will also be an important related project to enhance complementarity and synergy of efforts. The two project will be able to work together to leverage efforts in increasing participation of local communities in the planning and management of protected areas through close collaboration of project implementation teams. Coordination between the teams will work towards the combination of efforts to avoid overlapping activities and enhance complementarity. The project also complements and gains co-financing from HEIFER's "Restoration Training" program, which trains farmers in climate-smart practices and disaster resilience. This directly supports the project's activities on community-managed projects and sustainable production training. Furthermore, co-financing will be provided by: Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala (cash and in-kind), Defensores de la Naturaleza (in-kind) through its USAID-funded biodiversity conservation activities, Fundación Naturaleza para la Vida (in-kind) across all project components, including monitoring and evaluation, The Nature Conservancy's Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Support Programme will contribute cash and in-kind support, particularly for local forest protection and sustainable use initiatives. Similarly, WWF's "Saving Nature, Empowering People" project in Guatemala will co-finance community livelihood activities. Finally, all project components will receive co-financing from Guatemalan government ministries (MARN, INAB, CONAP) and international organizations (WCS, TNC, CALMECAC Foundation). This collaborative approach ensures the project builds upon existing efforts and leverages expertise and resources for a more significant impact.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	6/4/2024	Tea Garcia Huidrobo		tea.garciahuidrobo@iucn.org
Project Coordinator	6/4/2024	Nadia Mujica	50660221799	nadia.mujica@iucn.org

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.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Norman Mendoza	Coordinator of International Cooperation Unit-GEF OPF Guatemala	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	5/3/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document. For the Integrated Programs' global/regional coordination child project, please include the program-wide results framework, inclusive of results specific to the coordination child project. For any country child project, please ensure that relevant program level indicators are included.

Aim of the project	Basic indicators	Baseline	Objective(s)	Source of verification	Assumptions
To conserve the critical ecosystems of the Maya Forest and the Trifinio region, while improving the well-being of local communities.	Core indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	**0**	**691,338**	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	There is ongoing and effective collaboration with local communities and stakeholders throughout the project, ensuring their involvement in the creation and improved management of terrestrial protected areas. It is assumed that there is continued support from government authorities and a shared understanding of the long-term benefits of conservation and sustainable use of these areas. Political and social stability is also maintained in the region to facilitate an enabling environment for the effective management of protected areas.
	Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored (Hectares)	**0**	**21,379**	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that surface restoration practices will be implemented efficiently and effectively, in collaboration with other project partners, such as INAB, and taking into account the specific conditions of the local ecosystem. Furthermore, it is assumed that local communities and other key stakeholders will be actively involved in the restoration process, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the restored areas. The continued availability of financial and technical resources to carry out restoration activities is considered a key factor for the success of the project.
	Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes with improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	**0**	**19,035**	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that the implementation of improved practices in landscapes, excluding protected areas, will be carried out in an effective and sustainable manner. This implies that local communities and other relevant stakeholders will be willing and able to adopt these practices. It is

					believed that agreements and policies are in place at local and regional levels that support the implementation of improved practices in these landscapes. Furthermore, it is assumed that continuous monitoring and evaluation will ensure adherence to improved practices over time.
	Core indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (metric tonnes of CO2e)	0	**12,738,964**	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that the measures implemented to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions will be effective and sustainable throughout the project. This implies that the technologies and practices adopted will be effective in reducing emissions and that their implementation will be continuous. It also implies that there is a continued commitment by all stakeholders, including local communities, governments and companies, to maintain and improve mitigation measures. Policies and regulations at local and national level will also be maintained to support these mitigation actions over time.
	Core Indicator 7: Shared aquatic ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management	0	**1**	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	The project will contribute to the discussion around the development of a financial mechanism for water conservation in the Trifinio/Fraternidad area.
	Core Indicator 11: Persons benefiting from GEF-financed investments, disaggregated by gender	0	**10,103 beneficiaries** **(30% women, 3,031 women beneficiaries)** **10,000 estimated beneficiaries in the communities in the project areas, government agents at national level and municipal agents and extension agents at regional level (103).**	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	National and local governments remain politically committed. Tenure and governance conditions in the selected sites are favourable for reforestation, sustainable management practices and maintenance. Beneficiaries maintain their interest and actively participate in project activities. The project area is not severely disturbed by an extreme weather event affecting seedling production and reforestation activities. The entire population of the communities in the project intervention areas (people who benefit from conservation activities, sustainable use or

					restoration of the areas, investments in restoration and sustainable land management) and people who will participate in capacity building at local, regional and national level will directly benefit from the project. The entire population of the municipalities in the project's target area (people who benefit indirectly from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity, investments in restoration and sustainable land management, support for climate change mitigation and capacity building) will indirectly benefit from the project. (Indirect beneficiaries:106,291 30% women: 31,887).

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
Component 1 - Enabling conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests						
Outcome 1.1: Strengthened local, national and regional governance mechanisms in support of primary forest conservation.	Indicator 1: Number of local, national and regional governance structures strengthened, using a gender and social inclusive approach.	0	5	7	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Strong political will and commitment of national and municipal governments. Effective collaboration and coordination between different levels of government institutions and local governance organisations (CONAP, COAL, biosphere reserve

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						committees, tri-national biosphere reserve committees). Security conditions in place to foster effective environmental governance mechanisms. Mechanisms for social inclusion within governance structures. The project will strengthen 7 governance structures: CONAP at the national level by strengthening its co-administration system (SIGAP); at the local level by strengthening the Mayan Biosphere Reserve and Trifinio Biosphere Reserve Committees and supporting the Trifinio and Selva Maya Local Advisory Committees (COAL). Expected results also include strengthening the

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						Tri-national Trifinio Biosphere Reserve Committee and the Trinational Selva Maya Committee by supporting and facilitating engagement and coordination with the Trifinio LAC and Selva Maya LAC.
	Indicator 2: Number of local, national and regional instruments that use positive criteria for nature in their design and implementation and using a gender and social inclusive approach.	0	2	2	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Strong political will and commitment from national and municipal governments. Effective collaboration and cooperation between government agencies and local governance organisations. Flexibility and adaptability of policy instruments to accommodate and prioritise urgent environmental challenges. Social inclusion mechanisms in instruments. The project will focus on the implementation of

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						the governance programme of the master plan of the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) and the Trifinio Biosphere Reserve (TBR) as instruments that use positive criteria for nature in their design and application and that integrate mechanisms of social inclusion.
Products to achieve result 1.1	Output 1.1.1: Awareness and advocacy plan for the protection and conservation of primary forests targeted at policy makers, sectoral bodies and the private sector. Outcome 1.1.2: Local and national governance structures are strengthened to improve the effectiveness of protection and conservation of primary forests. -					
Outcome 1.2: Key national and regional policy and regulatory instruments prioritise the conservation of primary forests.	Indicator 3: Number of updated policies and regulations supporting the protection and conservation of primary forests and using a gender and social inclusive approach.	0	2	8	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Strong political will and commitment from governments and effective collaboration and cooperation between government agencies and local governance organisations. Social inclusion mechanisms in policies and regulations.

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						In order to improve policy and regulatory instruments in the project areas to support the conservation and restoration of primary forests, the project will support, at the municipal level (Trifinio: municipalities of Concepción Las Minas and Esquipula/ Selva Maya: municipalities of Flores, Melchor de Mencos, San Andrés and San José), the updating of the Municipal Forest Plans as well as the Municipal Development and Land Use Plans with a focus on gender and social inclusion. In addition, support will be given to the updating of guidelines and regulations on land use in the multiple-use zones of the Protected Areas in the region of the Maya Biosphere Reserve and the

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						Trifinio Biosphere Reserve. -
Outputs to achieve the result 1.2	Outcome 1.2.1: Policies, regulations and cross-sectoral instruments updated at national and sub-national levels that support the protection and conservation of primary forests. Outcome 1.2.2: Information to support evidence-based decision-making on forest conservation interventions.					
Outcome 1.3: Improved multi-sectoral platforms for forest conservation and management.	Indicator 4: Number of multi-sectoral agreements supporting the conservation of primary forests established or strengthened and using a gender and social inclusive approach.	0	0	1	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Strong political will and effective collaboration and cooperation between multi-sectoral stakeholders. Flexibility and adaptability of platforms to prioritise the most pressing environmental challenges. A regulation for the functioning of the AFOLU Guatemala Roundtable will be developed to align strategies and ensure

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						coherence with national and environmental objectives. This will include the elaboration of a protocol for the participation and inclusion of civil society comments on the issues addressed by the AFOLU Guatemala Roundtable. _
	Indicator 5: Number of public and private declarations of political commitment related to the conservation of primary forests.	0	0	2	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Strong political will, as well as from private sector actors. Effective collaboration and cooperation between multi-sectoral stakeholders. By enhancing multi-sectoral platforms and through participation and dialogue between governmental, private sector and civil society actors, the project will boost the commitment of governmental and private sector actors to forest conservation and

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						management. It is expected that, during the project implementation period, public and private sector actors will each make at least one commitment (financial or public statement) related to forest conservation and management. _
	Indicator 6: Number of indigenous and tribal peoples', women's and rural youth organisations participating in decision-making processes at regional, national and/or local level.	0	23 **13 female** **10 male**	23 **13 female** **10 male**	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in governance structures and institutional frameworks. Social inclusion mechanisms established and supported by regional, national and municipal governments engaged in conservation actions, effective collaboration and cooperation between multi-sectoral actors. The project will ensure that

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						representatives of women, rural youth and indigenous peoples participate in the information gathering workshop with civil society to inform the work of the AFOLU national roundtable. Women representatives from the COCODES (8 COCODES), young people from the fire-fighting groups (5 groups), and 2 representatives (1 female and 1 male) from the following indigenous peoples' organisations (5 organisation- 10 participants) will participate: Consejo de Mujeres indígenas y Biodiversidad, Organización de Mujeres Mamá Maquín, Asociación Campesinas indígenas para el Desarrollo Integral de Petén, Consejo Indígena

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						Maya Ch'orti' de Olopa Chiquimula, and Asociación Indígena Campesina Maya Ch'orti Nuevo Dia. The project will also develop guidance and provide training to the Programme of Forest Incentives for Small Forest or Agroforestry Land Owners (PINPEP), the Programme of Incentives for the Establishment, Recovery, Restoration, Management, Production and Protection (PROBOSQUE), and the Programme of Emission Reduction (PRE), and will develop adapted participation methodologies (quotas) to increase access to subsidies and services from these institutions to women and landless youth,

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						and to strengthen the participation of women and young people with no access to land, and the Emissions Reduction Programme (PRE), and will develop adapted participation methodologies (quotas) to increase access to subsidies and services from these institutions for landless women and youth and to strengthen local governance and improve effectiveness in forest protection and conservation.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.3	Outcome 1.3.1: National multi-sectoral platforms established or strengthened. Outcome 1.3.2: Affirmative actions to integrate indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes.					
Component 2 - Accelerated protection and restoration of primary forests						

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
Outcome 2.1: Improved protection of primary forests in protected areas.	Indicator 7: Increased management effectiveness of protected areas that include primary forests with METT scores that improved by at least 10%. .	0	5%	10%	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Strong political will and commitment from regional, national and municipal governments and private sector actors. Effective collaboration and cooperation between multi-sectoral stakeholders. Measures in place to improve the effective management of protected areas. 1. Yaxhá Nakum - Naranjo National Park (PNYNN); 2. Mirador Rio Azul National Park (PNMRA); 3. Chiquibul Mayan Mountains Biosphere Reserve (RBMMCH); 4. Tikal National Park, 5. Sierra de Lacandón National Park (PNSL), 6. San Roman Biological Reserve; 7. Ceibal Cultural Monument; 8. Aguateca Cultural Monument; 9. Dos Pilas Cultural Monument; 10.

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						Petexbatún Wildlife Refuge Refugio, 11. Biotope Naachtún Las Lagunas, 12. Biotope San Miguel La Plotada - the Zotz and 13. El Pucté Wildlife Refuge and 14. Parque nacional Montecristo (Trifinio).The METT will be applied in the middle and end of the project.
Results to achieve Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.1.1: Protected area management tools and instruments are strengthened. Output 2.1.2: Regional assessment of the risk of collapse and extent of critical Mesoamerican forest biomes. Outcome 2.1.3: Information on the contribution of protected areas and indigenous peoples to the conservation of primary forests and the advancement of the global biodiversity framework to support evidence-based decision-making.					

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
Outcome 2.2 : Increased area of OECMs that protect the integrity of primary forests and enhance functional connectivity.	Indicator 8: Area (ha) of newly established OECMs that protect the integrity of primary forests and enhance functional connectivity.	0	5.710,38 (30% of the final objective of the project)	19,034.60	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	National and local governments maintain political will and commitment. The national framework/standard for OMEC will be established for the recognition and identification of OMEC in Guatemala. Local actors such as members of the Association of Private Natural Reserves of Guatemala (ARNPG) and organisations that manage communal lands maintain an interest in obtaining recognition for their conservation efforts. A methodology and a GIS application and website will be developed for recognised OMECs in Guatemala. 739ha of OMECs established on forest protection lands.

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						In coordination and with the collaboration of project partners (CONAP, INAB, TNC, WWF, ACOFOP, BALAM Association, NPV, FDN among others) at least 19,000ha of landscape area will be supported under improved management for the benefit of biodiversity, proposing forest management plans, conservation and forest-friendly production practices.
Results to achieve Outcome 2.2	Outcome 2.2.1: National frameworks or protocols for the implementation of OECM. Outcome 2.2.2: National networks of OECMs supporting the conservation of primary forests are established.					
Outcome 2.3: Ongoing restoration of 21,379 ha to increase connectivity of primary forests.	Indicator 9: Area of land restored (=GEF CI-3) (ha)	0	6,413.82 (30% of the final target)	21,379.40	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Strong political will and commitment from regional, national and municipal governments and private sector actors.

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
	Indicator 10: % of women participating in the prioritisation process of areas to be restored restoration of and as beneficiary of the projects supported.	0	30%	30%		The interest of landowners and organisations in charge of land management in forest restoration models, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems is expected to be maintained. In coordination and with the collaboration of project partners (CONAP, INAB, TNC, WWF, ACOFOP, Asociación BALAM, NPV, FDN among others) at least 21,000ha of restored area will be supported to increase the connectivity of primary forests, including the implementation of agroforestry systems, silvopastoral systems, restoration of riparian forests, and degraded areas with potential for regeneration and reforestation.

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						The project will support the implementation of nurseries, community gardens, and agroforestry systems. Priority projects will be identified with communities and in partnership with CONAP, INAB, ACOFOP, TNC, the Forest and Climate Change Fund (FCCF) and PACUNAM. The project will finance the necessary studies and plans for the implementation of restoration activities and ensure that women and youth participate in the prioritisation of community restoration areas[53][1] and benefit from the projects to be supported.
Results to achieve Outcome 2.3	Output 2.3.1: Updated assessment of priority areas for landscape restoration in the Mesoamerican Forest. Outcome 2.3.2: Key priority areas for community restoration.					

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
Component 3: Innovative financing and investment						
Outcome 3.1: Increased financial resources for the conservation of primary forests.	Indicator 11: Number of MoUs signed with new public and private financial partners contributing to the protection and conservation of primary forests and the development of available local livelihoods.	0	0	2	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Strong political will and commitment from governments, national and municipal, as well as private sector actors. New public and private financial partners are identified and mobilised through high-level dialogues to contribute financially to protect and conserve primary forests and develop available local livelihoods. It is expected to establish at least one MoU with one public and one private sector partner.
	Indicator 12: Number of financial instruments supported to integrate a gender approach and facilitate access to women.	0	0	1		It is expected that this activity will support the development of at least one financial instrument with focus to facilitate the access to women, youth and indigenous

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						people, following environmental and social safeguards and the commitment to support deforestation free initiatives only.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.1.1: National analyses of financing gaps and barriers to investment in primary forest landscapes and forest-related livelihoods. Outcome 3.1.2: Innovative financing instruments and tools to increase investments in primary forest protection, protected areas, OECM and forest-related livelihoods. Outcome 3.1.3: High-level dialogue meetings to mobilise financial resources through bilateral, multilateral, private and philanthropic channels to sustain long-term conservation of critical forest biomes.					
Result 3.2: Increased number of forest-friendly initiatives	Indicator 13: Number of new enterprises run by women or young people that receive support.	0	4	9	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Continued interest and commitment of stakeholders to participate in project activities.
	Indicator 14: Number of business plans developed to implement forest-friendly goods and services.	0	5	5	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Relevant stakeholders, including companies and investors, are aware of the benefits of forest-friendly goods and services. Supportive policies and regulations are in place to incentivise the development of business plans

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						for forest-friendly goods and services.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.2	Outcome 3.2.1: Innovative mechanisms to promote forest-friendly initiatives. Outcome 3.2.2: Innovative business models to develop forest-friendly goods and services. Outcome 3.2.3: Project preparation mechanism to enable access to private and development finance. Outcome 3.2.4: Promotional and high-impact events to accelerate demand for products from sustainably managed secondary forests and deforestation-free raw materials from Mesoamerica.					
Component 4 - Coordinated and improved learning and regional collaboration						
Outcome 4.1: National and regional coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests is improved.	Indicator 15: Number of representatives of the private sector, indigenous peoples' organisations and civil society organisations participating in national and regional coordination platforms.	0	20 6 female 14 male	20 16 female 14 male	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in governance structures and institutional frameworks. Social inclusion mechanisms established and supported by regional, national and municipal governments involved in conservation actions, Effective multi-sectoral collaboration and cooperation. Representatives of the COCODES (8 COCODES),

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
						fire-fighting groups (5 groups), indigenous peoples' organisations (2): Asociación Campesinas Indígenas para el Desarrollo Integral de Petén, and Asociación Indígena Campesina Maya Ch'orti Nuevo Dia, and representatives of the private sector (5). The project will ensure 30% of the participants are women.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.1	Outcome 4.1.1: National and regional coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests improved.. Outcome 4.1.2: Long-term regional communication plan to mobilise support for the conservation of primary forests and critical forest biomes.					
Outcome 4.2: Lessons on models of protection and conservation of primary forests are available globally	Indicator 16: Level of capacities, technical cooperation and technology transfer on CFB within and between participating countries	0	10%	20%	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Commitment of participating countries to share knowledge, experience and good practices through regional and international cooperation mechanisms and events. Involvement and

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
	(measured by a tailor-made KAP survey among stakeholders).					commitment of relevant stakeholders.
	Indicator 17: Number of lessons learned documents developed including traditional knowledge and key activities of women and youth regarding conservation process.	0	0	1	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	Coordination and cooperation between the different parties involved in the protection and conservation of the region's forests.
	Indicator 18: Number of south-south / lesson sharing events with other GEF Integrated Programme initiatives for the Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes.	0	2	5	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports. Workshop/event reports	Commitment of participating countries to share knowledge, experience and good practices through regional and international cooperation mechanisms and events. Involvement and engagement of relevant stakeholders. Promotion and dissemination of awareness-raising events.
	Indicator 19: Number of local, national and regional lesson	0	2	5	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports. Works	Availability of platforms and networks to facilitate the organisation of

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
	sharing events.				hop/event reports	and participation in lesson sharing events. Involvement and engagement of relevant stakeholders. Promotion and dissemination of awareness-raising events.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.2	Output 4.2.1: National information on critical forest biomes (e.g. biodiversity and social information, forest management models, regulations). Outcome 4.2.2: Lessons learned from the programme, models of forest management and governance and integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes documented and disseminated regionally and globally. Outcome 4.2.3: South-South cooperation/knowledge exchange with other critical forest biomes. Output 4.2.4: Annual regional knowledge-sharing workshops. Outcome 4.2.5: Harmonised planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the annual programme.					

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Consultancies (CEO endorsement, field visits - Trifinio and Petén-, coordination)	227,331.82	183,622.82	43,709.00
logistic/ operational support	15,000.00	13,155.61	1,844.39
Travel	15,000.00	11,788.26	3,211.74

Workshops	42,668.18	35,600.00	7,068.18
Total	**300,000.00**	**244,166.69**	**55,833.31**

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yaxhá Nakum - Naranjo Yaxhá National Park (PNYNN)	17.267773	-89.507012	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yaxhá Nakum - Naranjo Yaxhá National Park (PNYNN)	17.043495	-89.247117	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mirador Rio Azul National Park (PNMRA)	17.7152142	-89.8643367	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Montanas Mayas Chiquibul Biosphere Reserve (RBMMCH)	16.983054	-89.553651	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tikal National Park (PANAT)	17.339426	-89.746244	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tikal National Park (PANAT)	17.107988	-89.505116	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sierra de Lacandón National Park (PNSL)	16.6812268	-90.53851	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Roman Biological Reserve	16.689038	-90.499916	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Roman Biological Reserve	16.118908	-90.002279	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ceibal Cultural Monument	16.525478	-90.100172	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID

Ceibal Cultural Monument	16.491473	-90.044577	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Aguateca Cultural Monument	16.407898	-89.746925	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Aguateca Cultural Monument	16.376856	-89.746925	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dos Pilas Cultural Monument	16.465231	-90.324408	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dos Pilas Cultural Monument	16.428622	-90.239805	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Petexbatún Wildlife Refuge	16.497534	-90.227675	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Petexbatún Wildlife Refuge	16.390647	-90.149213	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Protected Biotope Naachtún - Las Lagunas	17.819264	-89.768599	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Protected Biotope Naachtún - Las Lagunas	17.672598	-89.50193	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Protected Biotope San Miguel La Palotada - El Zotz	17.127600	-89.746925	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
El Pucté Wildlife Refuge	16.650581	-90.463623	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
El Pucté Wildlife Refuge	16.549072	-90.240478	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mayan Biosphere Reserve (Multiple-use zone)	17.1353661	-89.9948548	

Location Description:

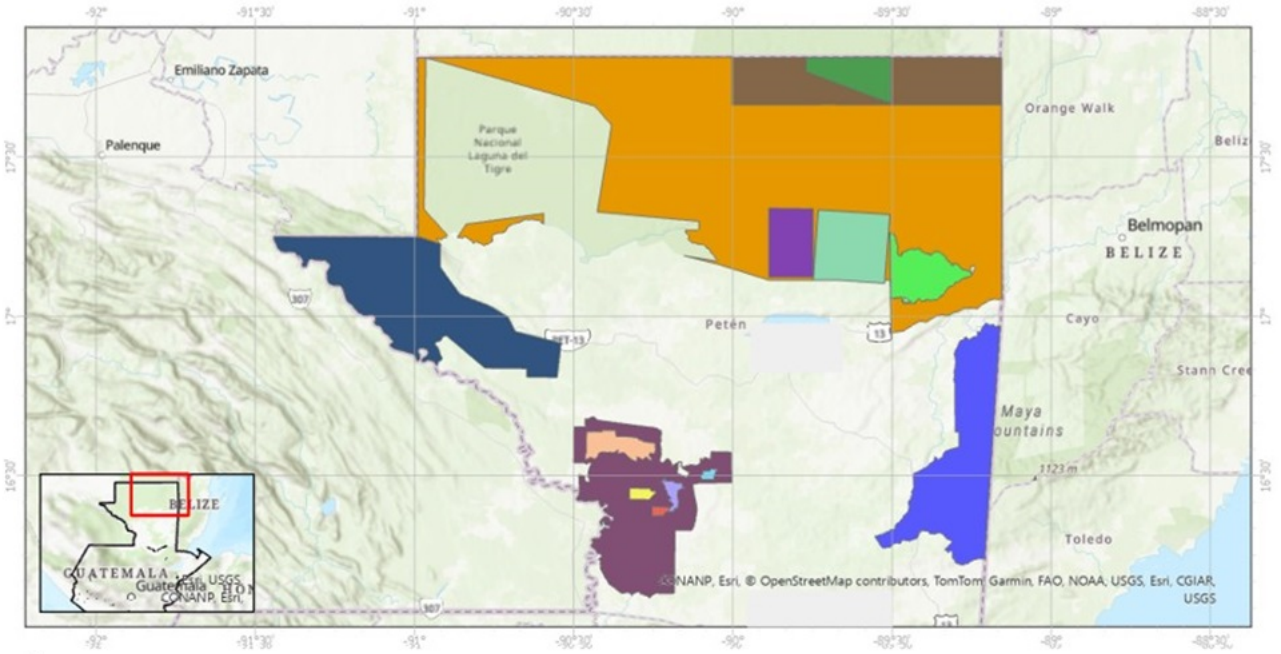
Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Montecristo National Park	14.565500	-89.471500	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.



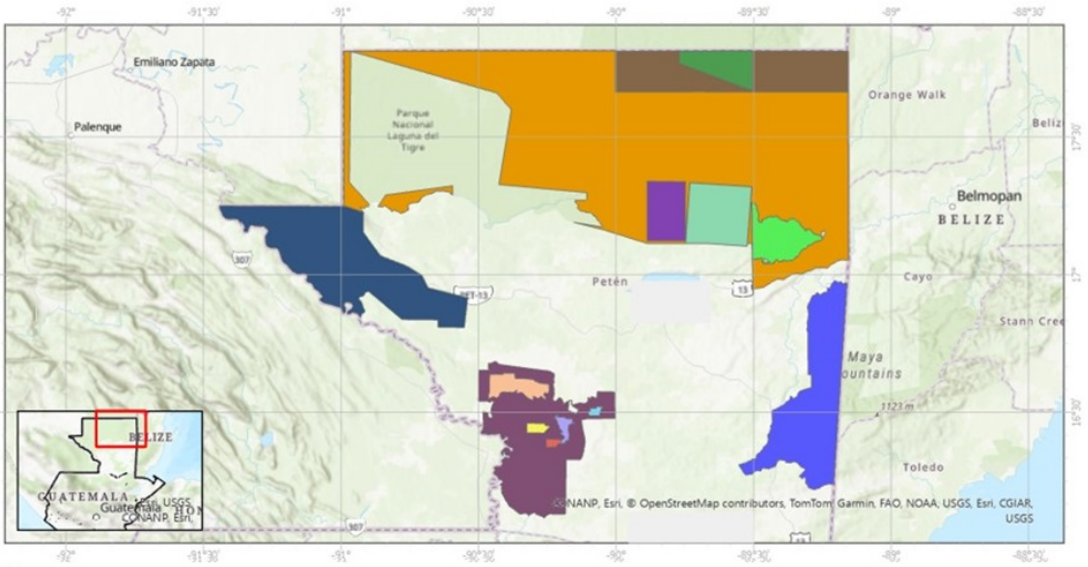
Áreas Protegidas seleccionadas para el proyecto GEF-8 en Selva Maya, Guatemala

Simbología

- Biotopo Protegido Naachtún - Dos Lagunas
- Biotopo Protegido San Miguel La Palotada - El Zotz
- Monumento Cultural Aguateca
- Monumento Cultural Ceibal
- Monumento Cultural Dos Pilas
- Parque Nacional Mirador Río Azul
- Parque Nacional Sierra del Lacandón
- Parque Nacional Yaxhá Nakúm Naranjo
- Refugio de Vida Silvestre El Pucté
- Refugio de Vida Silvestre Machaquilá
- Refugio de Vida Silvestre Petexbatún
- Refugio de Vida Silvestre Xutilhá
- Reserva Biológica San Román
- Reserva de Biosfera Montañas Mayas Chiquibul
- Parque Nacional Tikal
- Reserva de Biosfera Maya (Zona de Usos Múltiples)

Escala: 1:800,000; Coordenadas: WGS 1984 UTM Zona 16N
Fuente: JRC, INAB.

GOBIERNO de GUATEMALA
MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES

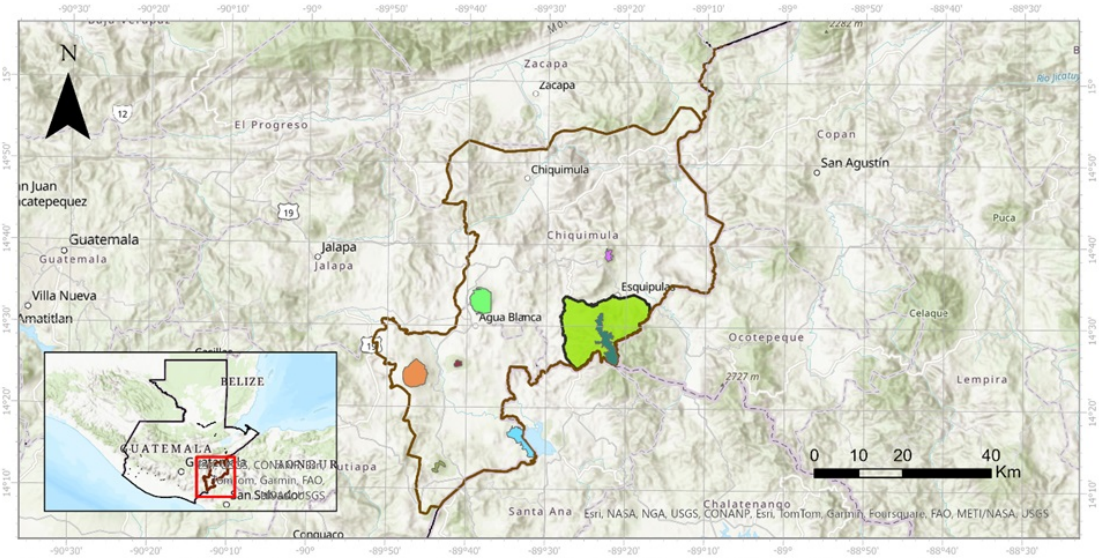


Áreas Protegidas seleccionadas para el proyecto GEF-8 en Selva Maya, Guatemala

Simbología

- Biotopo Protegido Naachtún - Dos Lagunas
- Biotopo Protegido San Miguel La Palotada - El Zotz
- Monumento Cultural Aguateca
- Monumento Cultural Ceibal
- Monumento Cultural Dos Pilas
- Parque Nacional Mirador Río Azul
- Parque Nacional Sierra del Lacandón
- Parque Nacional Yaxhá Nakúm Naranjo
- Refugio de Vida Silvestre El Pucté
- Refugio de Vida Silvestre Machaquilá
- Refugio de Vida Silvestre Petexbatún
- Refugio de Vida Silvestre Xutilhá
- Reserva Biológica San Román
- Reserva de Biosfera Montañas Mayas Chiquibul
- Parque Nacional Tikal
- Reserva de Biosfera Maya (Zona de Usos Múltiples)

Escala: 1:800,000; Coordenadas: WGS 1984 UTM Zona 16N
Fuente: JRC, INAB.



Áreas protegidas de intervención del proyecto GEF-8 en Trifinio, Guatemala.

Simbología

- Region Trifinio Guatemala
- Área GEF
- Límite Guatemala
- Area de Protección Especial Lago de Güija
- Area de Uso Múltiple Volcán y Laguna de Ipala
- Parque Regional Volcán Suchitán
- Reserva de Biosfera Montecristo (Guatemala)
- Zona de Veda Definitiva Volcán Ixtepeque
- Zona de Veda Definitiva Volcán Las Víboras
- Zona de Veda Definitiva Volcán Quetzaltepeque

Escala: 1:800,000; Coordenadas: WGS 1984 UTM Zona 16N
Fuente: GEF, Región Trifinio.

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title
Gender Analysis and action plan
Stakeholder consultation
Guatemala Grievance mechanism
Guatemala Indigenous people plan
Climate Risk screening Guatemala
ESM Screening Guatemala

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template

Expenditure Category			Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)													Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity	
				Component 1			*Component 2*			*Component 3*		*Component 4*		*Sub-Total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		-	-
				Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 1.3*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 2.3*	*Outcome 3.1*	*Outcome 3.2*	*Outcome 4.1*	*Outcome 4.2*					TNC	WCS
Grants	**Project structures/grants**	**3.2.1**	Nurseries for seedling production, capacity building								245 000,00			245 000,00			245 000,00	196 000,00	49 000,00
Grants	**Project structures/grants**	**2.1.1**	Physical barriers and signs Protected areas				245 000,00							245 000,00			245 000,00	196 000,00	49 000,00

Equipment	**2 Vehicles 4x4, gasoline and maitanance.**	**2.1.1**	Restauration at the community level				140 000,00							140 000,00			140 000,00	70 000,00	70 000,00
Equipment	**Agricultural Tools**	**3.2.1**	Capacity building								22 000,00			22 000,00			22 000,00	17 600,00	4 400,00
Equipment	**Plants And Seeds**	**3.2.1**	Capacity building								28 000,00			28 000,00			28 000,00	22 400,00	5 600,00
Equipment	**Equipment firefighters**	**2.1.1**	Security and fire fight equipments				120 000,00							120 000,00			120 000,00	96 000,00	24 000,00
Equipment	**Protected areas**	**2.1.1**	Computers, GPS, drones, and photo trapping				257 997,31							257 997,31			257 997,31	206 397,85	51 599,46
										0,00				0,00			0,00	0,00	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.1.2**	Studies to develop or enhance financial instruments							217 676,00				217 676,00			217 676,00	185 024,60	32 651,40
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**		Midterm and final evaluation											0,00	134 500,00		134 500,00	107 600,00	26 900,00
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**		Communications									80 000,00		80 000,00			80 000,00	64 000,00	16 000,00
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**1.1.1**	National awareness campaign	35 000,00										35 000,00			35 000,00	28 000,00	7 000,00
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**2.1.1**	Update the Protected areas management plans incorporating gender and IPLC considerations				130 000,00							130 000,00			130 000,00	104 000,00	26 000,00
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**2.1.1**	Develop capacity building to forest rangers and firefighters				50 000,00							50 000,00			50 000,00	40 000,00	10 000,00
														0,00			-	TNC	

																		(80% / WCS (20%)	
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**3.2.1**	Develop capacity building and knowledge sharing on topics related to gender responsive sustainable production in agriculture, forestry and other sectors related to relevant value chains and income generation								77 500,00			77 500,00			77 500,00	62 000,00	15 500,00
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**3.2.2**	Develop capacity building to extension officers on gender responsive financial instruments and business plans development to access credit								50 000,00			50 000,00			50 000,00	40 000,00	10 000,00
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**3.2.2**	Develop capacity-building of COALS and local communities developing business plans to access credit lines focusing on women empowering value chains								50 000,00			50 000,00			50 000,00	40 000,00	10 000,00
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**4.1.2**	Gender responsive national communication plan and campaign									120 000,00		120 000,00			120 000,00	96 000,00	24 000,00
Contractual Servic	**Contracts**	**4.2.1**	Publication										10 000,00	1000			1000	800	200

es – Company													0,00			0,00	0,00	0,00
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**4.2.2**	Publication									10 000,00	10 000,00			10 000,00	8 000,00	2 000,00
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**4.2.4**	Publication									10 000,00	10 000,00			10 000,00	8 000,00	2 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.1**	Information to support regional awareness campaign	30 000,00									30 000,00			30 000,00	24 000,00	6 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.1**	Information to support technical advisory group	30 000,00									30 000,00			30 000,00	24 000,00	6 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.2**	Develop a work plan and roadmap to strengthen SIGAP's co-administration system and capacity building	55 000,00									55 000,00			55 000,00	44 000,00	11 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.2**	Support Local Advisory Committees (COAL)	55 000,00									55 000,00			55 000,00	44 000,00	11 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.2**	Roadmap to strengthen the Biosphere Reserves and the Tri-National Committees incorporating gender resposive actions	55 000,00									55 000,00			55 000,00	44 000,00	11 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.1**	Preparation /updating of Municipal Forest Plan and Municipal land-use planning policy guides		65 000,00								65 000,00			65 000,00	52 000,00	13 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.1**	Update the guidelines and regulations on land use in the		45 000,00								45 000,00			45 000,00	36 000,00	9 000,00

			buffer zones															
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.2**	National data collection on the potential of reduced deforestation to reverse the global risk of species extinction		50 000,00									50 000,00			50 000,00	42 500,00	7 500,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.2**	Conduct climate change loss and damage evaluation including assessment of gendered impacts		50 000,00									50 000,00			50 000,00	42 500,00	7 500,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.2**	Data collection and study on water sources, flows, and provision within the Mayan Biosphere Reserve		50 000,00									50 000,00			50 000,00	42 500,00	7 500,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.3.1**	Operating regulations for the AFOLU Guatemala Board			20 000,00								20 000,00			20 000,00	16 000,00	4 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.3.1**	Mechanism to systematize and disseminate the decision-making process of the AFOLU Guatemala Roundtable			20 000,00								20 000,00			20 000,00	16 000,00	4 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.3.2**	Affirmative action protocols for women, rural youth and indigenous people inclusion			70 000,00								70 000,00			70 000,00	56 000,00	14 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.1**	METT mid-term and end-of-project				50 000,00							50 000,00			50 000,00	40 000,00	10 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.1**	Forest technicians Protected Areas				666 000,00							666 00			666 00	532 80	133 20

														0,00			0,00	0,00	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.2**	National assessment of the risk of collapse and extinction of critical Mesoamerican forest biomes				55 000,00							55 000,00			55 000,00	44 000,00	11 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.3**	Ecosystem accounting assessments				50 000,00							50 000,00			50 000,00	40 000,00	10 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.2.1**	Establish national regulations and instruments to operationalize OECMs in Guatemala					60 000,00						60 000,00			60 000,00	48 000,00	12 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.2.2**	Assessment and systematization of OECM at the project site					1 050 000,00						1 050 000,00			1 050 000,00	840 000,00	210 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.2.2**	GIS APP and website for OECM recognized in Guatemala					100 000,00						100 000,00			100 000,00	80 000,00	20 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.2.2**	Pilot knowledge disseminations on for the implementation and improvement of OECM in Guatemala					66 065,50						66 065,50			66 065,50	52 852,40	13 213,10
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.3.1**	Updated evaluation of priority areas at the local level for the restoration of forests according to Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM).						70 000,00					70 000,00			70 000,00	56 000,00	14 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.3.2**	Restauration at the community level						1 815 000,00					1 815 000			1 815 000	1 542 750	272 250,00

													0,00			0,00	0,00		
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.1.1**	Develop a finance gap analysis for primary forest conservation in Guatemala including gender accessibility gaps							20 000,00				20 000,00			20 000,00	16 000,00	4 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.1.2**	Development and implementation of financial instruments to increase the protection of primary forests with priority to women and IPLC							62 000,00				62 000,00			62 000,00	52 700,00	9 300,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.1.2**	Development credit lines for small farmers involved in conservation efforts in the project area with priority to women and IPLC							30 000,00				30 000,00			30 000,00	25 500,00	4 500,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.1.2**	Capitalization of a financial mechanism for water conservation							20 000,00				20 000,00			20 000,00	17 000,00	3 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.2.2**	Implementation of financial mechanisms								270 000,00			270 000,00			270 000,00	216 000,00	54 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.2.3**	Feasibility studies and project documentation								300 000,00			300 000,00			300 000,00	240 000,00	60 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**4.2.2**	Develop and disseminate case studies on good practices of forest management, productive activity, governance										35 000,00	35 000,00			35 000,00	28 000,00	7 000,00

			models and integration of indigenous people and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes																
Consultants	**Consultants**	**4.2.3**	Systematization specific data and development of communication materials for knowledge exchange										20 000,00	20 000,00			20 000,00	16 000,00	4 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**	**4.2.4**	Develop the material for the annual sharing workshop to exchange lessons on primary forest protection and conservation models										15 000,00	15 000,00			15 000,00	12 000,00	3 000,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		Audit											0,00		50 000,00	50 000,00	37 500,00	12 500,00
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**		General Technical Project Coordinator (and Coordinator comp.1) Selva Maya	17 050,00	17 050,00	17 050,00	17 050,00	17 050,00	17 050,00	17 050,00	17 050,00	17 050,00	17 050,00	17 050,00		17 050,00	34 100,00	34 100,00	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		Biodiversity, PA and restoration Specialist (Coordinator comp.2) Selva Maya				60 000,00	60 000,00	17 500,00					137 500,00			137 500,00	137 500,00	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		Financial Mechanisms expert (Coordinator comp.3) Selva Maya				28 571,43	28 571,43	28 571,43	38 571,43	38 571,43	28 571,43	28 571,43	220 000,00			220 000,00	220 000,00	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		M&E Learning Specialist and (Coordinator comp.4) Selva Maya	6 189,00	6 187,50	6 187,50	6 187,50	6 187,50	6 187,50	6 187,50	6 187,50	28 566,00	28 566,00	106 633,50			106 633,50	106 633,50	0,00

Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**		Finance and administrative assistant Selva Maya											0,00		48335,00	48335,00	48335,00	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		Communications Specialist Selva Maya	4838,60	4838,60	4838,60	4838,60	4838,60	4838,60	4838,60	4838,60	27000,00	27000,00	9270 8,80			9270 8,80	9270 8,80	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		Gender and social inclusion expert Selva Maya	11015,00	11015,00	11015,00	11015,00	11015,00	11015,00	11015,00	11015,00	12219,70	12219,70	112559,40			112559,40	112559,40	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		Technical Project Coordinator (and coordiantor comp.2) Trifinio	17049,90	17049,90	17049,90	17049,90	17049,90	17049,90	17049,90	17049,90	17049,90	17049,90	17049 9,00		17049 9,00	34099 8,00	0,00	34099 8,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		Technical expert (Coordination comp.1 and 3) Trifinio	28000,00	28000,00	28000,00	10000,00	10000,00	10000,00	18000,00	18000,00	12000,00	18000,00	18000 0,00			18000 0,00	18000 0,00	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		M&E Learning Specialist (Coordinator comp.4) Trifinio									25000,00	25000,00	50000,00			50000,00	50000,00	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		Finance and administrative assistant Trifinio											0,00		39109,00	39109,00	0,00	39109,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		Communications Specialist Trifinio	7900,00	7900,00	7900,00	7900,00	7900,00	7900,00	7900,00	7900,00	9238,60	9238,60	81677,20			81677,20	81677,20	0,00
Consultants	**Consultants**		Gender and social inclusion expert Trifinio	15963,91	15963,91	15963,91	15963,91	15963,91	15963,91	15963,91	15963,91	15963,91	15963,91	159639,10			159639,10	159639,10	0,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop**		Inception workshop	7500,00	7500,00	7500,00	7500,00	7500,00	7500,00	7500,00	7500,00	7500,00	55000,00	122500,00			122500,00	98000,00	24500,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Training Budget**	**1.1.1**	National advocacy events	50000,00										50000,00			50000,00	40000,00	10000,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Meetings**	**1.1.2**	Biannual meetings (2 per year) to support Local Advisory Committees (COAL) as key local	56000,00										56000,00			56000,00	44800,00	11200,00

			governance structures																
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Training Budget**	**1.1.2**	Capacity building of municipalities in forests and biodiversity management	155 525,00										155 525,00			155 525,00	124 420,00	31 105,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Training Budget**	**1.3.2**	Training for government representatives for the integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes			40 000,00								40 000,00			40 000,00	32 000,00	8 000,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Training Budget**	**1.3.2**	High-level cross-sector dialogues at national and local level			40 000,00								40 000,00			40 000,00	32 000,00	8 000,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Training Budget**	**2.1.1**	Training and capacity building for resource rangers and firefighters				17 000,00							17 000,00			17 000,00	13 600,00	3 400,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop**	**2.3.1**	Workshops to validate restoration activities at the local level						70 000,00					70 000,00			70 000,00	56 000,00	14 000,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Training Budget**	**3.2.1**	Capacity building and knowledge sharing on topics related to sustainable production in agriculture, forestry and other sectors related to relevant value chains and income generation								110 000,00			110 000,00			110 000,00	88 000,00	22 000,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Training Budget**	**3.2.2**	Capacity building to extension officers on financial instruments								129 943,00			129 943,00			129 943,00	103 954,40	25 988,60

			and business plans developme nt to access credit															
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Training Budget**	**3.2.2**	Capacity-building of COALS and local communities developing business plans to access credit lines							132 500,00			132 500,00			132 500,00	106 000,00	26 500,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Meetings**	**3.1.2**	Dialogue about capitalization of a financial mechanism for water conservation						25 000,00				25 000,00			25 000,00	21 250,00	3 750,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Meetings**	**3.1.3**	High-level resource mobilization meetings,						60 000,00				60 000,00			60 000,00	48 000,00	12 000,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Meetings**	**3.2.4**	High-impact promotional events to accelerate demand for products							80 000,00			80 000,00			80 000,00	64 000,00	16 000,00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop**	**4.2.2**	National knowledge sharing workshops for knowledge sharing between multi sector stakeholders (government, private sector, CSOs)									140 000,00	140 000,00			140 000,00	112 000,00	28 000,00
Travel	**Travel**	**1.1.1**	Gender responsive regional advocacy events	22 000,00									22 000,00			22 000,00	17 600,00	4 400,00
Travel	**Travel**	**4.1.1**	Support Guatemala's representatives to participate in the forum and meetings of the Regional Platform.								15 000,00		15 000,00			15 000,00	12 000,00	3 000,00

Travel	**Travel**	**4.2.3**	Promote Guatemala's active participation in South-South exchanges with other forest biome countries.										35 000,00	35 000,00			35 000,00	28 000,00	7 000,00
Travel	**Travel**	**4.2.4**	Guatemala's participation on the annual regional knowledge sharing workshops										35 000,00	35 000,00			35 000,00	28 000,00	7 000,00
Other Operating Costs	**Other Operating Costs**		**PMC office supplies**											0,00		31 503,19	31 503,19	25 202,55	6 300,64
Grand Total		**Grand Total**		659 031,41	375 504,91	305 504,91	1 967 073,65	1 462 141,84	2 098 576,34	578 752,34	1 639 019,34	415 159,54	563 659,54	100 644 23,81	13 450 0,00	50 994 6,19	10 708 870	8 640 505	2 068 365

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

This Annex in the portal does not allowed to include excel archives. Please find a word document with the Project budget. Also, please find also the excel archive into the documents attached to the portal. Also, in the corresponding annex of the Ceo Endorsement you will find it in excel attached as an object.

ANNEX I: 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.

Responses to STAP comments

GEF STAP comments	Responses
It is recommended that a detailed stakeholder register of at least all the regional and national level actors is developed as part of the regional co-ordination project and maintained by the implementing agency.	A detailed regional, national and local stakeholder analysis was developed as part of the project design, and the results were condensed in the annex, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, identifying the key regional, national and local stakeholders.
It is important to properly identify and define the program elements where innovative approaches are going to be tested in order to design the regional and national child projects to ensure	The Guatemala Child Project includes specific outputs related to the implementation of innovative financing instruments in the Petén and Trifinio described in Outputs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3. These

rigorous testing of ideas, identifying of pathways for scaling, and learning and sharing from innovations.	outputs focus on catalyzing the increased flow of funding (Output 3.1.2), through support innovative financial mechanisms such as a water fund and identifying and enhancing the ongoing business models that have been developed for forest-friendly initiatives (Output 3.2.1).
The Implementing agency should ensure that the KM plans are further articulated and developed during the design and roll-out of child projects. STAP would also recommend that a KM strategy for the whole IP is developed and that its design and implementation are included among the proposed outputs for the Regional Co-ordination (child) Project.	This point is addressed first on a National level by developing specific Knowledge Management (KM) for each child project (in the Guatemala Child Project this is outputs 4.1.2 and 4.2.1) , this centred on the specify context and objectives for each project. These KM plans delve further into the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned, as well as the strategies that could be employed to disseminate that content. Moreover, the RCP includes, under component 4 (Coordinated and Improved Learning and Regional Collaboration), a series of outputs that encompass the KM strategy for the entire IP (For details, kindly see the regional response).

Responses to Council comments

Regional (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama). Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program (GEFID: 11273). Agencies: FAO, IUCN; GEF Project Financing: $58,147,493; Co-financing: $438,166,265.	
✓ Canada Comments	
Biodiversity	
• Mesoamerica has more that 20,000 species of vascular plants, bird species, reptiles, fishes, and reptiles, of which more than 3650 are endemic. Thousands of these are also threatened or endangered. The region also hosts many of the billions of North American migratory birds fly through Mesoamerica or stop for the winter. However, Mesoamerica is often neglected for financing given the attention to the Amazon. A strong recognition of the importance of the Mesoamerican region as a biodiversity hotspot should be acknowledged, and followed by adequate levels of financing when opportunities present themselves such as in this case.	The recognition of Mesoamerica as a biodiversity hotspot is acknowledged in the Mesoamerica Integrated Programme. The programme incorporates key activities to contribute to GBF Target 1"Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss - Conservation status for Mesoamerican Forest biomes using the Red List of Ecosystems", "GBF Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas- Coverage of protected areas and OECMs", and "GBF target 4: Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflict- Realized contributions of IPLCs, OECMs and PAs in addressing the loss of Intact Forest Landscapes to reduced risk of extinction of threatened species". Component 2 of the Guatemala Child Project contributes to the increased protection of primary forests in protected areas, increased area of OECMs that protect the integrity of primary forests and expand functional connectivity, and 21,379.4 ha under restoration to increase connectivity of primary forest.
Climate	

• It should also be noted the Mesoamerica region is one of the most vulnerable areas in the world to climate, with hurricanes and huge losses occurring every year. Climate change also has an impact on the forests of the region, as populations from the highly affected dry corridor of Central America move towards forested areas and expanding the agricultural frontier, thus contributing to deforestation. Support to the project will help address the multiple issues affecting forests, as well as, socio-economic issues such migration to the North from Central American countries, as people will have better livelihood alternatives in their own countries.	The importance of climate change in the region has been recognised in the Mesoamerica CFB IP and the Guatemala Child Project in particular. A climate analysis was produced as part of the design. Also, the promotion of NbS for forest conservation and the improvement of people's resilience are considered in the child project. Furthermore, component 3 supports innovative deforestation free value chains that can improve people's livelihood in the country.
Indigenous Peoples	
• Experience in the region shows that indigenous and local peoples have to be part and parcel of the project planning. The proposed project should have an engagement/consultation strategy with local and indigenous peoples in order to be able to implement it. Development of the strategy should include input from Indigenous peoples.	The Mesoamerica CFB IP considers IPLC as an integral part for its successful implementation and the development of feasible transformative pathways. The Guatemala's Child Project considers that improved deforestation free and climate resilient livelihoods for IPLCs is key to achieve transformation. The Guatemala's Child Project has developed an Indigenous Peoples Plan. On the RCP level, a specific Working Group under the knowledge platform (Output 4.2.1) will ensure that IPLCs will have a direct voice in the implementation. Moreover, the RCP strengthens IPLC participation in regional decision-making bodies (Output 1.3.2.)
Other	
• Finally, in accordance with GOAL A of the GBF "The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050", and target 2 of the GBF: "Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity", and TARGET 12, "Significantly increase the area and quality and connectivity" the project should include Costa Rica. Approximately two thirds of Parque Nacional la Amistad, one of the areas targeted by the project, lies within Costa Rica. This gives ample reason for the country`s inclusion in the project.	N/A
Deforestation/Small-Scale Farming/Soil (MSF):	
• Recommend including a new indicator that shows the net impact of the Programs in halting and reversing ecosystem loss, in particular deforestation, in particular for the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program and the Net-Zero Nature Positive Accelerator Program.	The Guatemala Child Project follows the structure of the Regional Project's Results Framework to allow regional aggregation. The Mesoamerican CFB IP developed project specific results frameworks and through Output 4.2.5 will ensure that a regional level M&E framework is in place to monitor the project impacts. The CFP will monitor the project impact in terms of reduced deforestation. Please note that reduced deforestation is part and parcel of the GHG emission avoidance estimations as they are part of the with and without project scenarios assumptions. In addition, the application of the IUCN red list of Ecosystem at biome level (RCP Indicator 1. Outcome 2.1) will account for changes in extent and conditions of Mesoamerican forest at regional level, which will indirectly provide evidences on the IP impact in halting deforestation.

• The current core indicators can show only the positive impacts of the Programs (e.g. CI3, CI4, CI5 ad CI6) but fail to consider any negative change such as deforestation leakage (I.e. improved protection/conservation in one area leading to more deforestation in other or new areas), which may be directly or indirectly related to policy reforms, a whole-of-government strategy, integrated approaches or others that the GEF Programs try to achieve.	The Guatemala Child Project follows the structure of the Regional Project's Results Framework to allow regional aggregation. As mentioned above, the project will monitor deforestation as part of its national and regional level M&E framework. That said, please note that the Mesoamerica CFB is obliged to follow GEF guidelines and report on the relevant GEF indicators and sub-indicators. In addition, the application of the IUCN red list of Ecosystem at biome level (RCP Indicator 1. Outcome 2.1) will account for changes in extent and conditions of Mesoamerican forest at regional level, which will indirectly provide evidences on the IP impact in halting deforestation, including potential leakages.
• GEF should consider including a new core indicator for the two Programs, or at least a project level-indicator for the projects that aim to halt and reverse deforestation: o a net change in forest area (considering both forest gain and loss) in the target landscapes, or o a change in area affected by deforestation in the target landscapes	The Guatemala Child Project follows the structure of the Regional Project's Results Framework to allow regional aggregation. As mentioned above, the project will monitor deforestation as part of its national and regional level M&E framework. National child projects under the IP will be encouraged and receive advisory from the Regional Coordination Project to monitor deforestation and forest degradation in a scientifically-robust manner (e.i. using globally recognised and consistent data sets such as those produced by the Joint Research Center and Global Forest Watch), since this will be required to apply the IUCN Red List of Ecosystem at biome level, which is the case of Guatemala child Project.
Supporting smallholder farmers through the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program (CFB IP): • We want to underscore that supporting smallholder farmers is critical for halting deforestation and inclusive transition toward deforestation-free supply chains. And, this Program must ensure that smallholder farmers in deforestation-risk commodity chains receive as much attention as other local community groups receive through this IP. In particular for the private sector engagement, we recommend the projects under this IP reinforce technical, financial and legal support for smallholder farmers within deforestation-risk commodity chains in order to help them adopt innovative, low-cost biodiversity-friendly practices and secure their legal rights (ToC 3).	The Guatemala Child Project recognizes the importance of smallholder farmers for halting deforestation and inclusive transition toward deforestation-free supply chains. As mentioned, Component 3 of the project includes specific actions to support the development of deforestation-free and climate resilient livelihoods for small-holder farmers and IPLC. The child project aligned this particular component with available policies and financing to promote deforestation-free livelihoods. Outputs 3.2.2 and 3.2.3, and with a more macro focus output 3.2.1, specifically focus on this.
✓ Germany	
Comments Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account: Germany welcomes this proposal, which will contribute to the conservation and restoration of forest landscapes in six countries in Mesoamerica. At the same time, Germany has the following comments that it suggests being addressed in the next phase of finalizing the program proposal.	N/A
Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final program proposal:	A specific results framework has been developed for the Guatemala Child Project, including the definition of the indicators following the GEF template. Areas to be restored

• The goals are highly aggregated, and some remain rather abstract. Therefore, Germany recommends that all indicators include concrete measurement criteria (e.g., which parameters will determine whether land is “under restoration” in component 3).	have been identified during the Project Formulation process. The overall areas and the maps can be found in the project’ proposal package.
• Germany highly appreciates that the program proposal sets very ambitious goals for forest conservation and restoration in a highly complex and conflictive political environment. However, we feel that the threat of mining and land speculation for protected areas as well as the complex and conflictive political environment need to be stronger considered in the analysis. The proposal needs to include how political decision-makers will be encouraged and empowered to assume the responsibility for law enforcement regarding environmental and human rights legislation (in particular regarding protected areas and IPLCs).	The Guatemala Child Project acknowledges the highly complex and conflictive political environment, especially taking into consideration how illegal activities are a driver that erodes IPLCs rights and livelihoods leading to accelerated deforestation rates. The Guatemala Child Project has incorporated specific activities to strengthen the participation of IPLCs in decision making, safeguard the rights of IPLCs, and improve law enforcement. IPLCs participation is strengthened in Components 1 and 4 of the RCP, while child projects incorporated environmental and human rights legislation enforcement in their activities. For instance, activity 1.2.1.2 will incorporate primary forest protection in municipal development plans, municipal regulations and/or Local Ecological Management Programmes, while activity 1.3.1.1 will strengthen inter-sectoral roundtables and working groups in each State to promote coherence between environmental and agricultural policies, with the participation of state and federal sectoral authorities, inter-municipal organisations, and organisations of forest communities and farmers, and facilitate coordinated environmental law enforcement for specific environmental crimes or socio-environmental conflicts related to threats to primary forests and their connectivity.
• We also appreciate that the proposal refers to the Team Europe Initiative 'Five Great Forests of Mesoamerica'. In addition, we encourage to coordinate with the REDD Landscape III Program, funded by Germany, which operates under the umbrella of the aforementioned initiative.	The development of the Guatemala Child Project has included consultations with multiple stakeholders, the description of the baseline and the identification of potential synergies and cooperation mechanisms with other projects, including those funded by Germany, such as Selva Maya II and EU Great forest. During implementation active collaboration will be developed with EU Project to avoid dplication and increase impacts.
• Supply chains and voluntary commitments by the private sector are only briefly mentioned. Germany suggests including the promotion of regulatory conditions for transparency and traceability along strategic supply chains (in particular against the background of the evolving EU legislation on deforestation-free supply chains).	The Guatemala Child Project addresses financing gaps and barriers to investments in the conservation of primary forest as part of the analysis to identify regulatory conditions for transparency and traceability along strategic supply chains under Component 3. Output 3.1.2 linked to innovative financing instruments to increase investments for forest conservation. The selection of the activities was based on a sound assessment of the baseline and existing opportunities.
• Lastly, Germany welcomes that indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) are recognized as important allies for forest conservation in Mesoamerica. However, the following IPLC-related aspects need to be considered in the solution strategies: IPLC territorial governance structures, threats of forced displacement, land grabbing as well as infiltration by organized crime and political actors.	As mentioned above, the Guatemala Chlid Project considers IPLC rights crucial for a sustainable transformative pathway. Due to this situation project intervention area are not only located in P.A but also in Peten department to promote connectivity and a sustainable landscape management compatible with forest conservation and sustainable development that includes improve livelihoods. To achieve this, the Guatemala Child Project the project development an Indigenous Peoples and gender Plan. It is worth stating that activity 1.3.1.1 will strengthen inter-sectoral roundtables and working groups in each State to, among others, facilitate coordinated environmental law enforcement for specific

	socio-environmental conflicts related to threats to primary forests and their connectivity, promote gender equality and protecting IPLC rights.
✓ United States Comments	
• We appreciate the draft Work Programmes' focus on our planet's most critical forest ecosystems which must be conserved to meet global climate and biodiversity goals. Given that the largest driver of tropical deforestation is land clearance for commodity production we would expect GEF projects to clearly define that problem and orient their work programs towards addressing it. We would appreciate greater emphasis on sustainable forest management that recognizes the need for alternative livelihoods to conserve global forest ecosystems. We would strongly advocate for GEF projects to clearly orient their projects around helping countries decouple commodity production from deforestation.	The Guatemala Child Project recognizes that land clearance for commodity production is a key driver of tropical deforestation. As described in the baseline in Guatemala poor living conditions of rural populations located mainly in buffer zones of key intervention areas . The Guatemala Child Project strengthens policy and regulatory instruments and multi-sectoral platforms (component 1) and provides alternative livelihoods that decouple commodity production from deforestation (component 3) to address this issue.