GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Child Project Information

Child Project Title
Nicaragua Mesoamerica Forest IP Project: Protection and conservation of forests of global importance located in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve

Region	GEF Project ID
Nicaragua	11279
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Nicaragua	FSP
GEF Agency(ies)	GEF Agency Project ID
FAO	
Project Executing Entity(s)	Project Executing Type
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	7/30/2024
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b)
11,655,440.00	1,048,988.00
PPG Amount: (c)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (d)
300,000.00	26,999.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
13031427	21,139,647.00
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)

The project 'Protection and Conservation of Globally Important Forests in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve' is integrated into the strategy of the 'Mesoamerican Critical Forest Biome Program,' funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This project addresses the causes of deforestation and degradation through interventions aligned with the **four components of the regional program**, ensuring transnational coordination in knowledge management and actions.

The project in Nicaragua encompasses the **geographical area** of the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve (BBR) and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve (IMBR) reserves, which are home to 13% of the world's biodiversity species and the Mayangna and Miskitu indigenous communities. **Environmental problems** include deforestation and degradation of Critical Forest Landscapes (CFL), caused by agricultural expansion, livestock farming, logging, fires, and loss of forest cover, exacerbated by the increase in intensity and frequency of hurricanes due to climate change.

Among the **main barriers identified are**: i) Limited capacity for effective management of Protected Areas (PA) and monitoring of biodiversity and forest integrity. ii) Limited flow of economic resources, human resources, and tools for forest restoration in affected protected areas. iii) Insufficient incentives and limited technical capacity for the conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Landscapes (CFL) and the development of forest-based livelihoods; iv) Limited opportunities for awareness-raising, learning, and knowledge exchange.

The drivers proposed by the project to promote change include: i) Coordination among different actors and capacity development to strengthen policies and governance of PAs. ii) Strengthening planning and monitoring mechanisms to improve the management of CFLs. iii) Developing financial mechanisms and promoting incentives that seek to mobilize investments to PAs. iv) Promoting regional exchanges and capacity transfer to foster multilateral dialogue.

The project's objective is to conserve critical forest biomes in BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve (BBR) and Indio Maíz Biological Reserve (IMBR) by strengthening governance and protection to ensure the sustainable flow of ecosystem services for people and the planet.

The project is organized into **four components**: **1. Enabling conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests.** This component focuses on: (ii) improving governance and management of Protected Areas (PAs) through the implementation of a capacity development program in conservation and restoration, as well as (ii) the development of regulatory tools to support Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples in the administration of their territories. **2. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Landscapes (CFLs)** will create: (i) biodiversity/forest baseline assessments, (ii) restoration of forest areas in Protected Areas (PAs), (iii) updating of territorial development and management plans with a focus on watersheds and gender, and (iv) strengthening of monitoring systems for PA management, forest integrity, and deforestation progress. **3. Innovative investments for conservation-friendly livelihoods and nature-based solutions.** This includes: (i) innovative financing/private investments, (ii) financial mechanisms/incentives for a Special Fund for Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples, (iii) traceability systems for value chains that avoid deforestation, and (iv) conservation-friendly production systems in the territories of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples**. 4. Regional cooperation, learning, and knowledge.** This component will finance technical assistance to promote greater regional/transnational cooperation and coordination.

The expected results are the improvement of national frameworks supporting forest conservation; The expansion of protection and conservation of critical forest biomes; The valuation of natural capital and promotion of sustainable production practices respectful of forest ecosystems; The implementation of effective cooperation at the regional level.

The core project indicators are: 997,337 hectares of terrestrial protected areas or areas with improved management; 25,000 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration; 42,500 hectares of landscapes with improved practices; and the mitigation of 3,502,927.92 ccmetric tons of CO2e. Additionally, it is estimated that 8,491 people will benefit from GEF investments, broken down into 5,440 men (64%) and 3,051 women (36%).

Child Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To conserve critical forest biomes in BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve (BBR) and Indio Maíz Biological Reserve (IMBR) by strengthening governance and protection to ensure the sustainable flow of ecosystem services for people and the planet.

Project Components

1. Facilitating conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
2,331,088.00	4,227,930.00

Outcome:

1.1. Governance and management of existing Protected Areas strengthened through (i) implementation of a capacity development program on conservation and restoration, (ii) the development of regulatory and management tools to support the administration of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants territories and the Protected Areas

Indicators

Hectares under the management plan of the IMBR and BBR, which leads to the protection and conservation of forests of global importance (measured through the METT indicators of the national methodology approved in Ministerial Resolution No. 38–2008)

GEF Core Indicator 1: *Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and*

sustainable use

Target: *997,337 ha*

Result Indicator: *Increase in institutional capacity (of territorial and communal, regional and national governments) to manage the IMBR and BBR (measured through the METT indicators of the national methodology approved in Ministerial Resolution No. 38–2008).*

Target: *Acceptable; 90-100% Satisfactory.*

Result Indicator: *Number of residents (Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants women and youth), participating in the planning and implementation of the project through the application of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process.*

GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment
Target: *8,491 inhabitants (5,440 men and 3,051 women)*

1.2. Multiple stakeholders engagement coordinated for planning and implementation

Result Indicator: *Number of multi-stakeholder dialogue and consultation mechanisms/platforms effectively operated at the regional, territorial and communal levels for the effective governance and management of BBR and IMBR.*

Target: *2 (Teams or technical tables from the SNPCC and SNGCC)*

Output:

1.1.1. Capacity-building program for the governance and effective management of BBR and IMBR to contribute to forest integrity implemented, with the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant women and youth and the territorial and communal, regional and national governments

1.1.2. Regulatory and management instruments for the administration of Indigenous and Afro-descendant territories and Protected Areas developed, updated and implemented

1.1.3 IMBR management plan implemented and BBR management plan updated and implemented

1.1.4. Territorial development plans and annual environmental operational plans of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants updated

1.1.5. Joint management agreements for protected areas in indigenous territories formulated and updated

1.1.6. Capacity developed at the local level with the establishment of National Environmental Information System (SINIA) decentralized offices to support the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants territorial governments, under the coordination of the Autonomous Regional Governments of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay and with the accompaniment of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)

1.1.7. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process secured and implemented in the project processes

1.2.1. Platforms for environmental dialogue and consultation at the regional, territorial and communal level on the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki Bocay operationalized, with the participation of women and youth from the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants communities

2. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
2,097,979.00	3,805,136.00

Outcome:

2.1 Biodiversity and forest baseline developed

Result Indicator: *Information available to accelerate the protection and conservation of biodiversity and forests in the IMBR and BBR.*

Target: *Information on the state of biodiversity and forests disseminated through platforms and a series of national, regional and local events during years 3 and 5.*

2.2 Forest areas within the Protected Areas restored

GEF Core Indicator 3

Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (sub-indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration)

Target*: 25,000 ha*

2.3 Integrated management approach to water resources in Protected Areas with a gender mainstreaming approach strengthened

Result Indicator:*Number of basin committees or Potable Water and Sanitation Committee (CAPS) formed or strengthened, with the participation of women, youth and* the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants*, and with their action plan.*

Target: *A Basin Committee and 22 Potable Water and Sanitation Committee formed or strengthened and with their action plan in the Bocay River.*

2.4 Monitoring systems for Protected Areas management, forest integrity and deforestation progress strengthened

Result Indicator:*Number of monitoring and data reports on the participatory management of BBR and IMBR (prepared from a community monitoring system).*

Target*: 4 Annual monitoring reports prepared starting from year 2.*

Output:

2.1.1. Baseline and evaluation of the state of biodiversity and forests for the effective management of the defined Protected Areas developed

2.2.1. Degraded areas within the core areas of BBR and IMBR restored

2.3.1 Basin committees and Potable Water and Sanitation Committee (CAPS) established and/or strengthened, to improve the management of CFBs

2.4.1. Institutional monitoring and data system developed for the participatory management of BBR and IMBR, the conservation of biodiversity, forest integrity and the control of deforestation progress and illegal forest degradation

2.4.2. Strengthened community monitoring systems of Protected Areas, and inclusion of community rangers in the guard team of institutional Protected Areas

3. Innovative investments for conservation-friendly livelihoods and nature-based solutions

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
5,827,720.00	10,569,825.00

Outcome:

3.1. Accessible investments to strengthen livelihoods for nature conservation improved, including (i) innovative financing/private investments, (ii) financial mechanisms/incentives for a Special Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants Fund, (iii) traceability systems for value chains that avoid deforestation, and (iv) conservation-friendly production systems in the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants territories

GEF Core Indicator 4

Area of landscapes under improved practices

Target:*42,500 ha*

GEF Core Indicator 6

Greenhouse Gas emissions Mitigated

Target: *3,502,927.92 metric tons of CO2e*

Result Indicator*: Percentage increase in income of project protagonists (Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, including women and youth) from incentivized value-added products/services.*

Target:*20% (through execution of Investment Plans to improve the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants)*

Result Indicator: *Improved policies and incentives to support 2 value chains that avoid deforestation and promote conservation.*

Target: *1, in the Coffee value chain and 1 in the Cocoa value chain*

Output:

3.1.1. Innovative economic models established for forest conservation and restoration in Protected Areas

3.1.2. Dialogue mechanisms with the financial and investment sector implemented for the conservation and restoration of forests in Protected Areas and the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation in buffer and connectivity areas

3.1.3. Validated and implemented economic instruments for environmental incentives, which promote investments for the conservation, restoration of forests and rehabilitation of CFB for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants

3.1.4. Diversified livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, including women and youth, with increased productivity and value-added products/services

3.1.5. Value chains that prevent deforestation in the agricultural and livestock sector and promote conservation in landscapes with established connectivity with production traceability systems

4. Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
566,482.00	1,027,436.00

Outcome:

4.1 Improved knowledge management based on decision-making

Result Indicator: *Number of residents (Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants women and youth), participating in environmental education/awareness actions in the BBR and IMBR*

Target: *5,000 people (30% women).*

Result Indicator: *Knowledge and information management system for good environmental practices in the IMBR and BBR, fully functional and operational that*

provides information to the decision-making processes.

Target: *Annual reports disseminated with best practices and lessons disseminated through national and regional project platforms and at regional, national and Mesoamerican events during years 3-5*

4.2 Greater regional and transnational cooperation and coordination activated

Result Indicator: *Number of residents (Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants women and youth), participating in environmental education/awareness actions in the BBR and IMBR, through regional cooperation initiatives*

Target: *5,000 people (30% women).*

Output:

4.1.1. Environmental education and awareness programs at the local, regional and national level for the protection and conservation of CFB executed, and translated into local indigenous languages

4.1.2. Systematized and replicated good environmental practices in Protected Areas, guaranteeing the application of traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants

4.2.1. Strategy to improve the capacity of sub-national governments to conserve, manage and monitor CFBs implemented with the contributions received from the regional level.

4.2.2. Participation in the Integrated Program Mesoamerica Knowledge Platform

4.2.3 South-South Cooperation for knowledge exchange, innovative solutions and harmonized planning strengthened

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
277,150.00	502,671.00

Outcome:

M&E 1. M&E system evaluates project impact and guides adaptive management

Result Indicator:

Number of project implementation monitoring reports prepared

Target: *2 (Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation)*

Output:

M&E 1.1. M&E plan implemented considering gender and Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants perspectives and indicators

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1. Facilitating conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests	2,331,088.00	4,227,930.00
2. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)	2,097,979.00	3,805,136.00
3. Innovative investments for conservation-friendly livelihoods and nature-based solutions	5,827,720.00	10,569,825.00
4. Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge	566,482.00	1,027,436.00
M&E	277,150.00	502,671.00
Subtotal	**11,100,419.00**	**20,132,998.00**
Project Management Cost	555,021.00	1,006,649.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**11,655,440.00**	**21,139,647.00**

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

Overall environmental importance of the project

1. 35% of the surface of Mesoamerica is covered in natural or naturally regenerated forests. The region contributes to 9% of forest coverworld. The Mesoamerican biological reserves and protected areas, interconnected with each other through the Central American biological corridor, represent great global, regional and local environmental value. They are threatened by the dynamics of degradation and deforestation. As a consequence of this dynamic, imminent threats against biological diversity and ecosystem services are determined, including the regulation of the global climate and the availability of water resources (FAO, 2020[2][1]).

2. Nicaragua has an important variety of ecosystems, housing a total of 68 types of plant formations, which represents 60% of the total in Central America. A significant part of these ecosystems are cataloged in protection categories at the national level (MARENA, 2020-a)[3][2]. According to GRUN, the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP), until 2023, they covered 18% of the national territory with an area of 2,340,617 hectares.[4][3]. Likewise, 74 Protected Areas have been declared (66 terrestrial and 8 marine-coastal), along with 3 Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO) and 9 wetlands of international relevance, designated as RAMSAR sites (MARENA, 2020-a).

3. In terms of biodiversity, Nicaragua is home to a variety of world-renowned species. A total of 20,485 species of fauna and flora have been recorded in the country. Of these 1,999 species are vertebrates and 12,288 species are invertebrates. In the case of flora, 6,014 species are plants, of which 1.79% are endemic; also, 184 species of fungi have been identified (MARENA, 2020-b)[5][4]. In addition, Nicaragua has an important genetic capital, which includes various cultivated species such as corn, beans, cocoa, cucurbits, among others.[6][5].

4. The intervention area of the project is located within two large Biosphere Reserves of Nicaragua: BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserve. Both reserves house 13% of the world's known species and store more than 222 mt of Co_2.(MARENA 2020-c). The Biosphere Reserves are made up of various protected areas, transition zone and buffer zone. Specifically, the area of direct intervention is made up of: the core zone of the two Biosphere reserves, which are the BOSAWAS Natural Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve, and its two surrounding corridors (See Figure 1).

5. The BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve (BBR) is the first Biosphere Reserve declared by UNESCO in Nicaragua within the framework of the Program on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), which was declared on October 28, 1997 and It has an area of 1,990,508 ha[7][6]. In 2001, the Government of Nicaragua created Law No. 407, Law that declares and defines the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve (BBR), which was published in the Official Gazette No. 244 of December 24, 2001. The area of intervention located within the BBR (see figure 1), is

comprised of the Bosawás Natural Reserve (BNR) of 680,618 ha, and its surrounding area, which is abiological corridor that has a total area of 303,338 ha and connects the protected areas of: BOSAWAS, Cerro Kilambé, Macizos de Peñas Blancas, Cerro Saslaya, Pis Pis Soslaya and Cerro Banacruz. The Mayangna and Miskitu indigenous peoples have traditionally inhabited the BNR[8][7]. Annex B indicates the technical criteria that have been used to select this biological corridor.

6. The Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserve was created by the Executive Decree N°. 66-99, approved on May 31, 1999, Published in Official Gazette No. 116 of June 18, 1999. It was declared by UNESCO as the second Biosphere Reserve in Nicaragua in 2003, it is located in the Southeast of Nicaragua and has an area of 1,833,726 ha. It is located within the department of Río San Juan and the Autonomous Region of the South Caribbean Coast. The project intervention area includes the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve (316,716 ha) and a biological corridor that is largely located in the Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserve, which has an area of 294,822 ha and connects the protected areas of: Rio San Juan, Indio Maíz, Serranías de Yolaina, Punta Gorda, Cerro Silva and Cerro Wawashang. The Rama and Kriol peoples have traditionally inhabited the IMBR.[9][8]Annex B indicates the technical criteria that have been used to select this biological corridor.

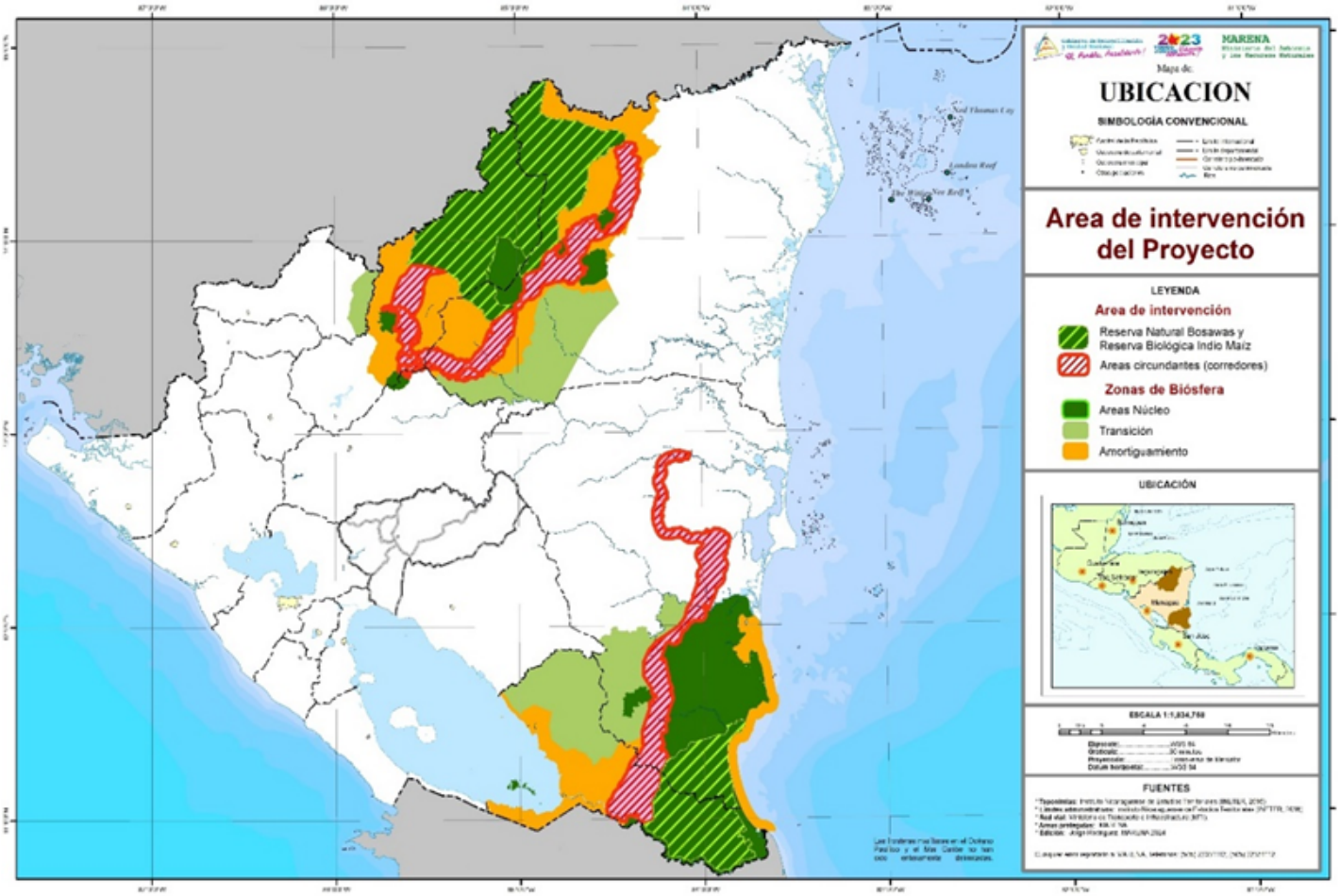

Figure 1: Project Location Area[10][9]

7. A part of Nicaragua's national economy is based on the use of biodiversity components, which contribute to more than 30% of the national GDP. Among the sectors that use and take advantage of biodiversity, the ones of agriculture, livestock, fishing, the forestry sector, tourism and mining stand out (MARENA, 2020-b).[11]10.

Key system elements and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context

8. Biodiversity is threatened, mainly due to anthropogenic threats and extreme natural phenomena (MARENA, 2020-b)[12]11. Among them, the transformation of ecosystems, the irrational exploitation of resources, pollution, the construction of horizontal infrastructures and climate change stand out. These threats originate from different drivers, triggering a series of economic, social and environmental problems, such as poverty, migration, loss of forest resources, alteration in wildlife populations, soil degradation, decrease in water flows, among others. The main drivers of environmental change in the country are livestock, coffee farming, shrimp farming, monocultures (sugar cane, African palm), demand for forest products, demand for mining products, settlements in Protected Areas (PAs), demand for water sources, hunting, fishing, generation of solid and liquid waste, agrochemicals, the transformation of ecosystems and population growth. One of the greatest pressures on Pas is the advance of the agricultural frontier, in addition to the non-rational use of natural resources.[13]12

9. Although poverty is one of the economic problems facing the country, the government has made continuous efforts to reduce it. This is evidenced by the decrease in general poverty from 48.3% in 2005 to 24.9% in 2016. In addition, extreme poverty has also decreased from 17.2% to 6.9% in the same period. It is important to highlight that the problem of poverty is especially pronounced in rural areas, where approximately 50% of the population lives below the poverty line. Poverty rates by region in Nicaragua show significant disparities that reflect the socioeconomic and environmental conditions of each area. Ecological Zone IV (Caribbean) has the highest poverty rate, 65.22%.[14]13The country's rural families and communities are highly dependent on the forest and direct users of environmental goods and services. The high poverty rates, the low diversification of livelihoods and the prevalence of low productivity of agroforestry systems and pastoral areas, put pressure on the advance of the agricultural frontier (MARENA, 2017)[15]14.

10. Gradual demographic growth and migration have generated greater demand for goods and services to meet the needs of the population.The phenomenon of migration in Nicaragua is closely related to the expansion of the agricultural sector and the resulting deforestation. Migration is driven by favorable market conditions for agricultural products, promoted in part by free trade agreements with Central American countries and the United States. For example, an increase in the demand for timber products has been observed, where consumption tends to exceed the time necessary to replenish the harvested

natural resource.[16][15]According to the National Institute of Development Information (INIDE) in 2021 the total population in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN) was 554,975 inhabitants and the population of the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS) was 431,307[17][16].

11. Deforestation and forest degradation are the main environmental threats in the target area. Between 2005-2015, 90,854 ha/year (14.17 Mt CO2e/year) were deforested in the Caribbean region of Nicaragua and specifically, the BBR and IMBR lost 24,307 ha/year due to the illegal expansion of agriculture and livestock. The loss of forest species of high and low economic value represents the emission of 2.43 Mt Co_2e per year or 16% of total emissions, driven by the use of firewood and charcoal, logging (responsible for the extraction of around 0.6 million m^3 of wood per year, equivaleent to approximately 0.17 Mt C/year), and forest fires. The target area is also highly vulnerable to hurricanes and storms, which cause loss of forest cover and damage to trees, making them susceptible to pests and diseases.

12. Regarding hurricanes, “in Nicaragua, tropical cyclones have caused major effects recorded in economic losses and damages that affect the livelihoods of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. In the period from 1980 to 2022, 29 events were recorded under the category of tropical cyclones, of which there is data on losses and damages for 15 of them, totaling USD 8,318.329 million. 85.0% of the total amount is concentrated in the occurrence of five hurricanes: Joan, Mitch, Eta and Iota, Alleta and Felix.)

13. “The autonomous regions of the Caribbean are the territories with the highest level of exposure and risks to the direct effects of hurricanes.” In recent history, the hurricanes that have had the greatest impact on these regions have been: a) Hurricane Joan in 1988, which affected half a million hectares in the RACCS; b) Hurricane Felix in 2007, which devastated mainly the RACCN and the Alto Wangki and Bocay Special Zone (AWB), causing economic losses of around half of the country’s GDP for that year, with the most affected subsector being agricultural exports. This hurricane also affected a large part of the forest cover in the autonomous regions of the Caribbean Coast, destroying 1.6 million hectares of forests and 90 thousand hectares of agricultural crops. c) Hurricane Otto in 2016 affected the Río San Juan area, impacting approximately 640,000 hectares. Finally, in 2020, d) hurricanes ETA and IOTA caused severe damage to the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua. The main problem generated by the passage of these hurricanes is the degradation of forest ecosystems; these affected forests have even been called hurricane forests by ecologists.

14. Deforestation in the core area of the Bosawás Biological Reserve (BBR), called Bosawás Natural Reserve (BNR), for the period 2015-2020 has been stronger (5%) than in the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve (IMBR) (3.7%)[18][17]. In this period, 34,044 ha were deforested in the BNR and 11,734 hectares in the IMBR. However, in the Bosawás Natural Reserve there was a gain in forest cover of 29,469 ha and only 3,342 ha in the IMBR. This implies that net deforestation has been only 915 ha in the BNR core area and 1,687 ha in the IMBR. In the Bosawás Natural Reserve, the areas of “No stable forests” are found towards the southeast of the reserve, accompanied by areas of deforestation, being a clear sign that the activity of advancing the agricultural frontier in this area is very dynamic. In the IMBR, an advance in deforestation is observed accompanying the areas of non-stable forest (areas deforested in previous periods) on the west side of the reserve. It also highlights a large area of degraded areas in the heart of the reserve, which is mainly due to the impact of Hurricane Otto in 2016. These specific information on the study of forest gain and

loss in the target area of the project for the period 2015-2020 were prepared in the formulation of the Project Document.

15. Forest degradation[19][18] in the two core areas of the projects (BNR and IMBR) for the period between 2015-2020 has comprised an area of 62,041 ha , specifically an annual forest degradation of 12,408 ha/year was recorded[20][19]. Between 2005 and 2015, high rates of forest degradation were observed in the BOSAWÁS Biosphere Reserve, the Indio-Maíz buffer zone and the project's area of influence, with percentages that varied between 7.9% and 23.6%. The Indio-Maíz buffer zone showed a degradation of 23.6% (2.4% per year), while the project's influence area experienced a degradation of 17.2% (1.7% per year). These indices are mainly attributed to the consumption of firewood and charcoal, forest fires, slash-and-burn agricultural and livestock practices, logging, trafficking of forest products, and environmental emergencies caused by natural phenomena.[21][20](See more information on the evaluation study on land degradation in the target area of the project for the period 2015-2020 in Annex B “Reference scenario and the problem to be addressed” of ProDoc)

16. The increase in temperatures driven by climate change is presented as a serious environmental threat. It is projected that during this century, the temperature of the RACCN will increase between 1°C and 2°C, while in the RACCS an increase of between 2°C and 3°C is expected. In addition, a decrease in rainfall is anticipated, especially in the northern and eastern part of the Nicaraguan Caribbean according to the 'Future Climate Scenarios of Nicaragua, period 2021 - 2100' prepared by INETER in 2022, considering the future period 2021-2049. The project intervention area is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events such as hurricanes and storms, whose frequency and intensity have increased due to the climate crisis. These events cause the loss of forest cover and alter biodiversity, making ecosystems more susceptible to pests and diseases.

17. NIcaragua is affected by the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon, which is a climatic event that occurs every two to seven years, in variable intensity, and is characterized by a large-scale change in temperatures of ocean waters and changes in atmospheric circulation. It consists of 2 phases, El Niño and La Niña. In Nicaragua, during the El Niño phenomenon, the rains are irregular and less than normal and a prolonged and more intense summer is generated in the middle of the year. Precipitation tends to concentrate and intensify. On several occasions the dog days have come earlier, with tendencies to be dry and extended. The La Niña phase is characterized by increased rainfall, which can cause severe flooding. The main impacts of El Niño are on the vegetation cover of the land, agricultural livelihoods, and surface and underground aquifers.[22][21][i][i].

18. This situation negatively affects the supply of water for rural livelihoods and the conservation of important natural forest lands in indigenous territories. It is necessary to address these problems to promote long-term forest conservation. Therefore, the need to conserve forest landscapes in the BNR and IMBR and promote forest restoration in the biological corridors around them is evident.This will be achieved through an integrated strategy in the Caribbean Region and the AWB of Nicaragua that will result in effective management of PAs, better governance of forests and lands with the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, new investments to strengthen and improve protecting forests, ecosystem services

and sustainable livelihoods, while implementing greater transnational and regional cooperation. Critical Forest Biomes (CFBs) of global importance will be protected with benefits for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and local families.

19. The project design includes key measures to ensure resilience to changes in environmental and socio-economic factors. It focuses on the protection and restoration of biodiversity, addressing threats such as habitat loss and ecosystem degradation. It also seeks to strengthen the livelihoods of local people by promoting the diversification of productive activities and the generation of value-added services, thereby improving their economic security and adaptation to changes in access to resources. Capacity building programs will also be implemented to enable communities to manage their resources in a sustainable manner, including agricultural practices and conservation. The adaptive management approach will allow strategies to be reviewed and adjusted based on feedback and continuous learning, facilitating a flexible response to climatic and socio-economic changes. Finally, it will encourage the creation of collaborative networks between communities and organizations to share knowledge and resources, thereby strengthening collective resilience.

20. The project will involve a wide range of institutional stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels that will be linked to the different project components. Intersectoral cooperation involving these ministries and stakeholders will not only strengthen the project components, but also ensure that they are aligned with national policies and objectives, thus maximizing the impact and long-term sustainability of the project.

The objective of the project and the justification

21. The objective of the project is to “Conserve Critical Forest Biomes in BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and Indio Maíz Biological Reserve by strengthening governance and protection to ensure the sustainable flow of ecosystem services for people and the planet.” The results that the project needs to achieve are the improved management of the 2 core areas of the reserves (997,337 ha), restore 25,000 ha of degraded ecosystems, and improve practices in 42,500 ha with coffee, cocoa, almond and prickly pear agroforestry systems, silvopastoral systems that contribute to supply value chains that avoid deforestation. Project activities will mitigate 3,502,927 metric tons of CO_2eq of Greenhouse Gas emissions.

22. The results of the project will contribute significantly to improve the baseline established in terms of deforestation, land degradation and resilience against hurricanes in both PAs. The project’s commitment to improve the management of 997,337 ha of terrestrial protected areas is clear evidence of the importance of conserving key ecosystems, ensuring the preservation of biodiversity and the promotion of crucial ecosystem services. This intervention is essential not only to prevent further loss of forest cover, but also to strengthen the capacity of ecosystems to serve as natural defenses against extreme climate impacts and thereby contribute to ecological connectivity. Additionally, the restoration of 25,000 hectares of land and ecosystems and the implementation of improved practices in 42,500 hectares of landscapes underscore the project’s dedication to the rehabilitation of degraded areas and the promotion of sustainable and environmentally friendly land management

23. The significant mitigation of 3,502,927 metric tons of CO2e reflects the project's impact in the fight against climate change, effectively contributing to the reduction of the global carbon footprint. In parallel, the project has a profound social impact, benefiting 8,491 inhabitants, including 64% men and 36% women, demonstrating the GEF's inclusive and equitable approach in promoting sustainable development. This set of expected results not only represents a significant advance in the protection of globally important forests, but also sets a precedent for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, marking a path towards resilience and environmental sustainability for local communities. And global biodiversity. (Refer to the Result Framework for more details).

24. The **main barriers** identified to achieve the objective and expected results are:

- **Barrier 1** 'Limited capacity for effective PA management and monitoring of biodiversity and forest integrity' in Nicaragua, implementation of the legal and policy framework for forest and environmental management of PAs and biodiversity is weak, and regulations for territorial and community use need to be updated. The IMBR management plan has not been prepared and the BNR management plan has not been updated. Development plans for indigenous territories are non-existent or outdated. The organization and articulation of stakeholders and sectors in PA intervention watersheds is weak. The private sector is often excluded from dialogue tables. There is a need to develop and equip the information nodes to produce and provide the level of service required to monitor the intervention areas, involving the academia through science.

- **Barrier 2** 'Insufficient flow of economic resources, human resources and tools for forest restoration in affected protected areas'. There is limited information on the status and monitoring of biodiversity and forest conditions in the project intervention areas. This is due to the lack of management plans, information, specific studies and an adequate monitoring system for the project intervention areas. As a result, the health and diversity of forest ecosystems cannot be effectively assessed, and forest cover is not updated with adequate frequency. Another factor contributing to barrier 2 is the limited availability of financial, material (equipment) and human resources for forest restoration. Local communities have a reduced or insufficient role in PA monitoring and management activities, which may result in a lack of involvement and commitment to the protection and conservation of these natural spaces.

- **Barrier 3** 'The lack of funding and the absence of incentives, both economic and non-economic, for the adoption of conservation, sustainable management and forest restoration practices in the BNR and IMBR hinder the dissemination of these practices. In Nicaragua, the research, analysis, systematization and dissemination of information on the mechanisms, tools and methodologies of existing economic models that allow the valuation of ecosystem services is in its incipient stages. There is limited development of capacity in the country to apply these financial mechanisms, and there is a need for appropriate technology to implement them. Indigenous Peoples and Adro-Descendants have difficulties in accessing credit and, in general, the guarantees required for financing are a limiting factor for community access. Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants depend on a reduced number of livelihoods, generally limited to subsistence. It is necessary to reduce the barriers to marketing (access to markets, electricity, water, road access, organizational and administrative barriers).

- **Barrier 4** 'Limited opportunities for awareness raising, learning and knowledge sharing In the intervention areas, there are limited opportunities for learning and knowledge sharing and for raising awareness among different stakeholders of the importance and ecosystem value of forests and PAs. The systematization of good conservation practices and innovative solutions and the

scaling up of learning on sustainable management of PAs and landscape restoration in biological corridors is very weak. There is a lack of greater coordination with international platforms and programs to take advantage of the knowledge and tools available at this level. There is a need for greater coordination between institutions on the environmental education strategy.

Table 1: Barriers to overcome

Dimensions / Transformation levers	Barriers	Key interventions
1. Governance	• Limited capacity for effective PA management and monitoring of biodiversity and forest integrity.	• The project will improve PA management, connectivity between PAs, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants land administration and participatory monitoring and will operationalize regional/territorial/communal dialogue platforms for environmental planning and territorial and forest management with multiple actors and sectors
2. Conservation	• Limited flow of economic resources, human resources and tools for forest restoration in affected protected areas.	• The project will conduct baseline biodiversity/forest assessments and restore degraded forest areas within the PAs. • Assess the conservation status of ecosystems in the hydrographic units and identify potential water sources and ensure the strengthening of water governance with a watershed approach, involving local stakeholders (CAPS and UMAS).
3. Financing	• Insufficient incentives and technical capacity for the conservation and restoration of CFB and the development of forest-based livelihoods;	• The project will involve national private banks to support value chains that avoid deforestation both in the agricultural and livestock sector. Moreover it will invest at least 50% of the resources in conservation, connectivity and ecosystem restoration initiatives implemented by the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants communities in line with their plans of territorial development and complemented with an environmental incentive mechanism to support sustainable production practices (e.g. agroforestry, agrosilvopastoral systems, community forestry, natural regeneration management and ecotourism) and livelihoods (including indigenous women) on Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants lands. • The project will have an innovative approach by promoting public-private investments for the conservation and restoration of forests in the PAs and the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation in connectivity areas, by developing the capacities of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants to monitor the management of the PAs. PA and the integrity of the forests, and supporting local conservation, connectivity and restoration projects that will be managed directly by the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants in the BBR (Mayangna and Miskito indigenous peoples) and the IMBR (Rama and Kriol peoples)

Dimensions / Transformation levers	Barriers	Key interventions
4. Cooperation, learning	• Limited opportunities for awareness-raising, learning and knowledge sharing.	• The project will support regional cooperation, learning and knowledge sharing, including improving environmental education and awareness at local and national levels for the protection and conservation of CFBs. Promote South-South/regional cooperation to improve participation in knowledge exchange forums for the integrity of Mesoamerican CFBs; and participation in the CFB Knowledge Platform of Mesoamerica.

Source: Own elaboration, in the Project Formulator Process

Relevant stakeholders, the private sector, local actors and their roles in the project area

25. The main institutional actors involved at the national level are the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), Ministry of Community, Cooperative and Associative Family Economy (MEFCCA), National Forestry Institute (INAFOR), Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA),Institute of Agricultural Protection and Health (IPSA), National Water Authority (ANA), Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism (INTUR), Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP), Ministry of Women (MINIM), Ministry of Youth (MINJUVE), Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development (INIFOM), Caribbean Coast Development Secretariat (SDCC), Secretary of Climate Change of the Presidency (SCCP), Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER), Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development (INIFON) and the National Council of Universitites (CNU).

26. These actors all have legal mandates related to the protection of the environment, biodiversity, forests and water, according to the General Law Of The Environment And Natural Resources (Law217[23][22]), Law Of Conservation And Sustainable Use Of Biological Diversity (Law 807[24][23]), reforming law no. 620, general law of national waters (Law 620[25][24]), Consolidated Text, Law On Conservation, Promotion And Sustainable Development Of The Forest Sector (Law 462[26][25]).

27. In addition, they promote government actions for the conservation of forests and water sources, as well as managing the effects of climate change and forest degradation, seeking community investments, both public and private, for the conservation and restoration of PAs. Specifically, in the project area, the following government programs stand out according to the General Budget of the Republic 2024[27][26](see detailed information in Annex J “Stakeholder Engagement Plan”, which details their roles in execution and towards systemic transformation in the project area):

- MARENA: **Program 013;**Conservation, Management and Regulation Services for Protected Areas, Biodiversity and Natural Resources; **Program 018**: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Services.

- MEFCCA: **Program 017;** Caribbean Coast Development Services.

- INAFOR:**Program 013;** Promotion and Development of Reforestation and Protection of Forests.

- INTA:**Program 016;** Agricultural Technological Research.

- IPSA: **Program 012**; Plant Health and Seed Services.

- ANA: **Program 017**; CAPS Control Inspection, Tariff Regulation and Training.

- INTUR: **Program 014:** Investment Promotion.

- MHCP: **Program 099**; Items Not Assignable to Programs.

- MINIM: **Program 012:**Training for Gender Equality.

- MINJUVE: **Program 014**; Promotion of Youth Participation.

- SDCC, SCCP and CNU: No details of the programs are described in the budget of the Republic, only budget allocations.

28. Other actors linked to the project present at the national level are: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which is the GEF implementing agency of the project, and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) as a technical service provider specific in the different components. Specifically, in the project area they stand out with the following actions: FAO in its Country Programmatic Framework 2022-2026**[28]**[27] contemplates the Increase of rural family income; Promote measures for mitigation, adaptation and resilience to climate change; Boost local economies; Promote the inclusion of rural, indigenous and Afro-descendant women and youth. It has also developed other **GEF Projects**: GCP/NIC/051/GFF: *Transforming food systems and reducing deforestation in the landscapes of protected areas and biological corridors of the Autonomous Region of the Southern Caribbean Coast and the department of Río San Juan*. FOLUR. GCP/NIC/055/GFF: *Sustainable Integrated Management of Biodiversity in the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve*.'

29. CIAT, in its 2020-2025 Strategy establishes smechanisms to address four interconnected global crises: biodiversity, climate, environment and nutrition.[29][28] (see detailed information in Annex J "Stakeholder Engagement Plan")**.**

30. At the regional level, the main linked actors are: the Autonomous Regional Governments of the South Caribbean Coast (GRACCS), Autonomous Regional Governments of the Northern Caribbean Coast (GRACCN) and the Government of the Alto Wangki and Bocay Special Regime Zone (GRAWB), institutions which have regional delegations from the ministries (MARENA, MEFCCA, IPSA, INTUR, etc.). The general role of these actors is linked to regional socioeconomic growth and territorial planning based on Law 28

(Law on the Statute of Autonomy of the regions of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua) and Law 445 (Law on the communal property regime of the towns. indigenous and ethnic communities). In addition, they guarantee institutional presence at the local level, the appropriation and deepening of autonomy and citizen participation.

31. Specifically, in the project area, the following government programs of the Autonomous Regional Governments of the Caribbean Coast stand out, according to the 2024 General Budget of the Republic[30][29]: **GRACCN**: Program 018: Secretary of Transportation and Infrastructure; **GRACCN**: Program 021: Regional Transportation and Infrastructure Service. For the **Alto Wangki and Bocay Special Regime**, there are not specific programs but only budget allocation. (see detailed information in Annex J "Stakeholder Engagement Plan".

32. Other important actors are the University of the Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast (URACCAN).[31][30], Bluefields Indian & Caribbean University (BICU[32][31]), and the National Agrarian University (UNA[33][32]) that will operate in research activities and generation of knowledge. Specifically, in the project area the URACCAN has campuses and programs in Las Minas, Bilwi, Bluefields and Nueva Guinea has autonomy, governability and governance among its thematic axes. The BICU has campuses and programs in Bonanza, Waspam, Bilwi, Paiwas, Laguna de Perlas, Rama and Bluefields. Their approach is based on three pillars: academia, research and social extension, that is, the support of the communities in their development process through projects related to ecotourism, agroforestry, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation and environmental restoration, human rights, adaptation to climate change, among others. UNA has developed the "University in the Field Academic Program[34][33]" which is already being executed in Alto Wangki and Bocay - named "Augusto César Sandino Indigenous University" with the agro-environmental engineering degree, executed by the Directorate of Environmental Sciences and Climate Change[35][34]. This program is also being executed in El Rama 'Heroes and Martyrs of the Camilo José Chamorro Guerrilla Column' and in El Castillo Boca de Sábalo 'Cra. "María Estrada Gutiérrez" (see detailed information in Annex J "Stakeholder Engagement Plan").

33. At the territorial and communal level, the Regional Governments (RG) and Indigenous Territorial Governments (ITG) will play a central role in the coordination and execution of the project. The indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples (150 communities of Miskito, Mayangnas, Ulwas, Ramas, Creoles) are strongly associated with the existence of forests and will be the protagonists of the proposed intervention. Specifically, in the project area they stand out with the following actions: They seek the socioeconomic growth of its territory, through its institutional strengthening, appropriation and deepening of autonomy and citizen participation, based on territorial planning, prioritizing municipal investment projects and plans related to the environment. (see detailed information in Annex J "Stakeholder Engagement Plan").

34. In the target area of the project, particularly in the buffer area of the Bosawas and Río San Juan Biosphere Reserves, there are also cooperatives of coffee and cocoa producers[36][35], several private sector companies and organizations that operate in the cocoa, oil palm, coconut, coffee sectors, among others. Cacao Oro[37][36], Cacao Ritter Sport[38][37], MLR Forestry[39][38], are examples of cooperatives and associations related to the productive sector. These organizations generate investments and promote business opportunities in coordination with public sector entities. Banks, microfinance institutions and external cooperation agencies are involved to facilitate financial resources for productive investments and the incorporation of green protocols in their credit policies. Specifically, Cacao Oro successfully promoted agroecological cocoa plantations of 2000 ha in Rosita within the framework of projects of the *Mirova Fund**[40]*[39] that targets the main drivers of deforestation in tropical forests, protecting and restoring ecosystems with high carbon reserves. While, Cacao Ritter Sport promotes the production of cocoa in socially and ecologically dignified conditions and at the same time at competitive prices. The company in Nicaragua was formed in 2011 and has 3 defined units: Finca El Cacao[41][40] located between El Rama and Kukhra Hill, with its headquarters in Managua and a cocoa collection center located between Sébaco and Matagalpa; MLR Forestal in Bonanza and Siuna from 2022, which begun an ecological restoration process that consists in reforesting more than 550 ha with native plants produced in a nursery, for the next 10 years and, an agroforestry system for cocoa and teak plantations. (see detailed information in Annex J "Stakeholder Engagement Plan")

[2] FAO. 2020. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 – Main results. Rome Italy.

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[3] MARENA. 2020 a. Guide for Biodiversity Management. Managua Nicaragua.
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[4]Government of Reconciliation and National Unity (GRUN). 2023. First Biennial Update Report, Republic of Nicaragua. Managua. Nicaragua.
Consulted:https://unfccc.int/gcse?q=informes%20bienal%20Nicaragua

[5]MARENA. 2020-b. VI National Compliance Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Managua Nicaragua. Consulted:https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/ni-nr-06-es.pdf

[6]MARENA. 2020-c. Forest cover dynamics – multi-temporal analysis 2000 – 2010 – 2015 – 2019. Managua, Nicaragua.
Consulted:http://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/04-presentacion-bosque-bosawas-riosanjuan-VF.pdf

[7]MARENA, 2023. Nicaragua corridor proposal for the GEF8 "Integrated Program Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes".

[8]The surface data of this section is calculated from the official layer of protected areas of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources.

[9]The surface data of this section is calculated from the official layer of protected areas of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources.

[10]MARENA and FAO. Formulation Process of the Project "Protection and conservation of forests of global importance located in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve." 2024. Project Location Map. Managua Nicaragua.

[11]MARENA. 2020-b. VI National Compliance Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Managua Nicaragua. Consulted:https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/ni-nr-06-es.pdf

[12]MARENA. 2020-b. VI National Compliance Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Managua Nicaragua. Consulted:https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/ni-nr-06-es.pdf

[13] MARENA..2020. Guide for Biodiversity Management. Obtained from https://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp

[14]GRUN (2022). National Plan to Fight Poverty and Human Development (2022 – 2026).https://www.pndh.gob.ni/documentos/pnlc-dh/PNCL-DH_2022-2026(19Jul21).pdf

[15]MARENA (2017). Systematization of lessons learned from forestry and environmental management with indigenous peoples. ENDE-REDD+.

[16]MARENA (2017) Study of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Nicaragua: The problem of forest carbon stocks within the framework of the ENDE-REDD+ strategy. Managua Nicaragua.

[17]INETER-DGOT (2022) based on INIDE 2021 population projections – 2012 Revision.

[18]Deforestation data has been calculated from the official INETER 2015 and 2020 land cover and use layers.

[19]Decrease in crown or coverage of twelve not less than 30%. Partial loss of cover that does not imply a permanent change from forest to non-forest land use. Example: Closed forest to open forest

[20]Data calculated by the consulting team, based on the official land coverage and use maps 2015, 2020, prepared by INETER

[21]GEF.Proyect: Sustainable Integrated Management of Biodiversity in the Indian-Maíz Biological Reserve. Nicaragua.

[22] CRRH/SICA Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (2023) - El Niño and Climate Perspective. Consulted:

file:///C:/Users/viceg/Downloads/Informe%20LXXII%20Foro%20del%20Clima%20de%20America%20Central%20Perspectiva%20del%20Clima%20para%20el%20period%20august%20a%20octubre%202023% 20(4).pdf

[23]Consolidated text of Law 217: http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/gacetas/2023/11/g217.pdf

[24] http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/gacetas/2019/10/g203.pdf

[25]http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/gacetas/2020/11/g217.pdf

[26]http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/gacetas/2022/10/g197.pdf

[27]Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP). 2023. General Budget Directorate: General Budget of the Republic 2023. Consulted:http://www.hacienda.gob.ni/hacienda/presupuesto2024/

[28]Food Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2024. Programs in Nicaragua. Consulted:

https://www.fao.org/nicaragua/programas-y-proyectos/ru/

[29]Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). Consulted: https://alliancebioversityciat.org/es/taxonomy/term/11900

[30]Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP). 2023. General Budget Directorate: General Budget of the Republic 2023. Consulted:http://www.hacienda.gob.ni/hacienda/presupuesto2024/

[31]https://www.uraccan.edu.ni/en#

[32]https://www.bicu.edu.ni/

[33]https://www.una.edu.ni/

[34]https://www.una.edu.ni/programa-academico-universidad-en-el-campo-pauc/

[35] National Agrarian University (UNA). Academic program university in the field. Consulted: https://www.una.edu.ni/programa-academic-university-in-el-campo-pauc/

[36]https://www.economiafamiliar.gob.ni/backend/vistas/doc/caatalogo/documento7555194.pdf

[37]https://cacaooro.com/

[38]https://www.directoriocacao.info/actores/perfil/ritter-sport-nicaragua-sa/

[39]https://mlr.com.ni/

[40]Mirova has developed an investment platform dedicated to natural capital. The strategies aim to enable public, institutional and corporate investors to combine the potential for attractive returns and a positive impact on nature by investing in projects that contribute to the preservation, restoration and regeneration of natural ecosystems. Iink: https://www.mirova.com/en/biodiversity

[41]https://www.ritter-sport.com/el-cacao

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https://unfao.sharepoint.com/sites/GEF/Shared%20Documents/GEF-8/Critical%20Forest%20Biomes%20IP/11279_Nicaragua/PRODOC/For%20submission%20July%202024/01.%20Project%20Document_Nicaragua_11279_29%20July%202024.docx - _ednref1

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

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (THEORY OF CHANGE)

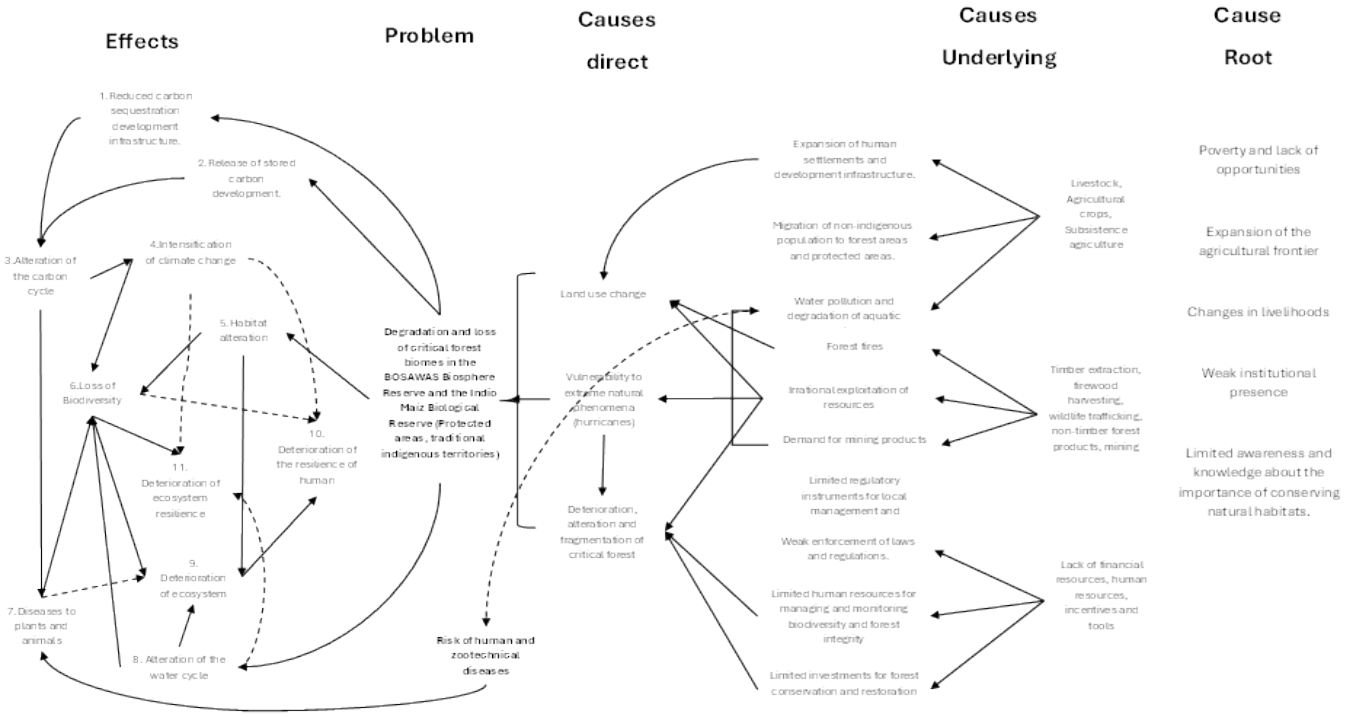
36. As mentioned in the previous section, the main objective of the project is to "Conserve critical forest biomes in the BOSAWAS Biological Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve by strengthening governance and protection to ensure sustainable flow of ecosystem services for people and the planet", mainly by strengthening the governance and management of two prioritized protected areas (BNR and IMBR), based on the ancestral knowledge and good practices of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. In addition, it will support the coordination of multiple stakeholders for territorial planning and implementation. It will mobilize investments to strengthen the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants for nature conservation and improve regional/transnational cooperation and coordination.

Baseline in the absence of the project

37. Nicaragua has one of the largest areas of primary tropical forests (3.19 million ha) in Mesoamerica. This Critical Forest Biomes (CFB) is located in the IMBR and BNR that host globally important biodiversity and serves as a vital carbon reservoir. However, there are environmental threats in the target geographic area which are deforestation and forest degradation. As explained more in depth in the previous paragraphs, in the period between 2015-2020, net deforestation has been of 915 ha in the BNR core area and 1,687 ha in the IMBR. Specifically, in the BOSAWAS Natural Reserve, the areas of "No stable forests" are found towards the southeast of the reserve, accompanied by areas of deforestation, being a clear sign that the activity of advancing the agricultural frontier in this area is very dynamic. In the IMBR, an advance in deforestation is observed on the west side of the reserve and it presents a large, degraded area in the heart of the reserve, due to the impact of Hurricane Otto in 2016. In general, the target area is very vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms, which are responsible for the loss of the forest cover and severe damage to trees that make them susceptible to pests and diseases.

38. The following figure shows the cause and effect relationships related to degradation and loss of critical forest biomes in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve.

Figure 1 Cause and effect relationships related to degradation and loss of critical forest biomes in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve



38. Nicaragua's legal and political framework is robust, including the Strategy and Development Plan for the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki-Bocay 2019-2029[42][41], the National Avoided Deforestation Program ENDE-REDD+ 2018-2040[43][42](Strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation), the National Climate Change Policy (2022[44][43]), the Protected Areas Regulation (2007[45][44]), Laws 217 and 647 on the Environment and Natural Resources, Law 807 on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, Laws 462 and 947 on Conservation, Promotion and Development of the Forestry Sector and the Law reforming Law No. 620, General Law of National Waters. However, strengthening governance and management in the two existing protected areas is required to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and increase resilience to climate change in the face of hurricane threats.

39. The project will add value to baseline investments through an integrated approach that will improve the conservation of BBR and IMBR by strengthening their governance and protection. Without the GEF project, this goal will not be achieved and these CFBs will continue to be threatened by deforestation and forest degradation.

40. The project's focus on IMBR in at least one of its intervention areas, as it is an innovative aspect that also adds value to the project by taking into account the essential synergies between water resources and forest ecosystems, which promote the conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB) a comprehensive and sustainable manner. In addition, it enhances the active and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants by addressing the water issue, which is one of the main constraints in the area. This approach improves gender inclusion and strengthens the capacities of the local communities that manage and protect the CFB.

Alternative scenario with GEF interventions

41. Considering the general objective of the project, the key actions of the project are designed based on the following premise: an integrated strategy in the Caribbean region of Nicaragua will result in the effective management of protected areas, better governance of forests and lands with the participation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, complemented with public and private investments through coordination with government institutions to overcome the barriers identified and to address the direct causes of deforestation from different levels, including specific investments to promote sustainable value chains both in the agricultural and livestock sector, that prevent deforestation and promote conservation in areas of connectivity between forest landscapes of the two prioritized protected areas (Bosawas Natural Reserve and Indio Maíz Biological Reserve).

42. The project's theory of change focuses on addressing the degradation of critical forest biomes in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maiz Biological Reserve, which face four main barriers: limited capacity to manage protected areas and monitor biodiversity; lack of economic resources and tools for restoration; limited technical capacity and incentives for conservation; and few opportunities for learning and knowledge sharing.

43. In order to overcome these barriers, four transformation levers have been identified that will lead to the following decisive changes: i) the protection and conservation of critical forest biomes will be expanded; ii) natural capital will have a higher value and sustainable production that respects the forest ecosystem will be disseminated in the area of intervention; iii) there will be better national frameworks to support forest conservation; and iv) effective cooperation will be implemented at the regional level.

44. The project has four key components. The first aims to facilitate the protection of primary forests by strengthening governance and management tools. The second focuses on the conservation and restoration of critical forest landscapes by funding technical assistance and biodiversity assessments. The third component promotes investment in sustainable livelihoods by providing funding and incentives. Finally, the fourth component is dedicated to regional cooperation and learning.

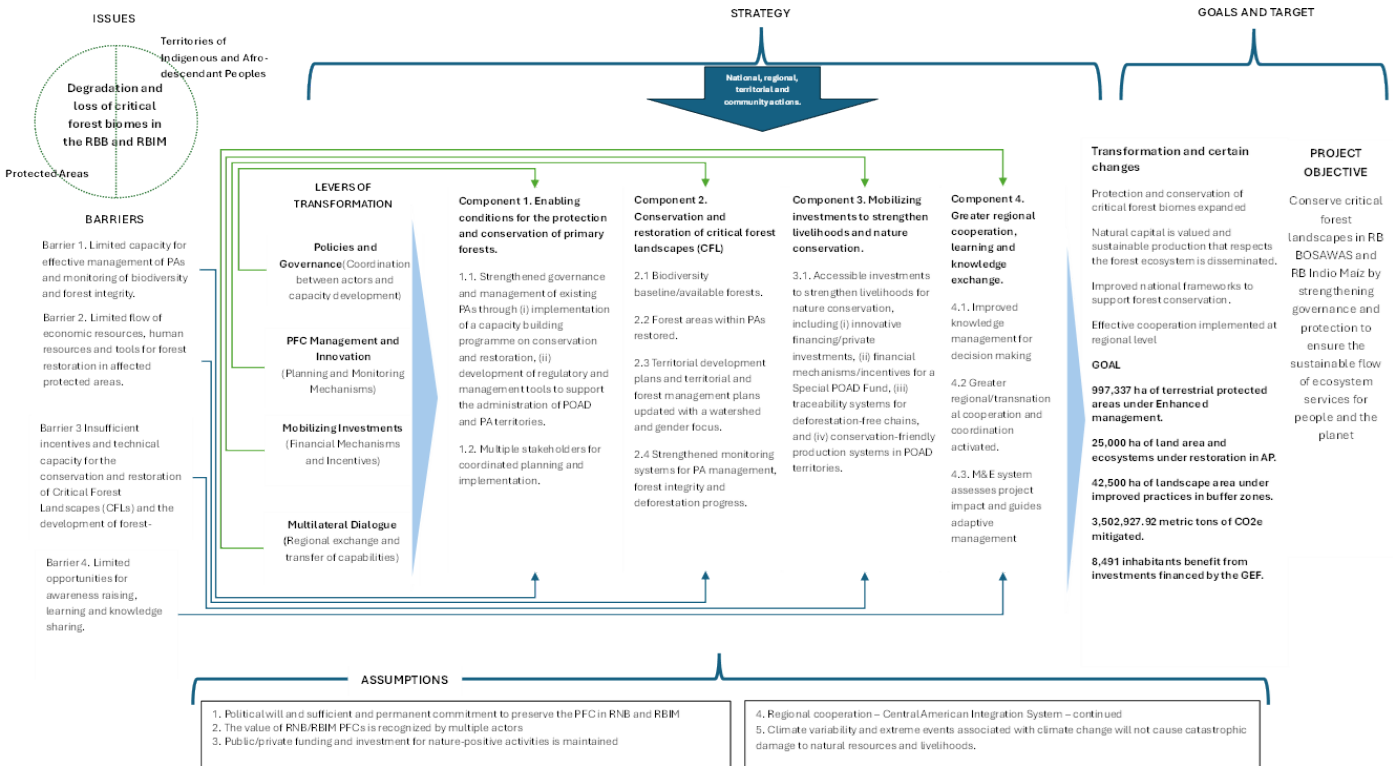
45. Significant changes are expected, such as expanding protection of forest biomes, valuing natural capital and improving conservation frameworks. Targets include the management of 997,337 hectares, the restoration of 25,000 hectares and the mitigation of more than 3.5 million tonnes of CO2e, benefiting 8,491 people.

46. In order to achieve these goals, it is essential that: i) there is sufficient and sustained political will and commitment to conserve CFBs in BNR and IMBR, ii) the value of CFBs in BNR/IMBR is recognised by multiple actors, iii) public/private funding and investment for positive activities for nature is maintained, iv) regional cooperation - Central American Integration System - is sustained, v) climate variability and extreme events associated with climate change do not cause catastrophic damage to narural reserves and

livelihoods, y vi) climate variability and extreme events associated with climate change do not cause catastrophic damage to natural reserves and livelihoods.

47. The Theory of Change Diagram (Figure 2) shows the project components and outcomes needed to achieve the proposed objective.

Figure 2 theory of change diagram



48. The barriers identified, and explained in the project rationale section to achieve the project objective and expected outcomes are related to the key elements of transformation: i) 'Limited capacity for effective PA management and monitoring of biodiversity and forest integrity' highlights the need to strengthen governance and cross-sectoral collaboration for effective natural resource management. ii) 'Inadequate flow of financial, human resources and tools for forest restoration in affected PAs' addresses the need to improve information, monitoring and community participation to strengthen biodiversity and forest management and conservation. iii) 'Inadequate incentives and technical capacity for conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Landscapes (' CFPs') and forest-based livelihood development' highlights the need for a more enabling environment that combines funding, incentives and capacity for conservation and restoration of CFPs and forest-based livelihood development. iii) Insufficient incentives and technical capacity for conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Landscapes (CFLs) and development of forest-based livelihoods' highlights the need for a more enabling environment that combines funding, incentives and capacity to promote conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. iv) Limited opportunities for awareness raising, learning and knowledge sharing' highlights the importance of strengthening learning, awareness raising and coordination among stakeholders to promote sustainable practices and ecosystem conservation.

Objective of the project

49. The Project Objective is “To conserve Critical Forest Biomes in the BBR and IMBR by strengthening governance and protection to ensure the sustainable flow of ecosystem services for people and the planet.”

Components and Expected Results of the Project

50. As illustrated in *Figure 2 Theory of Change*, the project is organized around four main components. Component 1 envisages institutional strengthening to respond to legal, political and governance barriers. Component 2 focuses on the conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB); component 3 on mobilizing investments to strengthen livelihoods and nature conservation; and component 4 on greater regional cooperation, learning and knowledge exchange.

Narrative description of the components, results and products of the project

Component 1. Facilitating conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests

51. The conditions that will be provided for the protection and conservation of primary forests include supporting the development and implementation of the instruments required to strengthen the governance of the core zones of protected areas, being, firstly, the updating, validation and dissemination of statutes, regulations and ordinances for the implementation of indigenous territorial plans in territories that have their communal property titles; secondly, the joint management plans for the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve, through which the zoning and regulations of the reserves will be updated for both their core zones and buffer zones; Third, the update of the Strategy and Development Plan for the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay, where the main elements of the instruments generated in the indigenous territories and for the reserves will be integrated; and fourth, the instruments developed at the level of indigenous territories, the reserve area and the Caribbean Coast will allow their actions to be incorporated into the implementation process of The National Policy To Prevent Deforestation And Forest Degradation, Presidential Decree No. 06-2023, approved on June 9, 2023, Published in La Gaceta, Official Gazette No. 104 of June 13, 2023.

52. In Nicaragua, governance, intersectoral dialogue for joint planning between various actors and the institutional capacity to regulate and control the use of land and forests have a robust political and legal framework and this project is aligned with these policies, strategies and existing national laws. Among them, the National Plan to Fight Poverty and Human Development 2022 – 2026[46], Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENDE REDD+ 2018 2040[47]) and the Strategy and Development Plan of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki-Bocay 2019 – 2029 and the General Environmental Laws (Law 217), Biodiversity Law (Law 807), Forestry Law (Law 262), Water Law (Law 620). Notwithstanding the existing regulatory framework, enforcement of laws and regulations is weak and there is limited capacity for governance and management and monitoring of biodiversity and forest integrity. This component is synergistic with the “Integrated and Sustainable Biodiversity Management of the Indio-Maiz Biological Reserve” project executed by MARENA, as both seek in complementary to strengthen an enabling environment to ensure better governance and management of the Reserve; as well as to strengthen the capacities of indigenous communities, as well as national, regional and municipal authorities in landscape management to conserve biodiversity.

53. To overcome these limits, the component will support the implementation of the existing legal and policy framework, strengthening the governance and management of the IMBR and BBR. This will be achieved

through (i) the implementation of a capacity development program on conservation and restoration, which allows institutions and local actors to have the necessary knowledge for the management of reserves, (ii) the development of regulatory tools, and management to support the administration of the territories of the Indigenous People and Afro-Descendants and the Protected Areas to facilitate the governance of these territories iii) the definition and activation of inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination spaces for the planning and management of these territories, through the implementation of regional, territorial and communal dialogue platforms, to facilitate the **coordination** between territories and the participation of different local actors and stakeholders.

54. The inter-institutional coordination spaces to develop the different activities of the component will be formed mainly by institutions at the national, regional and local levels (MARENA, SDCC, GRCCN, GRCCS and Alto Wangki Bocay) and representatives of the Indigenous Territorial Governments (ITG), in addition to the participation of academia (CNU and the universities BICU and URACCAN). These inter-institutional coordination spaces are fundamental to improve the coherence between the actions carried out by the different institutions for the benefit of the environment. The expected results of the intersectoral dialogues that will be supported by the project are as follows:

- In the project area, being an Autonomous Region of the Caribbean Coast in Nicaragua, the mechanisms for dialogue, consensus and agreement regarding the environmental management of protected areas and biodiversity must be developed at the communal and territorial level with the leadership of the Indigenous Territorial Governments, at the municipal level with the leadership of the Mayors, at the regional level with the leadership of the Autonomous Regional Governments of the North Caribbean Coast and South Caribbean Coast, and at the national level with the leadership of MARENA through the mechanisms established by the sectoral laws on forests, biodiversity and protected areas.

- The results of the intersectoral dialogues are generated at these four levels based on what is approved in the planning and management instruments of each level and with the objective that from and between each level, financial, technical and scientific assistance for the conservation and management of forests is reviewed and managed; the status of the Projects and Programs that are executed or completed by non-governmental organizations and agencies within the Reserves is known and reviewed; proposals are generated in the elaboration of policies, norms and regulations to be applied in the Reserve; the actions necessary for the State institutions, non-governmental organizations, projects and donors to act in a coordinated manner and on the basis of the management plans and technical norms that are dictated for the area of the Reserve are managed.

55. Specifically, component 1 will support the following outcome and outputs:

<u>Outcome 1.1.</u> Governance and management of existing Protected Areas strengthened through (i) implementation of a capacity development program on conservation and restoration, (ii) the development of regulatory and management tools to support the administration of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendandts territories and the Protected Areas

Output 1.1.1. Capacity-building program for the governance and effective management of BBR and IMBR to contribute to forest integrity implemented, with the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant women and youth and the territorial and communal, regional and national governments

56. This output includes diagnostic studies, the participatory construction of the contents of the capacity building program, the preparation of materials, training workshops and the creation of a digital documentation system for the management of territorial governments. It is aimed mainly at local partners (Regional, Indigenous Territorial, Municipal and Communal Governments), as well as institutions present in the territory. Training activities will be conducted in cascade from the national, regional and territorial Indigenous levels.

57. The Program will develop and implement a capacity-building plan for the governance and effective management of BNR and IMBR aimed mainly at local partners (regional, territorial, municipal and communal governments) and institutions present in the territory. The strengthening of the regional environmental body and the governance structures in Alto Wangki Bocay and Río San Juan will be contemplated, institutions that play a very relevant role in the implementation of the project.

58. This initiative will be carried out after an analysis of themes and the identification of target groups, collaborating closely with them to determine the appropriate content and methods. The training activities will be carried out in a cascade, starting from a national level (output 4.1.1) to the regional and territorial levels. Workshops will be held in the 3 regions (AWB, RACCN and RACCS) to train governments and regional institutions and workshops in the 8 territories of project intervention (3 in AWB, 4 in RACCN and 1 in RACCS) for the training of ITG and Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. The courses will be scheduled on agreed dates and times based on the availability expressed by the participants. Municipal and communal levels will participate in the courses and workshops held in the territories. All actions will be built and implemented by project technicians and by institutions, including universities, in accordance with the governance model of the North and South Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay. The program will be prepared by a consultant in collaboration with an inter-institutional technical team, coordinated by the executing institution, and will be validated by an Inter-institutional Committee at the national and regional level. El Programa FAO Campus de la FAO garantizará un importante aporte en los procesos de gestión del conocimiento y de capacitación y facilitará la interrelación e involucramiento del mundo académico. The entire training process will be accompanied by an expert who will guarantee the implementation of a gender and indigenous peoples approach.

59. The project team, the executing agency, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and key actors will be able to benefit from the training offered through the Program on topics of relevance to management and implementation. Training events and exchange of information are contemplated. knowledge about key topics in a context of change such as: change and resistance to change; self-knowledge and emotional management, strategic and operational planning, change management and focus on service to the population, FAO campus podrá facilitar estas acciones. In addition, they will use tools developed by the Program such as validation practices, exchange of experiences and demonstration of good productive and environmental practices and may request guidance to access new financial opportunities, to promote the participation of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and the private sector, for the production of communication material.

60. Knowledge management in the context of the program emphasized on the strengthening and/or development of technical capabilities and especially personal capabilities, supported by the experiences of fundamental human values such as solidarity, respect that are also promoted by the National

Government among others, as well as the sensitization and awareness of the need to face personal or collective changes in beliefs, attitudes and even more, behavioral habits in different dimensions of the people involved in the productive and environmental sector, in order to do so from personal-individual make possible in a different and sustainable way the long-awaited human development with multicultural identity in productive and community environmental matters that the region of the Caribbean Coast and the upper Wangki and Bocay requires

61. The program to strengthen governance with knowledge management will also include a communication plan that will serve to report the progress of the project and share the experience of the project, its general strategy, the progress in the livestock and cocoa chains and in the restoration of degraded landscapes. Thus, the knowledge management program will serve to make decisions and strengthen policies and the governance system in order to underpin the processes developed and the lessons learned in the long term.

62. The strengthening and development of human talent of the technical and subjective aspects in the management of sectoral and environmental platforms that will be essential to achieve active participation, with a positive and enthusiastic attitude of the people-institutions of the productive and environmental sector, co-responsible of the facilitation of human development for inter-institutional synergy and governance, with emphasis on the environmental and social productivity of the regions and the AWB

63. his design of participatory implementation of an institutional model of environmental change management as an important strategy that favors a new way of thinking and acting in the work of institutional personnel and key authorities of the different levels of governments that lead productive development. , rural, community and environmental on the Caribbean Coast and AWB. Likewise, the challenge will include the development of skills to motivate oneself and other people to achieve continuous transformation. Change management must be conceived as a dynamic, participatory and gradual process, which will break the unbalanced correlation to transform it into a more profitable balance from a technical and, above all, human point of view.

64. The Capacity Building Program will include training in administrative aspects, in the political and legal framework that refers to PAs and biodiversity and in various environmental issues, as well as cross-cutting issues of gender and Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. It will have a component for the updating and/or preparation and implementation of statutes (communal, territorial, regional), ordinances and management plans of the PAs (product 1.1.1.3). Cross-cutting approaches to gender (raising awareness about basic concepts, gender roles, legal and regulatory framework on rights and gender equality and equitable and complementary distribution of household responsibilities, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence in relationships with couples, families, and communities), human rights and indigenous rights will be considered, returning to ancestral practices (community forest guards, territorial judges, women and youth organizations, boards of directors of territorial governments, public servants at the national and local level). The theme of maintenance, rehabilitation and patrolling of communal and territorial boundaries will be included and the issue of water resources will be taken into account (water governance at the micro-basin level, infrastructure, legalization, calculation of rates, maintenance of recharge areas and water sources), guaranteeing an organizational and operational strengthening plan for the existing CAPS, based on the conservation of forest resources. The program will have specific actions to strengthen the knowledge of environmental observers and community forest guards on governance issues to support institutions to cover the management of reserves, and a component of public awareness towards the national and international legal framework on environmental issues with a gender focus. The project also foresees holding meetings to exchange experiences with women and young leaders of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples to motivate other women and young people to participate in decision-making spaces at the national, regional, territorial and community levels. During the

implementation of the training program in the territories, spaces will be enabled for the care of boys and girls, for women who participate in activities related to the implementation of the project (meetings, workshops, encounters, etc.). In these recreation spaces, a culture of protection of Mother Earth and care of the environment is promoted.

65. Through the program, articulation spaces will be strengthened to improve the application of the legal framework on environmental issues on the North and South Caribbean Coast, and in Alto Wangki and Bocay. A documentation system will also be created for the management of indigenous communal governments.

66. The application of the knowledge provided through the training will be monitored and provided feedback through the project's field technicians (activity 1.1.4.3) and through practical implementation in the other activities provided for in component 1.

67. The program will guarantee the tools, supplies and equipment necessary for its execution. To reduce the mobilization costs of the project's trainers and technicians, it is planned to acquire pangas for the 3 regions (2 pangas to move by river in AWB and one panga to move by sea in RACCN and RACCS). These inputs will also be used to strengthen the exchange of information and monitoring activities.

68. The following table indicates the priority contents for the program, proposed by the Secretariat for the Development of the Caribbean Coast and AWB and which will be an important input for the participatory construction of the content of the program itself.

Table 2 PRIORITY CONTENTS FOR THE PROGRAM, PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COAST AND AWB

Formation and development **of technical and human capabilities of institutional technical staff**	**Training and development of technical and human capabilities** **of institutional management staff**	**Training and development of technical and human capabilities of promotion staff**
The Caribbean Coast in the context of the country.	**I. The Caribbean Coast in the country context.**	**The Caribbean Coast and its context in the country**
Strategic aspects of political order	***Strategic aspects of political order***	***Strategic aspects of political order***
• Comprehensive knowledge of the Caribbean Coast at the economic, productive, political, socio-cultural, and environmental levels. • Indigenous worldview and its elements, characterization of the population by regions, ethnic groups and native peoples. • Traditional culture of producers from indigenous communities and territories; • Meaning and implications of technical and human work (Accompaniment) on the Caribbean Coast and technical and	• Comprehensive knowledge of the Caribbean Coast at the economic, productive, political, socio-cultural, and environmental levels. • Indigenous worldview and its elements, characterization of the population by regions, ethnic groups and native peoples. • Traditional culture of producers from indigenous communities and territories; • Meaning and implications of technical and human work	• Comprehensive knowledge of the Caribbean Coast at the economic, productive, political, socio-cultural, and environmental levels. • Indigenous worldview and its elements, characterization of the population by regions, ethnic groups and native peoples. • Traditional culture of producers from indigenous communities and territories; • Meaning and implications of technical and human work (Accompaniment) on the Caribbean Coast and technical and human

Formation and development of technical and human capabilities of institutional technical staff	Training and development of technical and human capabilities of institutional management staff	Training and development of technical and human capabilities of promotion staff
human profile required for productive development on the Caribbean Coast. • National development strategy and development strategy of the Caribbean Coast. • Key approaches for its approach and practical application (identity and multiculturalism, gender, youth)	(Accompaniment) on the Caribbean Coast and technical and human profile required for productive development on the Caribbean Coast. • National development strategy and development strategy of the Caribbean Coast. • Key approaches for its approach and practical application (identity and multiculturalism,gender, youth)	profile required for productive development on the Caribbean Coast. • National development strategy and development strategy of the Caribbean Coast. • Key approaches for its approach and practical application (identity and multiculturalism,gender, youth).
Strategic legal aspects	***Strategic legal aspects***	***Strategic legal aspects***
• Important laws that govern life on the Caribbean Coast.	• Important laws that govern life on the Caribbean Coast.	Important laws that govern life on the Caribbean Coast
Agricultural and forestry production	**Agricultural and forestry production**	***Agricultural and forestry production***
• Genetic improvement of livestock, and other livestock issues. • Integrated crop and seed management. • Cocoa and coffee; • agroecological alternatives; • Good agricultural and livestock practices; • Planning and management of the property with a family vision. • Transition from extensive production to intensive production; • marketing, technology. • Associativity.		• Environment of producers in indigenous territories and communities. • Improving the plot, putting into practice what has been learned in agriculture and livestock as well. • Property planning: map and know the soil • How to integrate women and youth, applying technical approaches. • How to put theory (of which there is a lot) into practice and in terms of process, in some places performance has not yet been seen,
Policies and strategies, development and application of regulations	***Policies and strategies, development and care of the application of regulations***	
• Environmental technical inspections, their approach in the context of a mission (What to do? How to develop the process and record necessary information? Where and who to contact? • Climate change;	• Policies and strategies linked to better provision of specialized services in a context of articulation and complementarity of the productive sector. • Climate change;	•

Formation and development of technical and human capabilities of institutional technical staff	Training and development of technical and human capabilities of institutional management staff	Training and development of technical and human capabilities of promotion staff
• Risk management; • Technical management of micro basins. • Sustainable rural tourism. • Techniques and instrument used in fishing boats, • Application of Law 489 and productive development models	• Risk management; • Sustainable rural tourism. • Application of laws and regulations	
Technical and human performance management	**Technical and human performance management**	**Technical and human performance management**
Technical performance	***Technical performance***	***Technical performance***
• Project planning and development methodologies and tools; • Budget formulation. • Networking (promoters, other technicians) • Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation. Observation, collection, processing and analysis of information; facilitation/accompaniment with a focus on human development and integrality. Improve concept and practice, integrated in the field and in family dynamics. • Plans to improve technical and personal performance. • Systematization of experiences; • Database development; • Technical report writing. • Efficiency in time management; • Efficiency in the use of resources and quality in the provision of services. (comprehensiveness)	• Project planning and development methodologies and tools; • Budget formulation. • Organization development with a systemic approach and plans to improve technical and personal performance. • Management with a perspective of integrality and complementarity. • Technical report writing. • Efficiency in time management; • Efficiency in the use of resources and quality in the provision of services. (comprehensiveness)	• Accounting, property management, cooperative to invest better. • Application of teaching methodologies such as the exchange of producers from the same community or from others to know, since people learn by seeing. This is how people have learned, not everyone has the capacity or interest in being given an exhibition, the exchange is more important, there people “see”.
Human performance	***Human performance***	***Human performance***
• Leadership • Teamwork. Knowledge of the team's potential, exchange of experiences.	• Leadership	• Producer needs • Leadership

Formation and development of technical and human capabilities of institutional technical staff	Training and development of technical and human capabilities of institutional management staff	Training and development of technical and human capabilities of promotion staff
• Conflict management • Group dynamics. • Organizational climate • Motivation, change of attitudes and practices • Assertive communication to generate realities (empathy, effective listening, feedback)	• Teamwork. Knowledge of the team's potential, exchange of experiences. • Conflict management • Group dynamics. • Organizational climate • Motivation, change of attitudes and practices • Assertive communication to generate realities (empathy, effective listening, feedback)	• Willingness to change beliefs, attitudes and way of doing things (producers do not follow the technical guidelines that we promoters give them, they sow in their own way, which does not contribute to improving performance. It is difficult to unlearn to learn). • Teamwork. • Conflict management • Group dynamics. • Motivation, change of attitudes and practices • Assertive communication to generate realities (empathy, effective listening, feedback). • Model of Equity and Complementarity promoted by the Government of Nicaragua for the Good Living of women and families.

Activities:

1.1.1.1. Diagnosis of communal, territorial and regional organizations, with a gender focus, IWRM.

1.1.1.2. Participatory construction of the contents of the capacity-building program and the implementation methodology.

1.1.1.3. Preparation of training materials and equipment at the level of communities, territories and regions.

1.1.1.4. Implementation of the capacity strengthening program on issues related to environmental governance – in the areas of intervention.

1.1.1.5. Creation of a digital documentation system for the management of indigenous and Afro-descendant territorial communal governments

Output 1.1.2. Regulatory and management instruments for the administration of Indigenous and Afro-descendant territories and Protected Areas developed, updated and implemented

69. This output includes the updating, validation, and dissemination of statutes, regulations, and ordinances for the implementation of territorial plans. Regulatory and management instruments must be gender responsive to ensure that the needs, perspectives and considerations of all groups, especially women and vulnerable communities, are integrated into decision-making and territorial planning. The output will be developed at the territorial, municipal, and communal levels. The methods for validating the instruments will follow the participatory processes outlined in the FPIC, which will seek high participation from Regional Governments, Territorial Governments, and Indigenous Communities involved in community assemblies.

70. Through workshops held in the 8 project territories, statutes, regulations and ordinances will be developed and updated at the territorial, municipal and communal levels, based on the protection, conservation and regeneration of forests, and the methodological instruments necessary to implement the laws and management plans of the PAs. For the validation processes of the statutes, the participatory processes provided for in the FPIC will be followed, guaranteeing the involvement of all local actors, universities and institutions, implementing priority actions that refer to the regulatory and management instruments defined in the Development Strategy of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay, in the updated territorial plans.

71. In accordance with the Gender Action Plan, the output proposes that the normative and management instruments (statutes, regulations and ordinances) be gender sensitive, so that the needs of all groups, especially women and vulnerable communities, are integrated into decision making and territorial planning. To achieve this, it is proposed that the workshops held in the 8 project territories promote a training space to strengthen knowledge and capacities in PA governance and management, with a gender and human rights approach.

72. The coordination of activities for this product will be the responsibility of regional authorities, advised by MARENA. There will be support from the project technicians and an expert in gender and indigenous peoples, from the other institutions involved and from the territorial and communal organizations.

Activities:

1.1.2.1. Preparation, updating and validation of statutes, regulations and ordinances.

1.1.2.2. Preparation and dissemination of the regulatory instruments necessary for the implementation of updated territorial plans.

Output 1.1.3. IMBR management plan implemented and BBR management plan updated and implemented

73. The project will contribute and collaborate to the updating and implementation of the RBB management plan and the implementation of the IMBR Management Plan.

74. The current BBR Management Plan (2002) requires an update to reflect the changes in the socioeconomic and environmental context that have occurred in the last 20 years and to define current priorities and challenges. The plan will be updated by applying an approach that facilitates joint and coordinated management between different local actors and institutions, respecting the indigenous worldview and returning to their ancestral practices. The plan will incorporate the landscape approach and consider the

interconnections between the BBR and surrounding areas. Gender, human rights and youth participation approaches will be mainstreamed and water resources management will be considered from a basin approach. The plan will promote the sustainability and resilience of the BBR to ensure the protection of biodiversity, the sustainable development of communities and adaptation to climate change.

75. As part of this output, the management plan for the BBR will be updated and implemented, the IMBR plan will be put into action, and awareness, communication, and visibility campaigns for the management plans will be conducted. Both management plans must incorporate regulations that incorporate gender perspective and that have a gender approach to strengthen governance and sustainable management of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant territories. The coordination of activities will be led by MARENA and the Regional Governments. The development of activities and the implementation phase will involve the participation of other involved institutions and all Indigenous, municipal, and community territorial structures.

76. This output is consistent with the strategic guidelines of the Gender Action Plan on Promoting a Culture of Peace and Good Living. It states that both management plans should incorporate regulations that address gender issues to strengthen governance and sustainable management of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant territories. To achieve this, it is proposed that actions for training and awareness-raising be promoted during the updating and implementation process of the management plans, including themes related to promoting a culture of peace and non-violence. It also encourages the creation of dialogue spaces regarding the Equity and Complementarity Model promoted by the Government of Nicaragua for the well-being of women and families, as well as the development of educational materials to promote values and a culture of peace, using inclusive language and translated into the native languages of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant peoples.

77. As a first step, the effectiveness achieved by the current management plan will be evaluated, measuring the: achievement of objectives and goals, identifying lessons learned and best practices used. From this analysis, the desired future vision for the BBR will be defined, the long-term objectives, the strategies, results and actions necessary to achieve these objectives. An action plan will be prepared that will consider those responsible, deadlines and budgets.

78. To update the BBR management plan, a consultant will be hired who will coordinate an inter-institutional team for the joint drafting of a first draft of the management plan based on i) the results of the baseline (product 2.1.1). which provides for a study of the ecosystems, species and landscapes, state of conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the reserve and their importance at a local, regional or global level, ii) the compilation of additional information with the main actors of the reserve through of workshops, tours in communities, municipalities and indigenous territories. iii) Territorial development plans of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. The draft plan, prepared by the consultant with the collaboration of the inter-institutional team, will then be the subject of a community and territorial consultation process (FPIC) for its validation (product 1.1.7). The inter-institutional team will also have the presence of universities that will also support the definition of priority lines of research.

79. To support the development of the IMBR Management Plan, specific studies will be carried out on the biodiversity and state of the reserve's forests (product 2.1.1).

80. In the implementation of the management plans of the 2 reserves, the territorial development plans of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and in particular the environmental and forestry management plans that are part of them will be taken into account. The project will support the implementation of the plans through specific funds, promoting: i) the active participation of communities

in the annual planning for the management and conservation of PAs; ii) the development of management programs for species identified as objects of conservation in the plans; iii) the development and implementation of a joint environmental monitoring plan with the territorial and communal authorities and institutions of the two reserves.; iv) the improvement of the infrastructure of the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve focused on facilitating access for visitors and the carrying out of scientific research activities v) the strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the implementation of the management plans of the two reserves.

81. The project will facilitate the implementation of a dissemination campaign of the BBR and IMBR management plans that will be executed by MARENA, the regional institutions with the support of project technicians and an expert in gender and indigenous peoples.

82. Within the framework of the environmental education/awareness program (product 4.1.2), an environmental awareness campaign will be developed and implemented to inform and raise awareness among the population about the importance of biosphere reserves and the need for their conservation. For this, social networks, digital platforms and multimedia tools will be used.

83. The coordination of activities for the updating, preparation and implementation of PA management plans will be the responsibility of MARENA and the regional governments. For the preparation of the products and in the implementation phase, the other institutions involved and all territorial, municipal and community structures will participate.

Activities:

Activity 1.1.3.1 Update and implement the BBR management plan

Activity 1.1.3.2 Implement the IMBR plan

Activity 1.1.3.3. Awareness, communication and visibility campaigns of management plans

Output 1.1.4. Territorial development plans and annual environmental operational plans of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants updated

84. To guarantee compliance with the project's actions, respecting the powers and functions of the regional, territorial, municipal, communal governments and other institutions, the project provides for the updating of the territorial development plans in the 8 prioritized Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants territories. These plans will include environmental and forest management plans, with a watershed and gender focus. This product will be articulated with the contents of component 2 (conservation and restoration areas) and component 3 (environmental incentives and livelihoods); It is also articulated with product 2.3.1 (establishment and strengthening of basin committees and CAPS).

85. This output consists of the development of territorial development plans and the updating of the strategy and Development Plan for the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay.The updating and elaboration

of development plans will be carried out in a participatory manner, involving the different institutional levels, taking into account the different levels of Governance (territorial, municipal, community) in a joint planning logic. These plans and strategies must incorporate instruments and gender-sensitive approaches and considerations to promote inclusive and sustainable management of the territories. Work sessions will also be held to review, update and/or prepare annual environmental operational plans in the indigenous territories in the intervention area. These plans will be validated by the territorial assembly and certified by the Regional Council. The regional governments will be responsible for coordinating this activity accompanied by MARENA and ANA. For the systematization of the work and the preparation of the final documents with the support of the project technicians and an expert in gender and indigenous peoples.

86. This output is consistent with the strategic guidelines of the Gender Action Plan for Strengthening Knowledge on Gender and Leadership Capacities among Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants women, men, and youth. It proposes that the plans and strategies incorporate instruments and gender-sensitive approaches to promote inclusive and sustainable management of the territories. To achieve this, knowledge among Indigenous and Afro-Descendant women and men will be strengthened regarding basic gender concepts, rights restitution laws, gender roles, and shared responsibility. The opportunities presented in work sessions and workshops conducted under this component will be utilized to develop training on gender and raise awareness about basic gender concepts, gender roles, multiculturalism, the legal and normative framework on rights and gender equity, and the equitable and complementary distribution of household responsibilities.

87. Preparation of territorial development plans includes i) Inter-institutional work sessions for territorial development plans and annual environmental operational plans ii) Work sessions at the territorial and communal level for territorial development plans. iii) Instrument consultation workshops at the territorial and communal level. iv) Validation and approval of instruments in territorial assemblies (FPIC provided for in product 1.1.7). v) Systematization of documents. vii) Publication of territorial development plans.

88. The Development Strategy of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangky Bocay will be updated, which will cover the 5 levels of Government and will have a horizon until 2032. For this, work sessions will be held on the territorial development plans that will have the support from a consultant. The project will also support the layout, reproduction of the final document and presentation of the strategy.

89. The project also plans to develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for territorial governance instruments. For this, a consultancy will be hired to develop the monitoring protocol, with the participation of the 3 project technicians (one in each region: AWB, RACCN and RACCS) and the gender and indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples specialist.

Activities

1.1.4.1. Preparation of territorial development plans

1.1.4.2. Update of the strategy and Development Plan for the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay.

1.1.4.3. Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for territorial governance instruments.

Output 1.1.5. Joint management agreements for protected areas in indigenous territories formulated and updated.

90. After updating the BBR management plan and approval of the management plan in the IMBR, a consultation process will be carried out with the ITG for the formulation of Joint Management Agreements for the protected areas in the indigenous territories of these two reserves, which allow better collective management of the PAs. These agreements will establish commitments between the actors operating in these areas and will constitute a useful instrument for raising awareness. The process of elaboration, validation and approval of the agreements will be coordinated by the Regional Governments with the Territorial, Municipal and Communal Governments through the Regional offices of attention to the ITG. The consultations must promote the inclusion and equitable participation of women and youth in decision-making bodies

91. This output is consistent with the Gender Action Plan, specifically regarding the strengthening of leadership capacities and the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants women and youth in governance and management of the Protected Areas (PAs). The FPIC processes must promote the inclusion and equitable participation of women and youth in decision-making bodies..

Activities

1.1.5.1. Consultation process with the ITG for the formulation of Joint Management Agreements for these two reserves.

1.1.5.2. Preparation and signing of the Joint Management Agreements for the protected areas in the indigenous territories of the BNR and the IMBR.

Ouput 1.1.6. Capacity developed at the local level with the establishment of National Environmental Information System (SINIA) decentralized offices to support the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants territorial governments, under the coordination of the Autonomous Regional Governments of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay and with the accompaniment of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Ressources (MARENA).

92. The National Environmental Information System (SINIA) is a platform whose main objective is to collect, store, process and disseminate information related to the environment and the country's natural

resources. SINIA integrates information from various institutions and sources, including data on biodiversity, air and water quality, land use, water resources, state of forests, among other aspects relevant to the conservation and sustainable management of the environment in the country. The availability of up-to-date and reliable data on these topics is essential to support decision-making, policy formulation and environmental management at national and local levels.

93. This product consists of the rehabilitation, equipment and strengthening of the SINIA regional decentralized centers on the North Caribbean coast (Regional Information and Communication Center for the Humid Tropics against Climate Change in the North Caribbean and Alto Wangki and Bocay) and on the Coast Southern Caribbean (Technical and Professional Training Center with Production Innovation in the Humid Tropics – Wawashang). In the Alto Wangki and Bocay region, a regional node will be created that includes physical infrastructure and equipment necessary for its operation.

94. To achieve the strengthening of the regional nodes, it is necessary to carry out an analysis of the needs that these centers currently have and see what information is already being generated in the territories and what is not. In the initial phase, a mapping of the actors that generate information and their roles will also be carried out. The universities (BICU, URACCAN, UNA) and MARENA are key actors in this process because they are the institutions that generate the most environmental information. Indicators will be built and the variables to be considered will be defined in order to obtain relevant information from the PAs and indigenous territories.

95. In a second phase, the actors who operate in the centers and related institutions (e.g. universities) will be trained. The training of community personnel who will collect data in the field is contemplated in product 2.4.2. It is also necessary to standardize monitoring systems in the different centers, aligning them with international indicators. Within the framework of this product, it is also planned to support the organizational strengthening of the centers and provide them with the instruments and computer equipment necessary to carry out their functions and so that they can operate on a network at the local and national level.

96. The activities to produce this product will be carried out under the coordination of the Autonomous Regional Governments of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay with the accompaniment of MARENA and with the support of the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Territorial Governments.

Activities

1.1.6.1. Carrying out a diagnosis to detect the current functioning and needs of the regional centers and the actors involved in the collection and management of information.

1.1.6.2. Rehabilitation of the SINIA regional centers on the North Caribbean Coast and the South Caribbean Coast.

1.1.6.3. Construction and enabling of the SINIA in the Alto Wangki and Bocay region.

1.1.6.4. Training of human resources that operate in the centers and institutions.

1.1.6.5. Equipment and organizational strengthening of the SINIA regional centers so that they can operate in a network at the local and national level.

Output 1.1.7. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process secured and implemented in the project processes

97. The Free and Prior Informed Consent Governance Mechanism (FPIC) through which the project has been validated by the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, will also be used during the execution of the project, to validate and monitor the planned agreements.

98. The implementation of the FPIC methodology in the validation and approval processes of the different instruments that strengthen governance will improve the capacities of the Indigenous People and Afro-Descendants in their participation in governance at the local level. The training and equipment of the beneficiaries will improve their human and technical capacities for adequate community monitoring and protection of CFBs. The application of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process was ensured and implemented in the project processes. In the output.

99. The consultation process requires broad participation from community members at each of its stages. Full participation should be convened in accordance with the provisions set forth in communal and territorial statutes and regulations to coordinate and achieve consensus through community and territorial assemblies. Additionally, the right of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants of the Caribbean Coast to access information in their own languages must be ensured.

Activities

1.1.7.1. Accompaniment to the implementation of the FPIC in the validation processes of the different instruments that strengthen governance.

Outcome 1.2 Multiple stakeholders engagement coordinated for planning and implementation.

Output 1.2.1. Platforms for environmental dialogue and consultation at the regional, territorial and communal level on the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki Bocay operationalized, with the participation of women and youth from the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants communities

100. To improve the mechanisms of dialogue, consensus and agreement around the environmental management of PAs and biodiversity, dialogue and consultation platforms will be created and

implemented that will operate at the regional, territorial, municipal and communal levels. These platforms will be very useful instruments for updating territorial and forest management plans, as well as for being able to carry out consultations in the programming phase and during the implementation of the plans.

101. The Regional Government of the Northern Caribbean Coast already has the platform designed for the Forestry-Environmental Consultative Committee within the framework of the Production Consumption and Trade System, while in the other two regions they will have to be built.

102. At the municipal and territorial level the platforms will be built in coordination with the territorial government and at the regional level they will be built in coordination with the Regional Government. The project plans to support the formation and operation of platforms at the regional and territorial level through workshops and monitoring missions. The regional governments and MARENA will guarantee the organization and operation for the higher levels. Through dialogue platforms, the participation of women in consultative and decision-making spaces will be encouraged. Within the framework of the platform, the exchange of experiences and good gender practices in environmental management implemented by the institutions co-executing the project will also be facilitated. These meetings with women and young leaders of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples will motivate other women and young people to Participating is decision-making spaces at the national, regional, territorial and community levels.

103. The output will be achieved through the establishment of dialogue and consultation platforms that will operate at the regional, territorial, and municipal levels, as well as support for the implementation of these platforms. Representatives from communities, municipal and territorial governments, and institutions operating at the territorial and regional levels that address environmental issues and other related aspects (e.g., planning, financing, production, tourism, among others) will participate in these platforms. The dialogue and consultation platforms must be accessible and safe for women and youth, ensuring their participation in the decision processes and making sure to include their perspectives and opinions.

104. This output is consistent with the Gender Action Plan, specifically with the strategic guidelines related to strengthening the leadership capacities and empowerment of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant women and youth in governance and management of the Protected Areas. It promotes that the dialogue and consultation platforms are accessible and safe for women and youth. The output includes actions that facilitate spaces for exchanging experiences with women and youth leaders from Indigenous and Afro-Descendant communities, encouraging other women and youth to participate in decision-making spaces at the national, regional, territorial, and community levels..

Activities

1.2.1.1. Construction of dialogue and consultation platforms that will operate at the regional, territorial and municipal level.

1.2.1.2. Accompaniment to the implementation of dialogue and consultation platforms that will operate at the regional, territorial and communal levels.

Component 2. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)

105. The expansion of the agricultural frontier, the use of firewood and charcoal, the falling of trees, forest fires and the effects of climate change are the main factors that determine deforestation and forest

degradation. This component faces the limitation constituted by the scarcity of resources available for forest restoration in affected protected areas, determined both by the lack of knowledge regarding the current conditions of the forests and biodiversity in the Protected Areas (PAs), and by the lack of material resources and humans. To address these limitations, the project will finance both Technical Assistance and investments for (i) biodiversity/forest baseline assessments, which allows to understand the current status of forest and their management, (ii) the restoration of forest areas within the PAs, which is fundamental to maintain the integrity of Critical Forest Biomes (CFBs) and ensuring long-term ecological health within protected areas (iii) the strengthening of integrated management of water resources in PAs with gender mainstreaming, which enables a water resource management approach focused on forest conservation and facilitating awareness-raising and engagement of local populations, (iv) strengthening of institutional monitoring systems for the management of PAs, forest integrity and advance of deforestation, which allows institutions to create an efficient monitoring system for PAs (v) strengthening of community monitoring systems for the management of PAs, which facilitates and regulates the actors who operate forest monitoring from within communities.

106. Specifically, component 2 will support the following outcomes and outputs:

Outcome 2.1 Biodiversity and forest baseline developed

Output 2.1.1. Baseline and evaluation of the state of biodiversity and forests for the effective management of the defined Protected Areas developed

107. The formation of the biodiversity baseline and the state of the forests of the BNR and IMBR involves the detailed collection of information on their location, extent, biodiversity and natural resources. An exhaustive inventory of flora and fauna will be carried out in each reserve, focusing especially on monitoring indicator species for the project. The state of the present ecosystems will be analyzed, identifying the main threats and pressures, such as deforestation and degradation caused by natural and human factors. In addition, an inventory of available water resources will be carried out and biophysical and biological aspects will be evaluated to better understand the dynamics of the ecosystem.

108. During the implementation phase of the project, the baseline will be completed according to the findings and results of the document made during the preparation phase of the project.

109. The baseline diagnostics will culminate in action plans (one for each reserve) to improve the effectiveness of the management of the PAs that host the target primary forests and will generate key information to support fact-based decision making. This information will be crucial to make significant contributions to the following points:

- Contribute to the implementation or adaptation of the BNR and IMBRIMBR management plans, in order to protect primary forests and restore forest areas.

- Identification of conservation and restoration areas that will be financed through the GEF8 project.

110. Establish actions to strengthen and implement the monitoring tools established by SINAP (i) The Management Effectiveness Monitoring and Evaluation System; ii) Community Monitoring System and, iii) Monitoring of indicator species (Establish a monitoring program for indicator species in the PAs in which research priorities will be identified and actions will be proposed to guarantee the updating, continuity and sustainability of the flow of the information generated from monitoring, studies and investigations).The diagnoses and action plans will be produced within the framework of consultancies carried out in each reserve by a team of specialized experts in coordination with MARENA and INAFOR and the Universities (URACCAN, BICU and UNA). The biodiversity expert will collaborate in the preparation of studies for diagnoses and action plans. The diagnoses provide for studies on ecosystems and will take into account biophysical and biological aspects, the national forest inventory, inventories and interactive maps of emblematic species, monitoring of pests and diseases, analysis of satellite images to evaluate the state of conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the reserve, inventory of water resources. The available data will be collected and the necessary studies will be carried out to obtain the missing information. The results of the studies carried out will be presented and given feedback by the ITG.

111. This output will be carried out with the support of local stakeholders and universities. A comprehensive inventory of flora and fauna will be conducted in each reserve, focusing particularly on monitoring indicator species for the project. Specialized expert teams will coordinate with MARENA, INAFOR, and universities (URACCAN, BICU, and UNA) to develop the baseline assessment.

Activities

2.1.1.1 Preparation of a baseline and evaluation of the state of biodiversity and forests for the effective management of BNR and IMBR.

Outcome 2.2 Forest areas within the Protected Areas restored

Output 2.2.1. Degraded areas within the core areas of BBR and IMBR restored

112. This product is aligned with the subprogram 'Landscape Restoration and Management of Natural Regeneration' of the Development Plan for the Caribbean Coast and Upper Wangki and Bocay 2019-2029, mainly with the following actions: i) Sustainably manage areas of natural regeneration using appropriate silvicultural practices, ii) Promote the management of natural regeneration in ecologically sensitive areas or buffer zones of protected areas, iii) Strengthen human capacities at different levels of training, for the management of natural regeneration.

113. The project proposes to restore 25,000 hectares of degraded forest areas within the protected areas of the BNR and the IMBR, especially those areas critically impacted by hurricanes and other deterioration factors, both anthropogenic and natural. To do this, natural regeneration strategies will be financed and incentives will be provided to ensure participation of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. Through this product, the natural regeneration of 7,000 hectares of forests will be supported through non-monetary incentives. based on investment plans prepared within the framework of product 3.1.3, completing the global goal that will be achieved with the actions planned in this same product.

114. To identify priority areas for restoration and conservation, the following criteria will be used: i) the results obtained from the baseline of current land use and the evaluation of soil degradation, ii) the identification of conservation areas and restoration in accordance with the needs and interest of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants located in the territory, and iii) the gaps in the areas of intervention resulting from the interventions of other projects with an impact on the territory that were developed in the preparation stage of the PRODOC for the years 2015 and 2020. During the first phase of implementation, the cartographic information will be updated to the year 2022, which will be presented to the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants to prioritize the conservation and restoration areas financed by the project.

115. For this output, training, organization, and equipping of the necessary human resources are planned, as well as funding for the restoration of degraded areas. Reforestation and ecosystem conservation activities will be carried out through incentives and will consider the provisions of the Protected Areas Regulations. The beneficiaries of these incentives are Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Afro-Descendant with communal property rights. In addition, they will receive support from MARENA, GRCCN, GRCCS, Alto Wangki and Bocay, and the GTI.

116. In order to guarantee the implementation of restoration and conservation actions, the product also contemplates the strengthening of capacities of state institutions, territorial governments, protagonists and other actors involved. The training of national and regional level actors will be carried out within the framework of product 4.1.1. The training of the actors of the territories and communities will be carried out through theoretical/practical training workshops carried out in the 8 territories (3 in AWB, 4 in RACCN and 1 in RACCN) and will have a gender focus. During the preparation of the program, consultation spaces will be guaranteed with indigenous and Afro-descendant women and youth to identify proposals that contribute to improving the management of CFBs. The biodiversity expert will participate in the organization and development of the training workshops.

117. The various reforestation and ecosystem conservation activities will be carried out through incentives and taking into account the provisions of the Regulation of Protected Areas of Nicaragua and Law No. 445 (Communal Property Regime Law of Indigenous Peoples and Communities Ethics of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast and the Bocay, Coco, Indio and Maíz rivers), which recognize the active participation of community actors.

Activities:

2.2.1.1 Training, organization and equipment of human resources.

2.2.1.2 Restoration of degraded areas in the core areas of the BOSAWAS Natural Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve

Outcome 2.3 Integrated management approach to water resources in Protected Areas with a gender mainstreaming approach strengthened

Output 2.3.1 Basin committees and Potable Water and Sanitation Committee (CAPS) established and/or strengthened, to improve the management of CFBs

118. This product focuses on the creation of the Basin Committee of the Bocay River, and the restructuring of 22 Drinking Water and Sanitation Committees (CAPS) located in San José de Bocay, El Cuá and Alto Wangki to improve the management of water resources based on the conservation of CFBs in this region. It is aligned with the objectives of social, cultural and economic development under a framework of adaptation to climate change, as established in the Development Plan of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay (2019-2029).

119. The sustainable management of water resources based on the conservation of ecosystems will be achieved through the evaluation of their state of conservation in the hydrographic units and the installed capacity to conserve them, the identification of water sources, the evaluation and the strengthening of capacities in the management of these resources on the part of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. For this, a basin committee will be formed in the Bocay River and the presence and capacities of 22 CAPS and the UMAS of the reference municipalities will be enhanced. Through these actions, water protection will be integrated with sustainable forest management, strengthening capacities at the regional, territorial and communal levels to ensure environmental conservation and restoration in the three key regions. Workshops will be held to strengthen the organizational and management capacities of water resources, favoring the formation of the Bocay River Basin Committee and the updating and strengthening of the CAPS, and the necessary materials and inputs for these efforts will be provided. Through a community forum and workshops organized by the basin committee, educational campaigns will be carried out on Good Environmental Practices with a gender focus, using inclusive language and translated into mother tongues, whose main objective will be to involve actors in the integrated management of water resources. In the process of strengthening and training CAPS and the Basin Committee, the active participation of women and young people will be promoted to improve the management of CFBs and the focus will be on shared and complementary responsibility in the families of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.

120. This output will integrate local communities in decision-making on water and forest resource management, ensuring that conservation and regeneration practices are aligned with their needs and knowledge, promoting sustainable management. In addition, the IWRM approach will promote adaptive planning and management in the face of climate change impacts, droughts, floods and hurricanes in CFBs,

which will help mitigate the effects of climate change by promoting actions to protect and regenerate these landscapes, since forests act as regulators of the climate and water cycle

121. The product also integrates the gender approach, in congruence with the project's Gender Action Plan, which indicates the need to ensure the active participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant women and youth in the integrated management of water resources in PA. To this end, it is necessary that the Basin Committees and CAPS be formed with gender balance.

122. Through this output, the conservation status of ecosystems in the watershed units will be assessed, and potential water sources will be identified. Strengthening water governance with a watershed-based approach will be ensured, involving local stakeholders (CAPS and UMAS). The Watershed Committees and CAPS will be formed with gender balance, including members from Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendant communities. This process will be supported by MARENA, ANA, and INETER.

Activities:

2.3.1.1 Evaluate the state of conservation of the ecosystems in the hydrographic units and identify possible sources of water

2.3.1.2 Strengthening CAPS and UMAS

2.3.1.3 Strengthening water governance with a hydrographic basin approach.

Outcome 2.4 Monitoring systems for Protected Areas management, forest integrity and deforestation progress strengthened

Output 2.4.1. Institutional monitoring and data system developed for the participatory management of BBR and IMBR, the conservation of biodiversity, forest integrity and the control of deforestation progress and illegal forest degradation

123. This output consists in the development of monitoring tools by SINIA and training in their use in the centers operating in the RACCS, RACCN and Alto Wangki and Bocay regions. The primary beneficiaries of this product are the technical teams of the regional delegations. The training will be provided by MARENA, universities, and INAFOR. Through this, actions to strengthen and implement the existing monitoring systems in the SINAP, in the BNR and the IMBR will be financed. These actions are aimed at optimizing the management of these critical areas, guaranteeing the integrity of the forests and counteracting the advance of deforestation and forest degradation. To this end, the following SINAP tools will be used: i)

Monitoring and Evaluation of Management Effectiveness (EEM), is a tool recently created by MARENA, under the coordination and guidance of the IUCN, which seeks to identify the strengths and weaknesses in managing protected areas efficiently, minimizing the use of time and resources. Through the project this tool will be implemented in the BNR and RBIIMBRM. ii) Community monitoring will provide data on forests for local decisions, seeking to conserve them and protect their habitat. Its objective is to observe the forest coverage and condition in the communities, to offer advice for its better management and use. Finally, iii) Monitoring with indicator species, as crucial monitoring to identify degraded areas or areas at risk of collapse, since these species respond sensitively to changes in their environment.

124. To achieve this product, protocols and instruments will be developed for the participatory monitoring of the two PAs (guides, formats, protocols, records) and training will be carried out for the technicians who operate in the SINIA at the regional level (a training workshop in each region: AWB, RACCN and RACCS). The training will be carried out by MARENA, Universities and INAFOR, and will include training on a heat point monitoring platform for fire prevention and control and an environmental education plan. Training for community actors. will be carried out within the framework of product 2.4.2. The monitoring system will be guaranteed through the project's field technicians.

Activities:

2.4.1.1 Development of monitoring instruments by SINIA

2.4.1.2 Training of regional actors (SINIA) in the use of monitoring instruments in the RACCS, RACCN and Alto Wangky Bocay regions.

Output 2.4.2. Strengthened community monitoring systems of Protected Areas, and inclusion of community rangers in the guard team of institutional Protected Areas

125. This output foreseen the development and implementation of a plan to strengthen the actors involved in community monitoring activities (such as patrolling, data recording, storage, systematization, and transmission, among other actions). The output is aimed at strengthening community actors who operate in the monitoring of protected areas, with actions coordinated by the GTI, MARENA, and INAFOR. One of the biggest limitations for monitoring the state of the PAs is the small amount of human resources that the institutions can have available versus the large extensions of the BNR and the IMBR. To strengthen the levels of the system of surveillance, control, monitoring and reporting of environmental incidents, the involvement of communities and greater awareness of the same regarding the importance of protecting and monitoring these areas is therefore very important. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen the mechanism for responding to community complaints, so that they are attended to in the shortest possible time. Due to the characteristics of these regions, differentiated attention is essential that takes into account the traditional dynamics of the native peoples.

126. Based on a diagnosis of current and potential availability, prepared through a consultancy coordinated with INAFOR and ITG with the participation of the biodiversity expert, a plan will be developed to strengthen community actors who operate in the monitoring of PAs. This plan will include the organization and training of networks of environmental observers, community rangers and other protagonists who live in the reserves. The plan will include the delivery of the instruments and equipment necessary for these actors to carry out their functions. For training, the University in the Field Program Methodology may be used. (UNICAMP) that provides for theoretical/practical training actions carried out directly in the field. Meetings will also be held to exchange experiences at the national level between forest rangers, community brigades and environmental observers.

127. The organization, training and equipment of community actors will be implemented through MARENA, INAFOR and, involving universities and regional, territorial and communal governments. The biodiversity expert will collaborate in the organization and execution of the training, which will be carried out through workshops in each of the territories (3 in AWB, 4 in RACCN and 1 in RACCS). The instruments for monitoring will be developed within the framework of product 2.4.1. For the sustainability of the community monitoring network, constant monitoring by MARENA, INAFOR and ITG will be needed, and the support of the biodiversity expert. It is planned to hold 2 follow-up meetings with community observers in each region (AWB, RACCN and RACCS) starting in the 2nd year of the project.

Activities:

2.4.2.1 Preparation of a plan to strengthen the actors related to community monitoring

2.4.2.2 Implementation of the strengthening plan, including training, equipment and organizational aspects, which includes an initial diagnosis of current and potential capabilities

2.4.2.3 Monitoring of community monitoring activities (patrols, registration, storage, systematization and transmission of data, among other actions).

Component 3. Innovative investments for conservation-friendly livelihoods and nature-based solutions

128. The populations living in the BNR and IMBR areas are characterized by having poorly diversified livelihoods and limited access to technology and financing. This component faces the barrier determined by the low technical capabilities, the limited access to incentives and the livelihoods of the Indigenous People and Afro-Descendants who live in the project intervention areas. The component will finance Technical Assistance and investments to promote accessible options that strengthen the livelihoods of Indigenous People and Afro-Descendants and nature conservation, including: i) Innovative Financing and private investments. Based on what is outlined in the Strategy and Development Plan for the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay 2019-2029, the project will support the creation of an Innovative Financial Model for Environmental Protection and the Sustainability of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant Peoples in the BNR and IMBR, which will allow for the mobilization of public and private resources. ii) Financial mechanism and incentives for a Special Indigenous People and Afro-Descendants Fund. Based on the mechanism created with the previous result, mechanisms will be promoted for the implementation of a fund to finance productive activities and nature conservation. (iii) Traceability systems for value-chains that prevent deforestation and promote conservation to generate added value in agroforestry systems

compatible with reserves conservation, (iv) Conservation-friendly production systems for the productive activities carried out in the areas covered by the project. It is expected that these measures will slow the advance of the agricultural frontier and achieve greater integration of Indigenous People and Afro-Descendants in the conservation and restoration of forests.

Specifically, component 3 will support the following outcomes and products:

Outcome 3.1: Accessible investments to strengthen livelihoods for nature conservation imporved, including (i) innovative financing/private investments, (ii) financial mechanisms/incentives for a Special Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants Fund, (iii) traceability systems for value chains that avoid deforestation, and (iv) conservation-friendly production systems in the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants territories

Output 3.1.1. Innovative economic models established for forest conservation and restoration in Protected Areas

129. Protecting critical forests and developing sustainable community-based forest management requires accessible, long-term financing. Investments in sustainable community-based forest-related businesses and access to financing for long-term conservation of protected areas remain a major challenge, coupled with current resource shortages that are largely inadequate to maintain extent and integrity. of primary forests in the face of multiple threats.

130. The project in Nicaragua, within the framework of the integrated Forest Biomes program in Mesoamerica, will promote the use of financial tools to mobilize national and international resources to channel long-term funds towards urgently necessary actions such as the maintenance of protected areas, the restoration of primary forest cover and the development of forest-friendly initiatives.

131. Through the project, an Innovative Financial Model for Environmental Protection and Sustainability for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants will be designed, and institutional arrangements will be implemented along with the launch for piloting this model. The model must include proposals for incentives to finance investment plans addressing environmental issues presented by women and/or youth and businesses led by women; moreover, innovative economic models should include gender perspectives and have a gender sensitive approach. The entities responsible for creating and defining the governance mechanism of the Financial Model are MARENA in coordination with the Autonomous Regional Governments of the North and South Caribbean Coast, Alto Wangki Bocay, and the eight Indigenous Territorial Governments participating in the project. In the design phase of the model, various innovative financial investments can be considered, such as incentives to reward the positive externalities of ecosystems, instruments to disincentivize harmful activities to biodiversity through tax rates, and payment schemes for ecosystem services aligned with conservation. Negotiable credit systems, such as biodiversity banks, compensation mechanisms, voluntary agreements for biodiversity protection, and certifications reflecting the environmental impact of products, can also be implemented. Nicaragua has accumulated experience in tax incentives as part of its environmental management, establishing policies that promote investments in environmental protection and restoration, including tax exemptions such as VAT, income tax, and other taxes related to the exploitation of natural resources. The project

'Transforming Food Systems and Reducing Deforestation in the Landscapes of Protected Areas and Biological Corridors of the South Caribbean Autonomous Region and the Río San Juan Department' develops improved policies and incentives for innovation and scaling up climate-smart sustainable production practices and gender-sensitive value chains at the national level. The experience gained and lessons learned from FOLUR can serve as the basis for developing models for innovative financial mechanisms.

132. In this context, in the case of the specific Nicaragua project, the creation of an Innovative Financial Model for the Environmental Protection and Sustainability of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants in the BNR and IMBR will be supported. This mechanism will be created based on the provisions of the Strategy and Development Plan of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay 2019-2029.[48]. Those responsible for the creation and definition of the governance mechanism of the Financial Model are MARENA in coordination with the Autonomous Regional Governments of the North and South Caribbean Coast, Alto Wanki and Bocay and the 8 Indigenous Territorial Governments that participate in the project.

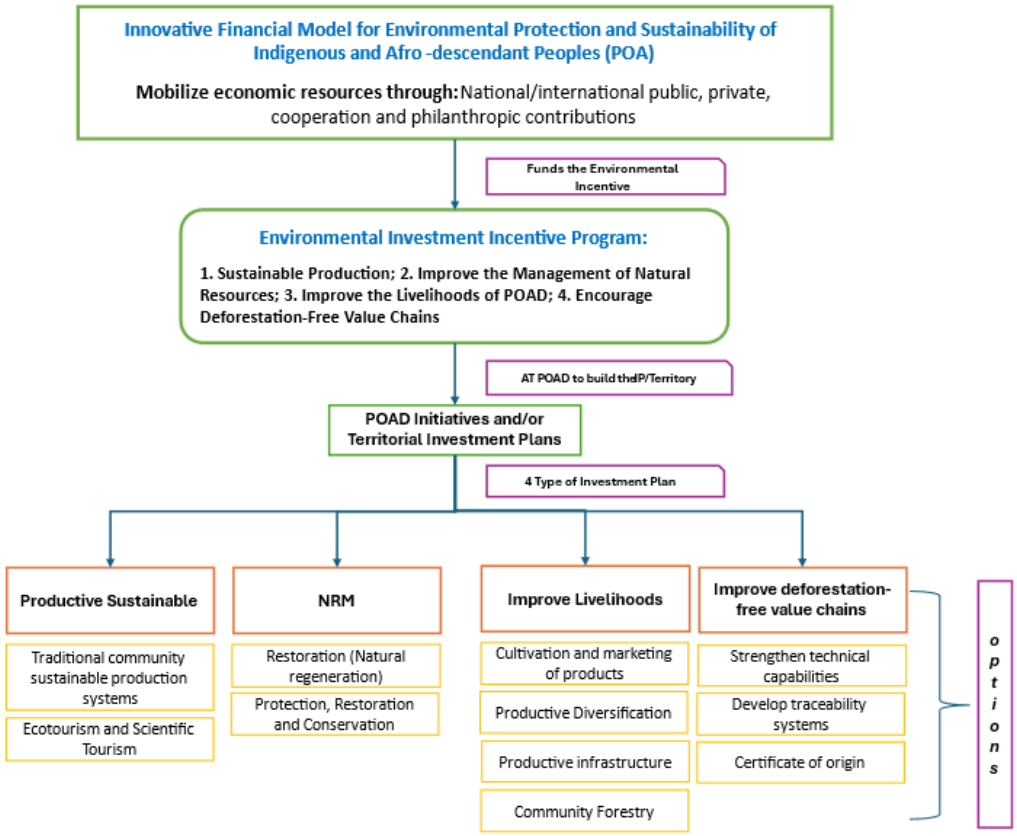


Figure 3 Innovative Financial Model for the conservation and restoration of forests

133. In the project document formulation stage, the proposed organizational structure of the Innovative Financial Model has been presented, which will consist of a Steering Committee and a Technical Committee of the project. The Steering Committee will be integrated as follows: The Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources; the GRACCS Coordinator, the GRACCN Coordinator; A Representative of the special zone of Alto Wangki and Bocay and the presidents of the 8 ITG participating in the project.

134. The executive committee of the Model will be appointed by the Steering Committee, will be in charge of administering the actions implemented within the framework of the model and will attend with voice, but

without vote, the sessions of the Steering Committee. An Interinstitutional Technical Committee will be created to advise the Steering Committee in the preparation of the Territorial Investment Plans of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, which will be prepared in conjunction with the work team that will make up the Steering Committee with technicians belonging to the institutions represented therein and They will issue opinions and qualifications of the technical feasibility of the investment plans to be submitted for financing the actions to be implemented.

135. The operation of the incentives implemented through the project will be based on non-monetary payments (in kind) through benefit distribution schemes where they will be supported by development Investment Plan initiatives according to environmental performance of the Indigenous Territorial Governments that respond to the Territorial Development Plans of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, complemented with public and private investments through coordination with government institutions to address the direct causes of deforestation from different levels, including specific investments to promote free value chains (agriculture and livestock) of deforestation in areas of connectivity between critical forest landscapes; the recovery of degraded forest areas in the core areas of BNR and IMBR. The model will ensure access of indigenous and Afro-descendant women and men to environmental incentives with gender equity. To ensure this goal, regional technical training workshops will be held for indigenous and Afro-descendant women on innovative economic models for the conservation and restoration of forests in AP. (AWB, RAACN and RACCS) and others on associativity and cooperativism and their contribution to production, transformation and marketing through these economic models. They will also be provided with technical assistance for the development and sustainability of economic-productive initiatives implemented with the support of the project.

136. The innovative economic model in its design phase must be consistent with the project's Gender Action Plan and its strategic guidelines aimed at strengthening the empowerment and economic autonomy of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant women. To achieve this, it must ensure that Indigenous and Afro-Descendant women and men have equitable access to environmental incentives. Therefore, it should include proposals for incentives to finance investment plans addressing environmental issues presented by women and/or youth and businesses led by women. Innovative financial mechanisms should ensure gender perspectives and have a gender sensitive approach. .

137. The project resources will be directed to designing the Innovative Financial Model and validating the first environmental incentives in the form of piloting (case studies), with the aim of identifying possible incentives and disincentives based on national experience and testing their applicability under controlled conditions and finally expand the use of the most promising instruments. In the formulation stage of the ProDoc, it was defined that the Innovative Financial Model, which includes the application of environmental incentives, is the basis of this component, which includes 56% of the entire project budget. For this reason, it is proposed to execute the second year on the 15th. % of the budget, the third year 33%, the fourth year 35%, and the fifth year 18% of the component budget.

138. For the design of the model, there will be consulting from 2 experts (an economist and a financier), and workshops will be held with institutions and regional governments to identify content and to validate the model. Once the model has been validated, institutions at the national level and project staff will be trained about it.

139. The design of the model contemplates identifying the financing gap, the barriers to long-term investments in the conservation of primary forests and the development of livelihoods linked to forests, and the possible sources of national and international resources available. and feasible for Nicaragua.

140. Through activities included in products 3.1.3, 3.1.4 and 3.1.5, the model will be piloted based on supporting the implementation of 3 types of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants investments.

141. The first typology is based on Natural Resource Management initiatives that support the development of conservation and restoration/assisted natural regeneration activities, within areas of the IMBR and BNR affected by forest degradation processes quantified and mapped in the design of the PRODOC by areas mainly affected by hurricanes.

142. The second typology is based on initiatives to Improve Livelihoods that support actions such as: cultivation and marketing of environmentally friendly agricultural products, diversification and productive infrastructure, ecotourism and scientific tourism, SAF, SSP, family and/or community enterprises focused on environmental issues, among others. It also includes developing innovative business models suitable for indigenous and rural families and communities and promoting favorable and adapted conditions to access credit and financing (for example, rate, term, guarantees). En este marco se podrá contar con el aporte del programa FAO Campus.

143. The third typology is based on Sustainable Production initiatives that support the development of nature-friendly productive activities and reduce the pressure of deforestation of primary forests in the buffer zones of the IMBR and BNR, for example, coffee agroforestry systems. and cocoa; silvopastoral systems in pasture areas for cattle ranching and tourist activities with a focus on ecotourism and scientific tourism. En este marco se podrá contar con el aporte del programa FAO Campus

144. After the validation of the piloting experiences, a workshop will be held in Managua to empower the project staff, which will accompany the promotion and implementation of the Innovative Financial Model and another workshop to present the piloting carried out to the financial and private sector. Field technicians will participate in the organization and development of the workshops that will be held for the design of the model, its validation and promotion.

145. The implementation of the Innovative Financial Model for Environmental Protection and Sustainability for the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants includes carrying out activities for the mobilization of resources such as: attending events (environmental forums and conferences with potential investors), using environmental financing platforms, identifying a list of possible environmental investors, develop a communication and marketing strategy to publicize the model, implement a reliable monitoring and control system that demonstrates the social and environmental impacts of the investment, strengthen local capacities and exchange of knowledge related to increasing the supply of ecosystem services and innovative financial models. Likewise, implement high-level meetings organized through the SNPCC, and financing campaigns to interest investors and donors in support of the conservation and protection of the IMBR and BNR.

Activities:

3.1.1.1. Design the Innovative Financial Model for Environmental Protection and Sustainability for the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.

3.1.1.2. Implement the institutional arrangements and launch for the piloting of the Innovative Financial Model for Environmental Protection and Sustainability for the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.

Output 3.1.2. Dialogue mechanisms with the financial and investment sector implemented for the conservation and restoration of forests in Protected Areas and the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation in buffer and connectivity areas

146. A study will be carried out on the platforms for access to green financing at an international level for the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and PA in particular, based on the management of incentive financing at the end of the project, it will be coordinated by MARENA and will have the participation of other institutions such as the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, INAFOR, SCCP, and Regional Governments. The study will contemplate the identification of a portfolio of project notes.

147. Based on the dissemination of the results of this study and the innovative financial model designed by the project (product 3.1.1), a space for dialogue will be implemented between investors from private banks, microfinance institutions and private companies with MARENA, Regional Authorities of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay and ITG Authorities, to facilitate investments by the financial sector and fiduciaries within the framework of the Innovative Financial Model for Environmental Protection and Sustainability for Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples. This dialogue must be continuous, inclusive towards Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and transparent. The space for dialogue with the private sector will be promoted through MARENA, involving the regional governments of AWB, RACCN and RACCS, developing work sessions and creating work tables with Interinstitutional Technical Teams within the framework of the National System of Production, Consumption and Commerce (SNPCC) and the National Climate Change Management System (SNGCC). It is planned to hold 3 meetings a year during the last 4 years of the project.

148. MARENA will implement a communication and marketing campaign with a focus on corporate social responsibility to attract the private sector and investors as potential demanders of the ecosystem services generated by the IMBR and BNR and will promote the signing of agreements and/or agreements with financial and business sectors.

149 Dialogue mechanisms will be established between the financial sector, institutions, and representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants to promote the Innovative Financial Model and the signing of agreements and/or contracts with financial and business sectors for the implementation of the fund. Activities under this output will be coordinated with MARENA, Regional Authorities of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay, and authorities of the ITG; additionally, the support of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP) will be included.

Activities:

3.1.2.1. Implement dialogue mechanisms between the financial sector, institutions and representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants to promote the Innovative Financial Model.

3.1.2.2. Promote the signing of agreements and/or agreements with financial and business sectors, for the implementation of the Innovative Financial Model and the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation.

Output 3.1.3. Validated and implemented economic instruments for environmental incentives, which promote investments for the conservation, restoration of forests and rehabilitation of CFB for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants

150. In the piloting stage of the Innovative Financial Model, the typology of Natural Resource Management initiatives that promote the development of restoration or assisted natural regeneration activities within areas of the IMBR and BNR affected by forest degradation processes quantified and mapped in the design of the PRODOC for areas mainly affected by hurricanes.

151. Workshops will be held to launch the Environmental Incentive in each Indigenous People and Afro-Descendants territory to socialize it with the beneficiaries and stakeholders.

152. Technical assistance will be implemented to develop and carry out investment plans aimed at improving natural resource management. These innovative economic instruments for environmental sector prioritize and target women and women-led enterprises that exist in project area. The stakeholders of the initiatives are the communities in Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendant territories located within or near the prioritized areas to promote regeneration and conservation in the IMBR and BBR. This output will be coordinated by MARENA, INAFOR, GRCC, and ITG. This product is linked to the project 'Transforming food systems and reducing deforestation in the landscapes of protected areas and biological corridors of the Autonomous Region of the South Caribbean Coast and the Río San Juan department,' as it implements better land use practices and restoration activities close to the areas of influence.

153. The project will finance the preparation of 60 investment plans in restoration and 30 investment plans in conservation, and will provide legal advice for the preparation of contracts with the signature that will carry out the plans.

154. The Investment Plan will be carried out based on the activities for which they will be the subject of incentives, that is, restoration through induced natural regeneration and conservation of forest areas by results. The plans must i) define and quantify the materials, supplies and equipment necessary for restoration actions; ii) carry out diagnoses of the areas to evaluate and establish the objectives of restoration or conservation; iii) select the restoration technique (reforestation, erosion control, watershed management) or conservation iv) plan in detail actions, resources, work plan, as well as define the result indicators, v) apply the comprehensive measurement system, monitoring, reporting and verification designed in the project formulation stage.

155. After the approval of the investment plans by the Project Steering Committee, the environmental incentives will be distributed. Table 18 below indicates how the restoration and conservation activities will be distributed in the project.

Table 3 Summary of activities to be encouraged with investment plans for the management of natural resources.

Type of Investment Plan	**Type of Environmental Incentive**	**Type of Intervention**	**Final Project Goal** **ha/5 years**	**Annual Goal** **ha/years**	**Cost/Type of intervention** **$**
Investment plans to improve the management of natural resources	Restoration	Non-monetary incentives to invest in assisted natural regeneration.	15,275 hectares restored in 5 years of the project[49].	3055 ha/year	$200/ha

	Conservation conditional on results	The incentive will be conditional on the results achieved in terms of the number of hectares conserved subsequently.	9,745 ha in 5 years	1949 ha/year Only the last 2 years of the project will be compensated.	$50/ha

156. A restoration cost through assisted natural regeneration is estimated at USD 200/ha. Through this product, 8,275 hectares of the 15,275 hectares will be restored. The remainder (7,000 ha) will be restored under product 2.2.1. Both incentives are non-monetary in nature and manageable through natural resource management investment plans. (See costs in budget).

157. Incentives for conservation differ from incentives for restoration in that the former's compensation will be conditional on the results achieved in terms of the number of hectares conserved. That is, after a verification process that MARENA will carry out (using GIS and in situ verification) of the results obtained in terms of conserved areas (ha); taking as reference the commitments assumed by the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants in the baseline (year 1). Therefore, these conservation incentives will be distributed in the last 2 years of the project.

158. Regarding the prioritization criteria of the areas to be encouraged for the restoration and conservation of forests, they must be selected based on the criteria presented in Table below.

Table 4 Main criteria and tools to prioritize intervention sites in protected areas

Criteria	Tools
Areas of high threat of deforestation and degradation of remaining forests.	Remnant forest layers 2010, 2015 and 2020 from satellite images. GIS analysis of forest loss and areas of greatest deforestation in intervention areas.
Areas in the process of natural restoration and with potential for increase.	Layers of restored areas 2010,2015 and 2020 from satellite images. GIS analysis of restored areas and areas without forest with restoration capacity.
Connectivity sites or biological corridors.	GIS analysis on connection areas between protected areas, remaining forests, deforestation and restoration in these areas.
Sites of aquifer recharge or that contain other environmental attributes of communal importance.	Map of aquifers and water recharge areas, deforestation maps, restored areas and sites identified as having high environmental, cultural or economic conservation value.
Sites where populations or protagonists have demonstrated a capacity for successful execution. Sites that do not overlap with other projects that carry out the same activities.	Analysis of previous projects and results obtained. Analysis of current projects being implemented or to be executed in the coming years.
Sites that are located in a landscape with the potential to improve agricultural or livestock productivity.	GIS analysis of livestock and agricultural areas within protected areas and in connectivity zones.

The criteria for selecting the beneficiaries:

- Communities in indigenous and Afro-descendant territories within the prioritized areas to promote regeneration and conservation in the IMBR and the BBR.

- Communities that are located near priority areas for forest restoration.

The field technicians will provide technical assistance to the beneficiaries who will receive the environmental incentives and will facilitate the adoption of good management practices by them. (One technician in each region: AWB, RACCN and RACCS).

Activities:

3.1.3.1 Carry out workshops to launch the environmental incentive to socialize it with the protagonists.

3.1.3.2 Implement technical assistance to develop investment plans to improve the management of natural resources.

3.1.3.3. Implement investment plans to improve the management of natural resources.

Output 3.1.4. Diversified livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, including women and youth, with increased productivity and value-added products/services

159. In the piloting stage of the Innovative Financial Model, the typology of initiatives to Improve Livelihoods that promote actions such as: cultivation and marketing of environmentally friendly agricultural products, diversification and productive infrastructure, ecotourism and scientific tourism, SAF, will be supported. SSP, family and/or community enterprises focused on environmental issues, among others. It also includes developing innovative business models suitable for indigenous and rural families and communities and promoting favorable and adapted conditions to access credit and financing (for example, rate, term, guarantees).

160. Workshops will be held to launch the Environmental Incentives to improve livelihoods, and technical assistance will be provided to develop and implement the investment plans in each Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants territory to socialize it with the beneficiaries and stakeholders. This activity will be carried out jointly with the planned launch of environmental incentives for forest restoration and conservation (outcome 3.1.3). Priority will be given to investment plans led by women and youth that address environmental issues. This output will have the active participation of MINIM, INTUR, MEFCCA in coordination with MARENA and the GRCC, GTI.

161. In the initial phase of the project, investment plans and specific studies on potential investments will be prepared, based on the territorial development plans of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. The project will finance the preparation of 24 plans and will provide legal advice for the preparation of contracts with the firm that will carry out the plans.

162. In line with the project's Gender Action Plan and its strategic guidelines focused on strengthening the empowerment and economic autonomy of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant women, the output will prioritize investment plans to strengthen the livelihoods presented by groups of women or businesses led by women.

163. In the process of preparing investment plans to improve the livelihoods of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and in their implementation, it will be necessary to: i) define and quantify the materials, supplies and equipment necessary to develop the proposed actions; ii) carry out a feasibility analysis of the investments (pre-feasibility and feasibility studies); iii) select the most viable investments, among different options; iv) plan in detail actions, resources, work plan, as well as define the result indicators, v) apply the comprehensive measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification system designed in the project formulation stage.

164. After the approval of the plans by the Project Steering Committee, the distribution of environmental incentives will proceed, as indicated in Table 20 below.

Table 5 Summary of activities to be encouraged with investment plans for the management of natural resources

Type of Investment Plan	**Type of Environmental Incentive**	**Type of Intervention**	**Finish line** **No. Beneficiary**	**Goal/Territory**	**Cost per intervention plan $**
Investment plans to improve Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants livelihoods	Incentive A. Livelihood investments	Non-monetary incentives	10,569 beneficiaries	24 investment plans 3 investment/territory plans	$74,303/Investment Plan

It is estimated that the amount of this incentive should be distributed equitably among the 8 Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants territories participating in the project. So, if 3 investment plans are carried out per territory, 24 plans would be executed in total, with an average cost of USD 74,303 per plan. These investment plans would directly benefit 10,569 people distributed throughout the 8 territories.

The main selection criterion to qualify for the Investment Plans: being an Indigenous Territorial Government (ITG) of the following territories:

- RACCN: 4 territories in the BOSAWAS Nature Reserve: Li Lamni, Mayangna Sauni As (MSA), Mayangna Sauni Bas (MSBA), Mayangna Sauni Arungka; for total of 6,370 people (4,330 men and 2,040 women), distributed in 63 communities.
- Alto Wangki-Bocay: 3 territories in the BOSAWAS Nature Reserve: Miskitu Indian Tasbaika Kum (MITK), Mayangna Sauni Bu (MSB), Kipla Sait Tasbaika Kum (KST); with 45,000 inhabitants (52% women) distributed in 78 communities.
- RACCS: The Rama-Kriol territory (Communal Title 010-18-12-2009) with an indigenous and Afro-descendant population of 1,936 people (1,007 men and 929 women) distributed in nine communities.

165. The prioritization criteria for the areas to be encouraged with the Investment plans to improve the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants will be the same as described in Table 18. in product 3.1.3. The range of options for livelihood investment plans are as follows: Strengthening productive infrastructure: infrastructure such as granaries, basic grain stockpiles, photovoltaic systems,

biodigesters and culturally appropriate technology; craft production; Ecotourism; Chocolate; Marketing of medicinal plants; Community forestry; Coconut and almond oils; Coconut and almond soaps.

166. The field technicians will provide technical assistance to the protagonists who will receive the environmental incentives and will facilitate the adoption of good management practices by them (One technician in each region: AWB, RACCN and RACCS).

Activities:

3.1.4.1 Carry out workshops to launch the environmental incentive to socialize it with the protagonists.

3.1.4.2 Implement technical assistance to develop investment plans to improve livelihoods.

3.1.4.3 Implement investment plans to improve livelihoods.

Output 3.1.5. Value chains that prevent deforestation in the agricultural and livestock sector and promote conservation in landscapes with established connectivity with production traceability systems

167. In the piloting stage of the Innovative Financial Model, the typology of initiatives will be supported to improve Value Chains that avoid deforestation and that support the development of traceability systems, certificates of origin and capacity development to comply with emerging deforestation-free regulations (Law US FOREST and EU deforestation-free regulation) and promote compatibility with the National Policy to Prevent Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Presidential Decree No. 06-2023[50][45], approved on June 9, 2023, Published in La Gaceta, Official Gazette No. 104 of June 13, 2023.

168. Within the framework of this product, the project will support i) the identification, through a baseline study of agricultural production value chains that avoid deforestation and promote conservation in sustainable production systems of cocoa, coffee, coconut, almond and prickly pear: i) Technical Assistance to promote value chains that avoid deforestation; ii) Traceability of Origin of Production and Digitization of Records; iii) facilitate the Certification of Farms and Cooperatives in Good Agricultural, Livestock and Manufacturing Practices (BPA/BPP/BPM); and iv) develop, validate and disseminate transfer of technologies and/or environmentally friendly practices. v) the insertion of the protagonists in value chains that allow achieving greater added value, access to services (technical assistance and credit) and new markets . Capacity building will have an ethnic and gender approach to food production under low-emission silvopastoral and agroforestry systems. Specifically, it seeks to promote sustainable practices in agricultural and livestock activities, aligned with national policy to avoid deforestation and forest degradation. El Programa FAO Campus aportará en el tema de fortalecimiento de capacidades.

169. In a first phase in each region (AWB, RACCN and RACCS) through specific consultancies carried out, involving universities, a study of the productive chains will be carried out. El programa FAO Campus podrá facilitar el trabajo en alianza y redes con la academia. In these studies, the deforestation-free value chains of sustainable production systems (SAF, SSP) of cocoa, coffee, livestock will be identified, and eventual other productive chains that avoid reforestation will be identified to support them through technical assistance in strengthening technical capacities, developing systems traceability and certificate of origin.

Through 2 other consultancies (one for BBR and the other for IMBR) proposals for the BNR and IMBR brand of origin will be prepared.

170. Based on the results of the studies of the productive chains, the implementation of group technical assistance actions with a commercial focus and good environmentally friendly practices will be supported; and financial mechanisms and products will be promoted to improve access to credit related to the adoption of conservation measures.

171. The Technical Assistance to Promote Value Chains that Avoid Deforestation focuses on the collection of information from producers and farms through visits by technical field personnel, who will be hired through the project and will operate under the supervision of MARENA and IPSA (certifying entity). Geographic data will be collected and information will be recorded or updated in a traceability system. To achieve the objective of technical assistance, trained personnel are required, guided under official guidelines to implement regulations within the framework of compliance with the new policies of 'Creation of the National Policy to Avoid Deforestation and Forest Degradation' Presidential Decree No. 06-2023, within the framework of the IPSA's powers, certifying the origin of agricultural production. Therefore, technicians will be previously trained in Managua by IPSA at its own headquarters, and a fund will be made available to them for travel and transportation to carry out field visits. A technician will be hired for each region for a period of 44 months, divided into 4 years. This activity requires a means of transport for its mobilization.

172. Traceability of Origin of Production and Digitization of Records focuses on the digitalization of records collected in the field, related to agricultural and livestock production. Files will be created by protagonist and area, and the actors in the chain will be trained in the use of digital tools. One training session will be held annually in each region (AWB, RACCN and RACCS) starting in the 2nd year. The objective is to integrate traceability of the origin of production in non-deforested areas with certification and labeling systems. This requires hiring personnel to digitize, review and structure files of protagonists of the information collected in the field. A part-time consultant will be hired for each region for a period of 44 months, divided into 4 years, with their means of transportation.

173. To collect information in the field, georeferenced for the location of production units for traceability of origin, it is required to use RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology that uses radio signals to identify and track objects and animals. Veeam Backup Essentials Universal License + Production Support is required to store traceability information on servers. A messaging license is also needed for producers/protagonists, so that when the product or animal is mobilized, the system can send the notification informing the origin and destination of the movement. The project provides for the acquisition of hardware, server licenses and the messaging license for the Traceability system.

174. For the Certification of Farms and Cooperatives in Good Agricultural, Livestock and Manufacturing Practices (GAP/GPP/GMP), it is necessary to evaluate different aspects related to production. To do this, it is necessary to hire certifying agencies (one in each region, AWB, RACCN and RACCS) with technical personnel with training and experience in relevant areas to carry out exhaustive evaluations and promote sustainable practices. Carry out the certification of farms and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) by evaluating and verifying the different aspects related to agricultural production, in order to guarantee compliance with the standards and requirements established to promote sustainability, food safety and respect for the environment. A consultancy will be hired for each region with the goal of certifying 200 farms in GAP and 10 cooperatives in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), including transportation.

175. To strengthen capacities with an ethnic and gender focus for food production under low-emission silvopastoral and agroforestry systems, a consultancy will be carried out in each region (AWB, RACCN and RACCS) for the characterization and validation of local food resources and livestock systems. El programa FAO Campus podrá aportar en esta acción for the development of technologies taking advantage of

ancestral ethnic knowledge and the gender perspective. The project, through a specific fund for mobilization and travel expenses, will support INTA staff to carry out identification, validation and dissemination activities of: i) intensive silvopastoral models using sustainable management practices; ii) planting of pastures and forage adapted to the intervention areas; iii) use of local resources for the production of bioinputs in animal nutrition and health, taking advantage of ancestral knowledge and the gender perspective; iv) promising trees of different crops in the project area, due to quality or tolerance to diseases considering their adaptation to climate variability; v) other sustainable technologies for the development of agroecological and silvopastoral systems. A fund will be available to support these activities with travel expenses and mobilization.

176. Through technical advice provided by MEFCCA, the project will support the integration of producers and small processing companies into value chains and thus improve the added value of their products. A fund will be available to support these activities with travel expenses and mobilization.

177. The initiatives that will be supported within the framework of this product will be promoted through meetings with transformation companies in value chains that avoid deforestation and with the private sector in general, to achieve greater access to credit, technical assistance and the market. This dialogue will be promoted through MARENA, developing work sessions within the framework of the National System of Production, Consumption and Commerce (SNPCC) and the National Climate Change Management System (SNGCC) under the model of public-private alliances and shared responsibility for forestry projects that expand forest cover, reduce deforestation and degradation, and contribute to the restoration of ecosystems. These meetings will feature the presence of institutions related to the value chain (MEFCCA, INTA, IPSA, among others) and regional governments.

178. The project's field technicians will provide technical assistance to the protagonists who will participate in the project and will facilitate the adoption of good management practices by them. (One technician in each region: AWB, RACCN and RACCS).

179. It is also planned to hold meetings with the private sector within the SNPCC and SNGCC to develop a brand of origin for the RBIM and RBB. Coordination will take place with the business sector, producers, cooperatives, etc. The implementation of the activities of the output will be under the responsibility of MARENA and GRCC, which will coordinate its execution with IPSA, INTA, MEFCCA. In the framework of this output, synergies can be identified with the NICACAO Green Recovery Project.

Activities:

3.1.5.1 Carry out a baseline study of the coffee and cocoa agriculture production chains that avoid deforestation in the project intervention areas, with emphasis on traceability and technological innovation.

3.1.5.2 Provide technical assistance to promote value chains that avoid deforestation

3.1.5.3 Hold sessions with the private sector within the framework of the SNPCC and SNGCC, to develop a brand of origin for the IMBR and BBR.

Component 4. Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge

180. This component faces the need to make better use of the knowledge generated at regional level and to improve coordination between countries. It is closely aligned with the framework of the Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program (CBFIP) of Mesoamerica, which is aimed at managing South-South regional

exchange to promote learning (formal, non-formal and informal education), foster cooperation and systematize experiences. It faces the barrier constituted by limited opportunities for awareness-raising, learning and knowledge exchange. Within the framework of component 4, the improvement of the capacities of the 5 levels of government will be supported with the contributions received from the regional level and environmental education and awareness will be promoted at the local and national level for the protection, conservation and monitoring of CFBs. This component will finance technical assistance for i) improving knowledge management for decision making, building on and disseminating regionally and internationally generated knowledge and ii) promoting greater regional/transnational cooperation and coordination, to facilitate the management of the CFP on the basis of exchanges and alignment of strategic priorities and approaches. To achieve the expected results, it is necessary that regional cooperation within the framework of SICA continue. The main risks identified are: i) coordination problems between countries in the Mesoamerican regional framework. ii) little fluidity in the transmission of knowledge generated at the regional level to the national level. The Integrated and Sustainable Biodiversity Management of the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve project is synergistic with this component, pursuing complementary participatory management of the RBIM and knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation.

Specifically, component 4 will support the following outcome and products:

Outcome 4.1 Improved knowledge management based on decision-making

Output 4.1.1. Environmental education and awareness programs at the local, regional and national level for the protection and conservation of CFB executed, and translated into local indigenous languages

181. This output consists of the elaboration and implementation of an education/awareness raising campaign and the preparation of materials for this campaign. This campaign will target the Indigenous Peoples and Adro-Descendants in the core areas of the reserves, as well as the populations living in the buffer zone.

182. MARENA will coordinate an environmental awareness campaign focused on the importance of ecosystems (forests) and ecosystem services aimed at the population at the national, regional and local level. A local program will be developed that will be adapted to the territories considering the languages and customs of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants; For this we will have the support of the Regional Governments. In the implementation phase, the media used will be radio cartoons, posters and information brochures to transmit the key messages. At the local level, community theater and puppet plays will be performed, consolidating the good practices that have already been disseminated in the country and the region (e.g. in community justice workshops), and local fairs will be used to manage the rescue of ancestral customs. Specific actions will be carried out in schools, in coordination with the MINED to promote environmental education in children and adolescents. Environmental and youth movements will be an important channel for carrying out awareness-raising activities. For work in the regions, the materials will be translated into local languages and will have a gender focus. The project will collaborate with a fund for the organization and execution of the program that will be mainly financed through national funds.

Activities

4.1.1.1. Development of an education/awareness program

4.1.1.2. Preparation of materials for the campaign

4.1.1.2. Campaign implementation.

Output 4.1.2. Systematized and replicated good environmental practices in Protected Areas, guaranteeing the application of traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants

183. Through a consultancy, a document will be prepared where good practices in protected areas will be identified and systematized, taking into account experiences at the national and Mesoamerican level (Mesoamerican Regional Program), including the traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. The systematization of good environmental practices in PA, guaranteeing the application of traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, will strengthen the capacities of the institutions for the management of these areas. Likewise, the dissemination of these good practices will improve the technical capabilities of the beneficiaries involved. The document will be prepared in two phases, in the 2nd year and in the 4th year of the project, it will demonstrate the concrete results achieved by the good practices experienced and will have a gender focus. The systematization will include the preparation of a manual for beneficiaries, designed, diagrammed, illustrated and easy to read for the territory, in the mother tongue. Best practices will be documented in videos. La componente Multimedia del programa FAO Campus puede garantizar soporte en estas actividades. These materials will also be used in the training courses provided for in product 4.1.1.

184. The document prepared includes a manual for actors and video material for the dissemination and implementation of workshops for institutions and in the territories (field schools) for the dissemination of good practices. The beneficiaries of this output are Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants with the support of GRCC, GTI and MARENA. In order to carry out this systematization, it will be necessary to consider the standardization criteria established in the regional platforms' exchange spaces.

185. At the regional level, workshops will be organized in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year in each region (AWB, RACCN and RACCS) for the dissemination of good practices between national institutions and regional governments.

186. To promote dissemination and replicate good practices at the local level, the manual for protagonists and the previously prepared videos will be used. Through the ITG and under the coordination of MARENA, field schools (workshops) will be held in each territory (3 in AWB, 4 in RACCN and 1 in RACCS) in the 2nd and 4th year of the project. The institutions (INTA, IPSA, MEFFCCA, MAGA, MARENA, INAFOR), universities and environmental organizations will be involved in the execution of the field schools. For the generation, validation, innovation and technological transfer there will be advice from INTA. To enhance the impact, the participation of key people in the communities will be guaranteed: elders, judges, religious and other leaders.

Activities

4.1.2.1. Preparation of a document for the identification and systematization of good practices, which includes a manual for protagonists and video materials for dissemination.

4.1.2.2. Workshops for institutions to disseminate good practices

4.1.2.3. Field schools in the territories for the dissemination of good practices.

Outcome 4.2 Greater regional and transnational cooperation and coordination activated

Output 4.2.1. Strategy to improve the capacity of sub-national governments to conserve, manage and monitor CFBs implemented with the contributions received from the regional level.

187. On the basis of the knowledge acquired and systematized by the regional programme, a process of knowledge transfer for the conservation, management and monitoring of CFPs will be carried out in two phases, the first at national and regional level (RACCN, RACCS and AWB) and the second at territorial, municipal and communal level.

188. To train institutions involved in activities that impact the conservation, management and monitoring of CFBs, the program will facilitate the participation of project staff and technicians from national-level institutions and regional governments to Mesoamerican IP training events. El Programa FAO Campus, que incluye una plataforma de vinculación con la academia, para realizar diplomados, maestrías, doctorados, investigaciones, eventos académicos y pasantías, constituye un importante punto de referencia para esto. These courses will be taught by national or regional universities. Workshops and theoretical-practical training courses will also be held for government institutions. These workshops will be organized by MARENA and will be taught by people from the institutions that participated in the training events, professionals who have received specialized and postgraduate courses, or by other national or international experts. The courses must have gender and community participation approaches.

189. Specific workshops will be held for regional and ITG technicians to train in the use of technology such as drones, and digital maps to evaluate the CFBs. These theoretical-practical training workshops will be carried out concentrating participants at the regional level and will be facilitated by local professionals who will accompany the institutions in their delivery. The exchange of experiences with other territories or municipalities that have worked with CFB at the 3 levels of government (communal, territorial and regional) will also be facilitated. FAO Campus podrá apoyar las acciones de capacitación y de gestion del conocimiento.

190. The project team, the executing agency, the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant and key actors will be able to benefit from the training offered through the Program, including this content in product 1.1.1. The holding of training and knowledge exchange events on key topics in a context of change is also contemplated, such as: change and resistance to change; self-knowledge and emotional management, strategic and operational planning, change management and focus on service to the population. In addition, they will use tools developed by the Program such as validation practices, exchange of experiences and demonstration of good productive and environmental practices (product 4.1.3).

Activities

4.2.1.1. Training for the conservation, management and monitoring of CFBs at the national and regional level.

4.2.1.2. Training for the conservation, management and monitoring of CFBs at the territorial, municipal and communal levels.

Output 4.2.2. Participation in the Integrated Programme Mesoamerica Knowledge Platform

191. The project will leverage knowledge management events sponsored by the Regional Platform of the Mesoamerican Critical Forest Biomes Program (peer learning, training, field visits, mentoring, etc.) regarding the protection and management of CFBs, and will use of best practice knowledge products and program documents and publications, including knowledge management on forest landscape governance, biodiversity monitoring, effective management of PAs and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECM), good practices in livestock farming and sustainable agriculture (pressure reduction), fire management associated with agricultural practices, forest governance integrating indigenous peoples and local communities, forest management regulations, among others. Tools developed by the Program will be used and guidance will be requested to access new financial opportunities, to promote the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and the private sector. The platform will also allow the dissemination of experiences and good practices generated in the project in Nicaragua and generate synergies with other regional initiatives and projects, such as the projects executed by the CCAD.

192. The project will facilitate Nicaragua's participation in the Regional Platform of the Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biomes Programme and to the design of the regional communication plan to be implemented at the national level. The actors in the Regional Platform on the Nicaraguan side are the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.

193. The articulation to the regional platform will be carried out through the national institutions (MARENA, INAFOR, among others) and the institutions of the regional governments of the regions where the project is executed (SERENA, among others). The participation of the project's protagonists, and in particular the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, in virtual and in-person training and knowledge transmission events (webinars, seminars, forums, exchanges) will be facilitated. The platform will facilitate the participation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant women's organizations in events to exchange experiences on good environmental practices in PA at a regional/transnational level. Within the framework of the platform, events will be held in Nicaragua to communicate information, good practices and lessons learned. The dissemination of knowledge at the national and local level will be done through the products 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.

194. At the national level, through MARENA, we will collaborate in the design and implementation of the Regional Communication Plan to mobilize support for the conservation of primary forests and critical forest biomes, developed within the framework of the Regional Integrated Program. For this, in a first phase, communication needs will be identified at the national level and shared at the regional level based on the design of the communication plan. The available communication channels and means and instruments for knowledge management will be identified. For its implementation, the communication

plan will be harmonized with the communication strategies of the government of Nicaragua.and will be linked to the awareness campaignthat will be carried out through the project. The communication spaces available on national radio and television, social networks, the website and the media of all the institutions participating in the project will be used. The national network of communicators will be present.

Activities

4.2.2.1. Participation of Nicaragua in the Regional Platform of the Mesoamerican Critical Forest Biomes Program.

4.2.2.2. Participation in the design and implementation at the national level of the regional communication plan.

Output 4.2.3 South-South Cooperation for knowledge exchange, innovative solutions and harmonized planning strengthened

195. Nicaragua's participation will be facilitated in the annual knowledge exchange workshops with other projects and actors that operate in critical forest biomes at the Mesoamerican and international level, such as Critical Forest Biomes of the Amazon and Congo, organized by the Regional Integrated Program in the framework of South South cooperation. El Programa FAO Campus podrá colaborar para facilitar los intercambios de experiencias.

196. The project facilitates the implementation of procedures with regional cooperation to obtain funding in the following areas: i) implementation of a jaguar conservation plan, ii) development of procedures and requirements to strengthen the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) mechanism, and iii) participation in diploma, specialisation/postgraduate courses related to the conservation, management and monitoring of CBPs conducted by international study centers.

197. As part of regional and transnational cooperation, the project will also collaborate with other Mesoamerican countries for the protection of the jaguar. Achieving jaguar conservation is one way to meet the goals and objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Within the jaguar range, jaguars are an expression of intact forests/ecosystems and productive landscapes (agricultural and managed forests) with biodiversity and carbon sequestered for ecosystem services and human well-being. Where jaguars are doing well, biodiversity is doing well, emissions are reduced, and carbon is captured. CITES Decision 19.110 (h) recognizes the jaguar as the flagship species of the countries in its range, with the protection and conservation of the species a priority due to its ecological importance.

198. Jaguar conservation achieves broader forest and diversity conservation goals as they have wide-ranging requirements. GEF projects can support the achievement of the goals of the Jaguar Roadmap 2030, a regional plan to strengthen the jaguar corridor, supported by sixteen countries, ensuring the protection of priority jaguar landscapes through ecosystem conservation and habitat, reducing human-jaguar conflict, illegal trade and strengthening connectivity between protected areas. Within the framework of this activity, it is planned to manage funds through South-South Cooperation to carry out a jaguar protection plan in the areas of project intervention, which includes a study of its status and distribution.

199. Another issue that has been identified as a priority for South South Cooperation is the strengthening of MARENA and INAFOR in the development of procedures and requirements aimed at strengthening the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) mechanism to guarantee that emissions reduction commitments of greenhouse gases (GHG) are transparent, reliable and verifiable.

200. Through South South Cooperation, meetings will also be participated to manage financing for the participation of officials from national and regional institutions in diploma courses, specialization/postgraduate courses related to the conservation, management and monitoring of CFBs, carried out by international study centers. El Programa FAO Campus podrá colaborar para facilitar el acceso a los cursos internacionales.

Activities

4.2.3.1. Participation in annual knowledge exchange meetings with other projects and actors that operate in critical forest biomes at the Mesoamerican and international level.

4.2.3.2. Management towards South South Cooperation to achieve financing on the topics of: i) implementation of a Jaguar protection plan, ii) development of procedures and requirements aimed at strengthening the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) mechanism and iii) participation to diploma courses, specialization/postgraduate courses related to the conservation, management and monitoring of CFBs, carried out by international study centers.

Monitoring & Evaluation

-

M&E system evaluates project impact and guides adaptive management

201. The last component is related to Monitoring and Evaluation. A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E Plan) will be developed to monitor the project advancements in a result-based approach. The M&E Plan will monitor quantitative and qualitative indicators of projects results and impacts, producing frequent reports about project advancements, raising warning flags about activities delays and missteps allowing necessary adjustments in project implementation in a timely manner considering gender and Indigenous and Afro-Descendants perspectives and indicators. The PIRs, the MTE and the TE should include a review and reporting of the GAP and relevant gender dimensions of the project, this is ensured by the Gender expert.

202. Project management and monitoring will be gender-sensitive and responsive and will consider Indigenous People and Afro-Descendants communities.

M&E 1.1. M&E plan implemented considering gender and Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants perspectives and indicators

203. Project implementation and informed decision-making will be supported by the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation system, including the incorporation of a gender perspective and the social and intercultural inclusion of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.

204. The project will support with financial resources the design and implementation of a web-based Landscape Information and Knowledge Management System to monitor: (i) biodiversity and (ii) ecosystem goods and services that benefit indigenous communities and Afro-descendants. Within the framework of this product, an initial workshop will also be held to present the project, a final workshop to present the results, 2 evaluations (mid-term and final) and annual audits.

205. It is expected that the monitoring system will include a component for information purposes, allowing access to training modules and dissemination materials, and that this information will be used in other actions and projects.

206. In order to carry out adequate monitoring in the areas of project intervention and to be able to respond to requests for visits to the communities and PAs, a land transport vehicle will be provided for each AWB, RACCN and RACCS territorial delegation, which will also be used for supervision visits by project technicians, reducing monitoring costs.

207. Monitoring of the project will be carried out by the Project Execution Unit (PEU) and the person responsible for the FAO budget. Project performance will be monitored using the Project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. (See details in annex D of the PRODOC).

Activities

M&E 1.1.1 Design a landscape monitoring and evaluation system with quantitative and qualitative, result and impact indicators.

M&E 1.1.2. Implement project monitoring and evaluation system

M&E 1.1.3 Program Inception Workshop

M&E 1.1.4 Mid-Term Review

M&E 1.1.5 Terminal Evaluation

Incremental cost reasoning

208. **Component 1**: Facilitating Conditions for the Protection and Conservation of Primary Forests

The component will strengthen governance and management of existing Protected Areas (PAs) through (i) the implementation of a capacity-building program on conservation and restoration, (ii) the development of regulatory and management tools to support the administration of the territories of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant Peoples and PAs.

- Baseline and Cofinancing: Funding will come from the following institutions: MARENA, Government of the North Caribbean Autonomous Region (GRACCN), Government of the South Caribbean Autonomous Region (GRACS), Special Regime Zone (AWB). This will cover operational expenses, personnel costs, recurrent and in-kind expenses, administrative

facilities, staff salaries, office materials, general office maintenance, corporate services, materials and equipment, fuels and lubricants, working sessions and assemblies for GTI, FPIC, basic services for energy, water, and internet, meeting rooms, mobility in the territories, and other expenses, as well as public investment expenditures planned to develop in the project through three infrastructure works. This will allow the implementation of the existing legal and political framework, strengthening governance and management of the RBIM and RBB. The total amount of expected contributions from all program partners is USD 6,476,927.

- Support and Funding from the GEF: The GEF project will support the implementation of a training program that includes women and youth from Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. The development, updating, and implementation of regulatory instruments for the administration of Indigenous territories and Protected Areas. Implementation of the RBIM management plan and updating the RNB plan. Updating the territorial development plans and annual operational plans for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. Formulation and updating of joint management agreements for Protected Areas. Rehabilitation and equipping of SINIA nodes and creation of a new one in Alto Wangki and Bocay. Implementation of the methodology for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in governance processes and operationalizing dialogue and environmental consultation platforms with the participation of women and youth from the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. The proposed funding from the GEF for this component is USD 2,331,088.

209. **Component 2**: Conservation and Restoration of Critical Forest Landscapes (CFL)

The component will finance both technical assistance (TA) and investments for (i) baseline biodiversity/forest assessments, (ii) restoration of forest areas within the PAs, (iii) updates of territorial development plans and territorial and forest management plans with a watershed and gender approach; (iv) strengthening monitoring systems for the management of PAs, forest integrity, and deforestation progress.

- Baseline and Cofinancing: Funding will come from the following institutions: MARENA, ANA, MHCP. Through staff salaries, equipment depreciation, vehicles, and administrative expenses incurred in the 'Green Campaign, I Want You Green,' operational expenses for implementing the Interinstitutional MARENA-Friends of the Earth Plan. The total amount of expected contributions from all program partners is USD 284,669.

- Support and Funding from the GEF: The GEF project will provide support to ensure Technical Assistance (TA) and investments for (i) baseline biodiversity/forest assessments, (ii) restoration of forest areas within PAs, (iii) strengthening integrated water resource management in PAs with gender mainstreaming, (iv) strengthening the monitoring system for PA management, forest integrity, and deforestation progress, (v) strengthening community monitoring systems for PA management. The proposed funding from the GEF for this component is USD 2,097,979.

210. **Component 3**: Innovative Investments for Conservation-Friendly Livelihoods and Nature-Based Solutions

The component will finance both Technical Assistance and investments to promote accessible financing to strengthen livelihoods for nature conservation, including (i) innovative financing/private investments, (ii) financial mechanisms/incentives for the Indigenous Peoples and afro-Descendants, (iii) traceability systems

for value chains that prevent deforestation, and (iv) conservation-friendly production systems in Indigenous Peoples and afro-Descendants territories.

- Baseline and Cofinancing: Funding will come from the following institutions: MARENA, MHCP, and INAFOR through the use of facilities and institutional personnel, actions related to the 'Green Campaign, I Want You Green,' and public investment planned to develop in the project through three infrastructure works that will contribute to creating innovative investments for conservation-friendly livelihoods and nature-based solutions. The total amount of expected contributions from all program partners is USD 14,278,051.

- Support and Cofinancing from the GEF: The GEF project will help develop various actions to promote the conservation and restoration of forests in Protected Areas, such as (i) developing innovative economic models that foster the conservation and restoration of forests in Protected Areas, (ii) implementing dialogue mechanisms with the financial sector to attract investments that support conservation, forest restoration, and reduction of deforestation in buffer areas and connectivity, (iii) validating and implementing economic instruments for environmental incentives that promote investments in conservation and rehabilitation of CFL for Indigenous Peoples and afro-Descendants, (iv) diversifying the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and afro-Descendants, including women and youth, increasing productivity and creating value-added products/services, (v) establishing value chains in the agricultural and livestock sectors that prevent deforestation and promote conservation in connectivity areas by implementing productive traceability systems. The proposed funding from the GEF for this component is USD 5,827,720.

211. **Component 4**: Regional Cooperation, Learning, and Knowledge

This component will finance technical assistance to enhance regional/transnational cooperation and coordination.

- Baseline and Cofinancing: Funding will come from FAO Nicaragua, through technical assistance and training to support monitoring, which will contribute to ensuring regional cooperation, learning, and knowledge exchange. This component is closely aligned with the framework of the Critical Forest Biome (BFC) program for Mesoamerica, aimed at managing South-South regional exchange to promote learning (formal, non-formal, and informal education), foster cooperation, and systematize experiences. The total amount of expected contributions is USD 100,000.

- Support and Funding from the GEF: The GEF project will finance technical assistance to (i) promote greater regional/transnational cooperation and coordination, (ii) generate a monitoring and evaluation system that assesses the project's impact and guides adaptive management. Additionally, a strategy will be implemented to enhance the capacity of government levels in the conservation, management, and monitoring of CFLs, an environmental education and awareness program will be executed at the local, regional, and national levels, which will include materials translated into the native language of the territories to promote the protection and conservation of CFLs, best environmental practices in protected areas will be systematized and replicated, ensuring the application of the traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and afro-Descendants, which will strengthen

institutional capacities for managing these areas and improve the technical capacities of the involved stakeholders, participation in the Mesoamerica PI Knowledge Platform will be encouraged, and South-South cooperation will be strengthened for knowledge exchange, innovative solutions, and harmonized planning. The proposed funding from the GEF for this component is USD 566,482.

Contributions to the Integrated Program of Critical Forest Biomes of Mesoamerica[51]

212. The Project is framed within the comprehensive strategy for the conservation of critical forest landscapes, driven by the 'Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program of Mesoamerica.' This contributes to the regional program by addressing the drivers of deforestation and degradation through a specific set of interrelated interventions within the framework of four components aligned with the components of the regional program: C1. Favorable conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests; Innovative finance. C2. Acceleration of the protection and restoration of primary forests; C3. Investment and expansion of nature and livelihoods; and C4. Coordinated and improved learning and regional collaboration.

213. The Project also anticipates close coordination with the regional program, primarily regarding knowledge management and transnational coordination. Within the framework of the regional program and the Biodiversity Program: Connecting the Central American Landscape implemented by IUCN, the project will coordinate actions consistent with those planned for these programs in Honduras (BBR) and Costa Rica (IMBR) as they share the same forest as Nicaragua.

214. In this sense, the project in Nicaragua will implement actions at the local level with the Indigenous People and Afro-Descendants with the objective of improving the living conditions of people who live where primary forests are located in the IMBR and the BNR, ensuring that they can have a level of dignified life thanks to positive forestry and non-forestry activities. The project will improve coordination at subnational (Caribbean Coast and AWB Regions) and national level (with sectoral institutions governing environmental, biodiversity, forestry and water laws) and promote multi-level intersectoral constructive dialogue between key stakeholders through the establishment or strengthening of multisector platforms that will contribute to the Mesoamerican regional dialogue.

215. It will also contribute to the regional program through innovation and learning in the areas of IMRB and BNR management, systematizing community forest restoration practices, innovative financing models and tools, use of incentives and innovative business models to encourage nature that are implemented in Nicaragua.

216. Together, these actions will contribute to the transformations of the Mesoamerican natural system, expanding protection of primary Mesoamerican forests in the Bosawas Natural Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve, increasing forest-friendly production in buffer zones or biological corridors; and contributing to global environmental conservation and Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

217. In addition, Nicaragua is part of different spaces such as relevant cross-border/regional/global forums/platforms focused on the objective of achieving the connectivity of forest ecosystems in landscapes of the Integrated Program of Critical Forest Biomes of Mesoamerica:

- Framework of the Regional Environmental Strategy 2021-2025/ CCAD/SICA[52]: guides work related to biodiversity, sustainable forests and landscapes, climate change, etc.

- Sustainable Agriculture Strategy Adapted to Climate Change/SICA 2018-2030[53]: management of climate change by the agri-food sector.
- AFOLU 2040 CCAD-SICA Regional Initiative[54]: By 2030, the SICA region will restore and conserve 10 million hectares of land and ecosystems.
- Ibero-American and Caribbean Network of Biosphere Reserves (IberoMAB): Strengthen the MAB Program in Latin America, Spain and Portugal, consolidating its national committees and promoting cooperation and creation of new Biosphere reserves.
- Initiative within the framework of CCAD-SICA: The Great Forests of Central America and the Dominican Republic.
- Bonn Challenge: Nicaragua has voluntarily committed to restoring 2,700,000 ha.
- REDPARQUES, a network of PAs in Latin America to support management and share knowledge.[55]

[42]https://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/02-plan-desarrollo-estrategia-enderedd-costa-caribe-2019.pdf

[43]https://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/Fases/13.%20Estrategia%20Nacional%20ENDE.pdf

[44]http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/gacetas/2022/2/g35.pdf

[45]http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/gacetas/2007/1/g8.pdf

[46]https://www.pndh.gob.ni/documentos/pnlc-dh/PNCL-DH_2022-2026(19Jul21).pdf

[47]MARENA, (2017). Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation ENDE-REDD+ 2018-2040.

https://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/Fases/13.%20Estrategia%20Nacional%20ENDE.pdf

[48]GRUN. (2019). Development Plan for the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay 2019-2029.https://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/02-plan-desarrollo-estrategia-enderedd-costa-caribe-2019.pdf

[49]The Conceptual Note (p.4.) indicates that the "natural forest recovery rate in the corridor area is approximately 1,945 ha/year. It is expected that the project will contribute to increasing the rate to 5,000 ha/year (3,055 additional ha with restoration practices financed with the GEF)."

[50] http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/b92aaea87dac762406257265005d21f7/4c03359bdaeb1605062589cf004e0169?OpenDocumenthttp://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/b92aaea87dac762406257265005d21f7/4c03359bdaeb1605062589cf004e0169?OpenDocument

[51] https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11273

[52]Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and Central American Integration System (SICA). 2021. Framework of the Regional Environmental Strategy 2021-2025. Consulted:https://www.sica.int/documentos/regional-ambiental-framework-strategy-eram-2021-2025_1_128648.html

[53]Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and Central American Integration System (SICA). Sustainable agriculture strategy adapted to the climate for the SICA region (2018-2030). Consulted:https://www.cac.int/sites/default/files/Estrategia%20ASAC%20-%20CAC.pdf

[54]Central American Agricultural Council (CAC); Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and Central American Integration System (SICA). 2021. Consulted:https://www.sica.int/documentos/nota-conceptual-afolu-2040-iniciativa-regional_1_128650.html

http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/b92aaea87dac762406257265005d21f7/4c03359bdaeb1605062589cf004e0169?OpenDocument

[55]RED Parks. National Systems of Protected Areas of Latin America and the Caribbean. Consulted:https://redparques.com

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)

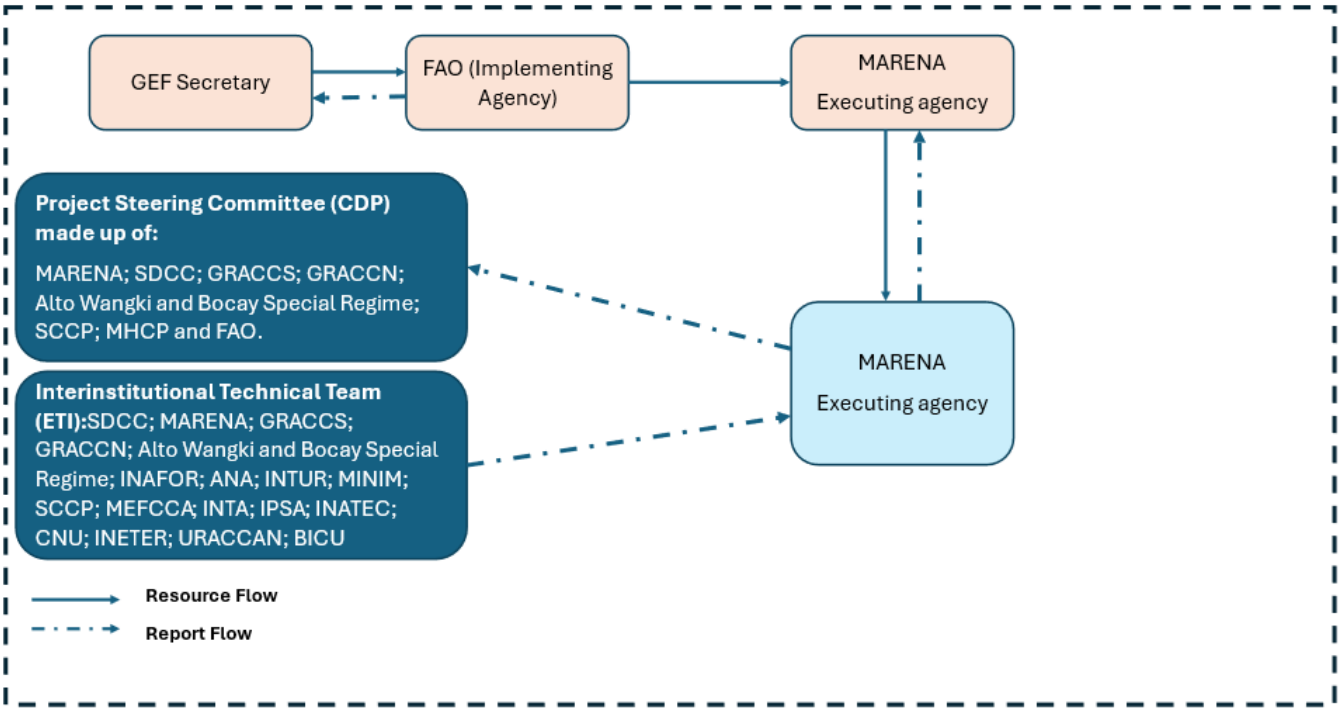
218. The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) will have technical and general execution responsibility for the project. FAO will provide oversight as the GEF implementing agency, as described below: MARENA will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project results entrusted to it, in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) signed with FAO. As project executing partner, MARENA is responsible to FAO for the timely implementation of agreed project outcomes, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting and effective use of GEF resources for their intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

219. The project will be organized in a Project Steering Committee comprised of the heads of MARENA, Secretariat of Development of the Caribbean Coast (SDCC), Autonomous Regional Government of the Southern Caribbean Coast (GRACCS), Autonomous Regional Government of the Northern Caribbean Coast (GRACCN) and Regional Government of the Alto Wangki and Bocay Special Regime Zone (GRAWB), Climate Change Secretary of the Presidency (SCCP), Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP) and FAO. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is the entity that supports decision-making; It will meet at least twice a year to: i) Supervise and ensure the technical quality of the products; ii) Approve the annual work plan and budget as well as the semiannual progress reports and project reports, iii) strengthen links between the project and other ongoing projects and programs relevant to the project; iv) Know and report the co-financing support of each of the parties; v) ensure the achievement of key project results, including sustainability, scale-up and replication; v) develop effective coordination of the work of the government partner under this project.

220. An Interinstitutional Technical Team (ETI) will be made up of representatives of the following institutions: Secretariat of Development of the Caribbean Coast (SDCC), Autonomous Regional Government of the South Caribbean Coast (GRACCS), Autonomous Regional Government of the North Caribbean Coast (GRACCN) , Regional Government of the Alto Wangki and Bocay Special Regime Zone (GRAWB), National Forestry Institute (INAFOR), National Water Authority (ANA), Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism (INTUR), Ministry of Women (MINIM), Climate Change Secretary of the Presidency (SCCP), Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA), Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), Institute of Agricultural Protection and Health (IPSA), National Technological Institute (INATEC), Ministry of Education (MINED) National Council of Universities (CNU), Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER), University of the Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast (URACCAN), Bluefields Indian & Caribbean University (BICU), Mayors linked to the project area and a technical representative of CIAT who will be summoned by

MARENA. MARENA will preside over the ETI, which will annually prepare the annual work plans and budgets and will support the operational management of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and all the executing partners.

221. The project organization structure is illustrated below in Figure 3.



222. The Project Managament Unit (PMU) will be co-financed by the GEF and will be established within MARENA, reporting directly to the Senior Management of MARENA. The main function of the PMU, following the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, will be to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the Project through the effective implementation of the operational plans and annual budgets. The PMU will be directed by the General Directorate of Natural Heritage of MARENA and the Division of External Cooperation, National and International Projects and Agreements, who will work together with a National Project Coordinator (NPC) who will be hired full time during the life of the project. In addition, the PMU will include support from: a financial specialist, a Monitoring & Evaluation specialist, a gender, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples specialist, whose salaries will be paid with Project funds (see ToR in Annex L).

223. The financial execution of the project will be carried out according to the management instruments approved for the project (ProDoc, AWP, Budget, Procurement and Purchasing Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan), and using the FAO Operational Partner Implementation Modality known as OPIM . The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) will be the Operational Partner (OP) that will sign the OPA with FAO and will have the general execution and technical responsibility of the project, with the supervision of FAO as GEF Implementing Agency.

224. The responsibilities of FAO, as GEF implementing agency , will include:

- Manage GEF funds in accordance with FAO standards and procedures;
- Monitor the implementation of the project in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, operating partner agreements and other FAO standards and procedures;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities involved;
- Carry out at least one supervision mission per year; and
- Inform the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the Annual Review of Project Implementation, the Mid-Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Terminal Report on the progress of the project;
- Prepare financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

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

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

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)

Project	Description	Products relevant to the Project
NICACAO Green Recovery Project	**Funding Source:** European Union/AECID/UNIDO **General objective of the project:** "Contribute to strengthening the economic dynamism, environmental sustainability and climate resilience of the cocoa value chain in Nicaragua." The counterpart of the project is the Ministry of Family, Cooperative and Associative Economy MEFCCA. **Project Area: NICACAO;**Mining Triangle, in the Siuna, Rosita and Bonanza municipalities. Actions will be complemented with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). The agency that is executing NICACAO in the cocoa sector in Río San Juan, Matagalpa and Jinotega. **Coordination with this project** The project will coordinate with this initiative through MEFFCA, which is the entity responsible for the execution of the project. Collaboration will occur based on the exchange of experiences and coordination on agroforestry management of cocoa cultivation in the buffer zones of the reserves, seeking synergies and avoiding overlaps.	- Promoted the deforestation-free supply chain and product traceability systems developed for small producers.

Project	Description	Products relevant to the Project
Transforming Food Systems and Reducing Deforestation in the Landscapes of Protected Areas and Biological Corridors of the Autonomous Region of the South Caribbean Coast and the Río San Juan Department.	**Funding Source:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF) **General objective of the project:** "Promote sustainable and integrated landscapes and efficient food systems (cacao, beef/dairy cattle) for key value chains in the landscapes surrounding the protected areas and biological corridors of the Autonomous Region of the South Caribbean Coast (RACCS) and the Río San Juan" **Project Area:** Protected areas and biological corridors of the Autonomous Region of the South Caribbean Coast and the Río San Juan Department. **Coordination with this initiative** The experience and lessons learned in FOLUR will serve as a basis for creating innovative financial mechanism models that will be developed in component 3 of the project. The project will coordinate through Component 4 with the knowledge management platform of FOLUR Global Coordiantion Platform	• Promotes participatory, inclusive, and gender-sensitive planning and mapping to improve land use and management at the landscape level. • Strengthens governance systems and builds capacity in institutions managing landscape and use at the national level. • Implements best land use practices and restoration activities in the main production landscapes adopted and expanded. • Improves policies and incentives for innovation and the scaling up of climate-smart sustainable production practices and gender-sensitive value chains at the national level. • Implements sustainable land management practices and restoration activities in targeted landscapes and expands them to similar ecosystems. • Strengthens governance and builds institutional capacity for landscape restoration. • Effectively implements management, coordination, and monitoring & evaluation (M&E). • Effectively implements strategic knowledge management and communications.
Integrated and Sustainable Biodiversity Management of the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve	**Funding Source:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF) **Project Objective:** Conserve the world-class biodiversity environment and improve ecosystem services in the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve by working in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities. **Project Area:** The project area is located in the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve (RBIM), which was established in 1999 by Presidential Decree 66-99. The entire area, covering 316,720.62 hectares, is an integral part of the Río San Juan Biosphere Reserve, declared as such by UNESCO in 2003. This project coordinates with this project as both initiatives align with the national strategy addressing fundamental elements related to conservation and	• Strengthen a conducive environment to ensure better governance and management of the Reserve. • Strengthen the capacities of indigenous communities, as well as national, regional, and municipal authorities, in landscape management to conserve biodiversity. • Promote participatory management of the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve; and manage knowledge, monitoring, and evaluation

Project	Description	Products relevant to the Project
	production as crucial pillars for the country's social, environmental, and climate-related development	

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)
997337	997337	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)
997337	997337	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)
Bosawas Natural Reserve (BNR)	12650	Habitat/Species Management Area	997,337.00	680,617.00			59.00		
Indio Maíz Biological Reserve (IMBR)	30628	Strict Nature Reserve		316,720.00			59.00		

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)

276329	25000	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)

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)
276,329.00	25,000.00		

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)
42500	42500	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)
42,500.00	42,500.00		

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)

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)

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)

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)	1157984	12647021	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	2678551	3727244	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)	1,157,984	12,647,021		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	2,678,551	3,727,244		
Anticipated start year of accounting	2024	2025		
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 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	3,051	3,051		
Male	5,440	5,440		
Total	**8,491**	**8,491**	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)

GEF Core Indicator 1: Describes the number of hectares protected under greater management efficiency in the core area of the Bosawas Natural Reserve (BNR) (WPDA ID: 12650 , METT Score: 59) and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve (IMBR) (WPDA ID: 30628, METT Score: 59). It defines a total of 997,337 hectares, of which, 680,617 hectares correspond to the core area of the BNR and 316,720 hectares correspond to the core area of the IMBR

GEF Core Indicator 3: Refers to the number of hectares of degraded forest and forest land area that will be restored by project activities within the protected areas of the BNR and IMBR (CI 3.2 Area of forest and forest land restored), 25,000 hectares in total, 15,000 hectares will be in the BNR and 10,000 hectares in the IMRB. The areas will be subject to forest cover restoration through the management of natural regeneration and forest conservation. Taking into account that the natural forest recovery rate in the area is approximately 1,945 ha/year, it is expected that the project will contribute to increasing the rate up to 5,000 ha/year (an additional 3,055 ha/year with funded restoration practices through the GEF). In 5 years, the project will recover 25,000 hectares of forest cover.

GEF Core Indicator 4: Indicates the number of hectares under improved management to benefit biodiversity (CI 4.1) in the core zone and in the connectivity zones of the BNR and the IMBR. 42,500 hectares will be managed under Silvopastoral Systems and Agroforestry Systems of coffee and cocoa, of which, 30,073 hectares correspond to core and transition zones of the BNR and 12,427 hectares correspond to core and transition zones of the IMBR. Also, value chains that avoid deforestation both in the agricultural and livestock sector will be strengthened, located in connectivity areas outside the reserves.

GEF Core Indicator 6: It refers to the GHG mitigation contributions that will be generated by each proposed intervention. It is expected that after 5 years of project implementation and 15 years of capitalization the project activities contribute to mitigate -16,374,265 tons of Co2eq. The project, through forest management and Component 1 activities contributes indirectly to mitigate -3,727,244 tons of Co2eq, specifically Component 1 activities include: i) Implementing environmental education programs for the local community and visitors, emphasizing the importance of protecting the forest and its resources. Raising awareness can promote pro-environmental attitudes; ii) Involving local communities in decision-making and natural resource management. Their traditional knowledge can be valuable, and their participation fosters a sense of belonging and responsibility; iii) Establishing clear regulations on access to the protected area, limiting activities that could damage the ecosystem, such as agricultural activities, mining or uncontrolled urban expansion. Moreover, also Component 2 and 3 includes activities to mitigate indirect emissions. Component 2 includes: i) Establishing monitoring programs with indigenous communities to assess forest health and detect illegal activities such as deforestation or poaching. Involving the local community in these activities can be particularly effective; ii) conducting research on the forest's flora and fauna to identify endangered species and develop specific conservation plans. Detailed knowledge of biodiversity can guide management decisions; Component 3 includes: i) Promoting sustainable ecotourism, which not only generates income for the community, but also promotes forest conservation by involving visitors in protection and restoration activities; ii) Promotion of alternative economic activities, such as sustainable agriculture or the production of non-timber forest products (fruits, resins, etc.), which reduce dependence on logging.

Component 2 and 3 contributes directly to mitigate -12,647,021 tons of Co2eq.

Moreover, according to the First Biennial Update Report, in 2019, presented by the Government of Nicaragua in 2023, it shows that net CO2eq emissions (sum of GHG emissions and absorptions) at the national level were 35,834.16 Gg CO2eq (including Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) equivalent to 35,834,160 tonnes CO2eq. With the implementation of the project, a mitigation potential of -3,058,671.52 tonnes CO2eq is estimated during the five years of execution; this represents a significant contribution in the reduction of the country's net emissions, a voluntary commitment and within the framework of the mitigation goals reflected in the NDC updated in 2020.

GEF Core Indicator 11: Indicates the number of people who benefit from the investments financed by the GEF-8 project. 8,491 direct beneficiaries are expected: In the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve, a total of 6,370 people (4,330 men and 2,040 women) will benefit, including: a) indigenous population defined as head of family of the ITG Li Lamni Tasbaika Kum, Mayangna Sauni As (MSA), Mayangna Sauni Bas (MSBA), Mayangna Sauni Arungka, Miskitu Indian Tasbaika Kum (MITK), Mayangna Sauni Bu (MSB), Kipla Sait Tasbaika Kum (KST); b) Local actors (CCN and Alto Wangki and Bocay regional government, mayors' offices, territorial governments, communal authorities and Departmental Delegations of government institutions). In the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve, a total of 2,078 people (1,089 men and 989 women) will benefit, broken down into: a) indigenous population defined as head of family of the ITG Rama and Kriol; b) Local actors (CCS Regional Government and Branch and Kriol Territorial Government, mayors' offices, communal authorities, and Departmental Delegations of government institutions). Central Level Actors (Government Institutions) will also benefit: 43 people (21 men and 22 women).

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Risk:Climate risk is moderate because climate poses a risk to the proposed project study area and the proposed project activities are affected by climate-related impacts. Mitigation measures: The project will invest in increasing adaptive capacity and resilience through ecosystem restoration, sustainable forest management and the dissemination of climate-smart agricultural practices.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	The FAO Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) triggered by the project are: • ESS 1: Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources • ESS 4: Decent Work • ESS 6: Gender equality and prevention of gender violence • ESS 8: Indigenous peoples • ESS 9: cultural heritage The specific risks identified are the following: • ESS 1: the project will be implemented within a legally designated protected area or its buffer zone: in the Bosawas Natural Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve. • ESS 4: project beneficiaries will be involved in trainings and voluntary work

		engagement by the executing partner • ESS 6: project activities will see the participation of women from Indigenous Peoples and Afro Descendants, thus the risk of not involving women and considering gender perspective • ESS 8: there are indigenous peoples living in the project area where the activities will be carried out: in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve the ITG Li Lamni, Mayangna Sauni As (MSA), Mayangna Sauni Bas (MSBA), Mayangna Sauni Arungka, Miskitu Indian Tasbaika Kum (MITK), Mayangna Sauni Bu (MSB), Kipla Sait Tasbaika Kum (KST). In the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve the ITG Rama and Kriol. • ESS 9: project activities wil be carried out in protected areas where Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants reside. Mitigation measures envisaged by the project: ESS 1: Support the implementation of activities in accordance with the management plan of the protected areas involved in the project. Specifically, through Product 1.1.3 Management Plan for the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve prepared and implemented and updated Management Plan for the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve. This measure is complemented with product 1.1.4 Updated territorial development plans and annual environmental operational plans of Native Peoples and Afro-descendants and product 1.1.5 Formulated and updated joint management agreements for protected areas in indigenous territories. ESS 4: mitigation measures such as adequate trainings in occupational safety and health will be carried out and personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided thus reducing the risk for occupational health and safety. ESS 6: The project team, in collaboration with the government, has carried out a gender analysis and action plan in the project preparation phase to have a soilid knowledge of the local sociocultural context. As result, the project will formulate and implement training and awareness modules on basic gender concepts and methodological tools to incorporate the gender approach in environmental governance and management; but also trainings for Indigenous and Afro-descendants women and youth on governance and management of Protected Areas with a gender perspective. The project will also promote: spaces for exchanging experiences with women and young leaders of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, spaces for dialogue about equity and inclusion, and the quitable participation of women at different level fo governance. Moreover, the project will include the collection of sex-disaggregated data and gender information. Attention should be focused on the use of gender indicators, as well as goals and results disaggregated by sex. More details can be found in annex K of the word ProDoc (Gender Analisis and Action Plan) ESS 8: Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is already underway and on June 24 the final report will be available with the action plan and the consent acts of the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples and will continue throughout the entire cycle of life of the project through product 1.1.7 of component 1. ESS 9: as mentioned the project is carring out a FPIC. Moreover, the project will Systematized and replicated good environmental practices in PA, guaranteeing the application of traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants as per output 4.1.3 and the project will translate products for environmental education and awareness to conserve Critial forest Biome sin native languages

		spoken in the terriotries. Project activities include the identification, inventory, documentation, research, conservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission and revitalization of intangible cultural heritage such as practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills. of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. The project will hire relevant experts and site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) will be developed for each site where The Territorial Investment Plans of Native Peoples and Afro-descendants will be implemented. More details can be found in the annexs of the Environmental and Social Safeguards
Political and Governance	Low	Risk:The risk is classified as low because the project is in line with the National Plan to Fight Poverty and Human Development (2022-2026), the Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENDE- REDD+)" 2018 to 2040, the Development Strategy of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay (2019 – 2029) and the commitments acquired by Nicaragua within the framework of the NDC. Mitigation measures:The project will follow the NDC and other relevant national documents to avoid any potential political and governance risks. The project will ensure that the activities to be implemented are in line with the national strategic documents.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Risk: The project risk is classified as low because the proposed project is consistent with the national strategies and plans mentioned in Annex B. Mitigation measures: The proposed project will ensure project ownership following national strategies and plans, which will direct long-term institutional development. At the local level, the project will support the definition of territorial plans and the implementation of the BNR and IMBR management plans.
Technological		
Financial and Business Model	Low	Risk: Although Nicaragua's macroeconomic indicators are stable, co-financing contributions from the government and donors may be affected due to the unstable economic situation worldwide. Additionally, there may be significant economic challenges in the country, which may affect the government's financial commitments. Mitigation measures: The project will ensure strong stakeholder participation in addition to engaging decision makers, ensuring continued commitment and ownership despite any potential macroeconomic stressors. In addition, the roles and responsibilities of national institutions will be specified in the project guidelines and agreements.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	Risks: The risk is classified as low because the project has been built in a participatory manner considering the roles and functions of the institutions and the capacities and interests of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. Mitigation measures: Support for capacity development will be prioritized based on the gaps and needs identified in this project.

Fiduciary	Low	Risk:The risk is classified as low because government counterparties already have experience in following the necessary fiduciary and operational standards. Mitigation measures:The necessary control mechanisms for financial management and procurement procedures will be maintained according to the requirements of the contexts.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Risk: The project is expected to have positive impacts on indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, as well as local communities, by increasing employment and improving livelihoods. However, there could be tensions, derived from already existing conflicts between indigenous communities and non-indigenous people, such as land grabbing, competing interests and illegal logging, livestock and agriculture activities that, could minimize the positive impacts of the project, as well as create social conflicts among different stakeholders involved in the project. Mitigation measures: The project focuses on supporting different institutions coordinated through MARENA and the NSCCM and NSPCC based on their mandates, as well as existing coordination mechanisms between the 5 levels of government. Therefore, it is expected that the project will serve as a catalyst to enhance collaboration among stakeholders to meet the requirements, learning from past experiences. FPIC is being carried out during project preparation phase. Moreover, all level of stakeholders have been engaged since concept note and at different times of project preparation phase. A stakeholder engagement plan has been developed taking into consideration the needs of different stakeholders engaged

Other	Low	Technical design of the project Risks: Some data regarding biodiversity and forest status are not available at the beginning of the project and future changes in drivers put the resilience of populations and ecosystems at risk. Mitigation measures: The project foresees some baseline studies to obtain the missing data. Furthermore, it incorporates adaptive practices by promoting governance mechanisms and agro-ecological and silvopastoral systems to limit the advance of the agricultural frontier and the non-rational use of natural resources.

Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The project triggers different Environmental and Social Standards working in protected areas and with Indigenous People and Afro-Descendants. However, as described and explained in more details in Annex I (Environmental and Social Safeguard and Free, Prior and Informed Consent) and Annex J (Stakeholder engagement plan and grievance redress mechanism) of the word ProDoc the project foresees measures to counteract social risks and the project intervention focuses on institutional and technical capacity. Therefore, the overall risk rating is MODERATE. More information can be found in the annexes of the Environmental and Social Safeguards and in the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants plan.

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)

225. **Alignment with the GEF 8 Focal Areas**. The Project aligns with the multifocal area of GEF 8, particularly with the Integrated Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Program, in its goal of "maintaining the integrity of globally significant tropical forests" and its objective of conserving the last primary tropical forests. In effect, the project operates at various levels of intervention, combining institutional tools and incentives to protect primary forests and reduce pressures on the landscape. Specifically, it: strengthens the management of protected areas and anticipates other effective conservation measures beyond protected areas; develops favorable conditions (governance, integrated land use planning); promotes alternative and improved livelihood and development activities; catalyzes participation and commitment from stakeholders at different levels to enable transformative changes; facilitates resource mobilization for forest protection; promotes the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and strengthens regional cooperation for coordinated management with neighboring countries.

226. **Alignment with national priorities.** This Project directly contributes to Nicaragua's compliance with its commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The objective and results of the Project also directly support several national priorities and initiatives. These include:

227. **National Plan to Fight Poverty and Human Development (2022-2026).** This plan contributes to environmental policy and the protection of natural resources against climate change.[56]46

228. **"Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENDE-REDD+)" 2018 to 2040**[57]47**.**The Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENDE-REDD+) is based on the Political Constitution of Nicaragua. The constitutional mandate establishes that "The Nicaraguan State recognizes the person, the family and the community as the origin and purpose of its activity, and is organized to ensure the common good, assuming the task of promoting the human development of each and every one." of the Nicaraguans." This responsibility is fulfilled through a model of Dialogue, Alliance and Consensus, which has allowed the well-being of the nation and the care of Mother Earth.

229. The global objectives of the Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation are: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation; conserve and improve forest carbon stocks; and contribute to the protection of Mother Earth against climate change. At the same time, the Strategy aims to help improve the quality of life of Nicaraguans, the resilience of ecosystems in the face of climate change, and increase financial flows to the environmental and forestry sector with a view to improving its positioning and national and competitiveness. international.

230. The six pillars or guidelines are the following: 1) Strengthen awareness, education, communication, and promotion of values and information related to the protection of Mother Earth that take into account the territorial identity and worldview of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. 2) Strengthen national-regional and local coordination and capacity of governments related to the use of land and natural resources considering forestry, environmental, agricultural and energy laws and policies. 3) Promote the protection, conservation and restoration of landscapes and biological corridors through afforestation, reforestation and natural regeneration on the Caribbean and Pacific Coast, North Center and AWB. 4) Increase sustainable and low-emission agricultural-forestry production, as well as the income of producers, and employment. 5) Promote investments and the strengthening of forestry and agricultural value chains with a focus on sustainable markets and low emissions; that value sustainability and reduced deforestation. 6) Strengthen adaptation initiatives in the face of climate change in the territories of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples of the Caribbean Coast and North Central Pacific and AWB.

231. **Development Strategy for the Caribbean Coast and Upper Wangki and Bocay** (for the period 2019 – 2029). This strategy reflects the vision, life aspirations and heritage of future generations, people, families, communities, municipalities, territories, regions, institutions and organizations. It is based on the worldview of indigenous peoples but immersed in modern approaches, among which sustainable development, inclusion and social justice, gender equality, environmental conservation and low-carbon development stand out. The strategy also aims to incorporate the Emissions Reduction Program to combat climate change and poverty on the Caribbean Coast, BOSAWAS biosphere reserve and Indio Maíz biological reserve (ERPD), which in turn is designed to combat the main causes of deforestation and forest degradation. It will promote a more intensive, equitable and environmentally sustainable production protection model. Furthermore, it has the firm purpose of mobilizing the different public and private sectors.

232. **Nicaragua's voluntary commitments** include the goals established in the Nicaraguan National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP, form Spanish translation) 2015-2020 and has expressed its support for the Global Biodiversity Framework (goals 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19b, 19f, 20, 21, 22, 2. 3).**The project is aligned with the following targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework / areas of action of the GBFF, specifically:**

- **TARGET 1:**Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

- **TARGET 2:** Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

- **TARGET 3:** Conserve and manage the biodiversity of terrestrial areas of particular importance for biodiversity, functions, and ecosystem services, through ecologically representative, well-connected, and governed protected area systems, as well as other effective area-based conservation measures that recognize Indigenous territories and traditions integrated into terrestrial landscapes. This target is primarily related to Component 2 of the project linked to the restoration and management plans of forest areas within the RBB and RBIM.

- **TARGET 10:** Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services**.**

- **TARGET 11:** Restore, maintain, and enhance nature's contributions to people, including functions and services of ecosystems such as air, water, and climate regulation, soil health, pollination, and reduced risk of diseases, as well as protection against hazards and natural disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature. This target is primarily related to Component 3 of the project linked to environmental incentives aimed at generating ecosystem services in the RBB and RBIM.

- **TARGET 22:** Ensure full, equitable, inclusive, effective, and gender-responsive participation and representation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making, and their access to justice and information on biodiversity, respecting their cultures and rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge. This target is primarily related to Components 1 and 4 of the project, which promote the active and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, with a special emphasis on Indigenous women and youth

- **TARGET 23:** Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

Action Areas of the GBFF:

- **Action Area 1:** Conservation, restoration, land/marine use, and biodiversity spatial planning (Targets 1, 2, and 3). The project's emphasis on conserving two protected areas and restoring forest areas within those protected areas aligns with Area of Action 1 of the GBFF.

- **Action Area 2:** Support for the management and governance of lands, territories, and waters of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (Targets 1, 2, 3, and 22). The project aligns with Area of Action 2 as it supports the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in project actions.

GBFF Indicators and Targets:

- **Main GBFF Indicator 1.1**: Percentage of terrestrial and marine area covered by spatial plans that include biodiversity.

Main GBFF Indicator 2.2: Area under restoration

233. The project contributes to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in[58][48]: TARGET 1 Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. TARGET 3 Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories. TARGET 9 Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities. TARGET 10 Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

234. As part of the NDC 2020 it has committed that by 2030 it will have reduced CO2 emissions resulting from deforestation by 25%. As part of the Land Degradation Neutrality Strategy, forest cover would increase by 21.47% by restoring 2.8 million hectares. Through the ENDE-REDD+ it has been proposed that by 2040 the deforestation rate will be reduced by at least 50% and emissions from the land use change sector will be reduced by 11 million TCO2eq in 5 years.

235. **National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan in Nicaragua 2015-2020, delivered to the CBD in 2016.**The National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan (2015 -2020), within its main guidelines, aims to promote the conservation and restoration of biodiversity, prioritizing threatened and vulnerable ecosystems such as wetlands, coral reefs, pine forests. and life corridors, promoting complementarity, shared responsibility and alliances for prosperity with national, local and regional institutions, producers, families and private initiatives, which is part of the effort to improve the living conditions of the people. Nicaraguans.

236. **National land degradation neutrality (LDT) strategy until 2030, delivered to the UNCCD in 2018.**The National Strategy for LDN is based on the implementation of the main productive policies and goals, within the model of alliances, dialogue and consensus with support from the institutions that make up the Production, Consumption and Commerce System. To contribute to the fulfillment of the proposed NDT goals, our institutions will be articulated according to the following work axes: By 2030, the country's forest coverage has increased by 21.47%. This goal involves the promotion of Payment for Environmental Services (PES) for the protection and sustainable conservation of Plant Ecosystems; By 2030, 1,166,362 hectares will be improved, in areas deteriorated due to decreasing land productivity. For which restoration measures are available through the increase of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, thus also facilitating the functionality of biological connectivity between forest ecosystems.

237. **National Climate Change Policy in 2022.**The main objective of the policy is to contribute to the fight against poverty and the sustainable human development of Nicaragua, preparing a society with a greater capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, more aware and responsible in the face of this challenge; that promotes a low-carbon economy according to respective capacity based on environmentally, socially and economically sustainable productive processes and services, incorporating knowledge and innovation. The policy is based on 5 pillars: systemic capacities in adaptation and resilience to variability and Climate Change, and extreme meteorological events (pillar 1); integrated mitigation measures (pillar 2); loss and damage (pillar 3); knowledge, research, innovation and transfer of technologies and good agroclimatic practices (pillar 4); and governance of climate action (pillar 5).

238. National policy to prevent deforestation and forest degradation. Presidential Decree No. 06-2023. The main objective of the policy is to promote lines and actions that prevent deforestation and forest degradation, contributing to the protection of Mother Earth from climate change, in order to obtain multiple benefits, such as the conservation and improvement of forest carbon reserves and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It also seeks to restore the right of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and rural communities to enjoy the benefits generated by forest ecosystems in an environmentally sustainable manner. The policy is based on 6 strategic lines: i) Strengthen awareness, education, communication, promotion of values and information related to the protection of Mother Earth, taking into account the territorial identity and worldview of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. ii) Strengthen national, regional and local coordination focused on the proper use of land and natural resources, taking into account environmental, forestry and agricultural laws and policies. iii) Promote the protection, conservation and restoration of landscapes and biological corridors through afforestation,

reforestation and natural regeneration in the country. iv) Promote low-emission primary production models, as well as producer income and employment. v) Promote investments and the strengthening of the forestry value chain with a focus on sustainable markets, which value sustainability and the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation. vi) Strengthen climate change adaptation initiatives in the territories of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in the country.

Alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework, the SDGs and the COUNTRY Programming Framework.

239. **Strategic objective/organizational result:**

The project is aligned with the FAO strategic Framework, specifically to:

- Better Environment: BE 33: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture (60%). It is aligned especially to SDG 15, Targets 15.1 and 15.4
- Better life: BL 2: Inclusive Rural Transformation (40%). It is aligned specifically to SDG 1 and 8, Target 1.1 and 8.3

240. **Regional Initiatives/Priority Areas:**

The project is aligned to the following reginal priorities:

- Regional Priority 3: Sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change.
- Regional Priority 4: Reduction of inequalities, poverty and promotion of resilience.

241. ***Country Programmatic Framework 2022-2026*** **as follows*:***
Strategic Priority 2. Sustainable Rural Investments

Result: Increased public and private investments that promote decent and equal employment, reduce rural poverty, and promote the agroclimatic transformation of the rural productive matrix, framed in sustainable, inclusive development, adapted to climate change and variability and low in emissions , in line with Nicaragua's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and its international commitments on climate matters.

Strategic Priority 3. Sustainable Ecosystem Management

Result 3: Improved conservation and restoration of ecosystem services and functions, especially the capture and storage of GHGs, through sustainable agricultural, fishing and forestry production, effective management of protected areas, protection of biodiversity and reducing deforestation.

242. **National *Biennial Work Plan:***

RE ID: 18706 “Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and Institutions of the National System of Production, Consumption and Commerce (SNPCC) establish alliances with development banks, international cooperators and/or global funds, in order to mobilize public and private investments for the sustainable development of the networks/value chains of the agricultural, forestry, fishing and aquaculture sectors, within the framework of the agroclimatic transformation of agri-food systems towards more inclusive forms, low in emissions and resilient to climate change.”

RE ID: 18707 “Women and young people from rural communities, and indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples have greater inclusion and economic empowerment by promoting rural entrepreneurship with a value network approach.”

RE ID: 18705 “Public entities, private actors, adult women and men and indigenous, Afro-descendant and non-indigenous youth from rural communities within the national carbon accounting area, have financial resources and capacities for the implementation of actions and programs that promote the sustainable use of natural resources, through a management approach based on ecosystems with cultural relevance.

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[56] https://www.el19digital.com/app/webroot/tinymce/source/2018/00Enero/Del22al28Enero/Viernes26Enero/EJES%20DEL%20PROGRAMA%20NACIONAL%20DE%20DESARROLLO%20HUMANO.pdf.

[57] MARENA. (2017). Study of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Nicaragua: The problem of forest carbon stocks within the framework of the ENDE-REDD+ strategy. Managua Nicaragua.

https://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/Fases/13.%20Estrategia%20Nacional%20ENDE.pdf

[58] https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf

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;

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

Executor or co-executor;

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.

Yes

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).

Knowledge management plan

252. Component 4 of the project (Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge exchange) is closely aligned with the framework of the Critical Forest Biomes (CBF) Mesoamerica Program which is aimed at promoting South-South learning and exchange, fostering cooperation and synthesizing experiences. The project will take advantage of knowledge management events sponsored by the Regional Platform of the Mesoamerican Critical Forest Biomes Program (peer learning, training, field visits, mentoring, etc.) regarding the protection and management of CFBs, and will make use of knowledge products on best practices and program documents and publications, including knowledge management on forest landscape governance, biodiversity monitoring, effective PA management, other effective conservation measures (OEMC), good practices in livestock and agriculture sustainable (pressure reduction), fire management associated with agricultural practices.

253. The project team, the executing agency, the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and key actors will be able to benefit from the training offered through the Program on topics of relevance to management and implementation. Training and exchange events are contemplated of knowledge on key topics in a context of change such as: change and resistance to change; self-knowledge and emotional management, strategic and operational planning, change management and focus on service to the population. In addition, they will use tools developed by the Program such as validation practices, exchange of experiences and demonstration of good productive and environmental practices and may request guidance to access new financial opportunities, to promote the participation of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and the private sector, for the production of communication material. Nicaragua will participate in the Steering Committee of the Mesoamerican Program and its annual meetings.

254. The knowledge management program will also include a communication plan that will serve to report progress and share the experience of the project, its general strategy, advances in the livestock and cocoa chains and in the restoration of degraded landscapes. Thus, the knowledge management program will serve to make decisions and strengthen policies and the governance system in order to underpin the processes developed and the lessons learned in the long term.

255. Activities that contemplate knowledge management are also present in components 1 (training on the subject of governance and management of SINIA decentralized offices), component 2 (training for the restoration and conservation of CFBs, water management and monitoring comment), and component 3 (publicize the environmental incentives mechanism).

256.Finally, the knowledge management system will be linked to the Project Monitoring and Evaluation System in order to contribute to the construction of monitoring mechanisms of the National and Regional System of Protected Areas.

Table 7: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN – DETAILED ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET

Component	Activities	US$ Budget
Component 1. Facilitating conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests	Act N: 1.1.1.2, 1.1.13 and 1.1.1.4. Capacity-building program on issues related to environmental governance	586,800
Component 1. Facilitating conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests	Act. N. 1.1.3.3. Awareness campaigns, communication of PA management plans.	38,900
Component 1. Facilitating conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests	Act. N. 1.1.6.4 Training of human resources that operate in the centers and institutions of the SINIA decentralized offices	16,350
Component 1. Facilitating conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests	Act. 1.1.7.1. FPIC in the validation processes of the different governance instruments	234,000
Component 1. Facilitating conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests	Act 1.2.1.1 and 1.2.1.2. Construction and support for the implementation of dialogue platforms	201,450
Component 2. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)	Act. 2.2.1.1 Training, organization and equipment of human resources for the implementation and monitoring of restoration and conservation actions within the PAs.	43,500
Component 2. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)	Act. 2.3.1.2 Strengthening CAPS and UMAS (Municipal drinking Water and Sanitation Units)	77,600

Component	Activities	US$ Budget
Component 2. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)	Act. 2.3.1.3 Strengthening water governance with a hydrographic basin approach	108,929
Component 2. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)	Act 2.4.1.2 Training of territorial technicians in the use of monitoring instruments.	10,650
Component 2. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)	Act.2.4.2.1 and 2.4.2.2 Preparation and implementation of a plan to strengthen the actors related to comment monitoring.	89,700
Component 3. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)	Act.3.1.2.1. Implement dialogue mechanisms between the financial sector, institutions and representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants	43,000
Component 3. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)	Act.3.1.3.1 Launching Workshops for the environmental incentive in the restoration and conservation modality to socialize it with the protagonists.	39,600
Component 3. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)	Act.3.1.4.1. Launching Workshops for the Environmental Incentive for Livelihoods	39,600
Component 4. Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge	Act.4.1.1.1 and 4.1.1.2 Training from the Mesoamerican IP for the conservation, management and monitoring of CFBs at the national, regional, territorial, municipal and communal levels.	144,500
Component 4. Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge	Act. 4.1.2.1, 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.2.3 National education/awareness campaign. contemplating the strategic development instruments of the Caribbean Coast and the AWB	51,000
Component 4. Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge	Act. 4.1.3.1, 4.1.3.2 and 4.1.3.3 Systematization and dissemination of good environmental practices in PA guaranteeing the application of traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants	230,350
Component 4. Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge	Act. 4.1.4.1 and 4.1.4.2 Participation in the Mesoamerican IP Knowledge Platform.	41,882
Component 4. Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge	Act. 4.1.5.1. Strengthened South-South Cooperation for knowledge exchange, innovative solutions and harmonized planning	20,000
TOTAL BUDGET		2,017,811

Source: MARENA-ETI-FAO 2024.

Communication Strategy

257. The project will develop a communication plan that will allow interested parties to know the efforts being made by the Governments of Reconciliation and National Unity (GRUN) in terms of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in accordance with the guidelines and commitments acquired in the Paris Agreement. It will also provide the interested parties (state institutions) with the purpose and scope of the project, the duration of the activities proposed in the project, the social and environmental risks that may arise in the formulation, execution and closure of the project, the participation of interested parties and the means in which they can present complaints and claims.

258. This Social Communication Strategy is a tool that strengthens the process of participation, dialogue and consultation, highlighting values of care and protection of Mother Earth; raising awareness of environmental and climate change problems in our country and shared responsibility for the sustainability of forests in harmony with Mother Earth.

259. Likewise, it is a tool to publicize the actions that are developed in the execution stage of the project 'Protection and conservation of forests of global importance located in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve', contributing to the knowledge and assessment of strategic options.

260. It is guided by the provisions of ILO Convention No. 169, referring to the restitution of the right of indigenous peoples to free and informed prior consultation; with the Law of Autonomy of the Regions of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua (Law No. 28), which in its article 8, paragraph 1 indicates the right of the Autonomous Regions to: “Participate effectively in the preparation and execution of plans and programs of national development in its region, in order to harmonize them with the interests of the Communities of the Atlantic Coast', and promotes participation in a leading way in development, through direct presence and alliance policies.

Scope and target audience of the Communication Strategy

261. The Communication Strategy is national in nature, with emphasis on the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast. The Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua comprises two Autonomous regions, the Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast and the Autonomous Region of the South Caribbean Coast, which comprise 56% of the national territory and house 13% of the total population. The strategy will be implemented in these two Autonomous Regions, in the Alto Wangki y Bocay (AWB) and in the municipalities of the buffer zones.

262. Project internveniton areas are multiethnic, multilingual and pluricultural regions, in which different Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants communities live: Mískitus, Mayagnas, Ulwas, Ramas, Garífunas and Creoles.

263. Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants are the first to face the consequences of climate change due to their dependence on the environment and its resources. Climate change exacerbates the difficulties they face, and constitutes a threat and danger to their survival. Indigenous peoples are essential to the sustainability of the numerous ecosystems of their lands and territories.

264. The social communication plan target both local and national actors:

- **Local actors:** Indigenous communities, Afro-descendants, Regional Authorities, Indigenous Territorials, Producers, Ranchers, Cooperatives, Women and Youth Organizations, Local Environmental Organizations, Network of Alternative Communicators, media and Human Development Councils.

- **National actors:** Good Government institutions, external cooperation organizations, universities and the general public.

265. The General objective of the social communication plan is to achieve a significant increase in public awareness, commitment and support for the long-term protection and conservation of globally important forests located in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve.

266.Specific objectives are to (i) Disseminate environmental messages about the actions promoted by GRUN, for the care and restoration of Mother Earth so that our population is informed and applies good environmental practices, particularly avoiding deforestation and forest degradation and (ii) to strengthen and disseminate values of love and care for Mother Earth, which promote actions against environmental problems and climate change and against the causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

267. The implementation of the Communication Strategy will be based on different indicators:

Indicator 1: Translation of printed materials and documents.

- Reproduction of printed material for capacity building.

- Translated all documents of regulatory instruments, ordinances and territorial plans.

Indicator 2: All documents made official and published

- Publication of documents of regulatory instruments, ordinances and territorial plans.

- Publication for officialization of regulatory documents.

Indicator 3: Materials for communication campaigns

- Communication materials designed

- Printed graphic materials to raise awareness about the care and conservation of forests.

- Plan communication campaign

- Distribution of communication materials in the regions

Key Messages

268. These messages must be characterized by being short, simple and creative, disseminated in Spanish and translated into local languages such as: Creole, Miskitu and Mayagna in the case of the North and South Caribbean Coast Regions and the AWB special zone.

Crosscutting

269. Gender equality will be promoted, equal rights to participation of the protagonist communities, the ancestral values of love and care and protection of Mother Earth will be resumed, validating the work content and advertising pieces in such a way that the cultural traditions, languages and traditional ways of living and coexisting with nature.

Budget

270. For the implementation of the Communication Strategy of the Project “Protection and conservation of forests of global importance located in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve”, there is a total amount of $208,500.00 USD.

E.2 Economic benefits and rural employment

Economic and Social Benefits resulting from the project

The project design is oriented towards social and economic sustainability, contributing significantly in both areas:

- Social Sustainability: The project promotes the active participation of stakeholders from the outset, involving institutional actors at the national, regional, and territorial levels, as well as Indigenous territorial governments, local communities, women, and the private sector. This participatory approach ensures greater ownership of the project and aligns activities with the benefits of all stakeholders involved. Additionally, a capacity-building program is implemented that promotes the inclusion and empowerment of Indigenous peoples, women, and youth, ensuring generational continuity, a key aspect of social sustainability.

- Economic Sustainability: The project establishes innovative economic models for the conservation and restoration of forests in Protected Areas. It seeks to create dialogue platforms between the public and private sectors to consolidate strategies that facilitate interaction with the financial sector and investors. This economic sustainability is fundamental to improving the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant peoples in the areas **of intervention, allowing for the mobilization of resources from both the public and private sectors**

[1] https://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/Fases/13.%20Estrategia%20Nacional%20ENDE.pdf

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 ($)
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	6,189,086.00	557,018.00	6,746,104.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	986,391.00	88,775.00	1,075,166.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	1,566,103.00	140,949.00	1,707,052.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	2,063,029.00	185,672.00	2,248,701.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	Grant	328,797.00	29,591.00	358,388.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	522,034.00	46,983.00	569,017.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**11,655,440.00**	**1,048,988.00**	**12,704,428.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount ($) 300000

PPG Agency Fee ($) 26999

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)

FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	159,301.00	14,337.00	173,638.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	25,389.00	2,285.00	27,674.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	40,310.00	3,628.00	43,938.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	53,100.00	4,779.00	57,879.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	8,463.00	761.00	9,224.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	13,437.00	1,209.00	14,646.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**300,000.00**	**26,999.00**	**326,999.00**

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	6,919,742.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,102,840.00
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,750,990.00
Total GEF Resources					**9,773,572.00**

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
CFB MesoAmerica IP	GET	11,655,440.00	21139647
Total Project Cost		**11,655,440.00**	**21,139,647.00**

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($)
GEF Agency	1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100000
Recipient Country Government	3. National Forestry Institute (INAFOR)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3481306
Recipient Country Government	4. National Water Authority (ANA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	146042
Recipient Country Government	5. Regional Autonomous Government of the North Carribean Coast (GRACCN)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	748898
Recipient Country Government	6. Indigenous Territorial Government of Alto Wangki y Bokay	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250000
Recipient Country Government	6. Indigenous Territorial Government of Alto Wangki y Bokay	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	150000
Recipient Country Government	7. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	566072
Recipient Country Government	7. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5479408
Recipient Country Government	8. Regional Autonomous Government of the South Carribean Coast (GRACCS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	496611
Recipient Country Government	2. Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	9721310
Total Co-financing				**21,139,647.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The government of Nicaragua has offered to mobilize resources in support of the GEF funds through the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP) through Recurrent Expenditures in kind allocated to the Mayor's Offices located in the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve and Indio Maíz Biological Reserve for the period 2025-2029. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources will contribute to the project with public work in the project targeted areas.

Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), through the same modalities of the MHCP, for recurrent and in-kind expenses for the use of administrative facilities, basic services, office equipment, mobility to the territories, among others. It also provides for an amount of investment to be mobilized for public works in the areas covered by the project.

The National Forestry Institute (INAFOR) and the National Water Authority (ANA) will provide in-kind support for the salaries and operational and administrative expenses of the project teams. The regional governments (GRCCN, GRCCS and the Alto Wangki and Bocay Special Zone), also in the form of contributions in kind that include salaries, office supplies, equipment, fuel, lubricants, among others.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator		Jeffrey Griffin		
Project Coordinator		Hernan Gonzalez		

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)
Javier Gutierrez Ramirez	Vice Minister	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)	3/30/2023

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.

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
Objective of the project: Conserve critical forest landscapes in BOSAWAS BR and Indio Maíz BR by strengthening governance and protection to ensure the sustainable flow of ecosystem services for people and the planet							
Component 1: Facilitating conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests							
Outcome 1.1: Governance and management of existing Protected Areas strengthened through (i) implementation of a capacity development program on conservation and restoration, (ii) the development of regulatory and management tools to support the administration of the Indigenous	Hectares under the management plan of the IMBR and BBR, which leads to the protection and conservation of forests of global importance (measured through the METT indicators of the national methodology approved in Ministerial Resolution No. 38–2008) and updated in 2024,	0	316,720 hectares of the IMBR	997,337 ha	Approved Management Plans and Annual Action Plans.	Continued interest of the government of Nicaragua (at its five levels of government: National, Regional, Municipal, Territorial and Local) to improve the sustainable management of	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
Peoples and Afro-Descendandts territories and the Protected Areas	Management Effectiveness Tool. **GEF Core Indicator 1** Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management ***Target**: 997,337 ha*					IMBR and BBR.	
	Increase in institutional capacity (of territorial and communal, regional and national governments) to manage the IMBR and BBR (measured through the METT indicators of the national methodology approved in Ministerial Resolution No. 38–2008) and updated in 2024 , Management Effectiveness Tool,	Regulates; 51-75% compliance	Acceptable; 76-89% compliance	Satisfying; 90-100% Satisfactory	Annually measure the administrative indicators of the Management Effectiveness Tool.	Continued interest of the government of Nicaragua (at its five levels of government: National, Regional, Municipal, Territorial and Local), private sector and civil society to improve the management of the IMBR and BBR.	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU
	Number of residents (POAD, indigenous and Afro-descendant women and youth), participating in the planning and implementation of the project through the	0	4,000 inhabitants (at least 36% women)	8,491 inhabitants (5,440 men - 64% and 3,051 women-36%)	Program evaluation reports: Mid-Term Evaluations and Final Evaluation	Mechanisms and instruments are facilitated to guarantee the participation of indigenous and Afro-	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
	application of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process. **GEF Core Indicator 11** People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex ***Target**: 8,491 inhabitants* *(5,440 men - 64% and 3,051 women- 36%)*					descendant women.	
Output 1.1.1. Capacity-building program for the governance and effective management of BBR and IMBR to contribute to forest integrity implemented, with the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant women and youth and the territorial and communal, regional and national governments	Number of people from regional governments and institutions, territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants communities who receive training in governance and effective management of BBR and IMBR (differentiated by gender) Number of public servants from the Interinstitutional Technical Team (ETI)	0	15 people from regional governments and institutions, 16 people from territorial governments and 360 people from Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants communities receive training on governance issues and effective management of BBR and IMBR. Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young)	30 people from regional governments and institutions, 32 people from territorial governments and 1,080 people from Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants communities receive training on governance issues and effective management of BBR and IMBR. Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young)	Reports from training workshops. Reports from the workshops of exchange events on gender issues	Regional actors (universities and institutions) consider environmental monitoring and protection a priority Mechanisms and instruments are facilitated to guarantee the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant women	MARENA through the UEP

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
	trained in gender issues. Percentage of women participating in spaces for exchanging experiences and good gender practices in environmental management, organized by the project		At least 70% of the members of the Interinstitutional Technical Team (ETI) trained in gender issues. Between 30% and 50% of the participants in the spaces for exchanging experiences and good practices organized by the project are women.	At least 70% of the members of the Interinstitutional Technical Team (ETI) trained in gender issues. Between 30% and 50% of the participants in the spaces for exchanging experiences and good practices organized by the project are women.			
Output 1.1.2 Regulatory and management instruments for the administration of Indigenous and Afro-descendant territories and Protected Areas developed, updated and implemented	Number of new or improved regulatory instruments as a result of the project with specific measures for the protection and conservation of primary forests	0	4 statutes of territorial governments, with a gender focus	8 statutes of territorial governments, with a gender focus	Approved territorial statutes	In national and regional institutions, priority is given to implementing the autonomous administration policies of indigenous territories.	Territorial and regional governments
Output 1.1.3 IMBR management plan implemented and BBR management plan updated and implemented	Number of updated management plans Number of Management plans in implementation	0	0	1 updated management plan (BBR) 2 management plans in implementation	BBR Management Plan approved. Management plan implementation reports	Continued interest of the government of Nicaragua (at its five levels of government: National, Regional, Municipal, Territorial and Local), private sector and civil society to improve	MARENA

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
						the management of the IMBR and BBR.	
Output 1.1.4. Territorial development plans and annual environmental operational plans of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants updated	Number of territorial development plans and regional strategieswith improved gender focusas a result of the project with specific measures for the protection and conservation of primary forests.	0	2 territorial development plans(with gender focus)	8 territorial plans (with a gender perspective) 1 regional development strategy (3 regions AWB, RACCN and RACCS andwith a gender perspective)	Approved territorial development plans and development strategy for Costa Caribe and AWB	In national and regional institutions, priority is given to implementing the autonomous administration policies of indigenous territories. Mechanisms and instruments are facilitated to guarantee the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant women	Territorial and regional governments
Output 1.1.5. Joint management agreements for protected areas in indigenous territories formulated and updated	Number of regulatory instruments, new or improved plans and agreements as a result of the project with specific measures for the protection and conservation of primary forests	0	0	2 joint management agreements (BNR and IMBR)	Signed agreements	There is a desire for dialogue between the different indigenous territories within the PAs.	MARENA
Output 1.1.6. Capacity developed at the local level with the establishment of National Environmental Information	Number of SINIA decentralized centers restructured or built, and that receive equipment	0	15 technicians from SINIA and related institutions trained in forest and biodiversity monitoring: 5 in each region	2 SINIA centers restructured into RAACN and RACCS	SINIA reports. Photographic documentation Training	Regional actors (universities and institutions) consider environmental	MARENA and regional governments

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
System (SINIA) decentralized offices to support the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants territorial governments, under the coordination of the Autonomous Regional Governments of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay and with the accompaniment of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Ressources (MARENA).	Number of SINIA personnel and related institutions receiving training on forest and biodiversity monitoring	0	(AWB, RACCN and RACCS Between 30% and 50% trained women	1 SINIA center built in AWB 3 SINIA centers receive equipment (AWB, RACCN and RACCS) 15 technicians from SINIA and related institutions trained in forest and biodiversity monitoring: 5 in each region (AWB, RACCN and RACCS) Between 30% and 50% trained women	workshop reports.	monitoring and protection a priority	
Output 1.1.7 Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process secured and implemented in the project processes	Number of FPIC performed	0	4FPIC to validate the territorial development plans (1 in AWB, 2 in RACCN and 1 in RACCS)	1 FPIC to validate regional development strategy update 2 FPIC to validate the BBR Management Plan 8 FPIC to validate the territorial development plans (3 in AWB, 4 in RACCN and 1 in RACCS)	Memory aids, Participant lists Photographic documentation	In national and regional institutions, priority is given to implementing the autonomous administration policies of indigenous territories.	MARENA through UEP
Outcome1.2: Multiple stakeholders engagement coordinated for planning and	Number of multi-stakeholder dialogue and consultation mechanisms/platforms	0	Develop a work strategy for the operationalization of the 2 technical tables for the	3 (Teams or technical tables from the SNPCC, SNGCC and Environmental Forest	Approved strategy (year 1). Minutes and agreement	Active participation of stakeholders and multiple national	MARENA through the Higher Management and Regional Government.

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
implementation	effectively operated at the regional, territorial and communal levels for the effective governance and management of BBR and IMBR.		governance and effective management of BBR and IMBR	Consultative Committee)	s of the working group sessions.	and regional actors for the governance and effective management of BBR and IMBR.	
Output 1.2.1. Platforms for environmental dialogue and consultation at the regional, territorial and communal level on the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki Bocay operationalized, with the participation of women and youth from the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants communities	Number of regions, territories and communities where the dialogue platform operates	1 region (RACCN), 4 territories (RACCN) and 62 communities (RACCN)	Platform operating in 3 regions (AWN, RACCN and RACCS), 8 territories (3 AWB, 4 RACCN and 1 RACCS) and at least 119 communities (51 AWB, 62 RACCN, 7 RACCS) with the participation of women and young people Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young	Platform operating in 3 regions (AWN, RACCN and RACCS), 8 territories (3 AWB, 4 RACCN and 1 RACCS) and at least 119 communities (51 AWB, 62 RACCN, 7 RACCS) with the participation of women and young people Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young	Work reports of regional and territorial governments. Lists of participants to platform meetings	In national and regional institutions, priority is given to implementing the autonomous administration policies of indigenous territories. The mechanisms and instruments are provided toguarantee the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant women	Regional and territorial governments
Component 2: Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)							
Outcome 2.1: Biodiversity and forest baseline developed	Number of IMBR and BBR baseline studies.	0	1 baseline study	2 baseline study	Baseline study documents.	Active participation of all actors present in the reserve for the generation of information.	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/
Output 2.1.1. Baseline and evaluation of the state of	Number of diagnoses and action plans prepared	0	1 diagnosis and 1 action plan prepared	2 diagnosis and 2 action plans prepared	Baseline study documents.	Active participation of all actors	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
biodiversity and forests for the effective management of the defined Protected Areas developed						present in the reserve for the generation of information.	
Outcome 2.2: Forest areas within the Protected Areas restored	Number of hectares of land and ecosystems restored under assisted natural regeneration in the core zones of the BBR and IMBR (Hectares). **% of GEF Core Indicator 3.2** Area of land and ecosystems under restoration **Target:25,000 ha**	0	30% progress towards the final goal	25,000 ha	Developed cartography. Mid-term reports and final evaluation.	The actors (Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants) confirm their willingness to collaborate in the management of the reserves. The rate of forest recovery naturally in the corridor area is approximately 1,945 ha/year. It is expected that the project will contribute to increasing the rate to 5,000 ha/year (3,055 additional ha with restoration practices financed with the GEF-8)."	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU
Output 2.2.1. Degraded areas within the core areas of BBR and IMBR restored	Number of hectares covered by restoration incentives	0	30% progress towards the final goal with the participation of women and young people	7,000 ha (with this output) with the participation of women and young people	Developed cartography. Mid-term reports and final evaluation.	The actors (Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants) confirm their willingness to collaborat	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
						e in the management of reserves	
Outcome 2.3: Integrated management approach to water resources in Protected Areas with a gender mainstreaming approach strengthened	Number of IWRM instruments developed	0	0	1 Water Resources Management plan prepared	Basin Committee Certification	Residents and institutions sensitive to the need for integrated management of water resources in the Bocay River basin (BBR).	MARENA and National Water Authority (ANA)
Output 2.3.1 Basin committees and Potable Water and Sanitation Committee (CAPS) established and/or strengthened, to improve the management of CFBs	Number of basin committees and CAPS formed or strengthened, with the participation of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants,	0	1 committee formed (Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young and 50% Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants), Strengthening of CAPS carried out by 50% (Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young and 50% Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants)	1 committee formed or strengthened and with its action plan for Rio Bocay (BBR) 22 strengthened CAPS (Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young and 50% Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants),	PGIRH document approved by ANA	Residents and institutions sensitive to the need for integrated management of water resources in the Bocay River basin (BBR).	MARENA and National Water Authority (ANA)
Outcome 2.4: Monitoring systems for Protected Areas management, forest integrity and deforestation progress strengthened	Number of monitoring and data reports on the participatory management of BBR and IMBR (prepared from a community monitoring system).	0	1 annual report per SINIA decentralized centers enabled	4 annual monitoring reports prepared starting from year 2.	Monitoring reports.	Active participation of actors in feeding the SINIA decentralized centers	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU
Output 2.4.1. Institutional monitoring and data system	Number of SINIA centers with trained personnel and	0	3 SINIA centers with trained personnel and	3 SINIA centers with trained personnel and	Training reports	Regional actors (universities and	MARENA

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
developed for the participatory management of BBR and IMBR, the conservation of biodiversity, forest integrity and the control of deforestation progress and illegal forest degradation	monitoring instruments available.		monitoring instruments available with the participation of women and young people	monitoring instruments available with the participation of women and young people	Prepared monitoring material	institutions) consider environmental monitoring and protection a priority	
Output 2.4.2. Strengthened community monitoring systems of Protected Areas, and inclusion of community rangers in the guard team of institutional Protected Areas	Number of rangers trained and integrated into the AP community monitoring system. (% of women)	0	160 rangers trained for community monitoring of PAs (60 AWB, 80 RACCN, 20 RACCS). Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young	160 rangers trained and integrated into the AP community monitoring system (60 AWB, 80 RACCN, 20 RACCS. Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young	Training reports Community monitoring reports	Availability and interest of communities in the protection of PAs	MARENA (SINIA), Regional Governments
Component 3: Innovative investments for conservation-friendly livelihoods and nature-based solutions.							
Outcome 3.1: Accessible investments to strengthen livelihoods for nature conservation improved, including (i) innovative financing/private investments, (ii) financial mechanisms/incentives for a Special Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants Fund, (iii) Traceability systems for value chains that avoid deforestation and promote conservation, and (iv) conservation-friendly	**GEF Core Indicator 4** Area of landscapes under improved practices ***Target**:42,500 ha*	0	30% progress towards goal	42,500 ha through investment plans to improve the management of natural resources <u>Connectivity Zones</u> **BBR Cocoa cooperatives with SAF (258 ha) **IMBR Cocoa and coffee cooperatives with SAF 2,242 ha.	Data, maps and reports generated by the project and financial institutions and government institutions that promote sustainable agricultural practices. Mapping	Private sector interested in joint efforts to invest in ecosystem conservation and restoration Institutional political will to allocate and promote resources and incentives. Actors have the will to adopt best practices to reduce deforestation and degradation of CFBs	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU/MEFCCA/INTA/IPSA.

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
production systems in the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants territories				Connectivity Zones **BBR Silvopastoral Systems 30,073 ha IMBR Silvopastoral Systems 10,185 ha Establishment of nurseries, purchase of substrate and bags, travel expenses for seed collection, nursery kit tools (rakes, shovels, sieve, watering cans) are established near the corridors with the cooperatives and leaders. (Define farm criteria)			
	GEF Core Indicator 6 *Greenhouse Gas emissions Mitigated* ***Target:*** *3,502,927.92 metric tons of CO2e over the 5-year period*	3,502,927.92 metric tons of CO2e	3,502,927.92 metric tons of CO2e	3,502,927.92 metric tons of CO2e	Reports from the Carbon Module of the National Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (SNMRV) – INDIO MAÍZ Emissions per unit of exchange (FE) × Exchange Area (DA)	Political will and sufficient and permanent commitment to preserve the BBR and IMBR The value of BNR/IMBR CFBs is recognized by multiple actors Climate variability	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
					= Net emissions from the Exchange	and extreme events associated with climate change will not cause catastrophic damage to natural reserves and livelihoods.	
Output 3.1.1. Innovative economic models established for forest conservation and restoration in Protected Areas	Number of innovative economic models for the conservation and restoration of forests in APdesigned and validated, Percentage of indigenous and Afro-descendant women trained in the establishment of innovative economic models. Percentage of indigenous and Afro-descendant women who receive technical advice for the development and sustainability of economic-productive initiatives	0	Innovative economic model for the conservation and restoration of forests in PA designed, with a gender and Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants approach. Between 30% and 50% of the people receiving training on the establishment of innovative economic models are indigenous and Afro-descendant women. Between 30% and 50% of people receiving technical advice. for the project on the establishment of innovative economic models are indigenous and Afro-descendant women	Innovative economic model for the conservation and restoration of forests in PA designed, with a gender and Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants approach. Between 30% and 50% of the people receiving training on the establishment of innovative economic models are indigenous and Afro-descendant women. Between 30% and 50% of people receiving technical advice. for the project on the establishment of innovative economic models are indigenous and Afro-descendant women	Innovative economic model document presented to the SNPCC Reports and lists of training and technical assistance	Institutional political will to allocate and promote resources and incentives.	

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
Output 3.1.2. Dialogue mechanisms with the financial and investment sector implemented for the conservation and restoration of forests in Protected Areas and the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation in buffer and connectivity areas	Number of agreements and/or agreements with financial and business sectors signed	0	0	At least 3 agreements and/or agreements with financial and business sectors signed	Signed agreements or agreement swith financial, business sectors	Private sector interested in joint efforts to invest in ecosystem conservation and restoration	MARENA
Output 3.1.3. Validated and implemented economic instruments for environmental incentives, which promote investments for the conservation, restoration of forests and rehabilitation of CFB for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants	Number of approved investment plans for the conservation, restoration of the Forest and rehabilitation of CFB for the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.	0	25 approved investment plans conservation, forest restoration and CFB rehabilitation for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. The plans must have a participation Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young	90 investment plans approved to improve the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. The plans must have the participation Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young	Investment plans approved by the ITG and project steering committee.	Investment plans must contemplate the actions described and consulted in the territorial development plans.	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU
Output 3.1.4. Diversified livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants, including women and youth, with increased productivity and value-added products/services	Number of investment plans approved to improve the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants (including women and youth)	0	8 investment plansapproved to improve the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. The plans must have the participation Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young	24 investment plans approved to improve the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. The plans must have the participation Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young	Investment plans approved by the ITG.	Investment plans must contemplate the actions described and consulted in the territorial development plans.	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU
Output 3.1.5. Value chains	Number of farms and		40 farms and 2 cooperatives	200 farms and 10	Traceability record of	Actors have the	MARENA, IPSA

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
that prevent deforestation in the agricultural and livestock sector and promote conservation in landscapes with established connectivity with production traceability systems	cooperatives integrated into the traceability system of value chains that avoid deforestation		integrated into the traceability system of value chains that avoid deforestation	cooperatives integrated into the traceability system for value chains that avoid deforestation	value chains	will to adopt best practices to reduce deforestation and degradation of CFBs	
Component 4: Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge.							
Outcome 4.1: Improved knowledge management based on decision-making							
	Knowledge and information management system for good environmental practices in the IMBR and BBR, fully functional and operational that provides information to the decision-making processes.	0	Promote exchange of PA management practices among Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. with the participation of women and young people	Annual reports disseminated with best practices and lessons disseminated through national and regional project platforms and at regional, national and Mesoamerican events during years 3-5. with the participation of women and young people	Annual Reports. Event memories	Active participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants representatives for the exchange of experiences.	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU
Output 4.1.1. Environmental education and awareness programs at the local, regional and national level for the protection and conservation of CFB executed, and	Environmental education/awareness program for the protection and conservation of BFC developed and implemented at the local, regional and national level	0	An environmental education/awareness program for the protection and conservation of BFC developed and implemented at the local, regional and national level, using materials in the native	An environmental education/awareness program for the protection and conservation of BFC developed and implemented at the local, regional and national level, using materials in the native	Program descriptive document Education and awareness event reports	Institutions at the national, regional and local levels allocate the necessary time and resources to the implementation of the program	MARENA

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
translated into local indigenous languages			language of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and the gender approach	language of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and the gender approach		in their planning.	
Output 4.1.2. Systematized and replicated good environmental practices in Protected Areas, guaranteeing the application of traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants	Number of people trained ingood environmental practices in AP guaranteeing the application of traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.	0	90 people from the communities and ITG and 30 people at the regional level (10 AWB, 10 RACCN, 10 RACCS) trained ingood environmental practices in AP guaranteeing the application of traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young	480 people from the communities and ITG and 30 people at the regional level (10 AWB, 10 RACCN, 10 RACCS) trained ingood environmental practices in AP guaranteeing the application of traditional and ancestral knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. Between 30% and 50% women, at least 40% young	Lists of participants and reports of training events.	There is time availability on the part of the participants to participate in the courses	MARENA (UEP), Universities
4.2 Greater regional and transnational cooperation and coordination activated	Number of residents (Indigenous People and Afro-descendant women and youth), participating in environmental education/awareness actions in the BBR and IMBR.	0	At least 50% of inhabitants	8,491 inhabitants (5,440 men - 64% and3,051 women- 36%)	Reports of field supervision visits. Participant Lists	Active participation and means of implementation available to the protagonists.	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU
Output 4.2.1. Strategy to improve the capacity of sub-national governments	Number of participants in training events of the regional program for Mesoamerica for the	0	20 people from UEP, MARENA and regional governments (AWB, RAACN,	20 people from UEP, MARENA and regional governments (AWB, RAACN,	List of participants in events of the regional program	The regional program for Mesoamerica carries out	MARENA IUCN

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
to conserve, manage and monitor CFBs implemented with the contributions received from the regional level.	conservation, management and monitoring of BFCs (virtual andin person) and % of women		RACCS) participate at least once a year in training events of the regional program for Mesoamerica for the conservation, management and monitoring of BFCs (virtual andin person)50% women	RACCS) participate at least once a year in training events of the regional program for Mesoamerica for the conservation, management and monitoring of BFCs (virtual andin person).50% women	for Mesoamerica for the conservation, management and monitoring of BFCs	training events for the conservation, management and monitoring of BFCs	
Output 4.2.2. Participation in the Integrated Programme Mesoamerica Knowledge Platform	Number of participants in events in the Knowledge Platform of the IP Mesoamerica and% of women Number of exchange events in which women's organizations share experiences on good environmental practices in PA.	0	10 people from UEP, MARENA and regional governments (AWB, RAACN, RACCS) participate at least once a year in events on the PI Mesoamerica Knowledge Platform. (50% women) Participation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant women's organizations in at least 1 exchange event at the regional/transnational level.	10 people from UEP, MARENA and regional governments (AWB, RAACN, RACCS) participate at least once a year in events in the Knowledge Platform of the PI Mesoamerica (50% women) Participation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant women's organizations in at least 1 exchange event at the regional/transnational level.	List of participants in events of the regional program for Mesoamerica for the conservation, management and monitoring of CFBs	The regional program for Mesoamerica holds events on the PI Mesoamerica Knowledge Platform	MARENA IUCN
Output 4.2.3. South-South Cooperation for knowledge exchange, innovative solutions and harmonized planning strengthened	Number of participants in events organized by the Mesoamerican program to exchange knowledge with theSouth-South Cooperation	0	10 people from UEP, MARENA and regional governments (AWB, RAACN, RACCS) participate at least once a year in knowledge exchange events with theSouth-	10 people from UEP, MARENA and regional governments (AWB, RAACN, RACCS) participate at least once a year in knowledge exchange events with theSouth-	List of participants in events of the regional program for Mesoamerica for the conservation, management and monitoring of BFCs	The regional program for Mesoamerica annually holds knowledge exchange events with theSouth-South	MARENA IUCN

Results / Products	Indicators	Baseline	Medium Term Objective	Final Goal	Means of verification	Assumptions	Data collection manager
			South Cooperation (50% women)	South Cooperation (50% women)		Cooperation	
M&E1. M&E system evaluates project impact and guides adaptive management .	Number of project implementation monitoring reports prepared.	0	Mid-Term Report. Design and implementation of the M&E system	2 (mid-term and at the end of the project). Implementation of M&E system	PIR Project Implementation Report Mid Term Report Final Project Report	The actors participating in the execution of the project transmit the data to the UEP completely and in the required times.	MARENA through the General Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/Regional Governments/PMU
M&E 1.1 plan implemented plan implemented considering gender and Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants perspectives and indicators	Recorded project indicators and activities updated and controlled Including the participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and Afr-Descendants	0	The progress of the project indicators and activities is updated halfway through the project and has quality control	The progress of the project indicators and activities was updated at the end of the project and has quality control	Project monitoring system	The actors participating in the execution of the project transmit the data to the UEP completely and in the required times.	MARENA (UEP)

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
PPG Inception Workshop / Final PRODOC Validation Workshops in: Managua, Bluefields, Waspán, Siuna and San Andrés de Bocay (food, rental of premises, teaching materials, fuel)	6,620.00	6,620.00	
Inception and validation workshops by components (food, rental of premises, teaching materials, fuel)	38,784.00	38,784.00	
Events/workshops/meetings to strengthen institutional capacities and the Regional Governments of the Caribbean Coast (food, rental of premises, teaching materials, fuel)	2,429.00	2,429.00	

Supplies and equipment for Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)	720.00	720.00	
Didactic Material	289.00	289.00	
Mobility expenses for consultations and discussion with interested parties	7,144.00	7,144.00	
Specialist in GEF project design / National consultant to formulate the PRODOC	36,000.00	36,000.00	
Specialist in assessment of land and soil degradation and monitoring of LDN goals / National consultant	3,077.00	3,077.00	
Specialist in Environmental Economics / National consultant for aspects of environmental incentives	9,330.00	9,330.00	
Specialist in Biodiversity and management of productive and environmental landscapes / International Consultant	15,433.00	15,433.00	
Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) (letter of agreement between MARENA and FAO)	130,496.00	96,274.00	34,222.00
Field consultations (Per diem for participants in PPG Home workshops / Final PRODOC Validation Workshops in: Managua, Bluefields, Waspán, Siuna and San Andrés de Bocay according to items covered by the official tables of GRACCS, GRACCN, AWB, SDCC and MARENA)	15,739.00	15,739.00	
Field consultations (Per diem for participants in 10 induction and final validation workshops by components)	13,030.00	5,843.00	7,187.00
Field consultations (Per diem for participants in three capacity-building workshops)	3,909.00	521.00	3,388.00
Mobilization of MINIM staff for gender issues (Travel expenses for MINIM team in activities)	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Per diem for in-person work of the international consultant formulating the PRODOC and the team of thematic consultants (purchase of plane tickets, lodging and food for the initiation workshop, MAGAS induction workshop and PRODOC validation workshops)	14,000.00	2,473.00	11,527.00
Total	**300,000.00**	**240,676.00**	**25,102.00**

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
Kukalaya in Northeast Sector of Cerro Cola Blanca (Site 1)	14.120468	-84.424264	3,618,798

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry systems

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
El Torno to the northeast of Cerro Saslaya (Site 2)	13.991364	-84.896971	3,619,317

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tunawalan (Site 3)	14.115222	-85.267083	3,615,962

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Walakitan (Site 4)	14.577341	-85.028628	3,615,792

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sang Sang (Site 5)	14.611112	-84.746954	3,616,834

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Murubila (Site 6)	14.039479	-85.319979	3,617,539

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry systems

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Fruta de Pan (Site 7)	13.929497	-85.379336	3,619,160

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Silvopastoral systems

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Barra del Río Maíz (Site 8)	14.390292	-84.359684	3,620,762

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Silvopastoral systems

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
La Monica (Site 9)	11.013589	-83.847692	3,618,453

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
El Guásimo (Site 10)	11.454591	-83.848414	3,619,743

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Boca de Sábalos (Site 11)	11.104350	-84.217955	3,620,663

Location Description:

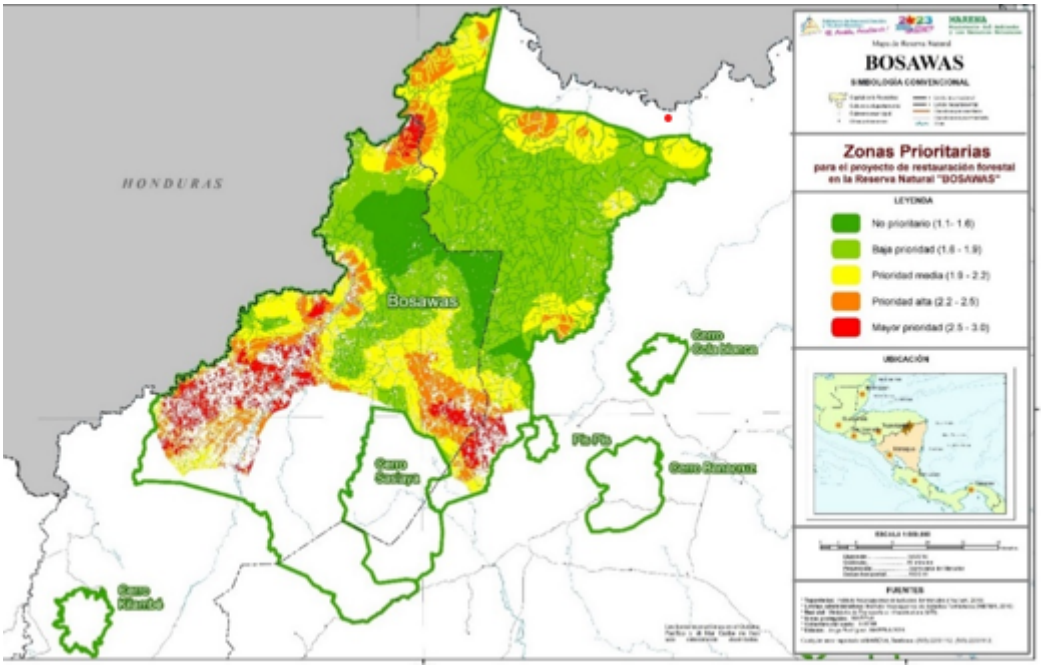
Activity Description:

Natural regeneration

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

- Bosawás Natural Reserve and surrounding corridor.

The following illustration shows the areas or zones prioritized for forest restoration in the implementation of the project in the Bosawás Natural Reserve protected area.



This map presents a classification into five categories of the weighted average of all the normalized variables from 1 to 5 that were used for the prioritization exercise. So the results must be within this range. In general, higher values represent greater threats to natural ecosystems and less movement capacity for animal species. It is considered, therefore, that these most threatened areas are the ones that should be a priority for project intervention.

Four areas stand out with the highest priority in the core area. The first is located around the area that has been heavily intervened along the Bocay River northwest of the core area. Livestock farming has been established along the river in the flatter areas, but patches of forests are still preserved on the mountain slopes. A high risk of advance of the agricultural frontier is always observed around the Bocay River in soils that present the conditions for agricultural development.

The second important area is observed northeast of Cerro Saslaya. Active deforestation is observed around the Wasmak River. The third zone appears towards the north, on the margin of the Coco River, around the communities of Walakitan and Raiti and finally another threatened zone can be pointed out which is located around the Umbra and Sang Sang Rivers, where there is strong pressure on the core area of Bosawás. Below are the specific sites where the project interventions are proposed to be carried out by type of interventions in the Bosawás RN and its surrounding corridor.

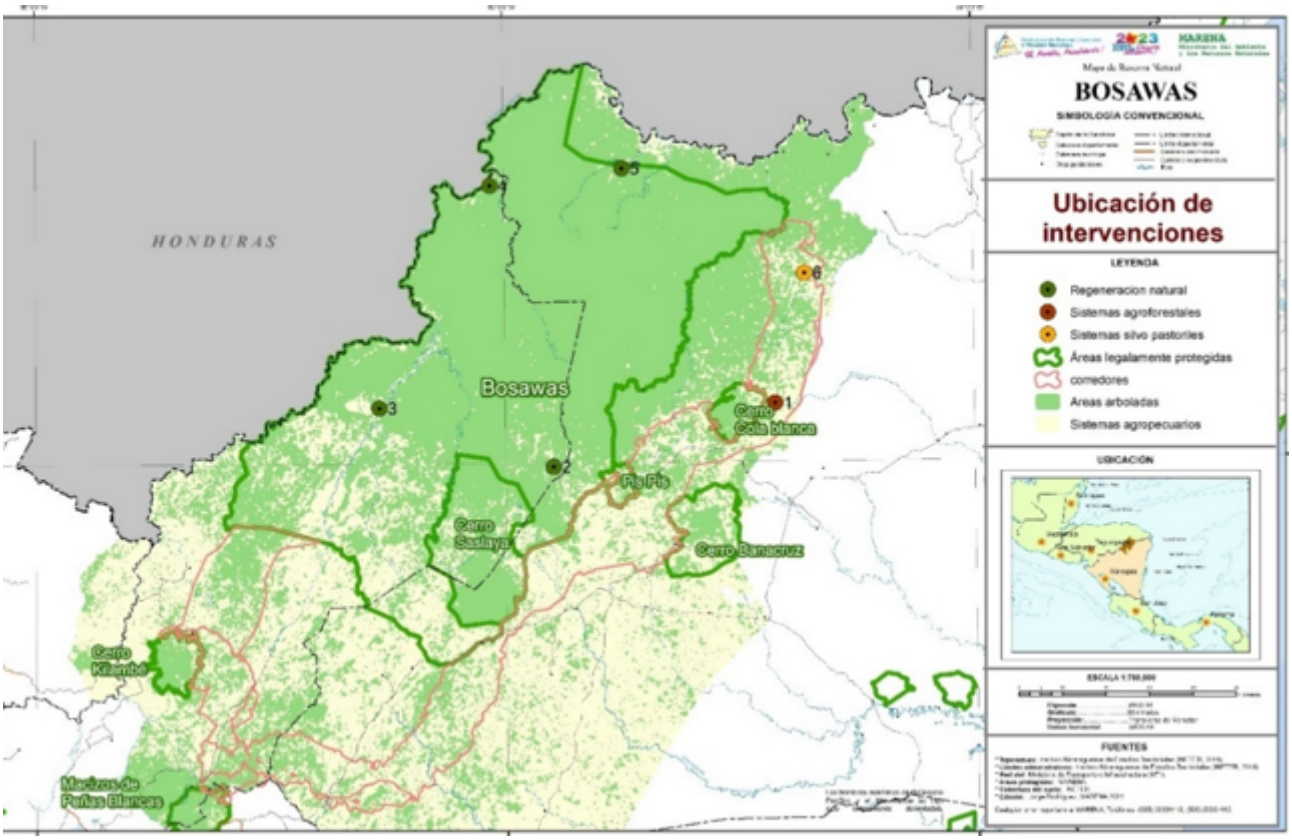


Figure 11 intervention areas in the bosawas BR

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- Site 1. Establishment of agroforestry systems in the corridor area adjacent to the Bosawás RN. This area belongs to the Mayangna Sauni Arungka indigenous territory. It is currently under agricultural systems, but has the potential for the establishment of agroforestry systems (such as shaded cocoa), which can contribute to connectivity and facilitate the transit of species.

- Site 2. Management of natural regeneration of the forest northeast of Cerro Saslaya within the core area of the Bosawás RN and in the indigenous territory of Mayangna Sauni Bas

- Site 3. Management of natural forest regeneration in the core area of RN Bosawás in the advance area of the agricultural frontier of the Bocay River in the Mayangna Sauni Bu indigenous territory

- Site 4. Management of natural regeneration within the core area of the Bosawás RN and the Kipla Sait Tasbaika Kum indigenous territory. This area is located on the banks of the Rio Coco, around the communities of Walakitan and Raiti.

- Site 5. Management of natural regeneration within the core area of the Bosawás RN and in the indigenous territory of Wangki Li Lamni Tasbaika kum. This area is located around the Umbra and Sang Sang Rivers, where there is strong pressure on the Bosawás core area.

- Site 6. Establishment of silvopastoral systems in the surrounding corridor of the Bosawás RN. Area currently with grasslands and in indigenous territory

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Table 14 coordinates bosawas

Geo Name ID	**Name of the town**	**Latitude**	**Length**	**Description of the town** *Optional*	**description of the activity** *Optional*
3618798	Kukalaya in Northeast Sector of Cerro Cola Blanca (Site 1)	14.120468	-84.424264		Agroforestry systems
3619317	El Torno to the northeast of Cerro Saslaya (Site 2)	13.991364	-84.896971		Natural regeneration
3615962	Tunawalan (Site 3)	14.115222	-85.267083		Natural regeneration
3615792	Walakitan (Site 4)	14.577341	-85.028628		Natural regeneration
3616834	Sang Sang (Site 5)	14.611112	-84.746954		Natural regeneration
3617539	Murubila (Site 6)	14.039479	-85.319979		Agroforestry systems

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- Indio Maíz Biological Reserve and surrounding corridor.

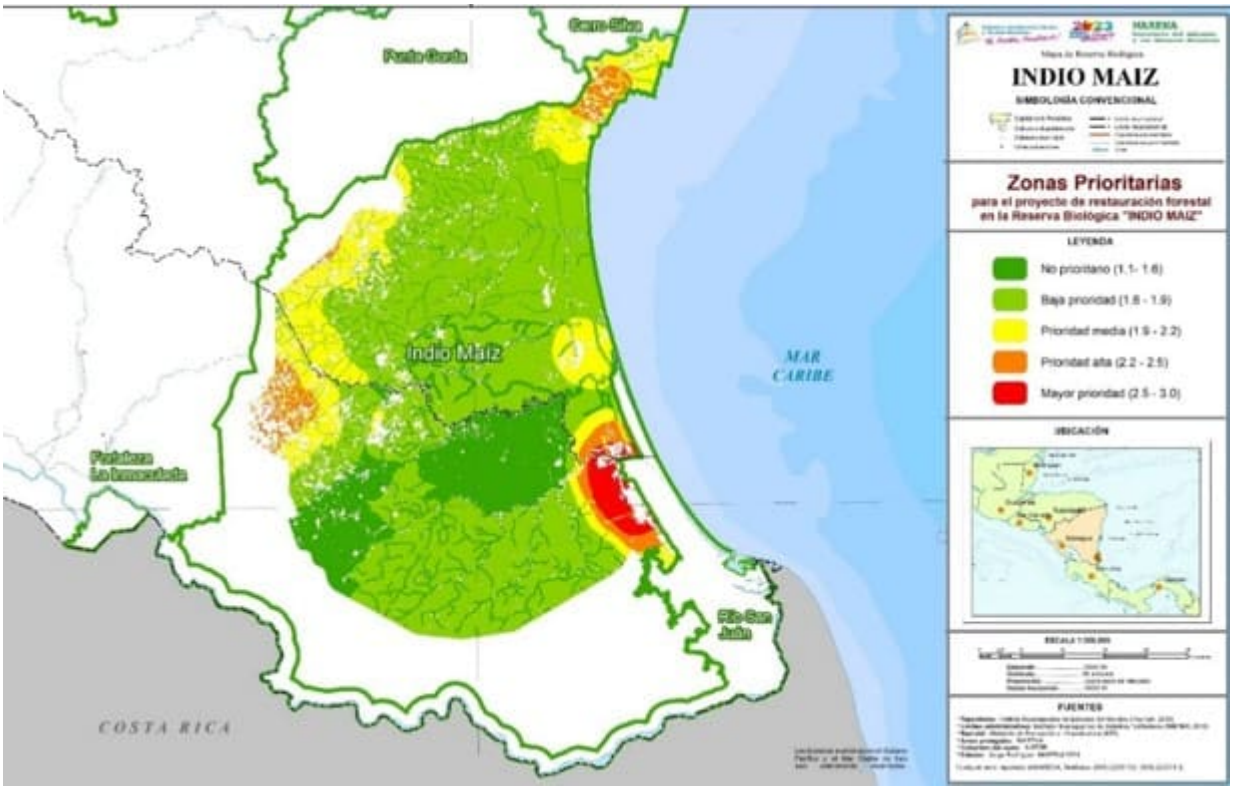
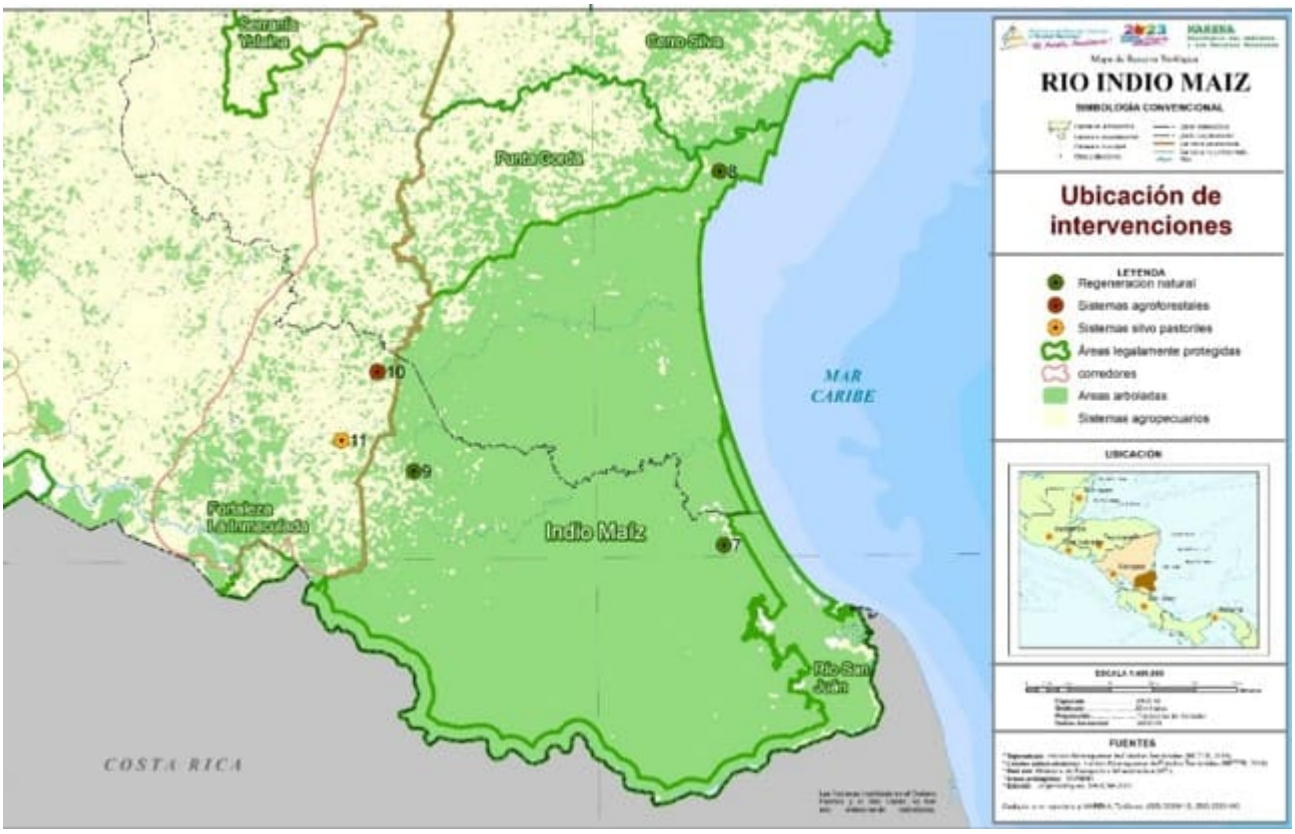


Figure 12: PRIORITY AREAS INDIO MAÍZ BR

- The Indio Maíz Biological Reserve has suffered severe degradation of forest cover due to the influence of extreme weather phenomena. Hurricane Otto in 2016 strongly affected this area, which has been recovering, however, the intervention of the project can substantially help maintain this recovery.

- Three areas under pressure from deforestation processes are observed in the core area of the Indian Maíz BR. The first zone is located to the west of the core area, where there is strong pressure from the advance of the agricultural frontier. This area is located to the east of the communities: La Mónica, Las Maravillas and Romerito. The project's incentives are needed to stop and try to reverse the advance of the agricultural frontier in this area.

- The second important area is located at the northern end of the reserve, where the agricultural frontier advances within the core area, towards the south of the Punta Gorda River in the community of La Unión. Finally, the third priority area is located to the southeast of the core area, where strong fires occurred in the palm forests approximately five years ago.



Source Own elaboration GEF8 formulation process

Figure 13 intervention areas in the IMBR

In the map above, the specific sites where the project interventions are proposed to be carried out by type of interventions in the Indio Maíz BR and its surrounding corridor, detailed here:

Site 7. Management of natural forest regeneration within the core area of the Indio Maíz BR and in the Rama and Kriol indigenous territory. This area is located in the palm forests that have suffered severe degradation due to forest fires in the southeast of the reserve.

Site 8. Management of natural forest regeneration within the core area of the Indio Maíz BR and in the Rama and Kriol indigenous territory. This area is located at the northern end of the reserve

Site 9. Management of natural forest regeneration within the core area of the Indio Maíz BR and in the Rama and Kriol indigenous territory. It is located to the west of the core area, where there is strong pressure from the advance of the agricultural frontier

Site 10. Establishment of shaded cocoa in areas that are currently being used for agricultural activity in a corridor area, close to the core area and with potential for the development of this sector.

Site 11. Establishment of silvopastoral systems in areas that currently have agricultural systems in the surrounding corridor area and near the focus of deforestation of the core area. The objective is to stop the advance of the agricultural frontier towards the protected area and improve current livestock production systems to more environmentally friendly systems.

Table 15: coordinates IMBR

Geo Name ID	**Name of the town**	**Latitude**	**Length**	**Description of the town** *Optional*	**description of the activity** *Optional*
3619160	Fruta de Pan (Site 7)	13.929497	-85.379336		Silvopastoral systems
3620762	Barra del Río Maíz (Site 8)	14.390292	-84.359684		Silvopastoral systems
3618453	La Monica (Site 9)	11.013589	-83.847692		Natural regeneration
3619743	El Guásimo (Site 10)	11.454591	-83.848414		Natural regeneration
3620663	Boca de Sábalos (Site 11)	11.104350	-84.217955		Natural regeneration

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_Nicaragua_11279
Stakeholder Engagement Plan_Nicaragua_11279
Climate Risk Screening
Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendant Plan
Environmental and Social Safeguards and Free Priori and Informed Consent

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Budget details

Mobilization expenses to strengthen governance and management of protected areas

The communities located in the project's area of influence face challenging access conditions, both by land and water, resulting in significant variations in mobilization and permanence costs depending on the region. Many of these communities are situated along riverbanks, making water access the primary mode of transportation, and the activities planned for each Indigenous territory or community require personnel to remain on-site for extended periods. Considering these particularities, a comprehensive mobilization plan has been developed during the formulation phase to address multiple project themes during each visit, optimizing available resources.

Mobilization expenses include payments for the rental of water transport, as well as costs for lubricants and fuels. Additionally, it covers the meals and accommodation of institutional technical personnel, Regional Government representatives, Indigenous Territorial Government members, and consultants involved in implementing the capacity development program. These expenses also encompass the preparation of regulatory and territorial governance instruments, the updating and implementation of management plans for the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve (RBB) and the Indio Maíz Biosphere Reserve (RBIM), as well as awareness and dissemination campaigns for the management plans of the Protected Areas. The budget also includes the mechanism for monitoring and evaluating territorial governance instruments in the North Caribbean Autonomous Region, the South Caribbean Coast, and the Alto Wangki Bocay Special Regime Zone.

Expenses for workshops and meetings to strengthen governance and management of protected areas

The processes aimed at strengthening governance and management of protected areas require multiple meetings, training sessions, community assemblies, and technical workshops for the update of the RBB management plan, as well as the development, updating, and validation of governance instruments with the participation and inclusion of all stakeholders. This will also necessitate processes of Prior, Free, and Informed Consultation with Indigenous territories.

Additionally, there is a need for spaces to exchange experiences with male and female leaders from Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities to encourage other women and youth to participate in decision-making processes and ensure women's participation in these spaces. During these sessions, it has been deemed necessary to develop enabling actions, such as providing recreational spaces for children (which includes temporary accommodation, meals, and childcare).

In the case of Indigenous territories, the principle of Prior, Free, and Informed Consultation is fulfilled as a right of Indigenous peoples, based on the autonomy regime established in the Political Constitution of Nicaragua, which recognizes the existence of Indigenous peoples and their rights, duties, and guarantees in their various expressions, ensuring non-discrimination based on language, culture, and origin.

In this regard, a total of 194 activities have been planned to strengthen the governance and management of protected areas.

Workshops details

DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	AMOUNT	AVERAGE UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL COST (USD)
Community assemblies.	Assemblies	4	30,050	120,200
FPIC to validate regional development strategy update FPIC to validate the RBB Management Plan FPIC to validate the territorial development plans 3 in AWB, 4 in RACCN and 1 in RACCS	fpic	3	77,334	232,002
Spaces for exchanging experiences with women and young leaders of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples	Meeting	4	5,000	20,000
Consultation meetings with ITG at regional level Interinstitutional update meetings Signing agreements Meetings Meetings with territory in RACCS Meetings with the 7 territories (3AWB and 4 RACCS) in the RBB reserve Annual meetings for POA preparation. Meetings to update strategy held by ITG in 8 territories Consultation in 7 territories	Meetings	80	3,685	294,800
Publication of the Documents	publication	1	4,000	4,000
Publication of the documents	publication	1	8,000	8,000
Publication of the documents	publication	1	4,000	4,000

DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	AMOUNT	AVERAGE UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL COST (USD)
SINIA regional personnel training workshops and institutions. Gender and governance training workshops for Regional Governments GRACCS, GRACCN and AWB Governance training for 8 indigenous territories: 3 ITG in AWB, 4 GTI in RACCN, 1 in RACCS. Governance Training Workshops for regional governments GRACCS, GRACCN and AWB Training on gender and governance issues in 8 indigenous territories: 3 GTI in AWB, 4 GTI in RACCN, 1 in RACCS.	Training	47	4,995	234,765
Provision of recreational spaces for children (includes temporary conditioning, food and childcare).	Training	32	250	8,000
GRACCS, GRACCN and AWB Regional Government Workshops	Workshop	16	875	14,000
Workshops to prepare development plans in 8 territories (3 AWB, 4 RACCN and 1 RACCS).	Workshop	8	6,400	51,200

Acquisition of Pickup Trucks for the efficient successful implementation of project activities

The project "Protection and Conservation of Global Importance Forests located in the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve" will be developed over a vast territorial extension encompassing two reserves: the RBB (680,618 ha) and the RBIM (316,716 ha), totaling 997,337 ha. These reserves are located in the North Caribbean Coast, South Caribbean Coast, and the Special Regime Zone of Alto Wangki and Bocay, characterized by limited accessibility.

Transportation Needs

This extensive geography necessitates suitable transportation means to ensure the effective implementation of the project in the intervention areas. The acquisition of four vehicles will guarantee the constant availability of transport for the technical team, allowing for efficient planning and a rapid response to mobilization needs for monitoring, restoration, environmental education, and technical assistance activities. Timely mobilization is crucial for evaluating project activity progress, identifying challenges, and making necessary adjustments during implementation.

Community Engagement

Additionally, the vehicles will facilitate regular access for the technical team to local communities and stakeholders, strengthening capacities and improving governance in the intervention areas with the support and active participation of institutions.

Access Challenges

The intervention zones, located in the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve, present difficult access conditions. Therefore, at least four suitable vehicles are required to ensure the safety and integrity of the technical team and the project implementation unit in these complex terrains.

Capacity Building and Coordination

These means of transportation are essential, as the technical teams will provide advice and develop the capacities of the population, including regional and local authorities—both indigenous and non-indigenous—men and women, who will participate in periodic monitoring, training, and the development of normative management instruments for protected areas.

This strategy will not only enhance coordination between the project and environmental authorities but will also significantly contribute to reducing operational costs in the long term. Renting vehicles in these regions is highly costly, so acquiring vehicles for the project represents an initial investment that will lead to substantial savings throughout its duration. Moreover, it will provide greater flexibility and control over transportation resources, reducing dependence on external suppliers and minimizing the risks of delays or interruptions in project activities due to the unavailability of rental vehicles.

Customization of Vehicles

Furthermore, the acquired vehicles can be selected and equipped specifically to meet the unique needs of the project and the terrain conditions in the intervention areas. This ensures that the project team and MARENA delegations have the most suitable transportation means to tackle the specific challenges of the working areas.

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

FAO Cost Categories	unit	No. Of units	unit cost	Total GEF	C.1 Total	C.2 Total	C.3 Total	C.4 Total	M&E	PMC	Executing partner
5013 Consultants											
Technical Project Coordinator	Month	60	2,000	120,000	-	-	-	-		120,000	MARENA
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	Month	57	1,500	85,500	-	-	-	-	85,500		MARENA
Financial specialist	Month	57	1,200	68,400	-	-	-	-		68,400	MARENA
Acquisitions analyst	Month	48	1,200	57,600	-	-	-	-		57,600	MARENA
Administrative Assistants (2)	Month	114	700	79,800	-	-	-	-		79,800	MARENA
Biodiversity Specialist	Month	57	1,500	85,500	-	85,500	-	-			MARENA
Specialist in Gender and Indigenous Peoples	Month	57	1,500	85,500	85,500	-	-	-			MARENA
Field technicians (3) to strengthen the governance and management of existing PAs	Month	165	800	132,000	132,000	-	-	-			MARENA
Field technicians (3) to strengthen livelihoods	Month	171	800	136,800	-	-	136,800	-			MARENA
Field technicians (3) for collecting information on farms	Month	132	800	105,600	-	-	105,600	-			MARENA
Social Promoter to strengthen CAPS and UMAS	Month	48	750	36,000	-	36,000	-	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT for the Capacity Building Program of territorial and communal, regional and national governments (1	Month	12	2,000	24,000	24,000	-	-	-			MARENA

consultancy in c/region AWB, RACCN and RACCS)											
CONSULTANT for Legal Advice for the preparation of contracts for financing investment plans	Month	24	1,000	24,000	-	-	24,000	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT for the preparation of a document of good practices in protected areas (Phase 1 and Phase 2)	Month	8	2,000	16,000	-	-	-	16,000			MARENA
CONSULTANT to update and implement the RBB management plan	Month	8	2,000	16,000	16,000	-	-	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT for the Update of the Strategy and Development Plan of the CC and AWB	Month	7	2,000	14,000	14,000	-	-	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT to develop monitoring protocol	Month	3	2,000	6,000	6,000	-	-	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT to develop a Plan to strengthen environmental observers	Month	3	1,750	5,250	-	5,250	-	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT to design the Innovative Financial Model (2 consultants for 5 months)	Month	10	2,000	20,000	-	-	20,000	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT for green market study	Month	5	2,000	10,000	-	-	10,000	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT for carrying out the baseline study of value chains. One study for each region (AWB, RACCN and RACCS). 3 consultants for 4 months each	Month	12	2,000	24,000	-	-	24,000	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT to prepare a proposal for a brand of origin for the RNB and RBIM (2 consultants for 3 months each)	Month	6	1,700	10,200	-	-	10,200	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT for entering farm data for traceability (3 consultants, 44 months each, part-time)	Month	132	250	33,000	-	-	33,000	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT for the characterization and validation of local food resources and livestock systems for the development of technologies (1 consultant in c/region AWB, RACCN and RACCS)	Month	12	2,000	24,000	-	-	24,000	-			MARENA
CONSULTANT to support the development of an	Month	3	2,000	6,000	-	-	-	6,000			MARENA

education/awareness program											
CONSULTANT for the preparation of Good Practices videos	Month	6	2,000	12,000	-	-	-	12,000			MARENA
CONSULTANT for the design of a landscape monitoring and evaluation system	Month	5	2,000	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000		MARENA
5013 Sub-total consultants				**1,247,150**	**277,500**	**126,750**	**387,600**	**34,000**	**95,500**	**325,800**	
5014 Contracts											
SERVICE CONTRACT for translation of materials into the Mayagna, Miskito and Kriol languages	Lumpsum	1	37,500	37,500	37,500	-	-	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the implementation of the RBB Management Plan Fund	Lumpsum	1	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	-	-			MARENA
SERVICES CONTRACT for the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan Fund	Lumpsum	1	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	-	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the Improvement of RBIM infrastructure	Lumpsum	1	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	-	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the preparation of visibility materials for the Awareness campaign, communication of the management plans of the RBB and RBIM	Lumpsum	1	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for Infrastructure Rehabilitation in RACCN	Lumpsum	1	15,000	15,000	15,000	-	-	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for Infrastructure Rehabilitation in RACCS	Lumpsum	1	15,000	15,000	15,000	-	-	-			MARENA
SERVICES CONTRACT for office expansion in AWB to install SINIA node	Lumpsum	1	66,388	66,388	66,388	-	-	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for LdB RNB Study	Lumpsum	1	80,000	80,000	-	80,000	-	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for RBIM LdB Study	Lumpsum	1	40,000	40,000	-	40,000	-	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the implementation of the restoration Incentive Plan	Investment plan	29	48,276	1,400,004	-	1,400,004	-	-			MARENA

SERVICE CONTRACT to prepare 60 investment plans for restoration, between component 2 and 3. Average of 4000 US per plan (254 hectares per plan). 1 Contract per AWB, RACCN and RACCS region	Regions	3	80,000	240,000	-	-	240,000	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT to Prepare 30 investment plans for Conservation, Average of 4000 US per plan (476 hectares per plan). 1 Contract per AWB, RACCN and RACCS region	Regions	3	40,000	120,000	-	-	120,000	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the Environmental Incentive of the RNB Restoration Investment Plan	Investment plan	21	46,650	979,650	-	-	979,650	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the Environmental Incentive of the RBIM Restoration Investment Plan	Investment plan	10	62,575	625,750	-	-	625,750	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the Environmental Incentive of the RNB Conservation Investment Plan	Investment plan	20	14,400	288,000	-	-	288,000	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the Environmental Incentive of the RBIM Conservation Investment Plan	Investment plan	10	19,925	199,250	-	-	199,250	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for Formulation of 24 Investment Plans for livelihoods. Contract to develop 3 plans for 8 indigenous territories.	Investment plan	24	4,000	96,000	-	-	96,000	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the Environmental Incentive to improve the livelihoods of the Indigneous Peoples and Afro-Descendants of the RNB (North)	Investment plan	12	74,303	891,636	-	-	891,636	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the Environmental Incentive to improve the livelihoods of the Indigneous Peoples and Afro-Descendants of the RNB (Alto Wangki and Bocay)	Investment plan	9	74,303	668,727	-	-	668,727	-			MARENA

SERVICE CONTRACT for the Environmental Incentive of the Investment Plan to improve the livelihoods of the Indigneous Peoples and Afro-Descendants of the RBIM (South)	Investment plan	3	74,303	222,909	-	-	222,909	-			MARENA
SERVICES CONTRACT for the Acquisition of hardware, accessories, VBEUL server licenses and messaging license of the Traceability system	Lumpsum	1	120,000	120,000	-	-	120,000	-			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for Certification of 200 Farms in Good Agricultural and Livestock Practices and 10 cooperatives in Good Manufacturing Practices (GAP/BPP/GMP) (AWB, RACCN, RACCS)	Regions	3	85,000	255,000	-	-	255,000	-			MARENA
SERVICES CONTRACT for Transmission and distribution of materials from the environmental education/awareness Program	Lumpsum	1	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	30,000			MARENA
SERVICE CONTRACT for the Implementation of a communication plan at the national level (link with the regional project led by IUCN)	Lumpsum	1	17,382	17,382	-	-	-	17,382			MARENA
Mid-Term Review	Lumpsum	1	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000		FAO
Terminal evaluation	Lumpsum	1	70,000	70,000	-	-	-	-	70,000		FAO
Spot checks (approx. $4275)	Spotcheck	5	5,000	25,000	-	-	-	-	25,000		FAO
Audit (approx. $9025)	Audit	5	10,000	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000		FAO
Terminal Report (USD 6,650)	Contract	1	6,650	6,650					6,650		FAO
5014 Sub-total Contracts				**6,759,846**	**303,888**	**1,520,004**	**4,706,922**	**47,382**	**181,650**	**-**	
5021 Travel											
Mobilization expenses to strengthen governance and management of protected areas (R.1.1)	Lumpsum	1	253,050	253,050	253,050	-	-	-			MARENA
Mobilization expenses for the creation and operation of the dialogue platform (R.1.2)	Lumpsum	1	33,400	33,400	33,400	-	-	-			MARENA

Mobilization expenses for the biodiversity baseline evaluation (R.2.1)	Lumpsum	1	2,800	2,800	-	2,800	-	-			MARENA
Mobilization expenses for trainers for the restoration of forest areas within the PAs (R.2.2)	Lumpsum	1	14,700	14,700	-	14,700	-	-			MARENA
Mobilization expenses for GIRH and CAPS trainers (R.2.3)	Lumpsum	1	53,500	53,500	-	53,500	-	-			MARENA
Mobilization expenses for strengthening monitoring systems for PA management (R.2.4)	Lumpsum	1	35,850	35,850	-	35,850	-	-			MARENA
Mobilization expenses for training and monitoring of the model and incentive mechanism (R.3.1)	Lumpsum	1	178,250	178,250	-	-	178,250	-			MARENA
Mobilization expenses to participate in regional cooperation, learning and knowledge activities (R.4.2)	Lumpsum	1	83,000	83,000	-	-	-	83,000			MARENA
5021 Sub-total travel				**654,550**	**286,450**	**106,850**	**178,250**	**83,000**	**-**	**-**	
5023 Training											
Expenses for workshops and meetings to strengthen governance and management of protected areas (R.1.1)	Lumpsum	1	991,000	991,000	991,000	-	-	-			MARENA
Expenses for workshops and meetings for the creation and operation of the dialogue platform (R.1.2)	Lumpsum	1	155,650	155,650	155,650	-	-	-			MARENA
Expenses for workshops and meetings for trainers for the restoration of forest areas within the PAs (R.2.2)	Lumpsum	1	25,600	25,600	-	25,600	-	-			MARENA
Expenses for workshops and meetings for IWRM and CAPS trainers (R.2.3)	Lumpsum	1	99,329	99,329	-	99,329	-	-			MARENA
Expenses for workshops and meetings to strengthen monitoring systems for PA management (R.2.4)	Lumpsum	1	105,250	105,250	-	105,250	-	-			MARENA
Expenses for workshops and meetings for training and monitoring of the model and incentive mechanism (R.3.1)	Lumpsum	1	524,648	524,648	-	-	524,648	-			MARENA

Expenses for workshops and meetings to participate in regional cooperation, learning and knowledge activities (R.4.1 y 4.2)	Lumpsum	1	331,350	331,350	-	-	-	331,350			MARENA
Inception Workshop	Workshop	1	12,500	12,500	-	-	-	-		12,500	MARENA
Terminal workshop	Workshop	1	12,500	12,500	-	-	-	-		12,500	MARENA
5023 Sub-total training				**2,257,827**	**1,146,650**	**230,179**	**524,648**	**331,350**	**-**	**25,000**	
5024 Expendable procurement											
Water chlorinators for CAPS	Unit	22	500	11,000	-	11,000	-	-			MARENA
Field equipment for regional offices (GPS, Camera, tree identification guide, others)	kit	3	18,000	54,000	-	54,000	-	-			MARENA
Field equipment for GTI Offices (3 AWB, 4 RACCN, 1 RACCS)	kit	8	4,250	34,000	-	34,000	-	-			MARENA
Supplies for workshops (seeds, organic supplies, tools)	Workshop	16	750	12,000	-	-	-	12,000			MARENA
Field tools for the Basin Committee.	kit	1	5,000	5,000	-	5,000	-	-			MARENA
5024 Sub-total expendable procurement				**116,000**	**-**	**104,000**	**-**	**12,000**	**-**	**-**	
5025 Non-expendable procurement											
IT equipment for territories, SINIA Node	kit	15	9,600	144,000	144,000	-	-	-			MARENA
Aquatic transport equipment (AWB, RACCS, RACCN)	Equipment	4	12,500	50,000	50,000	-	-	-			MARENA
Recurrent mobility expenses, such as the acquisition of Pickup Trucks, for the execution of the project's field activities: RACCS (1), RACCN (1), AWB (1) and Territorial Delegation - MARENA Jinotega (1)	Vehicle	4	45,550	182,200	74,000	-	-	37,000		71,200	MARENA
Computers and accessories for project team	Laptop	8	2,800	22,400	-	-	-	-		22,400	MARENA
5025 Sub-total non-expendable procurement				**398,600**	**268,000**	**-**	**-**	**37,000**	**-**	**93,600**	
5028 GOE budget											
Telecommunication Services	Lumpsum	1	32,617	32,617	-	-	-	-		32,617	MARENA
Office and Cafeteria Supplies	Lumpsum	1	65,940	65,940	-	10,196	30,300	-		25,444	MARENA
Minor Maintenance of Office and Equipment	Lumpsum	1	48,970	48,970	-	-	-	-		48,970	MARENA
Insurance and Maintenance of	Lumpsum	1	73,940	73,940	48,600	-	-	21,750		3,590	MARENA

Transportation Vehicles										
5028 Sub-total GOE budget				**221,467**	**48,600**	**10,196**	**30,300**	**21,750**	**-**	**110,621**
TOTAL				**11,655,440**	**2,331,088**	**2,097,979**	**5,827,720**	**566,482**	**277,150**	**555,021**

*GTI is the spanish acronym for ITG which stands for Indigenous Territorial Government. 3 offices are in the Alto Wangki and Bocay (AWB); 4 in the Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast (RACCN) and 1 in the Autonomous Region of the South Caribbean Coast (RACCS)

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.

No comments were received from STAP or Council members specifically for Nicaragua's project, these changes are based on suggestions received at concept notes stage.

Changes from Concept Note

Project Outcome Framework		
Expected results and products(in Concept Note)	**Proposed changes(in the PRODOC)**	**Reasons for the change**
Component 1. Facilitating conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests		
Outcome 1.1. Governance and management of existing Protected Areas strengthened through (i) implementation of a capacity development program on conservation and restoration, (ii) the development of regulatory and management tools to support the administration of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendandts territories and the Protected Areas	Outcome. 1.1. Strengthened governance and management of existing PAs through (i) implementation of a capacity development program on conservation and restoration, (ii) the development of regulatory and management tools to support the administration of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro Descentands and Protected Areas territories.	The writing was improved The term PIAD (Indigenous and Afro-descendant Population) was changed to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants (Indigenous and Afro-descendant Population), following the official terminology.
Output 1.1.2. Regulatory and management instruments for the cooperative administration of indigenous territories and protected areas developed, updated and implemented.	Output 1.1.2.Regulatory and management instruments for the administration of indigenous and Afro-descendant territories and protected areas developed, updated and implemented	The term Afro-descendants was added because the project also covers this population.
Output 1.1.3 BR Indio Maíz management plan in implementation	Output 1.1.3 Indio Maíz BR management plan implemented and BBR Management Plan updated and implemented.	The update and implementation of the BBR Management Plan was added to this result.
Output 1.1.6. Capacity at the local level developed with the SINIA Nodes under the coordination of	Output 1.1.6. Capacity at the local level developed with the SINIA Nodes under the	The Alto Wangki and Bocay region was added, which is

the Autonomous Regional Governments of the Caribbean Coast, and accompaniment by MARENA, including support for the Indigenous Territorial Governments.	coordination of the Autonomous Regional Governments of the Caribbean Coast and Alto Wangki and Bocay, with the accompaniment of MARENA, including support for the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Territorial Governments	part of the project intervention area
Output 1.1.7. Application of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process assured.	Output 1.1.7. Application of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process ensured and implemented in all project processes.	The wording was improved, considering that the FPIC should be applied in all decision-making processes.
Outcome1.2. Multi-stakeholder coordination for planning and implementation. It includes regional/territorial/communal dialogue platforms and the updating of territorial and forest management plans.	Outcome 1.2. Multiple stakeholders for coordinated planning and implementation.	The wording was improved, considering that coordination must cover all processes.
Component 2. Conservation and restoration of Critical Forest Biomes (CFB)		
Outcome 2.2 Restoration of forest areas within the PAs.	Outcome 2.2 Forest areas within the PAs restored.	Improved writing
There was not	Outcome 2.3 Strengthened the integrated management approach to water resources in PA with gender mainstreaming.	A new result was introduced as in the Conceptual note there was no result where to place product 2.2.2 (basin approach)
Output 2.2.2. Environmental planning and territorial and forestry planning with a defined basin approach, including land use with multiple actors and sectors.	Output 2.3.1 Basin committees and CAPS established and/or strengthened, to improve the management of CFBs.	The previous product 2.2.2 is defined more clearly and is located in a separate result.
Outcome 2.3 Strengthening monitoring systems for the management of PAs, forest integrity and advance of deforestation.	Outcome 2.4 Monitoring systems for PA management, forest integrity and advance of deforestation strengthened.	Improved wording and updated result code number
Output 2.3.1. Monitoring and data system developed for the participatory management of BBR and IMBR, the conservation of biodiversity, forest integrity and the control of the advance of deforestation and illegal forest degradation.	Output 2.4.1. Monitoring and data system developed for the participatory management of BBR and IMBR, the conservation of biodiversity, forest integrity and the control of the advance of deforestation and illegal forest degradation	Product code number updated
Output 2.3.2. The community monitoring systems of the PAs have been strengthened, including training actions, equipment, formation of community brigades certified by MARENA, and inclusion of community rangers in the team of institutional rangers.	Output 2.4.2. Strengthened community monitoring systems of PAs, and inclusion of community rangers in the guard team of institutional protected areas.	Improved wording and updated product code number
Component 3. Innovative investments for conservation-friendly livelihoods and nature-based solutions.		
Output 3.1.2. Implemented dialogue mechanisms with national private banks and investments for the conservation and restoration of forests in PAs and the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation in buffer and connectivity areas.	Output 3.1.2. Dialogue mechanisms with the financial and investment sector implemented for the conservation and restoration of forests in Protected Areas and the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation in buffer and connectivity areas	The term national private banking was replaced with the financial sector, expanding the scope of the product
Output 3.1.3. Financial incentive mechanisms and PES incentives available for conservation and	Output 3.1.3. Validated and implemented economic instruments for environmental incentives, which promote investments for	The scope of the incentives was expanded, from exclusively financial to

restoration investments in CFBs for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants	the conservation, restoration of forests and rehabilitation of CFB for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants	economic, and the need for them to adapt to the reality of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants is specified. The term Intact Forest Landscapes was changed to Critical Forest Biomes (CFB), because the latter term is considered more relevant in relation to the condition of the 2 reserves.
Ourput 3.1.6. Agrosilvopastoral systems, community forestry and ecotourism implemented in Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants territories and outside the established PAs, including the cultural identity of the communities.	It was deleted	It was eliminated because it is considered that these production systems are already included in product 3.1.4 (Livelihoods) in the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants territories and in product 3.1.5 (Value Chains) in the other areas.
Component 4. Regional cooperation, learning and knowledge.		
Outcome 4.1. Greater regional/transnational cooperation and coordination.	Outcome 4.1 Greater regional/transnational cooperation and coordination activated.	Improved writing
Output 4.1.2. Environmental education/awareness program at the local, regional and national level for the protection and conservation of CFBs executed with materials translated into the mother tongue of the territories.	Output 4.1.2. Environmental education/awareness program at the local, regional and national level for the protection and conservation of BFC executed with materials translated into the mother tongue of the territories	The term awareness was changed with sensitization, the latter being considered more appropriate
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)		
M&E 1 assesses project impact and guides adaptive management.	M&E 1 system evaluates project impact and guides adaptive management.	The writing was improved.

CHANGES IN CORE INDICATORS

GEF Core indicator 6 has been recalculated following this change and thus it has changed from project concept note.