Conservation, Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and the Maintenance of the Ecosystem Services in Protected Wetlands of International Importance

Mid-term Review

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March 2019

Summary of the Mid-term Review report and the project

Project Title	**Conservation, Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and the Maintenance of the Ecosystem Services in Protected Wetlands of International importance**
Project Identification (UNDP PIMS#)	5257
Project Identification (GEF Project ID#)	5749
Project Identification (ATLAS Award#)	00095068
Region	Latin America and the Caribbean
Country	El Salvador
GEF Focal Area	Biodiversity
GEF Focal Area Strategic Objective	BD-1 (To improve the sustainability of the systems within the protected areas)
Fund	GEF TF
Implementing Agency	UNDP
Executing Agency	MARN
Project partners	Municipalities, producers (livestock owners, farmers, fishers), Ministry of Agriculture
PIF Approval Date:	1 May 2014
CEO Endorsement Date:	17 December 2015
Project Document (ProDoc) Signature Date (date project began):	16 May 2016
Date project manager hired:	16 November 2016
Inception Workshop Date:	18 October 2016
Planned closing date:	1 April 2021
Proposed closing date:	1 April 2021

Detailed Project Financing Table

Project Finances	**For approval (US$)**	**Up to mid-term (US$)**
[1] GEF	2 191 781.00	1 438 528.80
[2] UNDP Contribution	10 000.00	10 000.00
[3] Government of El Salvador	2 106 666.55	2 030 841.00
[4] Other partners	5 950 000.00	4 390 361.00
[5] Joint financing total [2]+[3]+[4]:	8 914 667.00	6 431 202.00
Total project cost [1+5]:	11 197 773.00	7 869 730.00

Acknowledgments

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My special thanks go to the project team, the coordinator Ariana Bazzaglia and the experts Walter Manuel Zelaya, Rosa Elvira Vargas Campos, José Abelardo Ramos Santos and Elvert Parada Palacios, who prepared, supported and allowed the interviews and their valuable knowledge about the project´s social, legal and ecological context. We would like to thank Lina Dolores Pohl Alfaro, Minister of the Environment, Marina Sandoval, Director of the Ministry of Environment, to all the advisers, and heads of the unit, for their interest in the discussions about the project.

Finally, I would like to thank the UNDP team, Silvia Guzmán, Silvia Vides, Santiago Carrizosa and Ernesto Kraus, for their support in the review and preparation of this report.

Table of Contents

Abbreviations and acronyms

CDS	Capacity Development Scorecard
CNR	National Registration Center
CO	Country Office
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
ASIBAHIA	*Asociación Intermunicipal de la Bahía de Jiquilisco* (Local Government Association of Jiquilisco Bay)
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BAU	Business as usual
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community-based organization
CDR	Combined Delivery Report
CEL	Executive Hydroelectric Commission of the Lempa River
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CNR	National Registration Center
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSO	Civil society organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGD	Focus group discussion
FIAES	Environmental Investment Fund for El Salvador
FSC	Financial Sustainability Scorecard
FSS	Sustainable Finance Planning of National Systems of Protected Areas
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GIZ	*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDEMU	*Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrolo de la Mujer* (Salvadorian Institute for Women's Development)
ISCOS	*Istituto Sindacale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo* (Trade Union Instutute for Development Cooperation)

ISTA	*Instituto Salvadoreño de Transformación Agraria* (Salvadorian Institute for Agricultural Change)
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (El Salvador)
MARN	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (El Salvador)
PWII	Protected wetlands of International importance
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MINDEF	Ministry of Defense
MITUR	Ministry of Tourism (El Salvador
MOP	Ministry of Public Works (El Salvador)
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NA	Not Applicable
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPA	Natural Protected Area
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PACAP	Administration and Consolidation of Protected Areas Project
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PNMA	National Environmental Policy
PoWPA	Program of Work on Protected Areas
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
ProDoc	Project document
RCU	Regional Coordination Unit
ROLA	Local Environmental Monitoring Network
SIA	Environmental Information System
SNAP	National System of Protected Areas
TF	Trust Fund
TT	Tracking Tool
UAM	Municipal Environment Unit
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNDP-RTA	UNDP Regional Tracking Adviser
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
WPDA	World Database on Protected Areas

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Basic Report Information

Project Title	**Conservation, Sustainable Biodiversity Use and Maintenance of the Ecosystem Services in Protected Wetlands of International Importance**
Project ID (UNDP PIMS#)	5125
Project ID (GEF Project ID#)	5749
Project ID (ATLAS Award#)	00095068
GEF Focal Area	Biodiversity
GEF Strategic Objective of the Focal Area	BD-1 (To improve the sustainability of National System of Protected Areas)
Fund	TF
Implementing agency	UNDP
Executive agency	MARN
Project partners	Municipalities, producers (livestock owners, farmers, fishers), the Ministry of Agriculture
PIF approval date:	1 May 2014
CEO endorsement date:	17 December 2015
Project document (ProDoc) Signature Date (date project began):	16 May 2016
Date project manager hired:	16 November 2016
Inception Workshop date:	18 October 2016
Planned closing date:	1 April 2021
Proposed closing date:	1 April 2021
MTR time frame	January–June 2019
MTR report completion date:	19 April 2019
Mid-term evaluator:	José Antonio Cabo Buján

1.2 Project description

The project, *Conservation, Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Maintenance of Ecosystem Services in Protected Wetlands of International Importance* was developed to support the implementation of the national biodiversity strategy. It is funded with a Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant of US$2,191,781.00. The project responds to the GEF biodiversity strategy and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP) mandate, as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Fund (UNDAF) 2016–2021

The project is implemented in three wetlands of international importance located in the eastern part of El Salvador: Olomega Lagoon, El Jocotal Lagoon and Jiquilisco Bay, with specific interventions in the protected wetlands of international importance (PWII) Jaltepeque Complex, the Gulf of Fonseca and Cerrón Grande Reservoir.

The project strategy has two outcomes (components): the extension of the national system of protected areas in the wetlands; and the management and control of threats by pollution and invasive species. These two outcomes are to be achieved through 18 outputs leading to the achievement of the project's four main objectives:

1.To increase the coverage of the protected areas to 37,710 ha, including the marine waters adjacent to the wetlands.
2.To increase the management effectiveness score by 10 per cent in the wetlands of international importance of Jocotal and Olomega Lagoons and Jiquilisco Bay.
3.To achieve stability of populations of four threatened species and one of economic relevance.
4.To increase the financial sustainability score by 100 per cent for Jocotal, Jiquilisco and Olomega.

1.3 Project Progress Summary

The project has made significant progress in extending the *Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas* (SNAP, National System of Protected Areas) and systematizing information on national wetlands, as well as improving wetland management capacities and successfully testing measures to control invasive species and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts. Additionally, the project is in the process of reaching agreements with municipalities, state institutions, associations and farms to reduce pollution in the wetlands of international importance. These significant results have been marred to some extent by the initial challenges of the project in finding the optimal implementation arrangements, which have caused delays in implementation, now solved. Moreover, during the project implementation, some of the assumptions included in the project document (ProDoc), such as the baseline and the estimate of expected costs per area, turned out to be incorrect, in part due to insufficient stakeholder engagement during the project design.

1.4 Mid-term Review Ratings and Achievement Summary

Project component	Rating	Description of achievement
Strategy	NA	A globally and nationally relevant strategy. However, the project strategy underestimated costs in implementing the project's activities.
Progress towards results	Satisfactory	The project has made some relevant progress but is still behind the planned schedule.
Project implementation and adaptive management	Moderately satisfactory	The project has currently an efficient team, who started operating only in the last year of the implementation. Despite the support of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), there is still room for greater commitment to the project's objectives.
Sustainability	Moderately likely	The uncertain external funding on which the actions depends in the relevant protected areas, as well as a limited commitment of the local stakeholders to the protected areas result in challenges to sustainability.

1.5 Summary of Conclusions

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) report reaches the following conclusions:

1. The natural protected areas are not a priority for local stakeholders.
2. The project faces major challenges in the expansion of the protected wetlands.
3. The indicator species chosen do not meet the criteria for response to management variables.
4. The financial gap is greater than the established baseline, and the proposed alternatives in the ProDoc are not feasible to bridge this gap.
5. The individual skills learned are vulnerable due to staff turnover in the municipal governments.
6. Socio-economic benefits that implement good practices are unlikely to be enough to provide short-term incentives.
7. The environmental certification of livestock farms is not cost-effective.
8. The occasional collection of solid waste is unsustainable.
9. The productive use of the *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinthe) is not economically viable.
10. The human-wildlife conflict in the case of *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* has a very limited local scope and has been handled appropriately by the project.
11. The role of women in rural areas depends on the individual characteristics of the production units, which cannot be influenced by the project.
12. Despite its good performance to date, the full implementation of the project within the initial term is not feasible. This is because of a delay between the PPG and the project inception, as well as the time needed to set up the current implementation arrangements.
13. The project has a scarce and irregular influence in the field due to the recent consolidation of its team, and it faces mobility challenges.

1.6 Recommendations Summary Table

Conclusion	Recommendation	Responsible entity	Term
1	The project needs to more strongly promote the benefits of protection and engage more local stakeholders in the management of the protected areas.	Project team, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)	2019–2021
2	The project may advocate for the expansion of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) to include all of the Ramsar sites covered by the	Project team, UNDP, MARN, local Ramsar committees	2019

Conclusion	Recommendation	Responsible entity	Term
	project, under the national protected area category of 'Protected Landscapes'.		
3	Establish a participatory monitoring system that includes emblematic species and coverage, and species composition of the mangroves.	Project team, UNDP, MARN, local Ramsar committees	2019–2021
4	Given that the project cannot control the use of environmental compensation funds, tourism ventures are the only viable alternative in the short term to increase income for protected areas.	Project team, UNDP, MARN, local Ramsar committees	2019–2021
5	The sustainability of the training course developed by the project should be ensured in order to maintain individual management capacities at the municipal level.	MARN, municipalities	2019
6, 7	The limited project funds should be used for livestock activities on advocating sustainable management of flooded grasslands and streams.	Project team, MARN, UNDP, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), municipalities	2019–2021
8	Cleaning campaigns should be organized within the framework of dialogue and learning processes.	Project team, MARN, UNDP, MAG, municipalities	2019-2021
9	The project should refrain from using the strategies suggested in the project document for the elimination of the *Eichhornia crassipes,* because they are ecologically and economically unsustainable.	Project team, MARN, municipalities	2019
10	The project may support one or two additional control campaigns for *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*.	Project team, MARN	2019
11	The project must abandon the specific target on the number of farms managed by women and replace it with the monitoring the socio-economic impacts of the practices promoted in a differentiated manner, including the impacts on child feeding and nutrition, school attendance and academic performance.	Project team, MARN, UNDP	2019
12	Due to the change of the Government´s administration in June 2019, the project must	Project team, MARN, UNDP, the Global	2019

Conclusion	Recommendation	Responsible entity	Term
	request an extension at no cost, at least until December 2020 and optimally until April 2021.	Environment Facility (GEF)	
13	There should be enough budget for travel expenses in the next work plan.	Project team, MARN, UNDP	2019
13	Consideration should be given to hiring local coordinators and/or a facilitator in order to negotiate the expansion of the SNAP.	Project team, MARN, UNDP	2019

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose and Objectives of the Mid-term Review

MTRs are monitoring tools that identify challenges and suggest corrective actions for a project to achieve its expected outcomes. They are mandatory for all the projects financed by the GEF and must be completed during the third year of project implementation.

This MTR was carried out following the ethical guidelines of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), which includes transparency, confidentiality, and sensitivity to local values. A formal commitment to respect the Code of Conduct has been signed by the evaluator and is attached to this report in Annex 9.

2.2 Scope and Methodology

The **project strategy** was evaluated based on environmental policy priorities at the global, national and local levels. The MTR included the robustness of the logframe and its indicators, and the degree to which it includes good practices and lessons learned from previous interventions. The design efficiency was measured based on the cost-effectiveness of the project compared to other similar interventions. The degree of inclusion in the project of gender issues and social impacts was also reviewed. The achievement of **expected outcomes** of the project was measured according to the project's outcome indicators. The main tools were the GEF tracking tools (TTs), which include: Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) of the protected areas, the Financial Sustainability Scorecard for Protected Area Systems (FSS) and the capacity development monitoring tool for GEF/UNDP projects. Each project result was rated based on a six-point scale, as explained in Annex 4. The social and gender impacts were evaluated according to the indicators stated in the Evaluation Matrix (Annex 2). The evaluation of the **project implementation and management** is based on the quality of its management instruments, the performance of the monitoring instruments, and the effectiveness of the communication of its strategy and outcomes, as well as the participation of the project partners and other relevant groups that affect or influence outcomes (stakeholders). The project management was also rated based on a six-point scale explained in Annex 4. The **sustainability** risks of the project outcomes are based on the risks identified in the ProDoc, in addition to projections of demographic and socio-economic factors that will affect the conservation of the wetlands during the next decade. The sustainability of the project was rated according to a four-point scale explained in Annex 4.

Data collection methods

The MTR uses secondary data contained in the documents produced by the project, including the ProDoc, annual reports (Project Implementation Reviews, Combined Delivery Reports), monitoring tools, work plans and meeting minutes of the Project Board. Additionally, the review includes scientific literature and reports from other organizations to establish the political, socio-economic and ecological context of the project, as well as the suitability of the implemented techniques and practices. Annex 7 describes all the reviewed documents and the relevant references for this report. Documental information is compared with the information shared by members of the implementation team, partners and beneficiaries of the project, through qualitative, semi-

structured, individual or collective interviews (focus group discussions, or FGDs). The list of persons and groups interviewed is attached to this report in Annex 7. Different categories of stakeholders were interviewed: MARN technical officers and managers, park rangers, representatives of local Ramsar committees, fishers, members of local environmental observation networks (ROLAS) and farmers. All the interviews were conducted with the previous explicit consent and without the attendance of members of the project team. The interviews were carried out between 6 and 14 February 2019 during field visits to the areas of the project intervention: the Gulf of Fonseca, Jiquilisco Bay, El Jocotal Lagoon, Olomega Lagoon and the Cerrón Grande Reservoir. The itinerary of the mission is attached to this report in Annex 6.

Data analysis

The interviews explored different perspectives on the management, scope and objectives of the project executors, partners and beneficiaries, as well as on the robustness of the logical framework and the reasons for the changes observed in the field. The conversations with local and municipal users of environmental services focused on the services from the wetlands, the threats they face and the best solutions, contrasted with those implemented. The interviews were transcribed by the evaluator and used to confirm the results indicated in the project reports and to establish the suitability of project activities.

The data from project financial reports (Combined Delivery Reports) and the monitoring tools were analysed quantitatively. Financial data included the current and projected delivery rate. The data of the scorecards were analysed by taking into account the difference between the inception and the mid-term, as well as which components of the scorecard most influenced the total score.

2.3 Structure of the Mid-term Review Report

This report is divided in four sections and contains 12 annexes. Section 2 describes the purpose and methodology. Section 3 contains information on the project context. Section 4 discusses the findings of the MTR in terms of strategy, results, administration and sustainability. Section 5 provides the conclusions and recommendations of the MTR.

3. Project Description and Context

3.1 Environmental factors Context

El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America, with a total surface area of 21,040 km^2, but with a large geographical diversity. Volcanic mountain ranges run across the country from west to east, reaching the coast. These ranges are cut by river valleys such as the Lempa and the Grande de San Miguel. This geographical diversity allows the development of distinct ecosystems (Figure 1). The Pacific plains and river valleys were originally covered by Central American dry forests. Central American pine-oak forests cover mid-elevations, and cloud forests still dominate the upper slopes of the highest mountains. Inactive volcanic calderas, poorly drained areas in the middle course of rivers, reservoirs and barrier-lagoon beach systems allow the formation of freshwater, brackish and marine wetlands that contain endemic vegetation, including flooded grasslands, riparian forests and mangroves. These wetlands are the habitat of threatened and migratory species, and they provide important services to communities, including fishing, tourism jobs, regulation of the water cycle, water supply, waste treatment and leisure. Seven of these wetlands have been designated wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, covering 2,074 km^2, which is almost 10 per cent of the national surface area. These Ramsar sites include: coastal lagoons such as the Barra de Santiago, Jaltepeque Complex and Jaquilisco Bay; two flooded calderas: the Olomega and Güija lagoons and an interior lagoon, El Jocotal; and an artificial lake, the Cerrón Grande Reservoir. This international designation does not mean that they are natural protected areas (NPAs) included in the national system of protected areas (SNAP). Only El Jocotal lagoon has been declared as NPA, but this protection is extended only to the water body, not the shore or adjacent woodland.

3.2 Problems that the Project Sought to Address: Threats and barriers targeted

El Salvador has a population of 6.4 million (2017), mostly urban (71 per cent), which results in a high population density (308 people/km^2). This contributes to the relatively small extension of protected areas in the country (1,851 km^2 or 8.8 per cent of the total land area) of which only 18 km^2 are wetlands (two protected areas) and 213 km^2 marine areas (one protected area). Due to the demographic and geographical conditions of El Salvador, some economic activities put pressure on the ecosystem services of the protected areas, especially in the wetlands. These activities are mainly farming (sugar cane, livestock), fisheries, aquaculture, tourism and housing development. The effectiveness of the protected areas is also hampered by management limitations and the lack of human and financial resources.

The project *Conservation, Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity and the Maintenance of Ecosystem Services in Protected Wetlands of International Importance* aims to overcome the barriers that prevent adequate management and financial sustainability of protected wetlands. These barriers are described in the ProDoc as:

- shortcomings in the regulatory framework to prevent the pollution in the wetlands;
- lack of access to information and inefficient management plans;

- scarce extension of the protected wetlands and lack of participation of local government, communities and the private sector in the management of the protected wetlands.[1]

Other issues addressed by the project include invasive species (*Eichhornia crassipes*, or water hyacinthe) and human-wildlife conflict[2] between artisanal fishers and *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*.

Figure 1. El Salvador Ramsar sites and other key locations of the project

Developed by the evaluator using QGIS® with GADM data, version 1.0 (www.gadm.org), MARN El Salvador, https://protectedplanet.org, and Olson et al., 2001.

3.3 Project strategy: objective and expected outcomes

The objective of the project strategy is to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Expanded coverage of protected wetlands of international importance (PWII) and build institutional and individual capacity for their effective management.
2. Threats to biodiversity including the presence of invasive species are addressed and solid and agrochemical waste originating in buffer areas of wetlands of international importance are reduced.

The ultimate goals of the project are as follows:

1. To increase the coverage of the protected areas up to 37,710 ha, including marine waters adjacent to the coastal wetlands.

[1] PNUD El Salvador (2014).
[2] Ibid; Herrera et al.(2015).

2. To increase management effectiveness by 10 per cent in the PWII of Jocotal, Jiquilisco and Olomega, according to the METT scorecard.
3. To achieve sustainable populations of four threatened species and one of economic relevance.
4. To achieve a 100 per cent (20 to 40 per cent) improvement in the financial sustainability score of the PWII of El Jocotal, Jiquilisco and Olomega.

These four goals must be achieved when project products are delivered.

For the first effect, these outputs include: the demarcation of areas and tranfering ownership of areas to be declared as natural protected areas; the development of a wetlands inventory, the updating of the management plan; the development of business plans for protected wetlands, and the testing of financial mechanisms for protected areas.

For the second effect, these outputs include: the facilitation of institutional agreements with municipalities and government institutions; minimization of impacts on wetlands; the introduction of good practices and incentives to minimize the impact of agricultural operations; the establishment of an information management system linked to the Environmental Information System (SIA) of the MARN; reduction of solid waste in the wetlands; and the establishment of control programmes for invasive species.

3.4 Description of Field Sites

The project areas are the PWII located in the conservation units of Jiquilisco Bay, Tecapa-San Miguel and the Gulf of Fonseca: El Jocotal Lagoon, Olomega Lagoon, Jiquilisco Bay complex, and islands of the Gulf of Fonseca (Figure 1). During the project implementation, activities also took place at the Cerrón Grande Reservoir, which was not included in the ProDoc, but it was the only site where there was a conflict between the population and Phalacrocorax brasilianus. The total area covered by the project is 1,857 km2 of Ramsar sites, or 88 per cent of the extension of wetlands of international importance in El Salvador. Only one of the project sites, El Jocotal Lagoon Complex, has been declared a natural protected area (NPA). In addition to other small areas within the Within the boundaries of the Ramsar sites Olomega and Jiquilisco Bay also have this designation, other Ramsar sites have also been declared National Protected Areas.

NPAs are defined under the Protected Natural Areas Act and may be privately owned but are mostly state-owned. Prior to their declaration as a NPA, they must be registered under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) in the National Registration Center (CNR).

3.5 Management Arrangements

The project is implemented under the national implementation modality (NIM) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP operates in El Salvador under a framework agreement with the national government, and its activities are described in the United Nations Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the Country Programme Document (CPD). The NIM requires that a national agency (the implementing partner) be responsible for the implementation of the project. The UNDP responsibilities include the disbursement and accountability of project funds (according to annual work plans) and quality control (according to the UNDAF/CPD results and the CBD objectives, as well

as monitoring, evaluation, and auditing). UNDP carries out its responsibilities through its Country Office and its Regional Coordination Unit (RCU).[3]

The MARN, established in 1997 is responsible for the implementation of Article 117 of the Constitution of El Salvador, which outlines the protection of natural resources and biodiversity. Among other functions, the MARN oversees biodiversity management (Environmental Law), and the national protected areas (Natural Protected Areas Act). It is the national focal point for the CBD (ratified in 1994), as well as the political and operational focal point of the Global Environment Fund (GEF).[4]

According to the project document (ProDoc), the Project Board is chaired by the MARN, with the participation of UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), which includes the fisheries authority. The MAG had a key role in the project given its agricultural and fisheries components. In addition, an advisory body composed of the MAG, the Ministry of Tourism (MITUR) and the Environmental Investment Fund for El Salvador (FIAES), would have to be established. The implementation in the field was to be carried out primarily by consultants, under the supervision of a project team consisting of a coordinator and an assistant.

3.6 Project timing and milestones

In March 2014, the GEF approved the project concept. The preparation phase was developed between May 2014 and December 2015, when the ProDoc was approved by the GEF Board. The implementation of the project began in 2016. The start-up workshop took place in November 2016. The project is scheduled to end between April and June of 2020.

3.7 Stakeholders

In addition to the organizations represented on the Project Board and the advisory body, other key partners are the Ministry of Public Works (MOP) and the Executive Hydroelectric Commission of the Lempa River (CEL), in the aim to facilitate agreements that include the protection of wetlands in their plans and programmes. At the local level, the main partners of the project are the Municipal Environmental Units (UAMs) of the municipalities where the PWIIs are located, as well as local associations of agricultural and fishery producers.

The ProDoc also identifies other key partners such as the association of municipalities in Jiquilisco Bay, non-governmental and academic organizations that implement local development and research projects, as well as the German, Italian and Japanese cooperation, which support the implementation of projects in the same area with complementary objectives (Table 1).

[3] PNUD El Salvador (2014).
[4] MARN (2019); GEF (2019); CBD (2019).

Table 1. List and description of the main project partners according to the project document

Project partner	Type of organization	Partner responsibilities as per the project document	Responsibilities in the implementation
Ministry of Agriculture (MAG)	National Government	MAG is the key partner of the project for fishery regulations in the wetlands.	Fisheries Administration, under the MAG. Its goal is to increase production and the limited capabilities and attract interest to intervene in the regulation of artisanal fisheries, which is more relevant to the project's wetlands.
Ministry of Public Works (MOP) and Executive Hydroelectric Commission of the Lempa River (CEL)	National Government	MOP and CEL are responsible for Agreements to guarantee the application of environmental guidelines in projects reducing the magnitude of threats facing HPII.	Agreements under development with MOP to coordinate the use of machinery in the wetlands and coordination with CEL to be defined in Jiquilisco Bay.
Ministry of Tourism (MITUR)	National government	Promotion of the PWII as a touristic destination through project funds from the Inter-American Development Bank	To date, there have been no negotiations carried out with the MITUR or its projects.
Municipalities and municipal organizations	Local government	They need to adapt their planning processes and the relevant permits to reduce the threats to wetlands.	Coordination to reduce solid waste and sewage in PWII through the Municipal Environmental Unit (UAMs).
Production organizations.	Non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs/community-based	They need to adopt good practices in agricultural and fishing activities as proposed or promoted by the project.	Implementation of practices for manure management in livestock farms and contacts with the Association of Sugar Producers (FUNDAZUCAR) to disseminate good practices.

Project partner	Type of organization	Partner responsibilities as per the project document	Responsibilities in the implementation
	organizations (CBOs)		
Academic organizations and investigation centres	Academia	Cooperation in the development of good agricultural and fishing practices.	To date, there has been no coordination with academic institutions.
Environmental Investment Fund for El Salvador (FIAES)	Public financial institution	Financing of the project for the control of the invasive species *Eichhornia crassipes.*	FIAES
Bilateral agencies – Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), ***Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*** (GIZ), ***Istituto Sindacale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo*** (Trade Union Instutute for Development Cooperation)	Bilateral agency	Financing of conservation projects.	GIZ and the *Istituto Sindacale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo* (ISCOS, Trade Union Institute for Development Cooperation) carry out activities in the wetlands of the Barra de Santiago and the Cerrón Grande, respectively, and are part of the co-financing of this project. The JICA project operates in the Olomega and the Jocotal wetlands.

3.8 Significant Socio-economic and Environmental Changes since the Beginning of Project Implementation

Neither El Salvador nor the wetlands targeted by this project have undergone significant changes in the almost two and a half years of project implementation. The Salvadoran economy consists in services (60 per cent of the GDP), personal remittances (20 per cent), industry (16 per cent) and agriculture (6 per cent), with moderate growth that has not exceeded 2.6 per cent of annual GDP since 2013. The slow economic growth implies a slow reduction in the incidence of poverty. Although poverty incidence fell by 6 points between 2015 and 2017, from 34.9 per cent to 29.2 per cent, almost 40 per cent of the rural population are poor. Emigration, mainly to the United States, remains an attractive option for a large part of the rural population. Since the beginning of the 2000s, the population has grown at a rate of 0.5 per cent per year. In the project's wetlands, the populations are clearly concentrated in the urban centres.

Salvadoran society continues to be threatened by criminal violence. Although the incidence of violence is still the highest in the world (60 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2017), it has decreased significantly since 2015, when it reached 105 per 100,000 inhabitants. Assassinations and extortion continue to be a serious challenge for the economic development of the country. Small business and agricultural labour are especially vulnerable and affected by organized crime. Armed groups have extended their presence to the countryside, operating in rural environments and occasionally taking refuge in natural areas, especially in the wetlands of Jiquilisco Bay and the Gulf of Fonseca. This presence precludes monitoring and enforcement by MARN. Despite these challenges, the services and manufacturing factors have taken over agriculture as the main motor of the Salvadorian economy. Coffee exports have been severely affected by coffee rust and low international prices. Shade coffee is very important for conserving tree cover and biodiversity in mid slopes, and its recovery would need the expansion of certification to allow access to premium quality and environmental markets. Sugarcane is still a very important commodity both in terms of export value and job generation. Competition for exporting to international markets puts pressure on national sugar mills to improve environmental and social standards in their procedures. Many households in El Salvador depend on personal remittances. In Olomega, remittances are being used to construct houses on attractive lakeshore land, without any concern for easements or buffer zones. Unregulated housing for commercial and living purposes also occurs in coastal areas. With rapid housing development and urban growth, challenges associated with solid waste and sewage will also become more relevant, especially for coastal wetlands.

The protected areas and the regulatory framework have not changed since the project began except for the NPA declared with the project support. The last municipal elections, held in March 2018, did not result in changes in the implementation of the project or in the work with the municipal environmental units, despite the victory of the opposing party.[5] However, the presidential elections held in February 2019 (three days before the start of the evaluation mission), disrupted the national political scene with the defeat of the two main national parties. All indications suggest that there will be continuity in the general lines of environmental policies and commitments with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

[5] Tribunal Supremo Electroal (2018).

4. Findings

4.1 Project Strategy

4.1.1 Project design

National priorities and conservation objectives

The project is part of the National Environmental Policy (PNMA) of 2012, which aims to stop the degradation of the ecosystems and promote adaptation to climate change. The PNMA includes four strategies – water resources, sanitation, climate change and biodiversity. The biodiversity strategy, launched in 2013, prioritizes the integration of biodiversity conservation in agriculture (promotion of agroforestry systems), livestock (adoption of agro-silvo-pastoral systems and stabling) and fishing (reduction of effort in coastal waters and conservation of coastal habitats for marine fisheries and pollution control for inland waters). The PNMA also focus on the sustainable use of biological resources and the restoration and conservation of critical ecosystems, emphasizing mangroves, rivers and wetlands, due to the importance of their environmental services.[6] The project was developed to implement the biodiversity strategy, which identifies threats (the destruction of habitats due to agricultural and housing expansion, agricultural pollution) and solutions (good agricultural practices and pollution control) for the wetlands.

Contribution of the project to local sustainable development

The municipalities included in the project have expressed their environmental priorities in development and plans prepared within the framework of cooperation programmes. The main environmental threats are the erosion and destruction of infrastructure caused by weather phenomena, as well as the loss of mangroves and wildlife. The municipal environmental managers interviewed for this evaluation identified that the felling of trees and contamination by solid waste are the main environmental problems. Waste collection and treatment are among the main challenges and priorities for the mayor's office. However, upon examination of the municipal budgets, expenditures for solid waste management is estimated at an average of 1.4 per cent of their annual budget.[7,8] Additionally, the budget allocation to municipal environmental units represents 0.6 per cent of the average annual municipal budget.[9].

Alignment with the project objectives, CBD objectives and UNDAF for El Salvador

The project contributes to objective 1 of the GEF-5 Biodiversity Strategy.[10] The project framework is in line with outcome 2 of the UNDAF 2016–2020, and specifically related to product 7: *Solutions developed for the conservation and use of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services,*

[6] MARN (2013).
[7] Range: 0.3-4.4 per cent of annual municipal budgets, n=13 municipalities.
[8] Instituto Salvadoreño de Desarrollo Munipal (2018); Secretaría de Participación (2019).
[9] n= 3 municipalities.
[10] GEF (2011).

measured by the number of inter-institutional agreements with financing adopted for conservation, management and monitoring of biodiversity in protected areas and/or wetlands.

Participation of stakeholders in the project design

The project has not undergone major changes since its conceptualization in 2014. The consultations carried out during the preparation phase of the project (PPG) in 2015 were limited to contacts with the Hydroelectric Executive Commission of the Lempa (CEL) and the Environmental Investment Fund of El Salvador (FIAES). Local stakeholders, including resource managers and members of community organizations, participated in workshops to complete the METT tool for the three main project wetlands. Technical officials from MAG participated in a workshop to establish the baseline of the agricultural indicators of output 2. In addition, MARN technical officers, coordinators of municipal environmental units and MAG technical officers (General Directorate of Forest Management, Watersheds and Irrigation) participated in the development of the management capacities baseline. There is no record of meetings with the fisheries administration CENDEPESCA. Other partners were identified during the PPG but there is no record of contacts or participation in the development of the project strategy. The areas to be declared protected and the indicator species were identified based on the results of the Administration and Consolidation of Protected Areas Project (PACAP) in 2008–2012, the Central American Biological Corridor Program and the PROARCA-Costas project of early 2000.

Lessons learned

The project draws on lessons learned from previous initiatives, including the ecosystem approach and the economic incentives for good practices through certification schemes, adopted by the GEF-4 Biodiversity, Fisheries and Tourism project (2011–2014)[11] and the watershed approach adopted by the Governance Program for Water Resources Management, financed by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID).

4.1.2 Results framework/logframe

The ProDoc commits to deliver 18 outputs to achieve its two outcomes (components) and the final objective. The outputs are generally consistent with the intended outcomes:

Outcome 1: Surface of protected wetlands is expanded and their management capacity is improved through the declaration of additional NPAs, income generation and the development of capacities of local and national government officials for the management of NPAs. The project is committed to expand protected areas by 337 km^2 and improve the capacities of ten municipal governments, a municipal partnership, and four municipal government organizations with a budget of US$500,000 or US$**1,483 per km^2 of new protected areas.** The steps included in the ProDoc to achieve output 1 – updating of the national wetlands inventory, demarcation and registration of NPAs, and the establishment of financing mechanisms while strengthening management capacities – are logical and would lead to the expected outcome: an expanded, strengthened SNAP with greater financial

[11] GEF (2019).

sustainability. However, the ProDoc assumes that the total area identified as potential NPP is demarcated and ready to be registered at the CNR, based on the work carried out on projects implemented during the past decade. In addition, the ProDoc assumes the existence of physical and administrative structures necessary to increase the income level of the NPAs. During the implementation of the project, these premises proved to be wrong.

Outcome 2: A decrease in threats that affect the wetlands, through, *inter alia,* the establishment of partnerships and incentives for the implementation of good practices in agricultural and livestock farms, and substantial improvements in solid waste treatment of by municipal governments. In addition, the project commits to the adoption of effective control plans for invasive species that affect wetlands. Effect 2 includes the main threats that affect wetlands of international importance in the east of the country. However, this effect must be achieved in an area of at least 726 km^2, with the participation of a large number of stakeholders (only the municipality of Jiquilisco, one of the ten municipalities included, had 2,000 commercial agricultural operations in 2009) and a **budgetary allocation of US$1,587,410, or US$2,185/km^2.**

Thus, the investment per landscape unit of this project is one or two orders of magnitude below similar projects. For example, the output of the PACAP project equivalent to outcome 1, of demarcation of protected areas, required an investment of US$2.9 million (GEF only) to declare the 3,815 ha as national protected areas. Regarding the regulations to avoid pressure on the wetlands, the Fisheries and Tourism project (GEF 4) included an investment of US$1.06 million for an area of 2,085 ha, involving only two municipalities (Table 2).

Table 2. Comparison of costs per unit area in the GEF projects in El Salvador

Project name	Term	Agency	Conservation unit	Project outcome	PIMS 5125 outcome	Cost/area (US$/$km^2$)
Adaptation to climate change to reduce land degradation in fragile micro-basins	2014–2017	Global Environment Facility (GEF)/ Food and Agriculture Organ-ization of the United Nations (FAO)/ Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)	Chingo volcano (2 mun-icipalities)	Implement-ation of measures for the integrated management of the natural resources (agricultural-forestry).	Outcome 2	310,339
Biodiversity, Fishery and Tourism	2010–2014	The GEF/ UNDP/ MARN	Los Cóbanos	Changes in municipal regulations and the control	Outcome 2	508,181

				facilitate mangrove conservation.		
Consolidation and Administration of Protected Areas (PACAP)	2008–2012	GEF/ World Bank/ MARN	Jiquilisco Bay and Güija Lagoon	Demarcation and consolidation of protected areas.	Outcome 1	76,016

Moreover, the project strategy assumes that the Biodiversity, Fisheries and Tourism project (GEF 4) has solved fishery issues and that it does not require actions in this area. The coastal marine areas identified in this project for inclusion in the national system of protected areas (SNAP) are based on the Biodiversity, Fishery and Tourism (GEF 4) and the PACAP projects.

Both projects carried out actions in fisheries management in coastal marine areas, including the Gulf of Fonseca and Jiquilisco Bay, but not in the continental wetlands (El Jocotal and Olomega) included in this project. Currently, fishing in inland and coastal wetlands is neither managed nor monitored, except for some activities in monitoring and eradicating fishing with explosives and weak attempts to control the use of illegal mesh sizes. In the continental wetlands in this project, fisheries management is limited to the regular releasing of fingerlings of exotic fish species (tilapia and carp) by the fisheries administration (CENDEPESCA), which does not perform any other monitoring or surveillance action.

The project's target indicators include the GEF tracking tools METT and FSS to measure the financial sustainability and effectiveness of protected area management. In addition, the objective indicators table includes the coverage of protected areas, which is also an indicator of the GEF 5 biodiversity strategy. Although an expected outcome of improved management and greater extension of the national system of protected areas is the stability of threatened or vulnerable populations, the selected species cannot respond to changes in management effectiveness or extension due to their generation time and their range of occurrence. In addition, a monitoring system must still be developed. Regarding the targets, the objective of expansion of protected wetland area contains non-updated data and includes areas not strictly wetland (Islands in the Gulf of Fonseca) but it excludes some of the most important wetlands in the east of the country (La Unión Bay) also within the Gulf of Fonseca. In addition, the estuary and mangrove areas included in the baseline do not match the new estimates drawn from satellite images.

The 14 indicators for outcomes 1 and 2 are in general agreement with specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely (SMART) criteria, with some exceptions as detailed in Table 7.

Table 7. Outcome indicators

Outcome	Indicator	Comments
PWII coverage is extended	Representation of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) ecosystems and wetlands	Unknown baseline and goals.

	Number of new wetlands in the SNAP	Redundant indicator because it duplicates information on the protected wetland area
	Score change in the skills development scorecard	No objections.
	Number of trained officials for the project	Activity indicator is not related to the output. It is redundant due to duplication with the previous indicator.
	Percentage change in the financial gap of the three wetlands	No objections.
	Number of agreements for environmental compensation	Compensation agreements are subject to private enterprises that require an environmental assessment. There are not relevant to the project actions
	Income generated for the wetlands by source	It is redundant with the financial gap indicator and the Financial Sustainability Scorecard for Protected Area Systems (FSS) target indicator, which already indicates the income sources.
Threats to the PWII biodiversity are addressed.	The number of inter-institutional cooperation agreements under implementation for wetland management	No objections
	The number of farms that are implementing good practices for solid waste/livestock waste management	Women's involvement in farm management is weak in this type of production in the east of the country.
	The number of farms implementing good practices for the management of agricultural waste	Working at the producer level will not have much impact as buyers (sugar mills) determine the practices and inputs. The mills have access to specialized markets (through certification)

Outcome	Indicator	Comments
Threats to the PWII biodiversity are addressed	A decrease (tons) of solid waste in Jiquilisco Bay	Undefined baseline. The baseline is estimated in this report but has inefficient budget allocation due to: • the spread and the volume of the quantity of waste and its dispersal; • the dubious effectiveness of the method, since the timely collection is insufficient to stop the flow of solid waste in the San Miguel River basin.
	Amount (tons) of *Eichhornia crassipe*s removed from Olomega and El Jocotal	Plant removal is expensive, inefficient and unsustainable.
	Number of controlled individuals of *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* in Jocotal and Jiquilisco Bay.	*P. brasilanus* is not invasive and is not in conflict with the population imbalance in the project's wetlands.
	Mangrove coverage in Jiquilisco Bay.	No objection, but there are some identified changes in the coverage that are likely related to the methodology.

The project design expects that the good practices that it will introduce in small and medium-sized agricultural and livestock farms will result in an improvement in the productive chains, which will in turn result in higher farm revenues. Also, it is assumed that the project can provide access to differentiated markets for agricultural products through environmental certification programmes. The agricultural and livestock farms in the project area make up a mosaic of small (1–5 ha), medium-size (10–30 ha) and large farms (> 30 ha). The smaller farms lean towards subsistence farming, while the larger farms are more commercial, although their distribution chains are local. If they export, they do so through personal contacts with the Salvadoran community abroad. **Smaller farms hardly use inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides**. In addition, they are usually located in drier areas and away from wetlands. **Larger farms have a greater impact on wetlands**, since, in addition to managing their pastures more intensively, they modify rivers and streams for irrigation and exploit pastures on the shores of protected wetlands. All breeders interviewed in the course of this evaluation expect the project to provide them with access to techniques and practices that would allow them to increase their productivity.

The production of sugarcane is for commercial purposes. The sugarcane production chain, which dominates the flatlands adjacent to Jiquilisco Bay, is controlled by a small number of national mills. Whether located on plantations that they directly own or rent, these mills determine the inputs to be applied and prices for the product. Therefore, the farmers have little say in deciding on the inputs.

In both cases (livestock farms and sugarcane estates), the project's indicator framework and its monitoring system do not include indicators to measure changes in farm income or on the actual effects of the introduced good practices on pollution levels in the wetlands. Environmental monitoring systems in El Salvador are weak and depend mostly on external projects.

The project design aims to give a preferential focus on women by including more than one farm managed by women among the 20 to 60 to be supported by the project introducing good practices.

However, this does not correspond to the reality in the field. There are no small-scale farms run by men or women, but rather, by households. Despite their attempts, the project has not been able to identify farms managed exclusively by women. In larger livestock farms, family income is usually more diversified, since farming households in this category have access to better training and non-agricultural jobs. In these cases, the management of livestock exploitation corresponds to the male members of the family, while the female members opt for non-agricultural jobs.

4.2 Progress towards Results

4.2.1 Analysis of progress

The project objective, *Promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in protected wetlands of international importance* (PWII) is measured by four indicators:

- extension of coverage of NPAs, resulting from the creation of three new protected areas of multiple uses;
- the continued presence of key indicator species in four protected areas in the Jiquilisco Bay Complex and in El Jocotal Lagoon;
- change in the management effectiveness of three PWII measured through the METT scorecard;
- change in the financial sustainability of three PWII as established measured by the average total score on the financial sustainability scorecard.

Expansion of the coverage of the natural protected areas as a result of from the creation of three new, multipurpose protected areas.

The project is committed to expand the coverage of the national system of protected areas (SNAP) by 377 km^2 in three areas defined in the ProDoc: Jiquilisco Bay (333 km^2, 88.3 per cent), Olomega Lagoon (41.2 km^2, 11 per cent) and islands of the Gulf of Fonseca (2.85 km^2, 0.8 per cent). El Jocotal Lagoon and Ramsar have been NPAs since 1996.[12]

Jiquilisco Bay. In 2017, as a result of the project,1,717 ha of mangroves were declared NPA in 43 islands, with an mean area of 1 ha, three more hectares than those identified in the ProDoc. Each of the 43 islands is listed as an individual protected area in the MARN list of protected areas, with no indication of their management category. The Protected Areas Act (2005) establishes seven management categories for permanent protected areas, depending on the status and use of the ecosystems they contain. In all categories, the law prevents new settlements or the renewal or growth of infrastructure in all management categories. Other uses will be regulated according to the management plan.

The total area declared NPA by the project constitutes 5 per cent of the end of the project goal and 0.08 per cent of the 20,260 ha of mangrove in Jiquilisco Bay.[13] To achieve the objective, 12,206 ha of channels (inland waters) and 19,381 ha of marine waters should be declared NPA. However, the National Wetland Inventory, produced by the project through the use of satellite photos, quantifies

[12] MARN (2019).
[13] Ibid (2018).

the area of channels in Jiquilisco Bay at 8,850 ha. The area of adjacent shallow marine waters (to a depth of 10 m) is estimated at 19,600 ha by the management plan of the Jiquilisco Bay Ramsar site.[14] These estuaries and coastal waters are included within the Jiquilisco Bay Ramsar site (635 km^2). The totality of the Ramsar site was already identified as a potential NPAs during the PACAP project. The declaration of the marine area and estuaries of the Ramsar site would imply its delimitation and the regulation of activities, including fishing and navigation. The marine coastal areas (including reefs), wetlands and mangroves are state heritage and under the competence of the MARN as stipulated in the Environmental Law of 1998[15] and the Law on Protected Natural Areas of 2005. However, tourist, fishing and industrial activities, and the construction of housing and tourist infrastructure up to the same water line continue without regulation. At the field level, the authority of MARN officials to regulate and/or sanction such activities is not recognized by private or institutional actors. The MARN's authority is only recognized within legally registered NPAs, including the 43 islandas recently declared as NPAs.

Olomega Lagoon. The project has followed the necessary legal procedures for the delimitation and declaration of Tierra Blanca (174.80 ha), an area of dry forest in a peninsula of the lagoon. The project aims to delimit and declare the island of Olomeguita an NPA (4.20 ha), but it faces opposition from the families who settled on it. Another area involved in the ProDoc, San Antonio Silva (196 ha), has been an NPA since 2011.[16] No measures have been initiated for the NPA declaration of parts of the flooded pastureland that constitutes the northern shore of the lagoon (3,744 ha). When the project completes the NPA declaration of Tierra Blanca, it will have protected 4 per cent of the total of the 4,119 ha committed to in the ProDoc. Olomega Lagoon has a management plan approved in 2005 within the framework of a project financed by the Spain-El Salvador Mixed Fund and has a fisheries regulation (management and conservation measures) published by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2003;[17] however, there are no mechanisms for monitoring and implementing this regulation.

The Gulf of Fonseca. The ProDoc provides that four rocky islands of the Gulf of Fonseca (Martín Pérez, Ilca, Periquito and Meanguerita) will be declared national protected areas (NPA), with an average area of 24 ha[18] covered with dry forest, which is distributed from La Unión Bay (Periquito) and out of the Gulf (Meanguerita) (Figure 1). In addition, the project includes a strip of 100 meters on the east coast of the island of Meanguera (1,654 ha), which is inhabited and is the municipal capital, covering 85 ha. These areas were selected based on a proposed protected area formulated in 2001 that included the mangroves of La Unión Bay and ten islands of the Gulf of Fonseca.[19] The project has begun negotiations for the declaration of these islands as NPAs, but without success to date. The Martín Pérez island is owned by the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) and has a permanent garrison since it is an area that borders with Honduras. Additionally, the island is regularly visited by groups of tourists, and the MINDEF has no interest in changing the current status of the island. The islands of Ilca and Meanguerita, which are owned by the municipalities of La Unión and Meanguera del Golfo, respectively, are uninhabited and their natural state is maintained by the municipalities. The Periquito island is a small island of 3 ha adjacent to the island of Perico (approximately 220 ha, half

[14] Ibid.
[15] Asamblea Legislativa de la República de El Savlador (1998)
[16] MARN (2019).
[17] Aparicio (2005).
[18] n=4, mean: 50 ha, median: 24 ha, range: 6 ha to 146 ha.
[19] Martínez (2015).

mangroves), and is inhabited by two families. Together with Perico Island, this island is involved in a controversial sale to a foreign company and is registered in the national registry centre as privately owned.

The dry forest on the Meanguerita and Ilca islands is not currently threatened. The municipal governments could consider declaring it an NPA provided that this does not entail ceding the territory to the MARN. However, they would not be in favour of declaring it a marine protected area due to the importance of artisanal fishing for the local population. Although the biodiversity, fisheries and tourism project developed an ordinance proposal for the regulation of fisheries in coordination with the municipal authorities, this is not known by the current municipal authorities.

An eventual declaration of the islands of Ilca, Meanguerita and Martin Pérez as NPAs would expand the coverage of the SNAP by 193 ha, of which 147 ha alone would correspond to Martin Pérez Island. This would represent 68 per cent and 1 per cent of the Gulf of Fonseca and total targets, respectively. It is important to point out that, since the goal includes the declaration of emerged parts only, **these 193 ha are not wetlands**, but dry forest (except the approximately 1 ha of mangrove in Martin Pérez). However, La Unión Bay, in the interior of the Gulf of Fonseca, in the municipalities of La Unión and San Alejo, has 76 km^2 of mangroves. This area is not NPA. However, as a mangrove area, it is regularly patrolled by MARN rangers to discourage small-scale logging by local people. On the Honduran side, Chismuyo Bay, bordering the mangroves of La Unión Bay , has been a protected area since 2005.[20]

The project activities to expand SNAP coverage include the demarcation and transfer of areas owned by MARN, a prerequisite to their declaration and the collection and updating of information on wetlands. **The transfer of ownership is the main barrier faced by the project to increasing the area of protected wetlands**: a large part of the areas that could be declared as protected areas are included in the agrarian reform carried out between 1980 and 1992, and transferred to the Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation (ISTA). The ISTA policy gives preference to the agricultural use of the land for small and medium-sized agricultural holdings, tending to relegate requests by the Ministry of Environment. In addition, some of the areas such as mangrove forest and wetlands that, according to the Law on the Environment (1998) and the Natural Protected Areas Act (2005), are state heritage under MARN jurisdiction, are registered as private lands in the CNR. This situation affects the three areas where the project takes place: El Jocotal, Olomega, Jiquilisco and the Gulf of Fonseca.

In addition to expanding the SNAP coverage, the project must guarantee a better representation of the different categories, of wetlands in El Salvador. The publication, in August 2018, of the national wetland inventory, financed by the project, establishes national wetland categories.[21] This will be the base to determine the percentage of each category under protection and eventually determine conservation targets

Indicator of species in four natural protected areas in Jiquilisco Bay and in El Jocotal Lagoon, in the lower basin of the Rio Grande in San Miguel.

20 WDPA (2019).
21 MARN (2018).

The species included are *Cocodylus acutus* (American crocodile), *Eretmochelys imbricata* (hawksbill turtle), *Amazona auropalliata* (yellow-naped parrot), *Ateles geoffroyi* (spider monkey) and *Larkinia Grandis* (mangrove cockle). *A. geoffroyi* and *A. auropalliata* were identified as indicators of ecosystem health during the implementation of the PACAP project. The final selection of species was made in the preparation phase of the project[22] and in consultation with experts from MARN, under the following criteria: sensitive to changes in their habitat, easily monitored, emblematic species, of known ecology, and of importance for conservation at the national and international levels.

- *Ateles geogffroyi* is a primate classified as threathened globally,[23] and in El Salvador,[24] that forms troops that can occur in dry forests adjacent forest to Jiquilisco Bay.
- *Amazona auropalliata* is a psittacid classified as endangered globally[25] and in El Salvador[26] . It is found in different habitats, including mangroves and dry forests.
- *Crocodylus acutus* is a classified as endangered globally[27] and in El Salvador.[28] It is mainly found in El Jocotal Lagoon, where it nests despite intense human activities. There is no record of conflict with human communities.
- *Eretmochelys imbricata* is, like all sea turtles, threatened globally and included in the national list of threatened species. It has well-known nesting areas in sandy bars of Jiquilisco Bay.
- *Larkinia grandis (Anadara grandis)* is a species of bivalve mollusc harvested by hand, with local commercialization, together with other members of the Arcidae family such as *A. similis* (curil) and the *A. tuberculosa* (black shell). It is abundant and not threatened. Its cultivation in the mangrove area has been tested in the framework of the Japanese cooperation projects,[29] but there is no record of its application at scale.

Currently, the project is designing an environmental monitoring system in the wetlands. A monitoring programme is also included in the management plan of Jiquilisco Bay, financed by the project. For the Olomega and El Jocotal wetlands, a monitoring system is being developed within the framework of the wetland project funded by JICA but has not yet been presented or coordinated with this project.

The reptiles listed that occur within the project's wetlands during their entire life cycle (American crocodile) or part of their life cycle (hawksbill turtle) have generation lengths[30] of more than 20 years[31]. This makes it difficult for changes in the degree of conservation of habitats to significantly affect these populations in the period of project implementation. The other two vertebrate species only make sporadic use of the wetlands, are scarce and are in danger of local extinction in El Salvador. This means that its conservation requires efforts that exceed the scope of the project's wetlands. Finally, molluscs of the Arcidae family (mangrove cockle, locally known as *casco de burro, curil,*

[22] PLACAP (2005); Martínez (2005).
[23] IUCN (2019).
[24] MARN (2019).
[25] IUCN (2019)
[26] MARN (2019)
[27] IUCN (2018).
[28] MARN (2019)
[29] Chikami et al (2009).
[30] Generation length: average age of the parental generation of a cohort, reflecting the rate of replacement of individuals in a population (IUCN Standards and Petitions Subcommittee, 2017).
[31] IUCN (2018; 2019).

concha) sustain an important artisanal fishery and are commonly present in the intertidal low-energy area (i.e. fine sediment) along the entire coast of El Salvador (except in inland wetlands). The population of these molluscs is sensitive to changes in water quality and fishing effort. Both factors could be at least monitored within the scope of a protected area.

The monitoring of mangrove cover is added to the mentioned species, including as an indicator of outcome 2. The project has produced a national inventory of wetlands that, based on satellite photos, estimates the mangrove area at 20,260 ha, or 1,540 ha more than the estimate in the baseline. However, it is highly possible that the difference is due to the methodology used: there is no evidence that the mangrove forest has expanded or of its degradation in its western edge due to watercourses altered by agricultural operations. As a result of these alterations, around 50 ha of mangrove, mainly of *Avicennia Germinans* (black mangrove), in the town of Isla de Méndez (Jiquilisco) have been cut off from the bay through human modification of watercourses. This interferes with the reproduction and physiology of the trees and their associated vegetation and fauna. To avoid a complete degradation of this mangrove section, it would be necessary to restore the previous hydrological conditions.

Change in the management effectiveness of three PWII measured through the METT scorecard

Of the three wetlands considered, only El Jocotal Lagoon is a legally gazetted protected area, even though this protection extends only to the water body and leaves most of the shore and adjacent woodland unprotected. Moreover, even the protected area, which includes flooded grassland, sustains harmful human activities, including informal settlements at its shore and pastoral activities that the local MARN office has not been able to prevent.

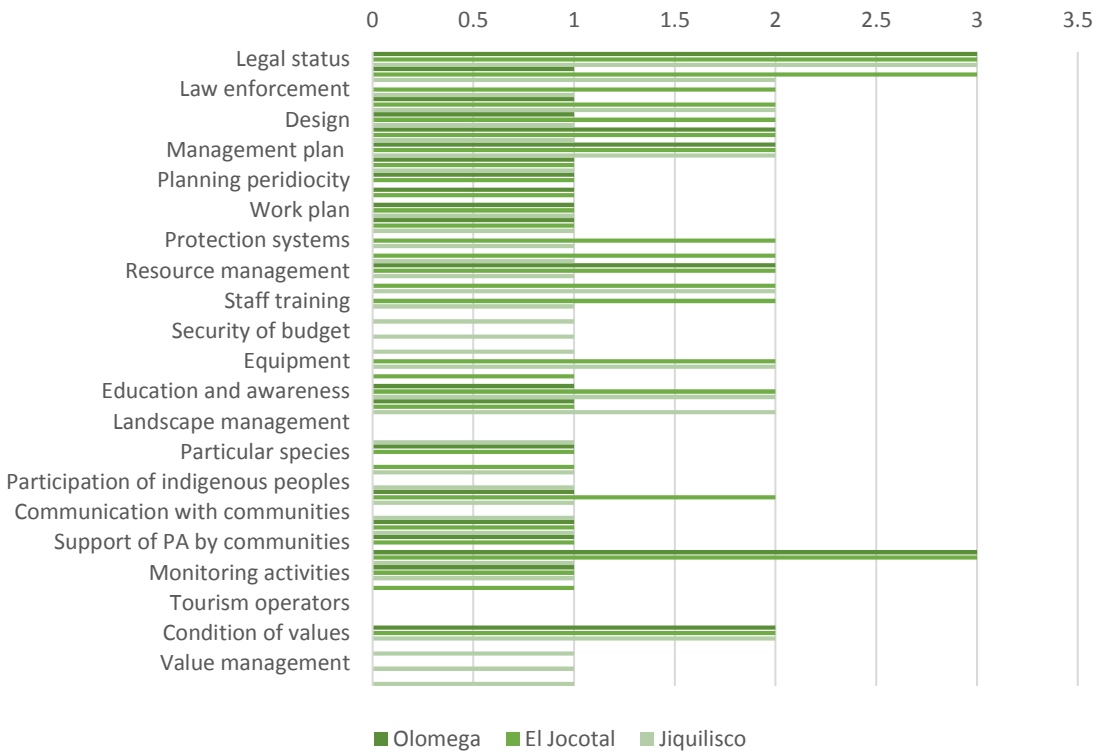
The wetlands of Olomega, El Jocotal and Jiquilisco obtained METT scores of 31 per cent, 32 per cent and 49 per cent, respectively, during the PPG phase. In the METT exercise conducted in 2019 for the MTR, the percentage scores obtained were **28 per cent, 49 per cent and 42 per cent**, respectively. The end-of-project goal was defined as a 10 per cent increase in percentage score over the baseline: **41 per cent, 42 per cent and 59 per cent,** respectively. Thus, the goal for El Jocotal would have been exceeded if there had not been slight setbacks in the other two wetlands. Given the subjective nature of the score and the very small difference between the PPG and MTR scores, the result is better interpreted as the lack of progress in management capacity, rather than a real setback.

The documentation of the PPG phase only includes the final scores. Thus, it is not possible to compare the different components of the scorecard. However, the 2019 exercise allows us to establish patterns in the strengths and weaknesses of the three wetlands. Figure 2 shows that budgetary issues, visits and views are the weakest points of the three wetlands, together with management at the landscape and ecosystem level. The project is developing models of business plans for some NPAs that should help to strengthen the score in visits and views. The strongest points are demarcation, the existence of management plans and cooperation with local communities, which is consistent with the actions of the project. These actions include the updating management plans, and developing capacities for the management and implementation of programmes for the control and eradication of invasive species, and programmes for the control of contamination by agricultural wastewater and municipal solid waste.

The Jiquilisco Bay Ramsar sites, El Jocotal Lagoon and Olomega Lagoon have had management plans since least 2004–2005, formulated within the framework of projects financed by the Spanish Agency for International Development. These management plans consist of a comprehensive description of their ecological and socio-economic characteristics and a set of goals to be achieved. These goals include the control of hunting, aggregate extraction, agricultural use and livestock, housing, and the development of ecotourism and fishing activities (the latter in coordination with CENDEPESCA). The Gulf of Fonseca has neither NPAs nor management plans.

The project has financed the updating of the management plan for Jiquilisco Bay. The update of the management plans for the El Jocotal and Olomega wetlands will be carried out by a project financed by the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation. This project, also designed within the framework of the national biodiversity strategy, carries out actions that are complementary but to a certain extent, overlapping in theme and geographical area with this project. The MARN Wetlands Unit coordinates the two projects, but their implementation is completely independent.

Figure 2. METT score by component



***Note**: The maximum score per component is three and the minimum is zero.*

In addition, the project financed the update of the management plan of the Ramsar site of Jaltepeque (49 ha, declared a Ramsar site in 2011, but without NPAs), adjacent to the Jiquilisco Bay Ramsar site on the western edge of the estuary of the Lempa River. The new Jiquilisco Bay management plan updates and expands ecological and socio-economic information, including an estimate of the monetary value of its ecosystem services. The plan also aims at formulating sustainable use plans, increase the control of activities, including fishing activities, manage hawksbill nesting areas and initiate a monitoring plan for indicator species (not defined). The management plan defines the responsibilities at the organization level (MARN, FIAES, NGOs, etc.), but without a precise calendar or budget.

The project has financed a diploma aimed at developing the individual capacities of coordinators of municipal environmental units, park rangers, officials of the Wetlands Unit (MARN) (and the General Directorate of Forest Management, Watersheds and Irrigation (MAG). This diploma is highly valued by its participants and has been the main factor in the positive change of the score of the card of capacity development, which has increased on average by 75 per cent, exceeding the end-of-project goal except for the MARN (62 per cent against a goal of 67 per cent) and the municipality of Concepción Batres (31 per cent against a goal of 55 per cent). The low score of this municipality is due to the rotation of the coordinator of the UAM who participated in the diploma course. Despite the scores, the political position, human resources, equipment and financial resources of the UAM is generally precarious. The frequent and unpredictable turnover of officials, the low political relevance of the UAMs and their scarce budget allocation that prevents them from implementing their work plans. Annex 12 includes the full capacity development scorecard.

The reduction of agricultural and municipal waste is carried out through new good agricultural practices in farms adjacent to the El Jocotal and Olomega Lagoons, and cleaning campaigns in estuaries of the Bay of Jiquilisco.

The good practices to date implemented include the production of organic fertilizer with cow dung. Next to be implemented is the prevention of soil erosion on slopes by planting trees. The project has developed a Manual of Good Environmental Practices for the livestock sector, which addresses the negative impacts of livestock production and its link with ecosystem services. The project plans to make efforts in promoting and implementing the Manual. These practices are also applied by the JICA project in some small plots in the surroundings of the El Jocotal and Olomega wetlands, which will serve as demonstration plots. The use of wetlands as pasture and the use of watercourses for irrigation, the main negative effects of medium-sized livestock farms on wetlands have not been addressed for the time being.

For agricultural holdings, the ProDoc provided for the development of a 'green seal' by the MARN. UNDP has implemented entire projects to facilitate access to existing certifications for agricultural products such as coffee and has a programme at the regional level in Latin America (the Green Commodities Program).[32] The success of a certification programme depends on separate markets (i.e. demand for 'green' products and the existence of a robust certification programme). This is feasible in the case of sugar since national mills export part of the production, where there is an increasing demand for certified products. However, it does not apply to the limited value chains of livestock products. Moreover, the establishment of MARN's own seal would imply significant management costs.

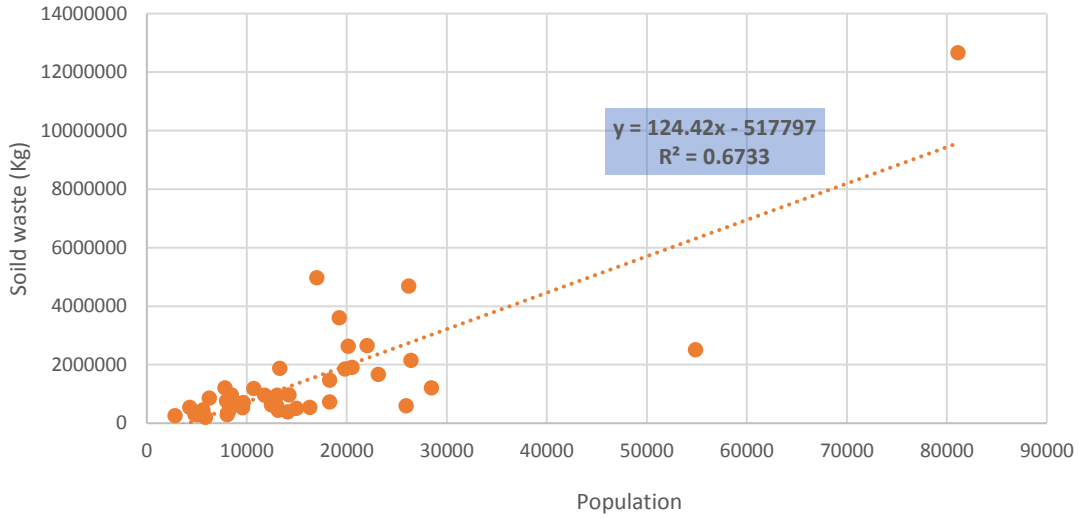
The municipalities that contain the project's wetlands collect garbage in their urban centres, which are assumed to generate more waste than do rural areas. Waste management is, in theory, an important concern for municipal corporations, but it is provided with scarce budgetary resources. Additionally, municipalities have no control over the waste produced upstream or in rural coastal areas, which are deposited on their beaches, degrading their main tourism resources. The presence of huge plastic deposits in beaches and estuaries is evident in the Bay of Jiquilisco. In terms of wastewater, none of the municipalities perform any treatment. Agricultural sewage and effluents considerably worsen the water quality of wetlands during the rainy season (May–September) and favour the growth of the invasive species *Eichhornia crassipes*.

The ProDoc commits to the withdrawal of 50 per cent of the solid waste accumulated at the mouth of the Río Grande de San Miguel, in the municipality of Usulután, considered the most important entry point for solid waste into the Bay of Jiquilisco. The lower basin of the Rio Grande de San Miguel flows through the municipalities of Usulután, Concepción Batres, Jucuarán and Chirilagua. In 2018, these municipalities collected some 18,624 tons of garbage in their urban areas. San Miguel is located upstream and is the second most important city in El Salvador; there is no estimate of the amount of solid waste collected. However, given the population and waste generation rate (Figure 3), it can be estimated that San Miguel, with an estimated population of 257,621 inhabitants in 2015, collects around 30,000 tons per year. Assuming that 10–20 per cent of the waste is not collected or treated, it

[32] UNDP (2019).

could be estimated that between 10,000 and 5,000 tons of solid waste arrive annually at Jiquilisco Bay through the Rio Grande de San Miguel, 50 per cent (or between 2,500-5,000 tons) of which the project should withdraw. It must be borne in mind that the solid waste arriving in the Bay is not compacted and that a weight of 5,000 tons represents a significant volume, dispersed in time and geographically in several estuaries of difficult access, which would imply significant collection costs. At a conservative estimation of US$20 per ton, this would amount to a total cost of US$50,000–100,000, in addition to transport and landfill management, which can add up to US$30,000–70,000, without labour. This exceeds the amount foreseen by the project (US$60,000). The project plans to start signing agreements with the municipalities of the Olomega Lagoon basin to reduce the load of solid waste discharged in the lagoon in 2019.

Figure 3. Population and municipal solid waste generation rates, based on municipal estimates (n=42), p<0.01



Control of invasive species. The water lily or water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes* has been established in continental wetlands in El Salvador since at least 40 years ago. The ProDoc foresees control actions in the three wetlands, Olomega, El Jocotal and Jiquilisco, by means of a barge acquired in the framework of a project financed by AECID. **However, the latter is a coastal wetland that cannot be colonized by *E. Crassipes*.**

The rainy season increases the load of organic matter and nutrients that causes it to expand to a good part of the surface of the continental wetlands and most of their shores, preventing or severely hampering fishing activities and navigation. In the wetlands of Olomega and El Jocotal, regular cleaning campaigns were carried out with the barge financed by AECID. This barge was later transferred to the Cerrón Grande Reservoir, but there was no plans for sharing it between the wetlands. In addition, the volume collected does not make any significant difference due to the poor capacity of the barge and the wetland surface covered by *E. crassipes.* Indeed, the barge is only effective in clearing access to land. Attempts made in the framework of this project and the project funded by JICA to use this aquatic plant as biomass for combustion or craftsmanship have proved unviable due to its high water content

and the economic resources that would be necessary to collect it and dry it Recently, the Executive Commission of the Lempa has begun operations with a new barge, with more capacity in the Cinco de Noviembre Reservoir, downstream from the Cerrón Grande Reservoir.

The ProDoc incorrectly identifies the neotropical cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) as an invasive species. The neotropical cormorant ranges from Texas to Tierra del Fuego and includes the entire Salvadoran territory. However, there is a conflict between this bird species and the fishing communities in the Cerrón Grande reservoir, a Ramsar site and the area of influence of another wetland conservation project financed by the Italian NGO ISCOS. *P. brasilianus* nests in islands of this reservoir, severely damaging their vegetation. Each year, they can consume the equivalent of one-third of the annual catches of the artisanal fleet. The project has funded studies on the population and the design of a control program that includes the elimination of adults, destruction of nests and introduction of predators (mainly raccoon, *Procyon lotor*). The control programme designed with project funds has been applied with moderate success: in the last three years (2016–2019) it is estimated that 56,000 individuals have been controlled (chicken and adults). However, the control programme has not been able to significantly reduce the population of cormorants in Cerrón Grande, because, among other reasons, the premature nesting control has led to a second annual laying, keeping their population at these high levels. In addition, the control campaigns are expensive with respect to the local resources of the MARN (Alto Lempa Conservation Unit) and their continuation depends on external financing. There is no conflict or ecological imbalance due to the presence of *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* in the El Jocotal, Olomega and Jiquilisco wetlands.

Change in the financial sustainability of three PWII in accordance with the amount established by the average total score in the financial sustainability scorecard

Between 2014 and 2019, the public annual expendenture for Olomega, El Jocotal and Jiquilisco Bay increased by 37 per cent, from US$43,754 to US$59,959, in both in human resources and infrastructure. However, the financial gap has nominally increased by 300 per cent, from US$173,199 in the 2014 to US$710,219 in 2019. This is due to a new and more accurate estimation of the costs necessary for optimal management of the wetlands, from US$325,077 in 2014 to US$1,135,719 in 2019.

The ProDoc aims to increase the financial flow to PWII through three mechanisms: environmental compensation funds, admission fees (two NPAs in Jiquilisco and one NPA in El Jocotal) and ecotourism.

The **compensation funds** are payments made by enterprises that require environmental impact assessments and are administered by the Environmental Fund of El Salvador (FONAES) or FIAES. The compensations received by the FIAES are used in projects for the restoration and management of protected species. These projects are executed based on proposals presented to FIAES by executing entities, usually community or civil society organizations (e.g. foundations, NGOs).[33]

At present, the **admission fees** only apply to the emblematic national parks of El Imposible and Montecristo, both containing important extensions of the cloud forest. For the project's wetlands, it

[33] FIAES (2019).

would be difficult to apply a fee collection system because the water bodies have multiple accesses, especially Jiquilisco Bay. In addition, only El Jocotal is declared a NPA. Olomega and Jiquilisco Bay currently have one and 47 non-continuous NPAs, respectively. The difficulties in collecting admission fees in marine or lacustrine protected areas have required, in other countries, agreements with tour operators and the development of a transparent collection system with low administrative costs.

Income from **ecotourism** is expected through agreements between MARN and community associations to establish concessions for community tourism ventures. This type of concession is allowed under the Law of Natural Protected Areas of 2005, which provides that payments are transferred to the general state budget.[34] Projects have been implemented in the wetlands since at least 2005, including in Olomega, El Jocotal and Jiquilisco Bay consistently identify community tourism as a potential source of income for the protected area or surrounding communities. However, to date, there is no record of any community tourism enterprise in the project areas. The project includes concluding an agreement with MITUR to promote tourism development in Jiquilisco Bay.

To date, the project has funded studies that identify potential sources of income for ecotourism and private donations for the three Ramsar wetlands (Olomega, El Jocotal, Jiquilisco). The study also identifies increases in agricultural productivity (use of organic fertilizer) and fishing (increased fishing effort) as sources of income for communities surrounding the wetlands. Additionally, business plans for the three wetlands are being prepared, based on this study.

However, no action has been taken to implement the three mechanisms identified in the ProDoc. Financial flows to the three wetlands would require the following conditions:

- the declaration of NPAs (to date, only El Jocotal and to a number of escattered areas in Jiquilisco have met the conditions);
- a sufficient number of developments projects requiring environmental assessments, which would lead to regular flows of compensation to FIAES that in turn would be directed to the three wetlands and not to other areas;
- the construction of facilities for visitors and development of the administrative mechanism for the collection of admission fees;
- a legal mechanism for the return of transfers for tourism concessions in the wetlands;
- the existence of a national market for community tourism products/ecotourism differentiated from traditional tourism operators.

The lack of financial flows to protected areas other than salaries of park rangers and some physical infrastructure (e.g. offices, birding platform) and equipment (financed by this project) implies that the score of the Financial Sustainability Card has not changed since its calculation in the preparation phase of the project.

4.2.2 Remaining barriers to achieving the project objectives

The ProDoc identifies the following barriers to achieving effective and financially sustainable protection of wetlands of international importance:

[34] Asemblea Legislativa de la República de El Salador (2005).

- inadequacies in the regulatory framework to prevent contamination of the wetlands;
- limitations of access to information and inadequate management plans;
- scarce extension of NPAs in the wetlands;
- low participation of local governments, communities and the private sector in the management of protected areas.

Regarding the **regulatory framework** to prevent pollution of the wetlands, there have been no significant changes. The municipalities do not fulfil their responsibilities in wastewater and solid waste treatment, and there are no control mechanisms for the effluvia of agricultural operations. However, the project plans to contribute to the regulatory framework through agreements with nine municipalities (Olomega Lagoon Basin and Jiquilisco Bay) and with the MAG to reduce the organic and nutrient load from agricultural operations.

Limitations of access to information and inadequate management plans. The project has contributed significantly to the management of information on wetlands by updating the national inventory of wetlands. In addition, the project has financed the updating of two wetland management plans (Jaltepeque and Jiquilisco); the project financed by JICA will also finance the updating of the management plans for the Olomega and El Jocotal wetlands.

Little expansion of SNAP coverage in the wetlands. To address this issue, the project is contributing to the expansion of SNAP coverage in the wetlands. The NPAs' coverage extension section (see above) details these efforts.

Low involvement. The project is making significant contributions to engage local actors in wetland management by strengthening local Ramsar committees with training and knowledge products. In addition, the project will establish agreements that will ensure that the municipalities adjacent to the project's wetlands are involved in their conservation.

Assessment of progress against the expected outcomes

The results framework of the ProDoc does not include mid-term goals; therefore, this report assesses the progress based on the progress observed with respect to the end project goal.

For outcome 1, the MTR rates the progress as 'satisfactory' since the project has made important progress on the expansion of the SNAP and the improvement of capacities. However, only 5 per cent of the committed area has been declared to date and significant efforts must be made in the area of financial sustainability of protected areas.

For outcome 2, the project has implemented measures to alleviate conflicts with wildlife and invasive species that have not yielded the expected outcome due to incorrect assumptions included in the ProDoc, such as the feasibility of collecting *E. Crassipes* and conflict with *P. Brasilianus* throughout the project area. The budgets of the ProDoc are not realistic on issues such as the adoption of a green seal and the removal of the expected amount of solid waste. Nevertheless, the project has made slight progress in reducing the pollution from agricultural and municipal sources. **The MTR rates the efforts as 'satisfactory' since it considers that the project can still meet the set goals if modified according to the reality on the field.**

Social and gender impacts

The project funded an evaluation of the socio-economic benefits of the project for indigenous groups, youth and women. However, the document **lacks an analysis** of socio-economic benefits derived from the impacts of the project. Its main conclusion is that the project should identify indigenous people, youth and women as target beneficiary groups for the project and adapt schedules and communications to their needs. **This is already included in the ProDoc, which prioritizes women and indigenous people, and identifies organizations that will have a better impact on gender issues**. The ProDoc stresses that the role of women should be visible in community-based organizations and producer associations, and on gathering segregated information to better understand the benefits of the project. The ProDoc also sets specific goals regarding the number of farms managed by women in which they must implement good farming practices.

There is no significant presence of indigenous groups in project areas. Regarding the roles of men and women, the evaluation mission reveals a division of responsibilities and a hierarchy that depends on the culture of the family and the individual characteristics of its members. With respect to livestock farms, especially small ones, their management is the responsibility of all members of the household.

Most of the members of the groups that composed the sample for this evaluation – livestock farmers, fishers, park ranger, community representatives, and municipal officials – are men. However, in each group, there are women in leader positions or have control over resources, whether they be heads of a park ranger unit, owner of land and livestock products, or have control over the artisanal fisheries value chain, Furthermore, three of the seven local Ramsar committees in El Salvador are chaired by women who are key figures in the community organization in their relevant areas.

The communities around the wetlands receive environmental benefits. Artisanal fishers, in particular, depend on the ecosystem services of wetlands for their subsistence. This is most evident in the Bay of Jiquilisco. Regarding small-scale farms, the best manure treatment may contribute to a marginal increase in productivity. The project plans to systematize the changes in income that occur in farms that benefit from the introduction of good agricultural practices. These changes could be:

- lower expenses on pasture fertilizers from the use of compost. This is already used in smaller farms, but it could have some relevance in larger ones;
- greater pasture productivity due to the reduction of erosion by tree planting. There is no evidence that the farms visited face problems of erosion. The productivity of grasslands is the limiting factor, together with the availability of water for farm productivity, be it meat or dairy products.

The regulation of the fishing effort, which should be contained in the management plans for wetlands and the improvement of water quality as a result of the institutional agreements promoted by the project could potentially increase the fishing productivity of the wetlands. However, regulation and monitoring of the fishing effort and of catches, which are necessary to establish if there are changes, implies:

- agreements with CENDEPESCA to apply regulations and the monitoring of fish stocks;
- the minimization of fishing practices and/or the prohibition of destructive gear (explosives/fine meshes). This in turn implies the exclusion of some groups who would lose access to the ecosystem services of the wetlands, but also increased benefits for those groups of fishers who would be allowed access. This also depends on changes in the value chain (outside the scope of the project);
- any impact on fishing catches and their value as a result of changes in water quality and/or fishing effort will be manifested beyond the period of project implementation.

It is important to establish the mechanisms to detect these changes in different groups, both 'winners' (e.g. those fishers in compliance with the agreements and farmers who apply good practices) and 'losers' (e.g. those who are excluded from the fishery or who continue to apply the current pasture management practices).

For sugarcane farms, the benefits would be avoiding sanctions for pollution and having access to differentiated markets through certifications. The additional benefits from access to differentiated markets would depend on the mills paying more to the producers. Given the trend towards modernization, it is not expected to increase the employment or wages in cane plantations, except if the working conditions are included in the certification scheme.

To summarize, no changes should be expected in the flows of substantive socio-economic benefits during the project implementation.

Matrix of Assessing Progress towards Results (Achievement of outcomes against end-of-project targets)

Result	Indicator	Sub-indicator	Sub-indicator	Baseline	EOP Target	Midterm level	%	Rating	Justification for rating
Promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem services through the creation of new PWIIs and the improved management of existing protected wetlands.	Coverage (ha) due to the creation of 3 new **Multiple Use Protected Areas**	Jiquilisco	Mangrove	1 719.00	1 717.74	1,719.00	100%	S	Although the target is still far from being met, the project is making the required efforts so that it will likely that the goal will be achieved within the implementation timeframe.
			Channels	8 850.00	12 205.63	-	0%		
			Marine	7 503.00	19 381.88	-	0%		
			Subtotal Jiquilisco	**18 072.00**	**33 305.25**	**1,719.00**	**5%**		
		Gulf of Fonseca	Martín Pérez	108.00	146.51	-	0%		
			Pirigallo	24.00	36.00	-	0%		
			Ilca	10.00	11.00	-	0%		
			Periquito	3.00	6.00	-	0%		
			Meanguera coast	85.70	85.70	-	0%		
			Subtotal Gulf of Fonseca	**230.70**	**285.21**	**-**	**0%**		
		Olomega	Isla Olomeguita	10.00	4.20	-	0%		
			Tierra Blanca	81.00	174.80	-	0%		
			San Antonio Silva	196.00	196.00	-	0%		
			Subtotal Olomega	**287.00**	**375.00**	**-**	0%		
		Total		**18,589.70**	**33 965.46**	**1 719.00**	**5%**		
		Total (ProDoc)							
	Continued presence of key indicator species in four protected areas in Jiquilisco Bay and El Jocotal Lagoon	*Amazona auropalliata*		ND	1	ND	ND		The target must be changed to development of the monitoring system.
		Crocodylus acutus		1	1	1	1		
		Ateles geoffroyi		ND	1	ND	ND		
		Anadara grandis		1	1	1	1		
		Eretmochelys imbricata		1	1	1	1		
		Total		**3**	**5**	**3**	**60%**		
	Change METT score		Jiquilisco Bay	0.49	0.59	0.42	71%		Management effectiveness is expected to increase.
			Olomega	0.33	0.43	0.28	65%		
			Jocotal	0.31	0.41	0.49	120%		
			Total	0.38	0.48	0.40	85%		
	Change in score in the FSS	Legal, regulatory and institutional		0.30	0.46	0.30	65%		The financial sustainability score is expected to increase.
		business planning and		0.08	0.42	0.08	19%		
		tools for income generation		0.17	0.34	0.17	50%		
		Total		0.20	0.41	0.20	45%		

Result	Indicator	Sub-indicator	Sub-indicator	Baseline	EOP Target	Midterm level	%	Rating	Justification for rating
Expanded protected wetland coverage and strengthened institutional and individual capacities for the effective management of PWIIs	Repre-sentative-ness (%) of the wetland ecosystems in the National System of Natural Protected Areas by wetland type	Coastal wetlands	Marine	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	S	Newly published National Wetlands Inventory as baseline
			Brackish	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd		
		Continental wetlands	Riparian	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd		
			Lakes	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd		
			Swamps	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd		
	Number of new wetland PAs that form part of the National System of Natural Protected Areas		Jiquilisco Bay	0	3	1	33%		
			Olomega	1	3	0	0%		
			Gulf of Fonseca	0	5	0	0%		
			Total	**1**	**11**	**1**	9%		
	Change in capacity develop-ment standardized scores	MARN		0.4524	0.6667	0.622	93%		Municipal environmental units supported by project but training must be systematized
		MAG		0.5476	0.6667	0.733	110%		
		Jiquilisco UAM		0.3095	0.5714	0.578	101%		
		San Dionisio UAM		0.3571	0.5714	0.578	101%		
		Concepcion UAM		0.2857	0.5476	0.311	57%		
		Jucuarán UAM		0.2857	0.5714	0.378	66%		
		El Tránsito UAM		0.3333	0.5952	ND	ND		
		Ozatlán UAM		ND	ND	0.467	ND		
		ASIBAHIA		0.3333	0.5476	0.8	146%		
		Jiquilisco Bay Territorial Action Group		0.4048	0.5714	0.733	128%		
	No. of people trained in sustainable managemen t of wetlands	MARN		0	20	27	135%		All training completed
		MAG		0	6	6	100%		
		Jiquilisco UAM		0	2	1	50%		
		Puerto El Triunfo UAM		0	2		0%		
		San Dionisio UAM		0	2		0%		
		Concepcion UAM		0	2	1	50%		
		Jucuarán UAM		0	2	2	100%		
		El Tránsito UAM		0	2	1	50%		
		San Miguel UAM		0	2	1	50%		
		Chirilagua UAM		0	2		0%		
		El Carmen UAM		0	2		0%		
		ASIBAHIA		0	2	2	100%		
		Local environmental police		10	10	10	100%		
		Navy		0	4	2	50%		
		Direccion General de Protección Civil		ND	ND	1	100%		
		Santiago Nonualco		ND	ND	2	100%		
		San Pedro Masahuat		ND	ND	2	100%		
		Acajutla		ND	ND	2	100%		

Result	Indicator	Sub-indicator	Sub-indicator	Baseline	EOP Target	Midterm level	%	Rating	Justification for rating
		San Rafael Oriente		ND	ND	1	100%		
		Intipuca		ND	ND	1	100%		
		Zacatecoluca		ND	ND	1	100%		
	Change in the financial gap (25% reduction) (in US dollars) of three Protected Areas		Jiquilisco Bay	222,160	166 620	280 277	-105%		New calculation of basic financial needs makes the target obsolete
			El Jocotal	173,199	129 899	216 953	-101%		
			Olomega	244,677	183 508	351 477	-175%		
	Number of environmental compensation agreements established			0	5	0	0%		Indicator is not relevant
	Total annual revenue generation for three PWIIs disaggregated by source.		Environmental compensation	0	100 000	0	0%		This indicator must be integrated with the financial gap
			Entry fee	0	30 000	0	0%		
			PPP	0	30 000	0	0%		
Threats to biodiversity are addressed, including the presence of invasive species and solid wastes and agro-chemicals originating in the buffer areas of the PWIIs.	Number of inter-institutional cooperation agreements established and operating for the management of the PWIIs		MARN-MAG	0	1	0	0%	S	Agreements to be signed in the course of the year
			MARN-MOP	0	1	0	0%		
			MARN-CEL	0	1	0	0%		
			MARN-El Carmen	0	1	0	0%		
			MARN-Chirilagua	0	1	0	0%		
			MARN-San Miguel	0	1	0	0%		
	Number of farms implementing best practices for the management of **livestock** waste		El Jocotal	tbd	tbd	tbd			Work with livestock growers in process
			Olomega complex	tbd	tbd	tbd			
			Jiquilisco Bay	tbd	tbd	tbd			
			Total	0	20	0	0%		
	Number of farms implementing best practices for the management of **agricultural** wastes		El Jocotal	tbd	tbd	tbd			
			Olomega complex	tbd	tbd	tbd			
			Jiquilisco Bay	tbd	tbd	tbd			
			Total	0	60	0	0%		
	Solid waste accumulated (ton/ha) in Jiquilisco Bay			64	16	0	0%		Actions undertaken
	Volume (tons/year) of water hyacinth (Eichornia crassipes) removed		Olomega	ND	2000	ND	0%		Action is not relevant
			El Jocotal	ND	2000	ND	0%		
	Abundance (number of individuals) of duck *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*		Olomega	113.00	56.00	Not relevant			*P. brasilianus* not a widespread problem
			El Jocotal	107.00	54.00	Not relevant			
			Jiquilisco Bay	2,429.00	1 215.00	Not relevant			
			Cerrón Grande	unknown	1 325.00	56 000	4226 %		
			Total	2,649.00	1 325.00	56 000	4226 %		
	Mangrove cover (ha) Jiquilisco Bay			18,720	18 720	19 361	103%		Change in methodology

4.3 Implementation and Adaptive Management

4.3.1 Management arrangements

The project is implemented under the UNDP NIM Guidelines, with the MARN as an implementation partner, with UNDP's supervision, monitoring and technical assistance. The Board of Directors will be composed of UNDP, MARN and representatives of the MAG. The ProDoc foresees an important role for MAG in the implementation of fisheries management in the wetlands and of good agricultural practices. However, only representatives of UNDP and MARN have participated to date in the three meetings of the Project Board held to date. Indeed, the project has not involved CENDEPSESCA to the degree envisaged in the ProDoc and to the degree required by the project actions. CENDEPESCA has no interest in participating and collaborating with this project because its organizational goals are increasing fishing productivity, especially commercial, and not the regulation of artisanal fisheries in the wetlands.

The implementation of the project actions in the field was planned through a project coordination unit, composed of a coordinator and a financial assistant, and the hiring of consultants to carry out the actions. As a result of this implementation model, the coordination unit had limited contact with local actors and there were high supervision costs (monitoring of consultant activities and prolonged processes of quality control of consulting products). For this reason, the project recruited its own team, composed of four thematic coordinators who, based at the MARN headquarters in San Salvador, oversee the implementation of the project's actions. The project team faces commuting issues, since the project has not acquired any vehicles and its travel budget is insufficient.

Quality of the execution of the implementing entity and the support provided by UNDP.

The project is part of the national biodiversity strategy, which is one of MARN's main responsibilities. The project constitutes, together with the projects financed by JICA and ISCOS, the bulk of the activities of the MARN's Wetland Unit. The project has the support of ministerial management, and its activities and products are known and greatly appreciated by a law firm and general management.

However, ongoing wetland projects should be coordinated more effectively to avoid overlapping, especially in the development of water quality and biodiversity monitoring programmes, as well as agricultural and livestock activities.

UNDP has correctly fulfilled its obligations in disbursements and supervision. However, it can improve technical assistance to the project, especially in monitoring processes, such as filling scorecards.

Both agencies, MARN and UNDP, have the capacity to provide the project with a better political profile that would allow it to make an effective impact on the municipal corporations and, especially, with CENDEPESCA.

4.3.2 Work plans

The project's work plans follow the logical framework and budget lines of the ProDoc and are reviewed and approved by the Project Board. The work plans are the main internal monitoring instrument, and their implementation is reviewed by the Project Board.

However, the project's implementation experienced delays, which led to the project's low level of financial execution (35 per cent). The hiring of a new manager and the recruitment of a team of specialists have alleviated the recurrent problem of delays, which were largely caused by poor consultant performance and the lack of structures (e.g. field offices) in the field. The project team is still based in the capital of the country. In two years of implementation, the project budgeted US$72,000 for travel, but has only implemented 20 per cent of it (US$14,700) and that exclusively for international travel.

4.3.3 Financing and co-financing

Project financing

The project has a GEF grant of US$2,191,781, of which, as at December 2018, US$753,252, or 35 per cent, were executed. The annual budgets associated with the work plans amounted to US$1.1 million, an average of 33 per cent of which have been executed (Figure 3). Execution is delayed with respect to the ProDoc schedule, and completing the project on the scheduled date, April 2020 (the business as usual, or BAU, scenario), would imply increasing the execution of the budget by at least 76 per cent with respect to the average of the last two years. An eight-month, no-cost extension (20 December scenario) or one year (21 April scenario) would allow for a spending curve that is closer the original plan (Figure 4, Table 5). An extension of the implementation period would also entail a relative increase in the project's management and personnel costs, which represent an annual average of 26 per cent and 14 per cent of the annual execution, respectively.

The project has been audited twice, in 2017 and 2018, with satisfactory results. The budget items executed correspond approximately to the original budget and work plans (Figure 5), only deviating to respond to the new project management structure. This project, like others executed by MARN, is outside the Government's spending mechanisms. UNDP covers all project expenses. This allows the projects to have a more efficient and smooth implementation and recruitment than if they were subject to the rules that regulate the regular financial execution of the MARN.

Table 5. Schedule for project implementation according to the ProDoc and the business as usual (BAU), 12/20 and 04/21 scenarios (US dollars)

Cumulative expenditure	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
ProDoc	736 426	1 356 402	1 786 428	2 191 781	-
BAU scenario	286 391.68	753 252.20	1 904 075.24	2 191 781.00	-
12/20 scenario	286 391.68	753 252.20	1 616 369.48	2 119 854.56	-
04/21 scenario	286 391.68	753 252.20	1 472 516.60	1 904 075.24	2 191 781.00

Figure 4. Annual expenditures (GEF subsidy only) in the ProDoc, projection of expenditures according to the current scenario (business as usual, BAU) and the 12/20 and 04/21 scenarios (US dollars)

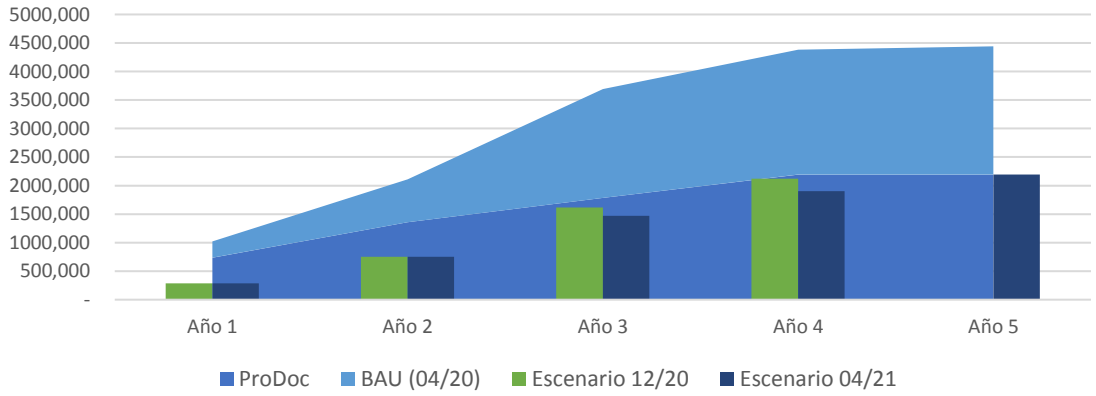
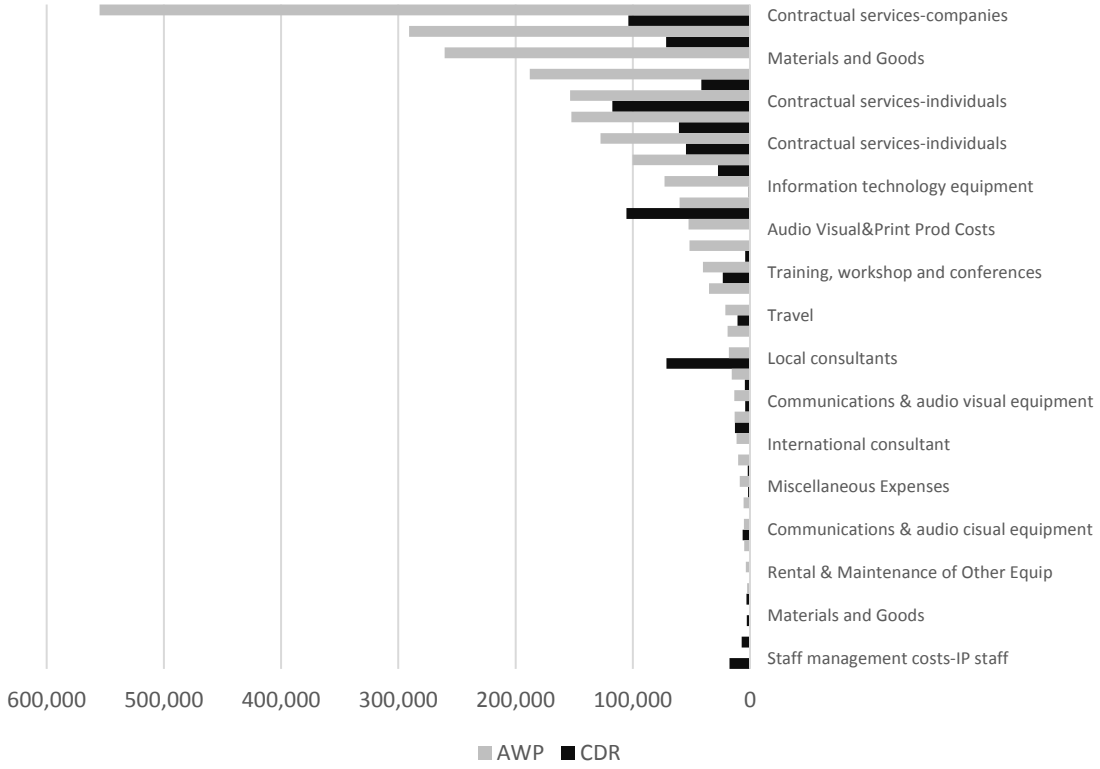


Figure 5. Annual budgets (AWPs) against execution (CDR), by ATLAS item (US dollars)



Co-financing

The baseline of cooperation projects in the tourism sector, road infrastructure, and the annual budget of the Wetlands Unit of MARN, represents an investment of US$27.1 million. However, according to the ProDoc, this ordinary investment cannot adequately address the threats that the wetlands face and the necessary strengthening of capacities for the appropriate management, which justifies the additional investment of US$2.19 million provided by the GEF. This project is complemented by other wetlands initiatives: the GIZ project in Barra de Santiago, the JICA project in Olomega and El Jocotal, ISCOS in Cerrón Grande and FIAES in all areas, which amount to a co-financing of US$8,914,667. These projects are currently being implemented. There is some coordination with

the initiatives funded by ISCOS and JICA. (It is important to note that there is some geographical and thematic overlap with the JICA project.)

The ProDoc also includes the development of synergies with a project financed by the Inter-American Development Bank and implemented by MITUR, to promote sustainable tourism, including the implementation of a fee collection system for visitors.

The project plans on a co-financing amounting to US$8,306,346.55 provided by the MARN, as executing agency and project headquarters. In addition, FIAES, GIZ and ISCOS will fund the projects in the protected wetlands, and UNDP will act as implementing agency. In June 2018, US$2,483,465.79 (28 per cent) of the co-financing committed had been executed.

Table 6. Co-financing

Co-financing (type/ source)	UNDP own financing (US$ million)		Government (US$ million)		Other (US$ million)		Total (US$ million)	
	Planned	Current	Planned	Current	Planned	Current	Planned	Current
Grant	0.01	-	2.95	0.92	5.95	4.39	8.91	2.48
Loan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
In-kind	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-grant instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other types	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0.01	-	2.95	0.92	5.95	4.39	8,91	2.48

4.3.4 Monitoring and evaluation

The main monitoring and evaluation products of the project are the inception workshop report, the MTR and terminal evaluation, and day-to-day monitoring. The total monitoring budget amounts to US$106,965.

The inception workshop was concluded in October 2016, five months after the signing of the ProDoc. The workshop did not introduce any significant changes to the project design or expand the number or type of organizations engaged.

Day-to-day monitoring was conducted by the project team. There were important gaps in documentation and errors in the calculation of baselines. Thus, the METT and financial sustainability scores of the PPG were not completely documented; the number and type of wetlands can only be established after the recent publication of the national wetlands inventory; and there is no documentation of the methods used to calculate the financial sustainability baseline. Also, the project design assumed the existence of an extensive monitoring and observation network for species and water quality, which is very far from being installed even today. Moreover, the current project team was not trained in the use of the tracking tools until the MTR.

Wrong assumptions and missing documentation have made compilation of monitoring data challenging. However, this is expected to significantly improve when the recommendations in this report are followed regarding the indicator framework and discussed above.

The MTR was scheduled to take place in October–November 2018, but due to the process of recruiting the consultant and the presidential election of 2019, the mission could only be carried out by February 2019. Nevertheless, this places the MTR well within the third year of implementation as foreseen in the GEF-UNDP guidelines.

4.3.5 Stakeholder engagement

The project has adequately involved local stakeholders, including members of the local Ramsar committees, MARN park rangers, members of the Local Environmental Observation Networks, coordinators of municipal environmental units, and small- and medium-scale farmers.

However, despite the support it receives from the MARN at the highest level, the project has a low political profile, which hampers its access to key players, such as local governments and even other projects implemented at the MARN. As discussed, coordination and knowledge sharing between the three wetland conservation projects (GEF, GIZ, JICA) is very limited. In addition, the project has not involved CENDEPESCA, an extremely important partner for the regulation of fisheries, and has had only moderate success in its contact with sugarcane producers.
The objectives of CENDEPESCA focus on increasing fishing productivity and especially, expanding the industrial sector. Activities in artisanal fishing are limited to fingerlings farming in the wetlands and facilitating productive projects, for example, cultivating bivalves in the mangroves. Currently, CENDEPESCA does not monitor or supervise fishing activities.

With regard to sugarcane plantations, the project is working with FUNDAZUCAR, a private foundation that aims to promote the well-being of the rural sugar growing population, and has published good practice manuals.

The project, its strategy and outcomes are known and appreciated by beneficiaries (conservation resources, local Ramsar committees, UAM coordinators) but are still insufficiently known or understood by farmers and plantations owners, with which the project is just beginning to work.

4.3.6 Reports and communications

The project prepared an annual report in 2017 and its first Project Implementation Review (PIR) in 2018. In addition, the project efficiently maintains meeting minutes, consulting materialsM work plans, and others.

The PIR report was drafted according to the required specifications and underwent the necessary revisions. Its dissemination has been limited to the project's governance structures. The only knowledge and communication product produced to date by the project has been the National Inventory of Wetlands, which was disseminated among national media and governmental, community and international cooperation organizations.

4.3.7 Assessment of the project implementation

The project has increased the pace of implementation as a result of the changes introduced in its governance structure. However, there are still limitations in the project in the involvement of key partners, financial execution and in the support from the implementing agency and UNDP. Therefore, the MTR rates the project implementation to date as ‘moderately satisfactory’. It is critical to adopt measures to raise the political profile of the project, render its activities in the field more efficient, and obtain more technical support to improve implementation.

4.4 Sustainability

4.4.1 Identified risks in the ATLAS

The ProDoc identifies and rates four different risks, as follows.[35]

The sustainable use of the biodiversity in the wetlands is not a priority for the new environmental authorities.

The presidential elections of February 2019 have produced a political landscape unprecedented in the El Salvador's recent history, in which a candidate not linked to either of the two traditional parties was elected president. Thus, as of June 2019, a new government will direct the country's environmental policy. A transition plan will be implemented that involves meetings between the outgoing and incoming teams appointed by the new government.

Although the implementation of this and other projects engaged in international cooperation is not at risk, **in the transition period of the first months the new government provides an opportunity to involve the new environmental authorities right from the outset in the conservation of wetlands; however, this may entail some delays in the project implementation**.

Weak organization and coherence among public and private stakeholders for the control and management of invasive species.

The project aimed at finding productive uses for the invasive plant *Eichhornia crassipes*, which would make its gathering financially sustainable. Since an economic use for this plant has not been found, and its population is controlled to a large degree by organic load discharged into the wetlands, pollution control is the only viable, long-term control strategy for this species. Direct collection of *Eichhornia crassipes* is only economically meaningful to guarantee access of fishing and passenger craft to shore during the rainy season, and to avoid interference with production of electrical power in Cerrón Grande and other reservoirs.

Phalacrocorax brasilianus is not an invasive species and only needs control in the Cerrón Grande Reservoir.

The agricultural sector has very little interest in adopting good agricultural practices.

The project strategy proposed the development of an environmental certification for producers who adopt good practices. However, the costs for the production and the application for certification, in the absence of local or international demand for sustainable products, were not considered in the strategy. The interest of small- and medium-scale agricultural producers focuses on increasing productivity.

Sugar production is partly aimed at international markets where there are production standards that include social and environmental practices, which can be promoted by producer organizations or their foundations, with the support of projects that promote certification and good practices at the regional level.

[35] The strategy identifies five risks, including climate change, that will be addressed in the environmental sustainability section.

There is limited participation of local communities and municipalities to prevent and reduce waste.

The problem of solid waste is fundamentally that of waste management in urban centres of municipalities at the basin level. Rural areas, which generate less waste, do not have a collection and/or treatment mechanism. The municipal waste is processed through a municipal collection service, which is partly funded by user fees, although they are very low and there is a high rate of delinquency. The waste is then transferred to landfills. The municipalities are interested in increasing the time horizon of landfill use, and reducing volume and collection costs. While their influence on the first factor is slight, the municipalities included in the project have initiated activities to reduce the volume, such as the separation of organic composting and separation of recyclables for sale. In the specific case of Jiquilisco Bay, which receives waste from the entire San Miguel River basin, another problem beyond the control of riverine municipalities is the waste generated in the basin, which includes the second largest city of El Salvador, San Miguel.

4.4.2 The financial, socio-economic, institutional and environmental dimensions of sustainability

Financial risks

The MARN and its General Directorate of Wildlife, which manages NPAs and wetlands, greatly depends on international cooperation projects for the implementation of its national biodiversity plan. The Ministry has been successful in attracting significant investment for wetland conservation projects, including this project. Although there is no certainty that this support will continue in the future, El Salvador has obtained the approval of projects for the restoration of forests and watersheds valued at least US$36 million, whose main national partner will be the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

However, there are no clear prospects for continued support to protected areas and wetlands in particular. Regarding the financial sustainability of NPAs under this project, efforts must be increased to lay the foundations for NPAs' sustainable financial flows; this will require significantly intensifying the efforts made in this area. Taking into account the uncertainty regarding external resources and the difficulties in establishing financing mechanisms, financial sustainability is rated as 'moderately likely'.

Socio-economic risks

The local communities, especially their representatives who are involved in associations or who are paid or volunteer to work on conservation issues, such as resource guards or members of ROLA or local Ramsar committees, understand the importance of stopping environmental degradation in the wetlands. However, this acceptance does not imply that harmful practices in the conservation or sustainable use of wetland resources are not continuing, including dynamite fishing in Jiquilisco, the use of small meshenets in all of the wetlands, and the use of pastures on the banks of the lagoons, together with modification of the watercourses for irrigation and to serve as troughs for medium- and large-sized livestock. These practices are continuing due to, *inter alia*, the perception of lack of

alternatives, ignorance about the destructive or negative effects on other users and the presence of individuals and/or groups that carry out illegal activities. Due to the lack of a robust institutional framework to sanction people who carry out destructive extractive activities, many wetlands are open resources and promote the activities of illegal fishers and informal settlers, even within NPAs.

For the municipalities, the main environmental problems are fire protection, tree felling and erosion caused, as well as the aesthetic effect of garbage disposal in tourism areas. Lack of shore management, both in interior and coastal wetlands, is only seen as problematic for private housing development, since it may lead to conflicts among users.

Due to the above-mentioned institutional weaknesses, it is not likely that the project will establish mechanisms to comply with regulations contained in agreements or management plans. The MTR rates this dimension of sustainability as 'moderately likely'.

Institutional risks

Despite the new administration taking office in June 2019, no major changes are expected in environmental institutions or in the central lines of environmental policies. However, the budgetary allocation and the political weight of the environmental institutions at the national and local level is low, which makes it challenging to mainstream environmental issues and biodiversity in institutions of sectors such as agriculture, tourism and infrastructure. Nevertheless, the MARN is not expected to stop prioritizing protected areas, so this sustainability dimension is rated as 'likely'.

Environmental risks

There are not enough data to determine the recovery potential of threatened or vulnerable species linked to the wetlands in El Salvador. Still, the main threats for these species are anthropogenic, mainly the degradation of habitats due to the development of settlements and road and tourist infrastructure and pollution. Climate change will have incremental impacts on mountains and mainly on the coastal zone.

In the coastal zone, the gradual rise in sea level together with the unregulated construction will endanger the coastal infrastructure. In the case of changes in hydrography affecting the supply and drainage of water in the wetlands, the impacts of anthropogenic landscape alterations will continue to be the main cause of degradation in the coming decades.

Due to the uncertainty regarding the populations of threatened species and the level of anthropogenic threats faced by the habitats that host them, this dimension of sustainability is rated as 'likely probable'.

5 Conclusions and recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

Project development

The project is significant for the conservation of global environmental benefits (mangroves, wetlands, vulnerable and endangered species) and was specifically designed to implement the national biodiversity strategy. It is part of a group of projects that support the conservation objectives of the Wetlands Unit of MARN. The project is aligned with the objectives of the CBD and the biodiversity objectives of the GEF-5. The project is framed in outcome 2 of the UNDAF.

At the local level, NPAs are not a priority for the municipalities. Solid waste is an important concern, but the budget allocation for the treatment of solid waste is very low.

NPAs are not generally understood as a source of socio-economic benefits by adjacent communities, even though some of their main economic activities depend on them (fishing, agriculture and tourism). There are divergent objectives regarding the use and management of wetlands between different groups of users: farmers, fishers and tour operators. Small and medium-scale farmers do not identify the impacts of their activities on the wetlands, even in the case of riverside grazing or the use of watercourses for irrigation. Fishers and community leaders involved in wetlands management (members of local Ramsar committees) are the groups that are the most aware of the importance of wetlands. However, there are groups of fishers that are insufficiently aware or have short-term priorities. Effective management of wetlands is also hampered by the presence of criminal groups, at least in Jiquilisco Bay and the Gulf of Fonseca.

The project's development was limited by low participation of relevant actors. This contributed to the inclusion of incorrect assumptions, such as the existence of adequate fisheries management and of low transaction costs in the declaration of NPAs and in the establishment of a 'green seal' (certification). The project strategy takes into consideration the achievements of previous projects and synergies with projects under implementation that did not achieve the expected outcomes. In addition, the investment per area envisaged in this project is significantly lower than in similar projects implemented in El Salvador.

Progress on outcomes

The project faces major challenges in the expansion of protected wetland area due mainly to the land registration process. Thus, the project has only managed to expand relatively comfortably in mangrove areas in Jiquilisco Bay. The project could achieve its conservation goals by declaring the estuaries and marine areas foreseen in the ProDoc as NPAs, but this requires effective regulation of fishing and navigation activities. Therefore, it is unlikely that the project will achieve its goals in terms of SNAP coverage if it continues with the procedure applied to date.

During project implementation, higher rates of wetlands degradation have not been observed. However, the magnitude of threats has not diminished. The project has made an important contribution to the environmental information system with the publication of the updated National Wetlands Inventory.

The selected indicator species do not respond to wetlands management in the short term and at present there is no monitoring plan for. The species are widespread and are not necessarily associated with the project's wetlands, which renders the monitoring of their population in small isolated areas, as suggested in the ProDoc, unfeasible.

The project has allowed for major improvement in the management effectiveness score of the protected areas, due to the development of storage capacity, equipment provision and support to update management plans. However, these management plans are weak with respect to business plans and budget estimates. From the sources of financing provided in the ProDoc, only the implementation of entry fees is feasible in the medium term, but the physical and administrative structures for their collection and management must still be established. Thus, it is unlikely that the project can reduce the financial gap of protected areas, which has been found to be greater than what had been calculated in the formulation of the project.

The project has contributed decisively to develop capacities in the UAMs, but these capacities are threatened by the frequent rotation of officials. Moreover, the UAMs lack the political and financial capacity to have a significant impact on the load of solid waste that the wetlands receive. The project's strategy to withdraw 50 per cent of solid waste contributions to the Bay of Jiquilisco is not sustainable and cannot reduce the contribution in the medium term.

The project has the opportunity to influence the application of good agricultural practices as small and medium-sized owners are interested in measures that can increase the efficiency of their farms. However, it is unlikely that these practices will bring economic benefits to farmers in the short and medium term. Given the small number of farms considered, a significant impact on water quality is not likely, as water quality will be mostly determined by municipal and agricultural wastewater throughout the basin. The project has not made an impact on the use of grasslands On wetland borders and flooded pastures or the use of watercourses for irrigation. The use of agrochemicals and water is more intense in sugarcane plantations than in livestock farms. For sugar cane, the mills better determine the practices applied than the actual farmers growing the cane.

The development of a certification system for livestock products is not feasible due to the lack of capacities and local conditions to accomplish market standards. However, in the case of sugar, there is the possibility of accessing differentiated markets through some existing certification scheme.

The tests carried out by the Wetlands Unit of the MARN show that the productive use of *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinth) is not economically viable. In addition, its control by collection is not feasible. The means available for its removal are inefficient to remove enough for a lasting impact. The ultimate control of this species will be achieved by reducing the organic load of agricultural and municipal discharges.

The population of *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (neotropical cormorant) that nest in the Cerrón Grande Reservoir is having impacts on the fishery resources and the vegetation of the islands where it nests. The project has introduced a set of measures with moderate success, which should be monitored in the future. There are no problems with the neotropical cormorant in other locations.

The role of women in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and non-agricultural employment depends on the history and characteristics of families. In general, the small farms are managed with the participation of all the members of the family unit. Moreover, since there are few crop and livestock

farming activities that are run exclusively by women, the project is not likely to reach its target in terms of the number of farms run by women who are implementing good practices.

Sustainability

Conservation projects in El Salvador depend on cooperation projects. In addition, due to institutional weaknesses and lack of coordination between administrations, the plans formulated in the framework of these projects are not implemented, including management plans for protected areas. Despite the contribution of this and other projects, there are large gaps in the knowledge and monitoring of El Salvador's biodiversity, which make it difficult to project scenarios of how these will respond to changes in anthropogenic pressures and climate change.

Project management

Project delivery increased significantly with the consolidation of the project team in 2018. However, the financial execution of the project is delayed with respect to what is foreseen in the ProDoc and a 100 per cent execution within the foreseen period is not feasible. In addition, the project must deal with the newly elected government, which took office in June 2019.

The change from a consultants-based to a specialists-based implementation has streamlined processes and raised the quality of the outputs. However, the project still has a limited and irregular presence in the field, which it would need to increase in order to adequately mobilize its members.

The scoreboard has limitations since several goals were established based on erroneous or overly optimistic assumptions. The project includes constant monitoring but is limited by information gaps, which relate to communication weaknesses between institutions (municipalities, CENDEPESCA, etc.) and the environmental information system, which does not include monitoring of key species or coverage and composition of mangroves.

There are project limitations with regard to the support from the implementing agency (MARN) and UNDP, which cause gaps in their capacity to coordinate with others and in the mobilization of the fisheries and municipal administration, which are critical to achieving the project's objectives.

5.2 Recommendations

For some stakeholders, the natural protected areas are not a priority.

The project needs to have more impact on the benefits of declare NPA at the local level and to involve more local actors in the management of protected areas. The project must mobilize political influence to involve reticent partners, both private and institutional, relying on the MARN and UNDP. At the municipal level, the project must have a higher level of influence in the municipal governments to ensure budget support to achieve a reduction in the current contribution of solid waste.

The project faces challenges in the expansion of protected wetlands areas.

Under its influence, the project may extend the protected areas that are declared Ramsar sites, under the category of 'protected landscapes'. The important mangrove of La Unión Bay should also be considered for inclusion in the SNAP. This declaration should be made in the framework of a dialogue with all the private and institutional actors to reach effective management agreements, concretizing the existing management plans, and obtaining budgetary allocations from the national and local governments.

The population of indicator species does not respond to changes in the efficiency of wetland management in the short term.

The project should contribute to establishing a monitoring system, in cooperation with other initiatives. This system must include emblematic species at the national level (crocodiles, marine turtles, etc.). In addition, the project should promote the development of a monitoring plan for the mangroves. The local Ramsar committees and the ROLA must be mobilized so that the monitoring serves as a forum for environmental participation and education. The MARN and UNDP must obtain the cooperation of CENDEPESCA for the better monitoring of artisanal fisheries.

The financial gap is greater than the initial estimate, and alternate proposals are not feasible.

The project should strive to facilitate the development of the administrative structures needed to better estimate the costs of the NPAs and the establishment of fee collection systems. The project can review the established budget gap reduction targets of the NPAs that were based on overly optimistic premises.

There are weak individual skills.

The project must advocate at the municipal corporation level for institutionalizing the diploma that it developed in order to ensure the maintenance of individual capacities for the management of wetlands.

The socio-economic benefits and environmental certification face major challenges.

In order to maximize the scarce project funds, the project must make an impact on the use of grasslands on wetland banks and flooded pastures, or the use of irrigation watercourses, and not invest in the development of an environmental seal for livestock products. In addition, the Wetlands

Unit of the MARN should improve coordination with the JICA project to avoid duplication and forge synergies.

With the support of UNDP, the project should call on the sugar associations and mills rather than on individual producers to allow access of 'sustainable' sugar to differentiated markets. Here, UNDP's experience in social and environmental certification of agricultural products (commodities) at the regional level can be capitalized on.

Timely solid waste collection is unsustainable.

The clean-up campaigns planned by the project make sense within the framework of dialogue and learning processes that involve institutional and private actors, with the aim of quantifying waste and developing solutions to reduce its discharge into rivers and coasts.

The productive use of the Eichhornia crassipes is not profitable.

The project should abandon the strategies suggested in the ProDoc for the elimination of *Eichhornia crassipes*, because they are ecologically and economically unsustainable.

Wildlife controversy

With regard to the *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* control programme already started in the Cerrón Grande Reservoir, and in the absence of the conservation unit's own resources, the project could consider extending its support for one or two additional control campaigns.

The role of women in rural areas depends on the characteristics of each family.

The project must abandon the specific goal of the number of holdings managed by women in favour of monitoring socio-economic effects of the practices promoted in a differentiated manner, including impacts on child feeding and youth education.

A 100 per cent implementation within the expected period is not feasible.

The change of the government administration in June 2019, requires an extension of the project up to the end of 2020 or until April 2021.

The project is still unknown in the field.

The project must include enough budget for trips in the next work plan or introduce modifications in the current one to facilitate the access of its specialists to the terrain. In addition, the project may consider hiring local coordinators and /or a facilitator for negotiations on the expansion of the SNAP.

6 Annexes

1. Terms of Reference
2. Evaluation Matrix
3. Survey or Interview Guidelines
4. Rating Scales
5. Table of Outcomes
6. Mission Itinerary
7. Lists of Persons Interviewed
8. List of Documents Reviewed
9. Signed UNEG Code of Conduct Form
10. MTR Final Report Clearance Form

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Antiguo Cuscatlán 25 de octubre de 2018

Invitación No. 2018/1005
CONSULTORÍA
"Consultant for Conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and maintenance of ecosystem services in protected wetlands of international importance Midterm Review"

Fecha límite para recepción de ofertas: Antes de las 10:00 horas hora local del día 13 de noviembre de 2018

Objetivo: El MTR evaluará los avances realizados en el logro de los objetivos y resultados del proyecto recogidos en el Documento del Proyecto, analizando las primeras señales de éxito o fracaso con el propósito de identificar cualquier cambio que sea necesario para retomar el rumbo del proyecto y conseguir los resultados deseados. El MTR revisará también la estrategia del proyecto y sus riesgos a la sostenibilidad.

Dirigido a: Profesional con Grado de Máster en Ecología, Biodiversidad u otro campo estrechamente relacionado y demás competencias detalladas en esta invitación.

Período: La duración total del MTR será de 35 días, aproximadamente durante 8 semanas, comenzando el 26 de noviembre de 2018, y no superará los tres meses a partir del momento de la contratación del consultor.

Favor de enviar la documentación solicitada, en formato PDF o en Word, al correo electrónico adquisiciones.sv@undp.org. También puede entregar la documentación en sobre cerrado previo a la fecha límite de presentación de ofertas, en horario de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m., en: Edificio de Naciones Unidas, Boulevard Orden de Malta Sur No. 2-B, Colonia Santa Elena, Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad.

TERMINOS DE REFERENCIA

1. INTRODUCCIÓN

Estos son los Términos de Referencia (ToR) del Examen de Mitad de Periodo (MTR por sus siglas en inglés) de PNUD-GEF para el proyecto ordinario o de tamaño mediano denominado "Conservación, uso sostenible de la Biodiversidad y mantenimiento de servicios del ecosistema en humedales protegidos de importancia internacional" (Nº PIMS 5749), implementado a través del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARN) que se llevará a cabo en el año 2018. El proyecto se inició el 24 de mayo de 2016 y actualmente se encuentra en su tercer año de ejecución. En consonancia con la Guía para MTR de PNUD-GEF, este proceso de examen de mitad de periodo dio comienzo antes de la presentación del Segundo Informe de Ejecución del Proyecto (PIR). En los presentes ToR se fijan las expectativas para el actual MTR. El proceso del MTR debe seguir las directrices marcadas en el documento *Guía para la Realización del Examen de Mitad de Periodo en Proyectos Apoyados por el PNUD y Financiados por el GEF* http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/guidance/GEF/mid-term/Guidance_Midterm%20Review%20_SP_2014.pdf

2. ANTECEDENTES E INFORMACIÓN DEL PROYECTO

El proyecto se diseñó para fortalecer la conservación y el uso sostenible de los humedales protegidos de importancia internacional (HPPI) y sus áreas protegidas relacionadas en El Salvador, así como para prevenir y mitigar amenazas y presiones en los humedales y la biodiversidad globalmente importante. El proyecto es consistente con el Objetivo 1 del Areal Focal de Biodiversidad del GEF (BD-1): Mejorar los sistemas de sostenibilidad de áreas progetidas y contribuye al resultado 1.1 Efectividad de gestión mejorada de áreas protegidas existentes y nuevas. También se alinea con el Efecto del Programa de País del PNUD 2016-2020 "Efecto 2: La población goza de trabajo decente con medios de vida sostenibles contribuyendo al crecimiento productivo e inclusivo" y contribuye al resultado 2.7 Soluciones desarrolladas para la conservación y uso de la biodiversidad y mantenimiento de servicios ecosistémicos. Asimismo, se alinea con el Resultado 4.1 del Plan Estratégico del PNUD 2018-2022 4.1 "Ampliadas las soluciones para la gestión sostenible de los recursos naturales, incluidos los productos básicos sostenibles y la cadena de valor ecológica e inclusiva".

El proyecto se enmarca en la Estrategia Nacional de Biodiversidad (ENBD) (2013) que establece como su prioridad la restauración de manglares y humedales, así como los revertir los procesos que lleven a su degradación, incluyendo generación de consciencia, investigación, capacitación en educación, tecnología y financiamiento. Asimismo, es es consistente con la Ley del Medio Ambiente de El Salvador, la cual en el artículo 74, identifica los manglares como ecosistemas frágiles y prohíbe su alteración de cualquier tipo y con la Ley de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (2005) la cual establece, en

el artículo 9, que los manglares, lagos y lagunas son propiedad del gobierno. Por medio de esta ley se establecieron resoluciones para crear áreas protegidas (AP) que incluyen humedales interiores y marinos-costeros. Asimismo, se encuentra alineado con la Objetivo 7 del Plan Quinquenal de Desarrollo 2014-2019 "Transitar hacia una economía y sociedad ambientalmente sustentables y resilientes a los efectos del cambio climático". También contribuye al Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 15 "Proteger, restaurar y promover el uso sostenible de los ecosistemas terrestres, gestionar de forma sostenible los bosques, combatir la desertificación y detener e invertir la degradación de la tierra y detener la pérdida de biodiversidad", específicamente a la meta 15.1 que establece que para el 2020 se habrá garantizado la conservación, la restauración y el uso sostenible de los ecosistemas de aguas continentales terrestres y continentales y sus servicios, en particular los bosques, los humedales, las montañas y las tierras áridas, de conformidad con las obligaciones derivadas de los acuerdos internacionales".

La estrategia consiste en la creación de nuevos humedales protegidos de importancia internacional y la mejora de la gestión de los humedales protegidos existentes. Cuenta con un enfoque incremental consistente de dos componentes:

- Componente 1. Extenderá la cobertura del humdeal protegido y fortalecerá las capacidades institucionales e individuales para la gestión efectiva de PWII.
- Componente 2. Abordará las amenazas a la biodiversidad, incluyendo la presencia de especies invasoras y desechos sólidos y agroquímicos que se originan en las zonas de amortiguamiento de los PWII.

Prioriza los siguientes humedales: Laguna El Jocotal, Complejo Bahía de Jiquilisco, y Laguna de Olomega, así como las islas del Golfo de Fonseca: Periquito, Ilca, Martín Perez y Pirigallo.

El proyecto busca los siguientes resutlados:

Objetivo/Resultado	Indicadores	Meta (5 años)
Objetivo: Promover la conservación y el uso sostenible de la biodiversidadad y el mantenimiento de los servicios relacionados a los ecosistemas a través de la creación de nuevos PWII y la gestión mejorada de humedales existentes y protegidos.	Cobertura (ha) del ANPS que resulte de la creación de tres (3) nuevos APUMs	– De 95,785.61 ha a 133,495.07 ha (37,709.46 nuevas ha)
	Presencia continuada de especies de indicadores clave en cuatro (4) AP en el Complejo de la Bahía de Jiquilisco y en la Laguna del Joocotal PWII en la cuenca baja del río Grande de San Miguel.	– Normandía y Chaguantique AP: *Amazona auropalliata, Ateles geoffroyi* – El Tercio AP: *Crocodylus acutus* – Área de la Bahía de Jiquilisco (incluye isla San Sebastián): *Andara grandis, Amazona auropalliata, Eretmochelys imbricata* y *Crocodylus acutus* – JÁrea Laguna El Jocotal: *Amazona auropalliata, Crocodylus acutus*
	Cambio en la eficacia de los tres ((3) PWII medidos a través de la tarjeta de puntuación METT.	– PWII de la Bahía de Jiquilisco: De 49% a 59% – PWII de la Laguna Olomega: De 32% a 42%

Objetivo/Resultado	Indicadores	Meta (5 años)
		– PWII de la Laguna Jocotal: De 31% a 41%
	Cambio en la sostenibilidad financiera de tres (3) PWII de acuerdo a lo establecido mediante la puntuación total promedio en la Tarjeta de Puntuación de Sostenibilidad Financiera PNUD/GEF.	– Marco legal, regulatorio e institucional: De 30% a 46% – Planificación de negocios y herramientas para una administración de la rentabilidad: De 8% a 42% – Herramientas para la generación de ingresos y la asignación: De 17% a 34% – Total: De 20% a 41%
Resultado 1: Cobertura ampliada de los humedales protegidos y fortalecimiento de las capacidades individuales e institucionales para una gestión efectiva de PWII.	Representatividad (%) de los ecosistemas de humedales en el SANP por tipo de humedal	– % X (La línea de base y el objetivo se determinarán durante el primer año de ejecución del proyecto usando imágenes LIDAR (obtenidas como parte del co-financiamiento del MARN).
	Número de nuevos humedales AP que forman parte del SANP.	– Tres (3): 1. Islas de la Baha de Jiquilisco: 40 islas y el cuerpo de agua que las circunda; 2. Complejo Olomega: Isla Olomeguita, Tierra Blanca y La Chiricana o el área de San Antonio Silva; 3. Islas del Golfo de Fonseca: Cuatro (4) islas (Martín Pérez, Pirigallo o Meanguerita, Ilca, e Isla Periquito) y áreas circundando isla Meanguera
	Cambio en los indicadores de desarrollo de capacidades para la gestión sostenible de los PWII de acuerdo con el puntaje total de la Tarjeta de Puntuación Integral de Desarrollo de Capacidades del PNUD-GEF.	Gobierno Nacional - MARN*: De 45.24% a 66.67% - MAG**: De 54.76% a 66.67% Gobierno Local - Jiquilisco UAM: De 30.95% a 57.14% - San Dionisio UAM: De 35.71% a 57.14% - Concepción Batres UAM: De 28.57% a 54.76% - Jucuarán UAM: De 28.57% a 57.14% - El Tránsito UAM: De 33.33% a 59.52% - Administración de la Asociación Inter-municipal de la Bahía de Jiquilisco (ASIBAHIA): De 33.33% a 54.76% Plataformas multi-actores - Grupo de Acción Territorial de la Bahía de Jiquilisco (GAT-CBJ): De 40.48% a 57.14% *Directorio General de Ecosistemas y Vida Silvestre (DGEVS); Humedales, Áreas Naturales Protegidas y Unidad de Corredor Biológico;

Objetivo/Resultado	Indicadores	Meta (5 años)
		Unidad de Protección de Recursos; Directorio General de Gobernanza Ambiental (DGGA); Evaluación Ambiental y Cumplimiento; Directorio General de Servicios Ciudadanos y Municipales; ** Directorio General de Bosques, Cuencas y Planificación de Riego
	Número de empleados del MARN, municipalidades, MAG, y organizaciones locales incluyendo mujeres, capacitados en gestión sostenible de los PWII.	<u>Gobierno Nacional</u> - MARN: 20 - MAG: 6 <u>Gobierno Local</u> - Jiquilisco UAM: 2 - Puerto El Triunfo UAM: 2 - San Dionisio UAM: 2 - Concepción Batres UAM: 2 - Jucuarán UAM: 2 - El Tránsito UAM: 2 - San Miguel UAM: 2 - Chirilagua UAM: 2 - El Carmen UAM: 2 - Policía Ambiental Local: 10 - Marina (Naval): 4 - ASIBAHIA: 2
	Cambio en la brecha financiera (USD) para cubrir los costos básicos administrativos de tres (3) PWII.	– Bahía de Jiquilisco PWII: De $222,160 a $166,620 – Laguna El Jocotal PWII: De $173,199 a $129,899 – Laguna Olomega PWII: De $244,677 a $183,508 (Reducción de 25% en cada uno de estos tres casos)
	Número de acuerdos establecidos de compensación ambiental.	– De 0 a 5
	Generación anual total de ingresos para tres (3) PWII desagregados por fuente.	– Compensación económica ambiental: De $0 a $100,00 – Cuota de entrada para visitantes: De $0 a $30,000 – APP: De $0 a $30,000
Resultado 2: Dirigiendo atención a las amenazas a la biodiversidad, incluyendo la presencia de especies invasoras, residuos sólidos y	Número de acuerdos de cooperación interinstitucional establecidos y bajo implementación para la gestión de los PWII.	– Tres (3) acuerdos municipales para el manejo de especies invasoras y residuos sólidos – Tres (3) nuevos acuerdos con el MAG, MOP y CEL
	Número de fincas implementando mejores prácticas para el manejo de	– De 0 a 20

Objetivo/Resultado	Indicadores	Meta (5 años)
agroquímicos originados de las zonas de amortiguamiento del PWII.	desechos/residuos ganaderos en tres (3) PWII, incluyendo fincas administradas por mujeres.	
	Número de fincas implementando mejores prácticas para el manejo de residuos agrícola en tres (3) PWII, incluyendo fincas administradas por mujeres.	– De 0 a 60
	Residuos sólidos acumulados (kg/ha) en la PWII de la Bahía de Jiquilisco.	– Línea de base - X (se calcula una reducción de 50%; la línea base y el objetivo se establecerán durante el primer año del proyecto)
	Volumen (toneladas/año) de jacinto de agua (*Eichornia crassipes*) removido de las PWII de la laguna Olomega y laguna El Jocotal.	– 2,000 toneladas/año por humedal
	Abundancia (número de individuos) del pato cormorán (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) en la laguna Olomega, laguna El Jocotal, y en la PWII de la Bahía de Jiquilisco.	– PWII Laguna Jocotal: Línea de base - X – PWII Bahía Jiquilisco: Línea de base - X – PWII Laguna Olomega: Línea de base – X (Línea de base y objetivo serán establecidos durante el primer año de proyecto)
	Cobertura estable de manglares en la PWII de la bahía de Jiquilisco y lagunas de agua dulce relacionadas.	– 18,720 ha

El proyecto tiene una duración de 5 años, e inició en mayo de 2016 con fecha de término abril 2020. El presupuesto total asciende a US$11,106,447.55. La contribución del GEF asciende a US$2,191,781.00. A continuación, se muestra las fuentes de cofinanciamiento:

Fuente de financiamiento	Valor
Fondo de la Iniciativa para las Américas (FIAES)	2,850,000.00
Agencia Alemana para la Cooperación Internacional (GIZ)	1,500,000.00
Instituto Sindical de Cooperación al Desarrollo (ISCOS)	1,600,000.00
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARN)	2,106,666.55
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)	10,000.00
Total	**8,066,666.55**

El Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, es el organismo de ejecución, siendo éste responsable de la coordinación y de los resultados del proyecto. El proyecto cuenta con una Junta Ejecutiva responsable de la toma de decisiones de gestión del proyecto, compuesta por representantes del MARN, el PNUD y el Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (MAG). Cuenta además con un

consejo asesor, con función consultiva, conformado por las instituciones que tienen un vínculo director al proyecto (MAG, MITUR y FIAES).

El PNUD brinda apoyo a la Junta del Proyecto, realizando supervisión objetiva e independiente del proyecto, así como tareas de seguimiento. Se cuenta además con la participación de los expertos del Programa Ambiental del Centro Regional de Servicios del PNUD para América Latina y el Caribe, quienes participan de reuniones clave, consultas, eventes y en el análisis de informes técnicos entre otros.

La estructura de gestión es flexible, esto para adaptarse a posibles cambios durante la ejecución del proyecto. El coordinador del proyecto, contratado por el MARN cuya responsabilidad es asegurar que el proyecto genera los productos esperados cumpliendo con los estándares de calidad requeridos y dentro de las limitaciones de tiempo establecidos.

El proyecto coordina actividades con otras iniciativas relacionadas a los humedales, que incluyen: el llamado a la acción de FIAES en 2012 para financiar actividades para resolver problemas ambientales en humedales de importancia internacional; el Programa Nacional para la Restauración del Ecosistema y Paisaje del MARN, en particular para la gestión de microhumedales en la parte baja de la cuenca del Río Grande de San Miguel; el proyecto Fondo de Agua (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo -AECID), para la restauración de manglares, la gestión de microhumedales relacionados con esta cuenca hidrográfica, y la adquisición de una barcaza para extraer de manera mecánica el Jacinto de agua de los PWII afectados; y con la iniciativa financiada por JICA (2015) para la gestión sostenible de los PWII Laguna de Olomega y la Laguna El Jocotal.

El proyecto nace como una solución a las múltiples amenazas de los PWII de El Salvador y su biodiversidad.

Pese a la limitada extensión territorial, el país tiene numerosos humedales de importancia regional y global, incluidos seis humedales marino-costeros e interiores de importancia internacional, o sitios RAMSAR. Los humedales de El Salvador proporcionan numerosos servicios ecosistémicos, como hábitat para la biodiversidad, almacenamiento de carbono, suministro de alimentos, madera y leña, recreación y belleza escénica, y control de inundaciones y protección contra tormentas. Los humedales marino-costeros de El Salvador incluyen importantes áreas de manglares en el norte de América Central, así como diversos tipos de lagos interiores

Desde 1950, se calcula que el área de bosque de manglar disminuyó de 100,000 ha. en la década de 1950 a cerca de 40,000 ha. en la actualidad, conduciendo a la pérdida de una cantidad de hábitat importante para especies altamente vulnerables y para una gran gama de biodiversidad.

Las principales amenazas a los PWII y su biodiversidad incluyen: a) la expansión de actividades agrícolas y ganaderas, incluyendo tala de árboles y quemas, así como la contaminación y la eutrofización de cuerpos de agua; b) la transformación ilegal de humedales debido a la demanda de tierra para viviendas, cultivos agrícolas y zonas de pasto para ganado; c) el uso descontrolado de agroquímicos que causan la eutrofización y contaminación de humedales debido vertidos que además promueven el desarrollo de algas y plantas invasoras a niveles que literalmente asfixian los humedales, por lo tanto, afectando la biodiversidad, la pesca tradicional y otras actividades; d) la acumulación de desechos sólidos generados en zonas urbanas, que representa una amenaza a la vida silvestre cuando ingieren partículas tóxicas de los desechos; e) la presencia de especies invasoras; f) la extracción insostenible de recursos, incluyendo la pesca con métodos destructivos tales como el uso de

explosivos; g) inundaciones relacionadas con el cambio climático que causan la pérdida de cubierta forestal, reducción de poblaciones de especies amenazadas o en peligro de extinción, así como la pérdida de vidas humanas, infraestructura y cultivos; y h) salinización de agua superficial debido a la alteración de las cuencas hidrográficas y la influencia del océano Pacífico.

Varias son las causas que explican esta problemática. Uno de los principales problemas que las zonas naturales y la biodiversidad en general enfrenta en El Salvador es el crecimiento poblacional y la situación de pobreza que en el 2016 alcanzó el 38% (DIGESTYC). El crecimiento poblacional y la demanda de bienes y servicios (agrícolas, ganaderos y vivienda/urbanización) ha resultado en un desarrollo de la tierra sin dirección y sin planificación, un crecimiento en la fragmentación de hábitat y la pérdida de conectividad. En la mayoría de los casos, esto minimiza la posibilidad de recuperación de ecosistema.

La expansión de la agricultura, acuicultura, ganadería y límites urbanos es una de las causas directas del deterioro que enfrentan los humedales del país, y está relacionada con amenazas como el cambio en el uso de la tierra, contaminación y la degradación general de la biodiversidad.

También existe una falta de coordinación efectiva de políticas, regulaciones y leyes sectoriales que estén relacionadas al uso de la tierra, o al control en el cambio del uso de la tierra, de la tala ilegal de la madera, control de incendios forestales, contaminación, etc; así como la escasez de recursos financieros y humanos para el desarrollo de planes de seguimiento y control y la aplicación de las leyes relacionadas.

La solución a largo plazo es mitigar las amenazas actuales y asegurar la conservación, el uso sostenible y el mantenimiento de los PWII y sus servicios del ecosistema en El Salvador depende del fortalecimiento del SNAP para mejorar su capacidad de gestión de los humedales y el desarrollo de estrategias para reducir las amenazas a la biodiversidad, incluyendo presiones derivadas de especies invasoras y la generación de desechos sólidos y el uso de agroquímicos en sus zonas de amortiguamiento.

3. OBJETIVOS DEL MTR

El MTR evaluará los avances realizados en el logro de los objetivos y resultados del proyecto recogidos en el Documento del Proyecto, analizando las primeras señales de éxito o fracaso con el propósito de identificar cualquier cambio que sea necesario para retomar el rumbo del proyecto y conseguir los resultados deseados. El MTR revisará también la estrategia del proyecto y sus riesgos a la sostenibilidad.

4. ENFOQUE Y METODOLOGÍA DEL MTR

Los datos aportados por el MTR deberán estar basados en información creíble, confiable y útil. El equipo del MTR examinará todas las fuentes de información relevantes, incluidos los documentos elaborados durante la fase de preparación (p. ej. PIF, Plan de Iniciación del PNUD, Política de Protección Medioambiental y Social del PNUD, Documento del Proyecto, informes de proyecto como el Examen Anual/PIR, revisiones del presupuesto del proyecto, informes de las lecciones aprendidas, documentos legales y de estrategia nacional, y cualquier otro material que el equipo considere útil para este examen basado en datos objetivos). El equipo del MTR analizará la Herramienta de Seguimiento del área de actuación del GEF al inicio del proyecto, enviada a este organismo con la aprobación del CEO, y la Herramienta de Seguimiento a mitad de ciclo, la cual debe ser completada antes de iniciarse la misión de campo del MTR.

Del equipo que lleve a cabo el MTR se espera que siga un enfoque colaborativo y participativo[36] que garantice una relación estrecha con el Equipo de Proyecto, sus homólogos gubernamentales (la persona o entidad designada como responsable o Coordinador de Operaciones del GEF *(Operational Focal Point*), la(s) Oficina(s) de País del PNUD, los Asesores Técnicos Regionales (RTA) del PNUD-GEF y otras partes interesadas clave.

La implicación de las partes interesadas resulta vital para el éxito del MTR[37]. Dicha implicación debe incluir entrevistas con aquellos agentes que tengan responsabilidades en el proyecto, entre los que están las agencias implementadoras, los funcionarios de mayor rango y el equipo de tareas/sus jefes, expertos de relieve y consultores en el área que ocupa el proyecto, la Junta del Proyecto, partes interesadas, representantes académicos, gobiernos locales, OSC, etc. En el Anexo A se presenta una lista preliminar de las personas a entrevistar.

Asimismo, está previsto que el equipo del MTR realice misiones de campo al interior del país a los PWII priorizados por el proyecto, incluyendo a los siguientes sitios[38]:

- ANP Nancuchiname, departamento de Usulután
- ANP Normandía, departamento de Usulután.
- Embalse 15 de septiembre, entre los departamentos de Usulután y Cabañas.
- Bahía de Jiquilisco sector Occidental (Isla Montecrito-La Pita), departamento de Usulután
- ANP Laguna El Jocotal, municipio El Tránsito, departamento de San Miguel.
- ANP Conchagua, departamento de la Unión.
- Asociación Los Nonualcos-San Luis la Herradura, departamento de La Paz.

▪ El informe final del MTR debería contener una descripción completa del enfoque seguido y las razones de su adopción, señalando explícitamente las hipótesis utilizadas y los retos, puntos fuertes y débiles de los métodos y el enfoque seguido para el examen.

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5. ÁMBITO DETALLADO DEL MTR

El equipo del MTR evaluará las siguientes cuatro categorías de progreso del proyecto. Para unas descripciones más amplias véase la *Guía para la Realización del Examen de Mitad de Periodo en Proyectos Apoyados por el PNUD y Financiados por el GEF* (Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects).

i. Estrategia del proyecto

[36] Para ideas sobre estrategias y técnicas innovadoras y participativas de seguimiento y evaluación, véase *UNDP Discussion Paper: Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results*, 05 Nov 2013.
[37] Para más información sobre la implicación de las partes interesadas en el proceso de Seguimiento y Evaluación, véase *UNDP Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Development Results*, Capítulo 3, pág. 93.
[38] La decisión final de los sitios a visitar, así como las partes intersadas a entrevistar, se tomará conjuntamenteentre el PNUD, el Equipo del Proyecto y el Equipo del MTR..

Diseño del proyecto:

- Analizar el problema abordado por el proyecto y las hipótesis aplicadas. Examinar el efecto de cualquier hipótesis incorrecta o de cambios en el contexto sobre el logro de los resultados del proyecto recogidos en el Documento del Proyecto.

- Analizar la relevancia de la estrategia del proyecto y determinar si ésta ofrece el camino más eficaz para alcanzar los resultados deseados/buscados. ¿Se incorporaron adecuadamente al diseño del proyecto las lecciones aprendidas en otros proyectos relevantes?

- Analizar cómo quedan recogidas en el proyecto las prioridades del país y de cooperación del PNUD. Comprobar la propiedad nacional del proyecto. ¿Estuvo el concepto del proyecto alineado con las prioridades de desarrollo del sector nacional y los planes para el país

- Analizar los procesos de toma de decisiones. ¿Se tuvo en cuenta durante los procesos de diseño del proyecto la perspectiva de quienes se verían afectados por las decisiones relacionadas con el proyecto, de quienes podrían influir sobre sus resultados y de quienes podrían aportar información u otros recursos durante los procesos de diseño del proyecto?

- Analizar hasta qué punto se tocaron las cuestiones de género relevantes en el diseño del proyecto. Para un mayor detalle de las directrices seguidas véase *Guía para la Realización del Examen de Mitad de Periodo en Proyectos Apoyados por el PNUD y Financiados por el GEF* .

- Si existen áreas importantes que requieren atención, recomendar aspectos para su mejora.

Marco de resultados/marco lógico:

- Acometer un análisis crítico de los indicadores y metas del marco lógico del proyecto, evaluar hasta qué punto las metas de mitad y final de periodo del proyecto cumplen los criterios "SMART " (abreviatura en inglés de Específicos, Cuantificables, Conseguibles, Relevantes y Sujetos a plazos) y sugerir modificaciones/revisiones específicas de dichas metas e indicadores en la medida que sea necesario.

- ¿Son los objetivos y resultados del proyecto o sus componentes claros, prácticos y factibles de realizar durante el tiempo estipulado para su ejecución?

- Analizar si el progreso hasta el momento ha generado efectos de desarrollo beneficiosos o podría catalizarlos en el futuro (por ejemplo, en términos de generación de ingresos, igualdad de género y empoderamiento de la mujer, mejoras en la gobernabilidad, etc.) de manera que deberían incluirse en el marco de resultados del proyecto y monitorizarse de forma anual.

- Asegurar un seguimiento efectivo de los aspectos más amplios de desarrollo y de género del proyecto. Desarrollar y recomendar los indicadores de 'desarrollo' SMART, que deberán incluir indicadores desagregados en función del género y otros que capturen los beneficios de desarrollo.

ii. Progreso en el logro de resultados

Análisis del progreso en el logro de resultados:

- Revisar los indicadores del marco lógico y compararlos con el progreso realizado en el logro de las metas establecidas para fin de proyecto mediante la Matriz de progreso en el logro de resultados y en función de lo establecido en la *Guía para la Realización del Examen de Mitad de Periodo*

en Proyectos Apoyados por el PNUD y Financiados por el GEF; reflejar los avances siguiendo el sistema de colores "tipo semáforo" basado en el nivel de progreso alcanzado; asignar una valoración del progreso obtenido a cada resultado; efectuar recomendaciones desde las áreas marcadas como "No lleva camino de lograrse" (rojo).

Tabla 1. Matriz de progreso en el logro de resultados (resultados obtenidos en comparación con las metas para el final del proyecto)

Estrategia del proyecto	Indicador[39]	Nivel inicial de referencia [40]	Nivel en el 1er PIR (auto-reportado)	Meta a Mitad de Período[41]	Meta a Final de Proyecto	Nivel y evaluación a Mitad de Periodo[42]	Valoración de los logros conseguidos[43]	Justificación de la valoración
Objetivo:	Indicador (si es aplicable):							
Resultado 1:	Indicador 1:							
	Indicador 2:							
Resultado 2:	Indicador 3:							
	Indicador 4:							
	Etc.							
Etc.								

Código para la Evaluación de los Indicadores

Verde= Logrado	Amarillo= Camino de lograrse	Rojo= No lleva camino de lograrse

Además del análisis de progreso en la consecución de resultados:

- Comparar y analizar la Herramienta de Seguimiento del GEF al nivel inicial de referencia con la completada inmediatamente antes del Examen de Mitad de Periodo.

- Identificar las restantes barreras al logro de los objetivos del proyecto en lo que resta hasta su finalización.

- Una vez examinados los aspectos del proyecto que han tenido éxito, identificar fórmulas para que el proyecto pueda ampliar los beneficios conseguidos.

iii. Ejecución del proyecto y gestión adaptativa

Mecanismos de gestión:

- Analizar la eficacia general en la gestión del proyecto tal y como se recoge en el Documento del Proyecto. ¿Se han realizado cambios? ¿Son efectivos? ¿Están claras las responsabilidades y la cadena de mando? ¿Se toman las decisiones de forma transparente y en el momento adecuado? Recomendar áreas de mejora.

[39] Completar con datos del marco lógico y los cuadros de mando
[40] Completar con datos del Documento del Proyecto
[41] Si está disponible
[42] Colorear sólo esta columna
[43] Usar la escala de valoración del progreso en el logro de resultados con sus 6 puntos: AS, S, MS, MI, I, AI

- Analizar la calidad de la ejecución por parte del Organismo ejecutor/Socio(s) en la Ejecución y áreas de mejora recomendadas.

- Analizar la calidad del apoyo proporcionado por el Organismo Asociado del GEF (PNUD) y recomendar áreas de mejora.

Planificación del trabajo:

- Analizar cualquier demora en la puesta en marcha e implementación del proyecto, identificar sus causas y examinar si ya se han resuelto.

- ¿Están los procesos de planificación del trabajo basados en los resultados? Si no es así, ¿se pueden sugerir maneras de reorientar la planificación del trabajo para enfocarse en los resultados?

- Examinar el uso del marco de resultados/marco lógico del proyecto como herramienta de gestión y revisar cualquier cambio producido desde el inicio del proyecto.

Financiación y cofinanciación:

- Evaluar la gestión financiera del proyecto, con especial referencia a la rentabilidad de las intervenciones.

- Analizar los cambios producidos en las asignaciones de fondos como resultado de revisiones presupuestarias y determinar si dichas revisiones han sido apropiadas y relevantes.

- ¿Cuenta el proyecto con controles financieros adecuados, incluyendo una apropiada información y planificación, que permitan a la Dirección tomar decisiones informadas relativas al presupuesto y que faciliten un flujo de fondos en tiempo y plazos adecuados?

- A partir de la información contenida en la tabla de seguimiento de la cofinanciación que hay que rellenar, ofrecer comentarios sobre la cofinanciación. ¿Se utiliza la cofinanciación estratégicamente para ayudar a los objetivos del proyecto? ¿Se reúne el Equipo del Proyecto regularmente con todos los socios en la cofinanciación a fin de alinear las prioridades financieras y los planes de trabajo anuales?

Sistemas de seguimiento y evaluación a nivel de proyecto:

- Analizar las herramientas de seguimiento usadas actualmente. ¿Ofrecen la información necesaria? ¿Involucran a socios clave? ¿Están alineadas con los sistemas nacionales o incorporadas a ellos? ¿Usan la información existente? ¿Son eficientes? ¿Son rentables? ¿Se requieren herramientas adicionales? ¿Cómo pueden hacerse más participativas e inclusivas?

- Analizar la gestión financiera del presupuesto para el seguimiento y evaluación del proyecto. ¿Se asignan recursos suficientes para el seguimiento y evaluación? ¿Se usan estos recursos con eficacia?

Implicación de las partes interesadas:

- Gestión del proyecto: ¿Ha desarrollado y forjado el proyecto las alianzas adecuadas, tanto con las partes interesadas directas como con otros agentes tangenciales?

- Participación y procesos impulsados desde el país: ¿Apoyan los gobiernos locales y nacionales los objetivos del proyecto? ¿Siguen teniendo un papel activo en la toma de decisiones del proyecto que contribuya a una ejecución eficiente y efectiva del mismo?

- Participación y sensibilización pública: ¿Hasta qué punto ha contribuido la implicación y la sensibilización pública en el progreso realizado hacia el logro de los objetivos del proyecto?

Información:

- Analizar los mecanismos empleados por la Dirección del proyecto para informar de los cambios en la gestión adaptativa y comunicarlos a la Junta del Proyecto.

- Evaluar hasta qué punto el Equipo de Proyecto y sus socios llevan a cabo y cumplen con todos los requisitos de información del GEF (p. e: ¿qué medidas se han tomado para abordar los PIR con valoraciones bajas, cuando sea aplicable)?

- Evaluar cómo se han documentado y compartido las lecciones derivadas del proceso de gestión adaptativa con los socios clave y cómo han sido internalizadas por éstos.

Comunicación:

- Examinar la comunicación interna del proyecto con las partes interesadas: ¿Existe una comunicación regular y efectiva? ¿Hay partes interesadas importantes que se quedan fuera de los canales de comunicación? ¿Existen mecanismos de retroalimentación cuando se recibe la comunicación? ¿Contribuye la comunicación con las partes interesadas a que estas últimas tengan una mayor concienciación respecto a los resultados y actividades del proyecto, y a un mayor compromiso en la sostenibilidad a largo plazo de los resultados del mismo?

- Examinar la comunicación externa del proyecto: ¿Se han establecido canales de comunicación adecuados –o se están estableciendo– para expresar el progreso del proyecto y el impacto público deseado (por ejemplo, ¿hay presencia en la Web?)? ¿Llevó a cabo el proyecto campañas de comunicación y sensibilización pública adecuadas?).

- A efectos informativos, redactar un párrafo de media página que resuma el progreso del proyecto hacia los resultados en términos de su contribución a la generación de beneficios relacionados con el desarrollo sostenible y el medio ambiente global.

iv. Sostenibilidad

- Validar si los riesgos identificados en el Documento del Proyecto, el Examen Anual del Proyecto/PIR y el Módulo de Gestión de Riesgos de ATLAS son los más importantes y si las valoraciones de riesgo aplicadas son adecuadas y están actualizadas. En caso contrario, explicar por qué.

- Asimismo, evaluar los siguientes riesgos a la sostenibilidad:

Riesgos financieros para la sostenibilidad:

- ¿Cuál es la probabilidad de que se reduzca o cese la disponibilidad de recursos económicos una vez concluya la ayuda del GEF (teniendo en cuenta que los recursos potenciales pueden

provenir de múltiples fuentes, como los sectores público y privado, actividades generadoras de ingresos y otros recursos que serán adecuados para sostener los resultados del proyecto)?

Riesgos financieros para la sostenibilidad:

- ¿Existen riesgos sociales o políticos que puedan poner en peligro la sostenibilidad de los resultados del proyecto? ¿Cuál es el riesgo de que el nivel de propiedad e implicación de las partes interesadas (incluyendo el de los gobiernos y otras partes interesadas) sea insuficiente para sostener los resultados/beneficios del proyecto? ¿Son conscientes las diversas partes interesadas clave de que les interesa que los beneficios del proyecto sigan fluyendo? ¿Tienen el público y/o las partes interesadas un nivel de concienciación suficiente para apoyar los objetivos a largo plazo del proyecto? ¿Documenta el Equipo del Proyecto las lecciones aprendidas de manera continuada? ¿Se comparten/transfieren a los agentes adecuados que estén en posición de aplicarlas y, potencialmente, reproducirlas y/o expandirlas en el futuro?

Riesgos para la sostenibilidad relacionados con el marco institucional y la gobernabilidad:

- ¿Presentan los marcos legales, las políticas, las estructuras y los procesos de gobernabilidad riesgos que puedan poner en peligro la continuidad de los beneficios del proyecto? Al evaluar este parámetro, es preciso tener en cuenta también si están instalados los sistemas/mecanismos requeridos para la rendición de cuentas, la transparencia y los conocimientos técnicos.

Riesgos medioambientales a la sostenibilidad:

- ¿Hay algún riesgo medioambiental que pueda poner en peligro la continuidad de los resultados del proyecto?

Conclusiones y Recomendaciones

El equipo del MTR incluirá una sección en el informe donde se recojan las conclusiones obtenidas a partir de todos los datos recabados y pruebas realizadas[44].

Las recomendaciones deberían ser sugerencias sucintas para intervenciones críticas que deberán ser específicas, cuantificables, conseguibles y relevantes. Se debería incluir una tabla de recomendaciones dentro del informe ejecutivo del informe. Para más información sobre la tabla de recomendaciones, véase *la Guía para la Realización del Examen de Mitad de Periodo en Proyectos Apoyados por el PNUD y Financiados por el GEF*.

Las recomendaciones del consultor/equipo del MTR deberían limitarse a 15 como máximo.

Valoración

El equipo del MTR incluirá sus valoraciones de los resultados del proyecto y breves descripciones de los logros asociados en una *Tabla resumen de valoraciones y logros* en el Resumen Ejecutivo del informe del MTR. Véase el Anexo F para comprobar las escalas de valoración. No es necesario hacer una valoración de la Estrategia del Proyecto ni una valoración general del mismo.

[44] Otra posibilidad es integrar las conclusiones del MTR en el cuerpo del informe.

Tabla. Resumen de valoraciones y logros del MTR
(*Nombre del proyecto*)

Parámetro	Valoración MTR	Descripción del logro
Estrategia del proyecto	N/A	
Progreso en el logro de resultados	Valoración del grado de logro del objetivo. Valoración del logro: (Calificar según escala de 6 pt.)	
	Valoración del grado de logro del resultado 1: (Calificar según escala de 6 pt.)	
	Valoración del grado de logro del resultado 2: (Calificar según escala de 6 pt.)	
	Valoración del grado de logro del resultado 3: (Calificar según escala de 6 pt.)	
	Etc.	
Ejecución del proyecto y gestión adaptativa	(Calificar según escala de 6 pt.)	
Sostenibilidad	(Calificar según escala de 4 pt.)	

6. CRONOGRAMA DE EJECUCIÓN

La duración total del MTR será de 35 días, aproximadamente durante 8 semanas, comenzando el 26 de Noviembre de 2018, y no superará los tres meses a partir del momento de la contratación del consultor. El cronograma provisional del MTR es el siguiente:

PERIODO DE EJECUCIÓN	ACTIVIDAD
13 de Noviembre de 2018	Cierre de solicitudes
15 de Noviembre de 2018	Selección del equipo del MTR
26 de Noviembre de 2018	Preparación del equipo del MTR (entrega de los Documentos del Proyecto)
26 Noviembre- 7 de Diciembre 10 días	Revisión de los Documentos y elaboración del Informe de Iniciación del MTR.
17-19 de Diciembre 2 días	Finalización y validación del Informe de Iniciación del MTR: fecha más tardía para el inicio de la misión del MTR.
7 - 15 de Enero- de 2019 8 días	Misión del MTR: reuniones con las partes interesadas, entrevistas, visitas de campo
15 de Enero de 2019	Reunión para el cierre de la misión y presentación de las primeras conclusiones: fecha más temprana para la finalización de la misión del MTR

17 Enero- 29 de Enero de 2019 10 días	Elaboración del borrador del informe
5-6 de Febrero de 2019 2 días	Incorporación del rastro de auditoría a partir de los datos ofrecidos en el borrador del informe/Finalización del informe del MTR
8 de Febrero de 2019	Preparación y comunicación de la respuesta de la Dirección
11 de Febrero 2019	Fecha prevista para la finalización definitiva del MTR

El Informe de Iniciación debería presentar opciones para llevar a cabo visitas de campo.

7. PRODUCTOS DEL EXAMEN DE MITAD DE PERIODO

#	Producto	Descripción	Plazo	Responsabilidades
1	**Informe de Iniciación del MTR**	El equipo del MTR clarifica los objetivos y métodos del Examen de Mitad de Periodo	Como mínimo 2 semanas antes de iniciarse la misión del MTR: *(7 de Diciembre de 2018)*	El equipo del MTR lo presenta a la Unidad Adjudicadora y a la Dirección del proyecto
2	**Presentación**	Conclusiones iniciales	Final de la misión del MTR: *(15 de Enero de 2019)*	El equipo del MTR las presenta ante la Dirección del proyecto y la Unidad Adjudicadora
3	**Borrador informe final**	Informe completo (usar las directrices sobre su contenido recogidas en el Anexo C) con anexos	Antes de transcurridas 3 semanas desde la misión del MTR: *(29 de enero de 2019)*	Enviado a la Unidad Adjudicadora, examinado por el RTA, Unidad de Coordinación de Proyectos, OFP del GEF
4	**Informe final***	Informe revisado con prueba de auditoría donde se detalla cómo se han abordado (o no) en el informe final del MTR todos los comentarios recibidos	Antes de transcurrida 1 semana desde la recepción de los comentarios del PNUD sobre el borrador: *(11 de Febrero de 2019)*	Enviado a la Unidad Adjudicadora

*Todos los informes se presentarán en español. La Unidad Adjudicadora contratará la traducción del informe al inglés.

8. MECANISMOS DEL MTR

La responsabilidad principal en la gestión de este MTR corresponde a la Unidad Adjudicadora. La Unidad Adjudicadora para el MTR de este proyecto es la Oficina del PNUD en El Salvador.

La Unidad Adjudicadora contratará a los consultores y se asegurará del pago puntual de los viáticos o dietas y gastos de viaje a El Salvador correspondientes al equipo del MTR. El Equipo del Proyecto tendrá la responsabilidad de comunicarse con el equipo del MTR para proporcionarle

todos los documentos pertinentes, fijar entrevistas con las partes interesadas y organizar visitas de campo.

9. REQUISITOS

El equipo del MTR estará formado por un consultor internacional (con experiencia y exposición a proyectos y evaluaciones en otros países a nivel mundial) que deberá hacerse acompañar por un experto de equipo (nacional o internacional) que reúna al menos una de las características presentadas en los requisitos a continuación[45]. Tanto el consultor internacional como cualquier experto del equipo que lo acompañe no podrán haber participado en la preparación, formulación y/o ejecución del proyecto (incluyendo la redacción del Documento del Proyecto) y no deberían tener un conflicto de intereses con las actividades relacionadas con el mismo.

El Consultor internacional deberá cumplir con los siguientes requisitos:

Requisitos
Grado académico de Ingeniería en Ecología, Biología, Ciencias Ambientales u otro campo estrechamente relacionado, preferiblemente con grado de maestría.
Dominio completo del idioma Español e Inglés.
Al menos un (1) año de formación demostrable en cuestiones relacionadas con el género *y Gestión de la biodiversidad u otra área focal de biodiversidad del GEF. Deseable haber* realizado al menos 1 trabajo en evaluación o análisis sensible al género y las áreas relacionadas.
Mínimo de 10 años de experiencia en el diseño, monitoreo o evaluación de proyectos de desarrollo con organismos internacionales relacionados con las áreas técnicas relevantes (medio ambiente, biodiversidad, ecosistemas, recursos naturales o similares), preferiblemente con el GEF y/o con el Sistema de Naciones Unidas.
Mínimo de tres (3) años de experiencia en la aplicación de indicadores SMART, en la reconstrucción o validación de escenarios iniciales (*baseline scenarios*), así como la gestión adaptativa de proyectos, aplicada en las en áreas de biodiversidad ecosistemas, recursos naturales o similares.
Mínimo de tres experiencias (verificables) con el GEF como consultor principal en el diseño de proyectos o evaluaciones recientes (revisiones de medio término o evaluaciones finales en los últimos 5 años), preferiblemente en Latinoamérica.

10. MODALIDADES Y ESPECIFICACIONES DE PAGO

30% del pago a la aprobación definitiva del Informe de Iniciación del MTR
30% a la presentación del borrador del informe del MTR
40% a la finalización del informe del MTR

[45] Al seleccionar al equipo del MTR, se tendrá encuenta el equilibrio de géneros.

11. PROCESO DE POSTULACIÓN[46]

Presentación recomendada de la propuesta:

a) **Carta de Confirmación de Interés y Disponibilidad de fechas para realizar el trabajo** mediante la plantilla [47] proporcionada por el PNUD;

b) **CV** y **el Formulario P11 de Historia Personal** [48] del experto internacional y del consultor experto que lo acompaña.

c) **Breve descripción del enfoque del trabajo/propuesta técnica** de por qué el postulante cree que es la persona más adecuada para el proyecto, y una metodología propuesta sobre cómo piensa enfocar y completar el trabajo acompañado de un cronograma de trabajo (máximo 5 páginas);

d) **Propuesta financiera** que indique el precio total e inclusivo del contrato y todos los costos relacionados (boleto de avión, viáticos o dietas, etc.) y honorarios del experto que lo acompaña, apoyada en un desglose detallado de los gastos, utilizando la plantilla adjunta al modelo de Carta de Confirmación de Interés. Si un postulante es contratado por una organización/compañía/institución y tiene previsto que su empleador cargue una tasa de gestión por su cesión al PNUD en concepto de Acuerdo de Préstamo Reembolsable (RLA), el solicitante debe indicarlo en este momento y asegurarse de que esos costos estén debidamente incluidos en la propuesta financiera que se envíe al PNUD.

Todos los materiales de la solicitud deberían remitirse a la dirección: Edificio Naciones Unidas, Bulevard Orden de Malta Sur #2-B, Urb. Santa Elena, Antiguo Cuscatlán, El Salvador, en un sobre sellado en el que se indicará la referencia siguiente: "*Consultant for Conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and maintenance of ecosystem services in protected wetlands of international importance Midterm Review*" o por email a la siguiente dirección EXCLUSIVAMENTE: adquisiciones.sv@undp.org antes de 13 de noviembre de 2018. Las solicitudes incompletas quedarán excluidas del proceso.

Criterios para la evaluación de la propuesta: Sólo se evaluarán aquellas solicitudes que cumplan con todos los requisitos. Las ofertas se evaluarán conforme al método de Puntuación Combinada (*Combined Scoring*) según el cual la formación académica, la experiencia en proyectos similares y propuesta técnica tendrán un peso del 70%, mientras que la propuesta económica representará el 30% de la valoración. El postulante que reciba la Puntuación Combinada más Alta y que acepte los Términos y Condiciones Generales del PNUD será el que reciba el contrato.

[46] La contratación de los consultores deberá realizarse conforme a las directrices de contratación recogidas en los POPPs: https://info.undp.org/global/popp/Páginas/default.aspx

[47] https://intranet.undp.org/unit/bom/pso/Support%20documents%20on%20IC%20Guidelines/Template%20for%20Confirmation%20of%20Interest%20and%20Submission%20of%20Financial%20Proposal.docx

[48] http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Careers/P11_Personal_history_form.doc

Annex 2. Evaluation matrix

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
Estrategia	¿Responde el proyecto a necesidades de conservación nacionales?	Coincidencia de objetivos de proyecto con objetivos de conservación nacionales	Comunicación Nacional a CBD	Análisis documental
			Estrategia Nacional de Humedales	
			Estrategia Nacional de Biodiversidad/ NBSAP	
			Documento de proyecto	
			PIRs	
			Oficiales de la unidad de humedales del MARN	Entrevista cualitativa
			Altos cargos del MARN (p. Ej.. director de proyecto)	
Estrategia	¿Responde el proyecto a necesidades de desarrollo sostenible local? ¿Puede el proyecto tener algún impacto no previsto	Coincidencia o aporte de objetivos de proyecto a objetivos de desarrollo sostenible local	Documentos de estrategia de desarrollo local (p. Ej. planes municipales)	Análisis documental
			Documento de proyecto	

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
	sobre el desarrollo local? ¿Existen grupos que pueden influir o son afectados por el proyecto que no participaron en su diseño o no participan en su implementación? ¿Afecta el proyecto a los roles de género tradicionales?		PIRs	
			Oficiales de ONGs que operen en la zona de influencia del proyecto (socios o no)	Entrevista cualitativa
			Oficiales municipales	
			Representantes asociaciones productores (caña de azúcar, acuicultura, agropecuario, pesca)	
			Residentes comunidades aledañas a áreas protegidas	
			Operadores turísticos	
Estrategia	¿Responde el proyecto a objetivos globales de conservación? ¿Responde el proyecto al marco de cooperación al desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas con El Salvador (UNDAF)?	Coincidencia de objetivos de proyecto con objetivos de CBD	Estrategia área de Biodiversidad GEF-5	Análisis documental
			CBD-PoWPA	
			UNDAF	
			UNDP-CDP	
			Documento de proyecto	
			PIRs	
			UNDP-RTA	

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
			UNDP Country Office team	Entrevista cualitativa
	¿Cuenta el proyecto con una estrategia realista y factible?	Robustez lógica de la cadena de resultados	Documento de proyecto	Análisis documental
	¿Incorpora el proyecto lecciones aprendidas de intervenciones anteriores?	Referencias a lecciones aprendidas de intervenciones anteriores en documento de proyecto	Documento de proyecto	Análisis documental
	¿Se estudiaron varias alternativas para conseguir los resultados esperados en la fase de diseño del proyecto?	Análisis de alternativas y de adicionalidad en documento de proyecto	Documento de proyecto	Análisis documental
Estrategia	¿Es la estrategia del proyecto costo-efectiva?	Costo por unidad (población, área) de ecosistema está en línea con proyectos similares en LAC	Documento de proyecto otros proyectos similares en foco y área geográfica	Análisis documental
Progreso a resultados	¿Se están superando las barreras identificadas?	Avances contra las barreras identificadas en el documento de proyecto	PIRs	Análisis documental
			Oficiales de ONGs que operen en la zona de influencia del proyecto (socios o no)	Entrevista cualitativa
			Oficiales municipales	

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
			Representantes asociaciones productores (caña de azúcar, acuicultura, agropecuario, pesca)	
			Residentes comunidades aledañas a áreas protegidas	
			Operadores turísticos	
Progreso a resultados	¿Está el proyecto en camino de alcanzar protección para 37,710 hectáreas adicionales de humedal? ¿Es la designación de estas nuevas áreas protegidas suficiente para garantizar la conservación de los humedales?	Declaración de área protegida conforme a ley vigente y existencia de plan y equipo para su manejo	Plan de manejo de área protegida	Análisis documental
			Oficiales/ miembros del comité de gestión de área protegida/ guarda-recursos	Entrevista cualitativa
	¿Son estables las poblaciones de organismos indicadores en el área de influencia del proyecto?	Datos de monitoreo de las especies indicador	Informes de monitoreo	Análisis documental
			Especialistas en biodiversidad (ONG, MARN, guarda-recursos, academia)	Entrevista cualitativa

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
	¿Tiene el área de influencia del proyecto la superficie y/o la conectividad suficientes para garantizar la viabilidad de las poblaciones de especies indicadores?	Área de ocurrencia, presencia de áreas críticas (forrajeo, nidificación), tiempo de generación	Literatura científica	Análisis documental
Progreso a resultados	`¿Han conducido las acciones del proyecto a una mejora de la eficacia de gestión en los humedales de Olomega, El Jocotal y Bahia de Jiquilisco?	Cambio significativo en puntaje de METT respecto a inicio del proyecto (fase PPG)	METT	Análisis estadístico
			Especialistas en biodiversidad (ONG, MARN, guarda-recursos, academia)	Entrevista cualitativa
	¿Han mejorado las perspectivas financieras de las áreas protegidas bajo influencia del proyecto?	Cambio significativo en puntaje de la *Financial Sustainability Scorecard* respecto a inicio del proyecto (fase PPG)	Financial Sustainability Scorecard	Análisis estadístico
			Especialistas en biodiversidad (ONG, MARN, guarda-recursos, academia)	Entrevista cualitativa
Progreso a resultados	¿Ha provocado el proyecto un cambio de capacidades y/o actitudes para la gestión de áreas protegidas?	Cambio significativo en puntaje de la *Capacity Development Scorecard* respecto a inicio del proyecto (fase PPG)	Capacity Development Scorecard	Análisis estadístico
		Percepción de gestores de áreas protegidas	Oficiales de la unidad de humedales del MARN	Entrevista cualitativa

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
			Oficiales del MAG implicados en la gestión de humedales	
			Oficiales del MOP implicados en los convenios para prevenir degradación de humedales	
			Oficiales del Comité de Gestión del Rio Lempa implicados en los convenios para prevenir degradación de humedales	
			Oficiales de las oficinas ambientales municipales	
			Guarda-recursos de las áreas protegidas del proyecto	
Progreso a resultados	¿Ha contribuido el proyecto a reducir las amenazas a la biodiversidad en humedales protegidos?	Cambio significativo en puntaje de amenazas METT respecto a inicio del proyecto (fase PPG)	METT	Análisis estadístico
		Eficacia de las medidas tomadas contra especies invasoras	Literatura científica	Análisis documental
			Especialistas en biodiversidad (ONG, MARN, guarda-recursos, academia)	Entrevista cualitativa

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
			Datos de sistema de monitoreo de especies invasoras	Análisis estadístico
		Eficacia de las medidas tomadas contra la polución	Literatura científica	Análisis documental
			Productores (pesca, acuicultura, agropecuaria, caña de azúcar)	Entrevista cualitativa
			Responsables municipales	
			Datos de sistema de monitoreo de contaminación	Análisis estadístico

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
rogreso a resultados	¿Se han producido cambios/ existen perspectivas de incremento en ingresos de familias cuya ocupación principal es la explotación agropecuaria/ pesca en explotaciones pequeñas y medias a causa de la introducción de buenas prácticas agropecuarias/ mejora en la protección de humedales? Si existen estos beneficios, ¿cómo se han distribuido en diferentes grupos de la población: hombres, mujeres, chicos y chicas, grupos ocupacionales/ étnicos/ origen?	Productividad agropecuaria (kg o US$/ ha) y pesquera (kg/unidad esfuerzo) y o empleo adicional (e.g. turismo) según percepción de productores y comunidades aledañas	Representantes asociaciones productores (caña de azúcar, acuicultura, agropecuario, pesca), comunidades, operadores turísticos	Entrevista cualitativa

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
Progreso a resultados	¿Esperan poblaciones aledañas beneficios sociales (p.ej. empleo ligado a turismo sostenible, mejor salud ambiental…) resultado de la mejora en la gestión y ampliación de humedales protegidos?	Percepción de pobladores/ operadores aledaños a PWII sobre los beneficios potenciales de su declaración como área protegida	Representantes asociaciones productores (caña de azúcar, acuicultura, agropecuario, pesca), comunidades, operadores turísticos	Entrevista cualitativa
	¿Han tenido las intervenciones realizadas en el marco del proyecto algún impacto en la percepción de los roles tradicionales de género?	Percepciones de socios y beneficiarios del proyecto	Representantes asociaciones productores (caña de azúcar, acuicultura, agropecuario, pesca), comunidades, operadores turísticos, representantes agencias implementadora, ejecutora y otros socios del proyecto	Entrevista cualitativa
Implementación y gestión del proyecto	¿Es la estructura de administración del proyecto la más adecuada? ¿Están todos los actores que tienen influencia e interés en el proyecto representados en las estructuras de gestión del	Presencia de actores relevantes y equidad en las estructuras de gestión del proyecto	Documento de proyecto	Análisis de partes interesadas (Stakeholder analysis)
			PIRs	
			Actas de reuniones de la junta de proyecto	
			Equipo de implementación del proyecto	Entrevista cualitativa

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
	proyecto? ¿Tienen en cuenta la equidad de género las estructuras de gestión del proyecto?		Representantes agencia implementadora	
			Director de proyecto (MARN)	
	¿Cuenta el proyecto con apoyo adecuado por parte del PNUD?	Tiempo y calidad de respuesta a problemas en la implementación	CDRs	Análisis documental
			PIRs	
			Actas de reuniones de la junta de proyecto	
			Equipo de implementación del proyecto	Entrevista cualitativa
			Representantes agencia ejecutora	
			Director de proyecto (MARN)	
Implementación y gestión del proyecto	¿Cuenta el proyecto con apoyo adecuado por parte del MARN?	Tiempo y calidad de respuesta a problemas en la implementación	CDRs	Análisis documental
			PIRs	
			Actas de reuniones de la junta de proyecto	
			Equipo de implementación del proyecto	Entrevista cualitativa
			Representantes agencia implementadora	

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
			Representante PNUD	
	¿Responden los planes de trabajo anual al marco de resultados del proyecto?	Planes de trabajo estructurados según resultados del proyecto	Planes anuales de trabajo (AWP)	Análisis documental
	¿Se han producido cambios en la gestión del proyecto o su marco de resultados?	Cambios han sido debidamente documentados y justificados y no alteran la contribución a los objetivos de biodiversidad del GEF	Planes anuales de trabajo (AWP)	Análisis documental
			PIRs	
			Actas de reuniones de la junta de proyecto	
			Equipo de implementación del proyecto	Entrevista cualitativa
			Representantes agencia implementadora	
			Representante PNUD	
Implementación y gestión del proyecto	¿Es adecuada la gestión financiera del proyecto?	Grado de desviación de montos y rubricas de gastos respecto a documento de proyecto y planes de trabajo	CDRs	Análisis estadístico
			AWPs	
			Documento de proyecto	
		Grado de retraso del proyecto respecto a planificación	CDRs	Análisis estadístico
			AWPs	

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
			Documento de proyecto	
		Proyecto aprueba auditorías externas	Informes de auditoria	Análisis documental
	¿Se están siguiendo los desembolsos comprometidos como co-financiamiento?	Datos de monitoreo de co-financiamiento	Informes de monitoreo	Análisis documental
	¿Es adecuado el marco de indicadores del proyecto?	Coincidencia de indicadores del marco de proyecto con indicadores relevantes a la conservación de humedales	Informes Convención de Ramsar	Análisis documental
			CBD-PoWPA	
			UNDP Handbook for Monitoring and Evaluation	
Implementación y gestión del proyecto	¿Es adecuado el marco de indicadores del proyecto?	Indicadores de proyecto son costo-efectivos	Equipo de implementación del proyecto	Entrevista cualitativa
		Existen suficientes recursos para monitorear los indicadores	PIR	Análisis documental
			Planes anuales de trabajo (AWP) y presupuestos asociados	
			CDRs	
			Equipo de implementación del proyecto	Entrevista cualitativa

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
	¿Cuenta el proyecto con una estrategia de comunicación efectiva que consigue movilizar a socios, beneficiarios y otros actores con influencia y/o interés en el proyecto?	# de menciones del proyecto en documentos nacionales de biodiversidad (p. Ej., comunicaciones nacionales a la CBD)	Comunicación Nacional a CBD	Análisis estadístico
		# de menciones del proyecto en prensa o medios de comunicación	Medios de comunicación nacional on-line	
Implementación y gestión del proyecto		Percepción de actores que operan y/o influyen en áreas protegidas	Oficiales de ONGs que operen en la zona de influencia del proyecto (socios o no)	Entrevista cualitativa
			Oficiales municipales	
			Representantes asociaciones productores (caña de azúcar, acuicultura, agropecuario, pesca)	
			Residentes comunidades aledañas a áreas protegidas	
			Operadores turísticos	
Sostenibilidad	¿Existen riesgos financieros que pongan en peligro la sustentabilidad de los resultados del proyecto?	Brecha financiera acorde a Financial Sustainability Scorecard	Financial Sustainability Scorecard	Análisis estadístico
		Estabilidad presupuestaria MARN	Presupuestos del MARN	

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
		Estabilidad presupuestaria municipios	Presupuestos municipales	
		Flujos ODA	Documentos de proyecto	
Sostenibilidad	¿Hay consenso entre los actores locales y nacionales sobre los beneficios de conservación de humedales? ¿Hay consenso entre actores locales y nacionales sobre los beneficios de las buenas prácticas agrícolas? ¿Hay consenso entre actores locales y nacionales sobre las medidas iniciadas para la eliminación de las IAS? ¿Hay consenso entre actores locales y nacionacles sobre las medidas tomadas para eliminación/ reducción de desechos y descargas agrícolas y municipales?	consenso entre los actores locales y nacionales sobre los beneficios de conservación de humedales	Oficiales de ONGs que operen en la zona de influencia del proyecto (socios o no)	Entrevista cualitativa
			Oficiales municipales	
			Representantes asociaciones productores (caña de azúcar, acuicultura, agropecuario, pesca)	
			Residentes comunidades aledañas a áreas protegidas	
			Operadores turísticos	

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
Sostenibilidad	¿Tienen cabida las medidas introducidas por el proyecto en el marco legal y regulatorio a nivel nacional y local?	Conformidad de medidas introducidas por el proyecto con la legislación y políticas vigentes	PIR	Análisis documental
			Documentos legales: ley de medio ambiente, ley de áreas protegidas, estrategia nacional de biodiversidad, estrategia nacional marino-costera, estrategia nacional de humedales etc.	
			Oficiales de ONGs que operen en la zona de influencia del proyecto (socios o no)	Entrevista cualitativa
			Oficiales municipales	
			Representantes asociaciones productores (caña de azúcar, acuicultura, agropecuario, pesca)	
			Residentes comunidades aledañas a áreas protegidas	
			Operadores turísticos	

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
Sostenibilidad	¿Es suficiente la extensión y nivel de protección de los humedales bajo influencia del proyecto para garantizar la continuidad de las poblaciones biológicas y prevenir la degradación de habitats críticos (agua lacustre, fluvial, marisma, bosque galería, pantano, manglar) y asociados (bosque seco, bosque pino-encino), teniendo en cuenta el nivel actual de amenazas y los posibles impactos del cambio climático?	Tendencias de degradación (reducción de cobertura), tendencias de población, factores demográficos, tecnológicos y económicos, impactos del cambio climático	Datos de sistema de monitoreo de contaminación, especies invasoras, cobertura vegetal, SIH, etc	Análisis estadístico
			Inventario Nacional de Humedales	Análisis documental
			Comunicación Nacional a CBD	
			Especialistas en biodiversidad (ONG, MARN, guarda-recursos, academia)	Entrevista cualitativa
	¿Pueden las medidas tomadas garantizar la eliminación/ control de especies invasoras/ dañinas con costos inferiores a los beneficios reportados?	Eficacia de las medidas tomadas para eliminar/ controlar poblaciones invasoras/ dañinas	Especialistas en biodiversidad (ONG, MARN, guarda-recursos, academia)	Entrevista cualitativa
			Literatura científica	Análisis documental
Sostenibilidad	¿Podrán actores locales implementar estas medidas de	Actores locales tendrán medios para continuar medidas de erradicación/ control	Especialistas en biodiversidad (ONG, MARN, guarda-recursos, academia)	Entrevista cualitativa

Área del proyecto	Preguntas de evaluación	Indicadores	Fuentes	Metodología
	control mas allá del periodo de implementación del proyecto?		Gestores áreas protegidas	
	La prioridad otorgada a humedales en la estrategia nacional de biodiversidad, ¿sigue siendo defendida por las autoridades ambientales?	Manejo sostenible de la biodiversidad en humedales es una prioridad para la autoridades ambientales	Funcionarios del MARN y MAG	Entrevista cualitativa
			Funcionarios de ONGs (socias o no del proyecto)	
			Socios y beneficiarios del proyecto	
			Documentos de estrategia/ comunicaciones/ presupuesto del MARN/ MAG destinado a humedales	Análisis documental

Annex 3. Interview guide

Durante la misión de evaluación se llevaron a cabo 20 entrevistas individuales y 10 entrevistas colectivas con un total de 54 participantes: 8 presidentes de comités locales Ramsar, 4 directores del MARN (incluyendo a la ministra), 4 jefes y delegados/ técnicos del MARN, 14 guarda recursos del MARN, 2 representantes de cooperativas pesqueras, 11 ganaderos, 7 funcionarios de unidades ambientales, 5 miembros del equipo de proyecto y 1 oficial del PNUD. En los grupos comités locales Ramsar, MARN (directores, técnicos y guarda recursos), el equipo del proyecto y en el grupo de ganaderos había representación femenina, siendo 13 el total de mujeres entrevistadas.

Todas las entrevistas fueron discusiones abiertas, con una duración de entre 30 minutos y hora y media, siendo el tiempo más frecuente 45 minutos. Las entrevistas estaban estructuradas en torno a temas dependiendo de los grupos como se detalla a continuación:

Dirección del MARN: contexto político y financiero del proyecto dentro de la política nacional de medio ambiente, factores que afectan a su sostenibilidad y como la próxima transición política va a afectar al proyecto

Técnicos y guarda recursos del MARN: capacidades adquiridas y aportadas por el proyecto, déficit de capacidades. Principales amenazas ambientales en sus zonas de actuación y soluciones implementadas. Características socio-económicas de la zona y sus vínculos a servicios ambientales

Ganaderos: prácticas habituales y innovación introducida por el proyecto. Principales desafíos en la producción agropecuaria. Beneficios de áreas protegidas.

Coordinadores y funcionarios Unidades Ambientales Municipales: Principales desafíos ambientales. Capacidades adquiridas y aportadas por el proyecto. Contexto político y financiero de la UAM. Características socio-económicas de la zona y su vínculo a servicios ambientales.

Equipo de proyecto: desafíos y oportunidades en la implementación. Relevancia y eficiencia de la estrategia.

Comités locales Ramsar: Importancia de sitios Ramsar. Desafíos de gestión. Características socio-económicas de la zona y su vínculo a servicios ambientales.

Annex 4. Rating scales

1. Avance hacia resultados del proyecto

Muy satisfactorio (HS)	Se espera que el resultado logre o supere todas sus metas de fin de proyecto, sin mayores deficiencias. El progreso hacia el objetivo / resultado se puede presentar como “buena práctica”
Satisfactorio (S)	Se espera que el resultado logre la mayoría de sus objetivos de fin de proyecto, con solo algunas deficiencias menores.
Moderadamente satisfactorio (MS)	Se espera que el resultado logre la mayoría de sus objetivos de fin de proyecto, pero con importantes deficiencias.
Moderadamente insatisfactorio (MU)	Se espera que el objetivo/ resultado logre sus objetivos de fin de proyecto con deficiencias mayores.
Insatisfactorio (U)	Se espera que el objetivo / resultado no logre la mayoría de sus objetivos de fin de proyecto
Muy insatisfactorio (HU)	El objetivo / resultado no ha logrado sus objetivos de medio término y no se espera que logre ninguno de sus objetivos de fin de proyecto.

2. Project Implementation & Adaptive Management Rating Scale

Muy satisfactorio (HS)	La implementación de los siete componentes (acuerdos de gestión, planificación del trabajo, finanzas y cofinanciamiento, sistemas de monitoreo y evaluación a nivel de proyecto, participación de los interesados, informes y comunicaciones) se está llevando de manera eficiente y efectiva del proyecto. El proyecto puede ser presentado como “buena práctica”.
Satisfactorio (S)	La mayoría de los siete componentes se está implementando de manera eficiente y efectiva, excepto por unos pocos que están sujetos a medidas correctivas.
Moderadamente satisfactorio (MS)	La implementación de algunos de los siete componentes es eficiente y efectiva, con algunos componentes que requieren medidas correctivas.
Moderadamente insatisfactorio (MU)	La implementación de algunos de los siete componentes no está llevando a cabo de manera eficiente y efectiva y la mayoría de los componentes requieren medidas correctivas.
Insatisfactorio (U)	La implementación de la mayoría de los siete componentes no conduce a la implementación eficiente y efectiva del proyecto y la gestión adaptable.
Muy insatisfactorio (HU)	La implementación de ninguno de los siete componentes está llevando a una implementación eficiente y efectiva del proyecto y una gestión adaptable.

3. Sustainability Rating Scale

Probable (L)	Riesgos no significativos para la sostenibilidad, con resultados clave en camino a ser alcanzados por el cierre del proyecto y se espera que continúen en el futuro previsible
Moderadamente probable (ML)	Riesgos moderados, pero las expectativas de que al menos algunos resultados se mantendrán debido al progreso hacia los resultados basados en la revisión de medio término
Moderadamente improbable (MU)	Riesgo significativo de que algunos resultados clave no continúen después del cierre del proyecto.
Improbable (U)	Riesgos graves de que los resultados del proyecto, así como los productos clave, no se mantengan

Annex 5. Outcomes table

Código colores: rojo: poco probable que se alcance; amarillo: en camino de alcanzar meta; verde: meta alcanzada

Resultado	Indicador	Sub-indicador	Sub-indicador	Línea de base	Meta EOP	Estatus	%	Observaciones
Promover la conservación y uso sostenible de la biodiversidad y mantenimiento de los servicios ambientales mediante la creación de nuevos humedales protegidos de importancia internacional y mejora de la eficacia de gestión de los humedales protegidos existentes.	Cobertura (ha) por la creación de 3 nuevas áreas protegidas de uso múltiple	Bahía de Jiquilisco	Manglar (islas)	-	1,718	1,719	100%	El proyecto facilita la delimitación y traspaso de titularidad de las áreas definidas en el documento de proyecto. Esto no aplica para las áreas marinas y de esteros, que no pueden ser registradas y que son recursos de acceso abierto a efectos prácticos. La línea de base (superficie de esteros) es inconsistente con la información mas actual.
			Lagunas y esteros	-	12,206	-	0%	
			Aguas marinas	-	19,382	-	0%	
			Sub-total Jiquilisco	-	33,305	1,719	5%	
		Golfo de Fonseca	Martín Pérez	-	146.51	-	0%	Las islas son de titularidad municipal o del Ministerio de Defensa y no pueden ser calificadas como humedales. Los manglares de la Bahía de la Unión (6,980.4 Ha) no están incluidos entre los humedales del proyecto.
			Meanguerita	-	36.00	-	0%	
			Ilca	-	11.00	-	0%	
			Periquito	-	6.00	-	0%	
			Aguas de Meanguera	-	85.70	-	0%	
			Sub-total Golfo de Fonseca	-	285.21	-	0%	
		Laguna de Olomega	Isla Olomeguita	-	4.20	-	0%	Demarcación en buen curso para Tierra Blanca, pero existe conflicto en torno a la ocupación de Olomeguita. Proceso en sabana inundada no comenzado. San Antonio Silva es ANP desde 2011.
			Tierra Blanca	-	174.80	-	0%	
			San Antonio Silva	-	196.00	-	0%	
			Sabana inundada	-	3,744	-	0%	
			Sub-total Olomega	-	4,119.00	-	0%	
		Total (Prodoc)		-	37,709	1,719	5%	

Resultado	Indicador	Sub-indicador	Sub-indicador	Línea de base	Meta EOP	Estatus	%	Observaciones
Promover la conservación y uso sostenible de la biodiversidad y mantenimiento de los servicios ambientales mediante la creación de nuevos humedales protegidos de importancia internacional y mejora de la eficacia de gestión de los humedales protegidos existentes.	Continued presence of key indicator species in four PAs in Jiquilisco Bay and El Jocotal Lagoon	Amazona auropalliata		Sin datos	Presente	Sin datos	-	Necesita el desarrollo plan de monitoreo de biodiversidad, a ejecutar por la unidad de humedales del MARN, en cooperación con comunidades y ONGs para las siguientes especies: *Cocrodylus acutus, Caiman crocodilus*, Tortugas marinas, *Amazona auropalliata* (y otras aves a determinar) además de monitoreo de cobertura de manglar. Además, formulación de planes de explotación dentro de los paisajes protegidos (IUCN V), que incluya monitoreo participativo, compilado por los comités locales Ramsar con apoyo del MARN y CENDEPESCA
		Crocodylus acutus		Sin datos	Presente	1	1	
		Ateles geoffroyi		Sin datos	Presente	Sin datos	-	
		Anadara grandis		Sin datos	Presente	1	1	
		Eretmochelys imbricata		Sin datos	Presente	1	1	
		Total		Sin datos	Presente	3	60%	
	Change in management effectiveness (standardized METT score)		Bahia de Jiquilisco	0.49	0.59	0.41	70%	Progreso adecuado. Sin embargo, Bahia de Jiquilisco y Laguna de Olomega no son áreas naturales protegidas
			Laguna de Olomega	0.33	0.43	0.27	64%	
			Laguna de Jocotal	0.31	0.41	0.49	120%	
			Total	0.38	0.48	0.39	82%	
	Cambio en Puntaje FSS	Legal, regulatorio e institucional		0.30	0.46	0.30	0%	Pendiente del desarrollo de las estructuras físicas y administrativas que permitan establecer pago por visitantes. Posibilidad de desarrollo ecoturístico.
		Planificación financiera		0.08	0.42	0.08	0%	
		Instrumentos para generación de ingresos		0.17	0.34	0.17	0%	
		Total		0.20	0.41	ND	0%	
Cobertura ampliada de humedales protegidos	Representa-tividad (%) de humedales en el SNAP	Humedales costero-marinos	Marinos	Sin datos	tbd	tbd		Usar inventario humedales como referencia
			Estuarios	Sin datos	tbd	tbd		
		Continentales	Fluviales	Sin datos	tbd	tbd		
			Lacustres	Sin datos	tbd	tbd		

Resultado	Indicador	Sub-indicador	Sub-indicador	Línea de base	Meta EOP	Estatus	%	Observaciones
			Palustres	Sin datos	tbd	tbd		
Cobertura ampliada de humedales protegidos	# de nuevos humedales que forman parte del SNAP		Bahia de Jiquilisco	4	42	43	102%	Se alcanza un número mayor, pero todavía no el área total comprometida. Las cuatro ANPs línea de base en Bahía de Jiquilisco corresponden a Nancuchiname, Normandia El Tercio e Isla de San Sebastián.
			Laguna de Olomega	0	4	0	0%	
			Golfo de Fonseca	0	5	0	0%	
			Total	0	51	43	84%	
	Cambio pt. Tarjeta desarrollo capacidades	MARN		0.4524	0.6667	0.622	93%	Resultados positivos debido a intervención de proyecto, pero nivel político bajo y sostenibilidad limitada. Incidir a nivel de corporación municipal y SINAMA territorial
		MAG		0.5476	0.6667	0.580	87%	
		Jiquilisco UAM		0.3095	0.5476	0.578	95%	
		San Dionisio UAM		0.3571	0.5714	0.578	101%	
		Concepcion UAM		0.2857	0.5476	0.311	57%	
		Jucuarán UAM		0.2857	0.5714	0.620	109%	
		El Tránsito UAM		0.3333	0.5952	0.580	97%	
		Ozatlán UAM		ND	ND	0.467	Sin datos	
		ASIBAHIA		0.3333	0.5476	0.8	146%	
		Grupo de Acción Territorial Jiquilisco		0.3333	0.5714	0.733	171%	
Cobertura ampliada de humedales protegidos	# de funcionarios entrenados en gestión sostenible de PWII	MARN		0	20	27	135%	Indicador redundante. Programa/ diplomado debe ser impartido de manera regular.
		MAG		0	6	6	100%	
		Jiquilisco UAM		0	2	1	50%	
		Puerto El Triunfo UAM		0	2	-	0%	
		San Dionisio UAM		0	2	-	0%	
		Concepcion UAM		0	2	1	50%	

Resultado	Indicador	Sub-indicador	Sub-indicador	Línea de base	Meta EOP	Estatus	%	Observaciones
		Jucuarán UAM		0	2	2	100%	
		El Tránsito UAM		0	2	1	50%	
		San Miguel UAM		0	2	1	50%	
		Chirilagua UAM		0	2		0%	
		El Carmen UAM		0	2		0%	
		ASIBAHIA		0	2	2	100%	
		Local environmental police		10	10	10	100%	
		Navy		0	4	2	50%	
		Direccion General de Protección Civil		0	1	1	100%	
		Santiago Nonualco		0	2	2	100%	
		San Pedro Masahuat		0	2	2	100%	
		Acajutla		0	2	2	100%	
		San Rafael Oriente		0	1	1	100%	
		Intipuca		0	1	1	100%	
		Zacatecoluca		0	1	1	100%	
Cobertura ampliada de humedales protegidos	Cambio en brecha financiera (reducción de 25%) en 3 PWII		Jiquilisco	280,277	166,620	2,646,825	-844%	La brecha cambia por mejor estimación de necesidades. Necesario establecer bases legales/ institucionales (convenios que incluyan designación de responsabilidades) e infraestructura (area de entrada, medios de contabilidad) además de establecer pilotos (por ej. Turismo con tour-operadores) basados en planes de negocio
			El Jocotal	216,953	129,899	710,178	-255%	
			Olomega	244,677	183,508	Sin datos	Sin datos	
	# acuerdos de compensación ambiental			0	5	0	0%	No existe mecanismo legal para transferencia de fondos a una ANP determinada
	Generación anual de ingresos en tres PWII.		Compensación	0	100,000	0	0%	Ver indicador de brecha. Próxima integración de planes de negocio en planes de gestión.
			Entrada	0	30,000	0	0%	

Resultado	Indicador	Sub-indicador	Sub-indicador	Línea de base	Meta EOP	Estatus	%	Observaciones
			PPP	0	30,000	0	0%	
Dirigiendo atención a las amenazas a la biodiversidad	# de acuerdos de cooperación interinstitucionales		MARN-MAG	0	1	0	0%	Acuerdos próximos para cumplirse. Sin embargo, dudas en cuanto a efectividad de acuerdos.
			MARN-MOP	0	1	0	0%	
			MARN-CEL	0	1	0	0%	
			MARN-El Carmen	0	1	0	0%	
			MARN-Chirilagua	0	1	0	0%	
			MARN-San Miguel	0	1	0	0%	
	# de fincas implementando BPAs		El Jocotal	0	ND	Sin datos	Sin datos	Explotaciones seleccionadas y primeras medidas (gestión de estiércol) introducidas
			Olomega	0	ND	Sin datos	Sin datos	
			Jiquilisco	0	ND	Sin datos	Sin datos	
			Total	0	20	Sin datos	Sin datos	
Dirigiendo atención a las amenazas a la biodiversidad	# de fincas implementando BPA de reducción de residuos agrícolas		El Jocotal	0	ND	Sin datos	Sin datos	Introducción de buenas prácticas depende en mucho menor grado de productores individuales. Necesidad de coordinar con fundaciones, asociaciones y mercados internacionales.
			Olomega	0	ND	Sin datos	Sin datos	
			Jiquilisco	0	ND	Sin datos	Sin datos	
			Total	0	60	Sin datos	Sin datos	
	Residuos sólidos acumulados (ton/ha) in Jiquilisco Bay			64	16	Sin datos	Sin datos	Estimación de basura muy baja. No se indica si es flujo o stock. Medidas hasta ahora recogida directa en Jiquilisco
			Olomega	ND	2000	0	0%	Meta insostenible en términos económicos

Resultado	Indicador	Sub-indicador	Sub-indicador	Línea de base	Meta EOP	Estatus	%	Observaciones
	Volumen (tons/year) de jacinto de agua (*Eichornia crassipes*) retirado		El Jocotal	ND	2000	0	0%	
	Abundancia (individuos) de *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*		Olomega	113	56	NA	NA	P. brasilianus no constituye un problema en los tres humedales del proyecto. El proyecto contribuyo decisivamente a implementación programa de control en Cerrón Grande
			El Jocotal	107	54	NA	NA	
			Jiquilisco	2,429	1,215	NA	NA	
			Total	2,649	1,325	Sin datos	NA	
	Cobertura estable de manglar (Ha) en Bahia de Jiquilisco			18,720	18,720	19,361	103%	Buena salud del manglar, pero monitoreo y restauración en zonas degradadas necesario

Annex 6. Mission itinerary

Evaluación de Medio Término Proyecto PIMS 5125 Humedales de Importancia Internacional
Documento adjunto 6. Itinerario de la misión

Fecha	Descripción
08/02/2019	**ISLAS DEL GOLFO DE FONSECA** San Salvador-La Unión. Salida a las 5:00, por carretera panamericana, a través de ecorregión bosque seco de Centro América. Mosaico pasto-cultivos (milpa)-forestal (cobertura forestal 25-50%). Predominan pendientes entre 10-15%, 5-15% cobertura en superficie afloramientos rocosos. Equipo formado por dos guardarrecursos, dos especialistas del proyecto y evaluador de medio término. Desplazamiento en lancha del MARN hacia islas del Golfo de Fonseca, salida de malecón en La Unión sobre las 10:30. Observada pesca de pelágicos con trasmallo, sobre todo jurel. Importante puerto pesquero Grupo Calvo, base de flota atunera. Tierra firme dominado por el volcán Conchagua, cubierto en buena parte por bosque seco. Se costea la isla de Meanguera, sede municipal (aprox. 2,000 habitantes). Cubierta en buena parte por bosque seco, a diferencia de la vecina isla de Conchagüita. Caseríos aislados. Rellenos costeros para vivienda se hacen y se toleran. Casas hechas de bloques de hormigón. Rellenos con piedra volcánica extraída localmente, a pesar de la prohibición. Meanguerita or Pirigallo, pequeño islote volcánico cubierto de bosque seco, con litoral rocoso cubierto de guano. Batimetría abrupta, llegando a 60 m en 100 metros de la costa. Abundantes fragatas, pelícanos, zopes y águilas pescadoras. Acantilados volcánicos y ningún buen lugar de fondeo. Importante pesquería artesanal de langosta. Recolección de cangrejos y moluscos. Especies pesqueras importantes: pargo, bagre, ostra dulce, ostra salada, cucaracha de mar (quitón). Algunos frutales fruto de intentos de colonización, el último impedido por la alcaldía. Isla Martin Pérez: desembarco en Playa Brava, con laguna y bosquecillo de mangle (*A. germinans, R. Mangle, C. Erectus*) de unas 2 hectáreas. Isla propiedad del Ministerio de Defensa, cuetna con guarnición de un pelotón (5-8 soldados). Disputa territorial con Honduras. La isla de Martin Pérez recibe turismo, predominantemente extranjero Isla Ilca, islote rocoso, con cobertura de bosque seco y colonia de pelícanos. Pertenece al ayuntamiento de La Unión. Periquito: Envuelta en un contencioso por su titularidad. Dos familias viven aquí, dedicadas a la reparación de embarcaciones. La isla pertenecía a un particular (junto con su mucho mas grande vecina Perico) al que se expropió en el marco de la reforma agraria. Usando jornaleros, que le vendieron la isla obtenida del ISTA en el mismo día, el particular la recuperó. Posteriormente la vendió a una empresa china, operación que está siendo contestada por medios legales.


itinerario 8/2/19
EL
Perico
Periquito
HONDURAS
La Unión
Martín Pérez
Volcán
Conchagüita
Meanguerita
Meanguera
Google Earth
Image © 2019 TerraMetrics
© 2018 Google
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
N
20 km


Isla Ilca

09/02/2019	EL JOCOTAL Equipo formado por dos especialistas del proyecto, auxiliar Unidad Ambiental Municipal y evaluador de medio término. Ruta: Usulután-Jucuarán-El Tránsito-El Jocotal-Usulután **Jucuarán:** El municipio de Jucuarán abarca desde la sierra del mismo nombre hasta la costa. La sierra tiene una altura máxima de unos 700 metros sobre el nivel del mar. El recorrido, recto, sobre la llanura desde El Tránsito hasta el comienzo de la sierra, revela todo el paisaje cubierto en caña de azucar, aunque también una importante extensión con maiz ya casi listo para ser recogido: este maiz servirá para fornecer las semillas del "paquete agrícola" que se reparte antes de la primera siembra. También un campo de algodón recién recogido. En las plantaciones de caña, las hay con la caña aun verde y otras ya con el rastrojo recogido y quemado. En la sierra, el paisaje de caña es sustituido por un mosaico de caseríos, milpa, y huerto, que incluye cafetales arruinados, pero también frutales, sobre todo mango, alguna mandioca y potreros en un marco de bosque seco (cobertura forestal 25-50%), pendientes dominantes 10-15% en la sierra. **El Tránsito:** barrio de Calle Nueva, dominado por la mole del volcán Chaparrastique/ San Miguel. Predominan parcelas ganaderas. Varios rebaños solos o acompañados por jóvenes pastores. Entrevistas con responsables municipales en centro urbano de El Tránsito. **El Jocotal:** la laguna está fuertemente humanizada. Un asentamiento informal domina el acceso desde El Tránsito. Los usos observados son turismo (local), lavado de aperos y ropa, baño, pesca (anzuelo, trasmallo, atarraya). Aparentemente, también se pesca con arpón, con el apoyo de una embarcación (cayuco). Hombres y mujeres observados en actividad pesquera, en grupos separados y en equipos marido-mujer en cayucos. Dos nidos de cocodrilo situados a menos de 100 metros del asentamiento. Abundancia de aves acuáticas con predominio anátidas. Las tierras adyacentes a la laguna, hasta la misma línea del agua, están cercadas y son usadas como pasto por su propietario. Este cercado está dentro de los limites del área natural protegida.

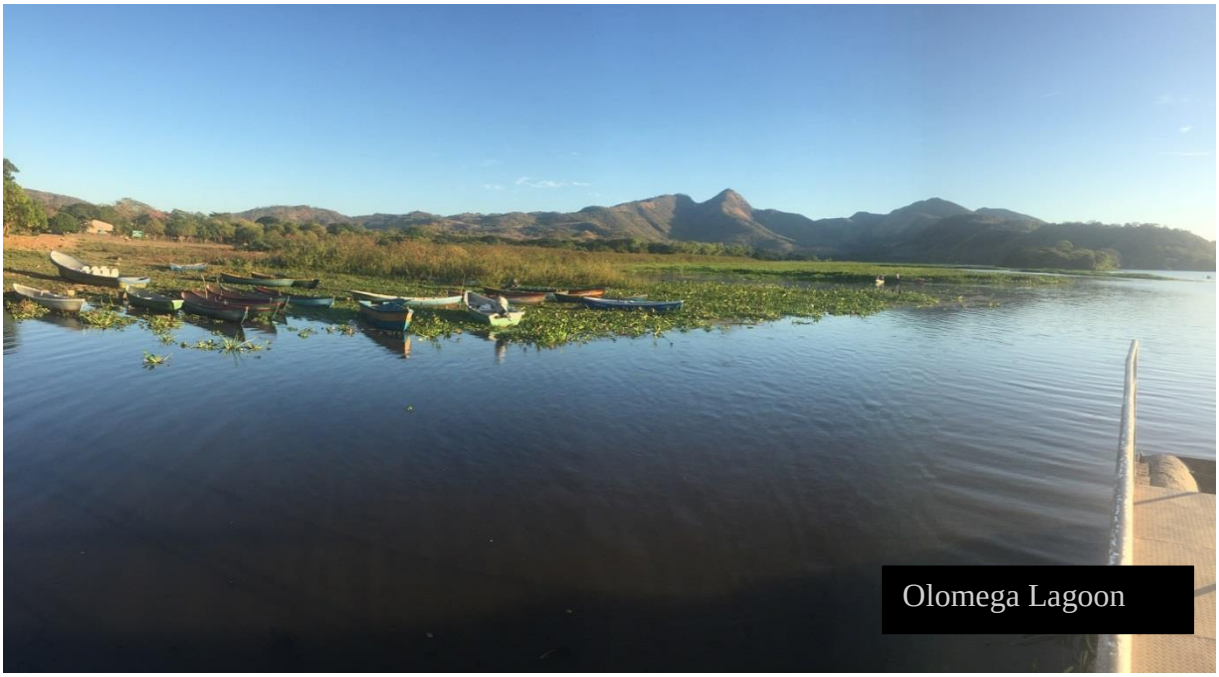

itinerario 9/2/19
Volcán Chaparrastique
Calle Nueva
Usulután
Laguna El Jocotal
Jucuarán
Bahía de Jiquilisco
Google Earth
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2019 DigitalGlobe
Image Landsat / Copernicus
N
10 km


Laguna El Jocotal

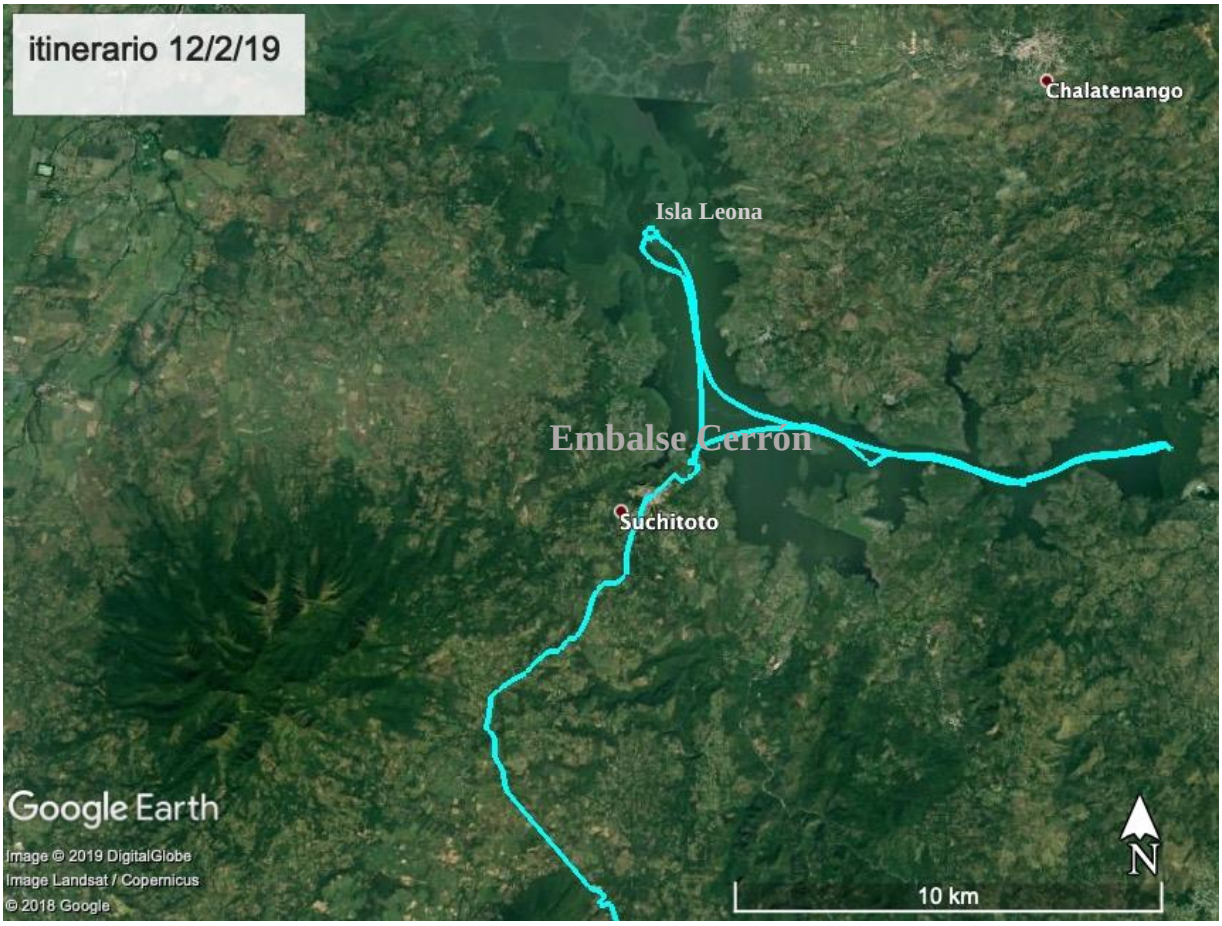
10/02/2019	Equipo formado por un especialista de proyecto, dos guardarrecursos, representante cooperativa pescadores y evaluador de medio término. Ruta: Usulután- Puerto Parada-Puerto El Triunfo-Isla de Méndez-Salinas de Sisiguayo-Usulután. **Manglar de Bahia de Jiquilisco**, recorriendo desde San Dionisio a Puerto El Triunfo y regreso. El manglar está compuesto fundamentalmente por *Rizophora mangle*, al menos en los bordes de los canales. Los canales son amplios y suficientemente profundos para permitir una navegación cómoda. Mangle de 10-20 metros de altura, estanques de carcinocultura solo observados cerca de Puerto Parada. Estanques abandonados son revertidos a manglar. Operaciones pesqueras artesanales, incluyen refugios, anzuelo y trasmallo. Boyas señalizan presencia de FAD, llamados arrecifes artificiales. Estos han sido también promovidos por CENDEPESCA. Buques pesqueros (arrastreros) comerciales observados en Puerto El Triunfo. En península de San Juan del Gozo, construcciones nuevas hasta línea de agua. **Puerto El Triunfo:** Importante puerto pesquero con centro urbano mediano. Entrevista con responsables municipales. **La Canoa**: comunidad ganadera asentada tras los acuerdos de paz. Pastizal bordeando el manglar. **Isla de Méndez**: Parte occidental de la Bahía, con dominio de Avecinnia germinans. Visita a bosque degradado por alteraciones de cursos de agua. Importante presión ganadera y carcinocultura. Presencia de grupos armados en manglar.

Avecinnia germinans **en Isla de Méndez en grave riesgo de degradación**

11/02/2019	OLOMEGA Equipo. Especialista del proyecto y evaluador de medio término. Ruta: Usulután-Chirilagua-Olomega-San Salvador. Chirilagua. Paisaje de características semejantes a Jucuarán. Olomega: laguna altamente humanizada. Antigua caldera volcánica, está rodeada de laderas con pendientes >20% en su costa sur. Pastizal inundado de ribera norte no visitado. Construcción y vivienda construida hasta la misma ribera. Pasto inundado usado como pastizal. Entrevistas con ganaderos, funcionarios MARN y responsables municipales.


Olomega Lagoon

12/02/2019	CERRÓN GRANDE Equipo: especialista y coordinadora proyecto, y evaluador de medio término. Ruta: San Salvador-Suchitoto-San Salvador. Paisaje mucho mas urbanizado que las rutas anteriores. Abundancia de pueblos y asentamientos. Cerrón grande es un pantano de considerable extensión, con algunos, escasos pueblos. Importante pesca artesanal, centrada en tilapia. Gestión pesquera incluye siembra de alevines y algún control de licencias realizado por patrulleras de la marina. Islas propiedad de la Comisión Ejecutiva del Lempa, que ha realizado reforestación con teca en algunas laderas. Cobertura vegetal predominante es bosque seco (50-75%). Isla Leona: nidificación actual de cormorán grande, gran número de volantones, algunos muertos, y adultos regresando en oleadas para alimentarlos. Presas de cormorán observadas: *Aystanax aeneus* y *Amphilophus macracanthus* de 5-10 cm. Observado conflicto con *Mycteria americana*. Se informa que *M. Americana* activamente depreda y ocupa nidos de *P. Brasilianus*. Control de adultos en Isla Leona sin resultados apreciables. Control de anidación difícil porque árbol de anidación son Conacastes, y la altura mínima de anidación 10 m. Isla Morro, próxima a la presa y a máxima cobertura de Eichhorina crassipes. E. crassipes fluctúa acorde a aporte fluvial, alcanzando su máxima extensión en Julio-Agosto; en esos momentos bloquea acceso al cuerpo de agua desde comunidades ribereñas. Isla Morro está menos arbolada, con árboles de menor altura. Control de anidación efectivo con eliminación de todos los nidos.



Colonia de *Phalacrocorax*

Annex 7. Lists of persons interviewed

Evaluación de Medio Término Proyecto PIMS 5125 Humedales de Importancia Internacional

Documento adjunto 7. Lista de personas entrevistadas.

Fecha	Organización	Nombre	Título/ posición
06/02/2019	Comité local Ramsar	René Fuentes	Presidente
06/02/2019	Comité local Ramsar	María Elena Rivas	Presidente
06/02/2019	Comité local Ramsar	Sergio Alexander Reyes	Presidente
06/02/2019	Comité local Ramsar	José María Pineda Díaz	Presidente
06/02/2019	Comité local Ramsar	Alberto Enrique Mendoza	Presidente
06/02/2019	Comité local Ramsar	José Francisco Zaldaña	Presidente
06/02/2019	Comité local Ramsar	Martin Antonio Guardado	Presidente
06/02/2019	MARN	Silvia de Larios	Directora General de Ecosistemas y Vida Silvestre
06/02/2019	MARN	Jaime Espinoza	Jefe Unidad de Humedales
08/02/2019	Alcaldia de Meanguera del Golfo	Kayra Romero	Coordinadora Unidad Ambiental Municipal
08/02/2019	MARN	Josué Santos Álvarez	Guarda Recursos
09/02/2019	Alcaldia de Jucuarán	Licenciado Jose Santana Rivera Peleón	Técnico unidad ambiental
09/02/2019	MARN	Leodan Ramírez	Guarda Recursos
09/02/2019	MARN	Miguel Angel López	Guarda Recursos
09/02/2019	Cooperativa El Jocotal	Rudys López	Presidente
09/02/2019	Not applicable	Juan Pablo Carranda	Ganadero
09/02/2019	Not applicable	José Miguel Torres	Ganadero
09/02/2019	Alcaldía de El Tránsito	José Antonio Bracamonte	Auxiliar de medio ambiente
09/02/2019	Alcaldía de El Tránsito	José Armando Cisneros Cruz	Jefe de Unidad Ambiental
10/02/2019	MARN	Leonel Antonio Rivas Ruiz	Guarda Recursos
10/02/2019	MARN	Manuel Antonio Henriquez Serrano	Guarda Recursos
10/02/2019	Asociación Cincahute (cooperativa pescadores)	Oscar Roberto Ventura Palacios	Presidente
10/02/2019	Alcaldía de Puerto El Triunfo	Evelio Antonio Álvarez	Coordinador Unidad Ambiental
10/02/2019	ACUDESBAL	José Luciano Madariaga Guevara	Ganadero
10/02/2019	ACUDESBAL	Daniel Ramos Márquez	Ganadero
10/02/2019	ACUDESBAL	Evelyn Yamileth Martínez	Ganadero
10/02/2019	ACUDESBAL	Maria Felicita Aguilar	Ganadero
10/02/2019	ACUDESBAL	Santos Reyes Ortiz	Ganadero
10/02/2019	ACUDESBAL	Maira Xiomara Guevara Ambrosio	Ganadero
10/02/2019	MARN	Santos Germán Castillos	Guarda Recursos
11/02/2019	MARN	Pedro Martínez Laínez	Guarda Recursos
12/02/2019	MARN	Erick Alfredo Argueta	Guarda Recursos
13/02/2019	MARN	José Manuel González	Guarda Recursos
14/02/2019	MARN	Evangelina Martínez	Guarda Recursos

11/02/2019	Alcaldia de Chirilagua	William Balmoris Campor Córdova	Coordinador Unidad Ambiental
11/02/2019	Not applicable	Eliu Fuentes Velarde	Ganadero
11/02/2019	Not applicable	Jorge Benítez	Ganadero
11/02/2019	Not applicable	Verónica Liseth Benítez	Ganadero
11/02/2019	Not applicable	José Ricardo	Ganadero
11/02/2019	Not applicable	Victor Manuel Canales Fuentes	Ganadero
11/02/2019	Alcaldía de El Carmen	Josué Vidal Barahona	Coordinador Unidad Ambiental
Fecha	**Organización**	**Nombre**	**Título/ posición**
11/02/2019	Alcaldía de El Carmen	Ulises Gómez	Ordenanza Unidad Ambiental
11/02/2019	MARN	Walberto Gallegos	Tecnico Área de Conservación
12/02/2019	MARN	Adán Antonio Castillo	Guarda Recursos
12/02/2019	MARN	Jose Luis Girón	Guarda Recursos
12/02/2019	MARN	José Osmai Hernández	Guarda Recursos
12/02/2019	MARN	Luis Pineda	Tecnico Área de Conservación
12/02/2019	MARN	Rosalba Parada	Tecnico Área de Conservación
13/02/2019	MARN	Jorge Quezada Díaz	Punto focal operativo GEF
13/02/2019	MARN	Marina Sandoval	Directora Proyecto
13/02/2019	MARN	Lina Pohl	Ministra
13/02/2019	PIMS 5125	Ariana Bazzaglia	Coordinadora
13/02/2019	PIMS 5125	Walter Manuel Zelaya Campos	Especialista
13/02/2019	PIMS 5125	Rosa Elvira Vargas Campos	Especialista
13/02/2019	PIMS 5125	José Abelardo Ramos Santos	Especialista
13/02/2019	PIMS 5125	Elvert Antonio Parada Palacios	Especialista
27/02/2019	PNUD	Santiago Carrizosa	Asesor técnico regional

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Annex 9. Signed UNEG Code of Conduct Form

Evaluación de Medio Término Proyecto PIMS 5125 Humedales de Importancia Internacional

Documento adjunto 9. Código de Conducta

Evaluators:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form[49]

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Name of Consultant: José Antonio Cabo Buján

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant)**:** _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed in *Mexico City, Mexico* on 15*/01/2019*

Signature:

[49] www.unevaluation.org/unegcodeofconduct

Annex 10. Mid-term Review Final Report Clearance Form

Midterm Review Report Reviewed and Cleared By:

Commissioning Unit

Name: __Mónica Merino – RR a.i._____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____