



**Ministry of Environment and Energy
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

**Project
Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in
Costa Rica (PIMS 5842) GEF ID 9416**

Midterm Review (MTR)

Evaluating Team

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i. Basic information of the report

Name of the project: Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica.

UNDP ID (PIMS#): 5842

GEF ID (PIMS#): 9416

Execution period of the MTR: March 19, 2018 – March 19, 2021.

Region and countries included in the report: Costa Rica. **Territorial framework covered by the Project:** La Amistad-Pacífico Conservation Area (ACLAP), which includes the cantons of Buenos Aires, Coto Brus and Pérez Zeledón and the María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor (MAIBC), which includes the cantons of Aserri, Curridabat, La Unión and Montes de Oca.

Operational Focal Area GEF / Strategic Program: Climate Change

Executing Agency: United Nations for Development (UNDP). Direct Implementation Mode (DIM).

Implementing partner and other partners of the Project: Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), National Center for High Technology (CeNAT), National Center for Geo-environmental Information / Ministry of Environment and Energy (CENIGA-MINAE), Livestock Development Corporation (CORFOGA), National Geographic Institute (IGN), Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers (AyA), National Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) and National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC).

MTR Evaluating team: Ronny Muñoz, (International Evaluator, Leader); Ariana Araujo (National Expert).

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iii. Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACLA-P	La Amistad Pacific Conservation Area
MAIBC	María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor
CC	Climate change
CENAT	National High Technology Center
CENIGA	National Center for Geo-environmental Information
CONARE	Council of State Universities
CORFOGA	Livestock Corporation
DRI	Real Estate Registry Directorate- National Registry
FMAM	Global Environment Facility
FONAFIFO	National Forestry Financing Fund
GAM	Great Metropolitan Area
GEB	Global Environmental Benefit
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ha	Hectares
IGN	National Geographic Institute - National Registry
IMN	National Meteorological Institute
INDER	Rural Development Institute
INEC	National Institute of Statistics and Census
INVU	National Institute of Housing and Urban Development
PB	Project Board
km ²	Square kilometers
LC/LU	Land cover / land use
LMT	Landscape management tool
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MINAE	Ministry of Environment and Energy
MINSA	Ministry of Health
LF	Logic frame
MOCUPP	Land Use Change Monitoring System within Production Landscapes
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRV	Measurement, Report and Verification
MTR	Mid-term Review
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PC	Project coordinator
PILA	La Amistad International Park
PIR	Project Implementation report
UNP	Urban Natural Park
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
AWP	Annual Work Plan
PRIAS	Airborne Research and Remote Sensing Program
PRODOC	Project Document
PRONAMEC	National Ecological Monitoring Programme
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RTA	Regional Technical Advisor
SIMOCUTE	Monitoring System for Land and Ecosystem Cover and Use
SINAC	National System of Conservation Areas
SINIA	National Environmental Information System
SIRI	Land Registry Information System
SNIT	National Territorial Information System
ToR	Terms of Reference
PMU	Project Management Unit
UNDAF	UNDP Development Assistance Framework
UNDP-GEF	UNDP Global Environmental Finance Unit
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollars

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. Project summary

Name of the Project		Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica	
UNDP-GEF PIMS ID	5842	PIF approval date	8th June 2016
GEF ID	9416	Authorization date CEO:	11th January 2018
ATLAS Business Unit, File N ° -ID of the project (Award # pro.ID)	00096514	Document signature date Project (ProDoc) (Start date of the project)	19th March 2018
Country or countries	Costa Rica	Project director hiring date	August 2018
Region:	: La Amistad-Pacífico Conservation Area (ACLAP), which includes the cantons of Buenos Aires, Coto Brus and Pérez Zeledón and the María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor (MAIBC), which includes the cantons Aserrí, Curridabat, La Unión, Montes de Oca.	Date inception workshop	2nd May 2018
AREA acting	Multifocal Area Land degradation, biodiversity.	End date of Midterm Review	19th March 2021
Strategic objective of the area of action of GEF	BD-4 (Integration of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use in land and marine productive sectors. LD2: Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, including sustaining the livelihoods of forest-dependent people. LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape SFM-1: Maintained Forest Resources: Reduce pressures on high conservation value forests by addressing drivers of deforestation.	Expected completion date	19th March 2023
Fiduciary fund (Indicate GEEF TF, LDCF, SCCF, NPIF)	GEF TF	In case of revision new proposed completion date:	Not established
Executing Agency	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)		
Other Partners	Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE)		
Project Financing	<u>To the date of authorization of the CEO (US \$)</u>	<u>At the date of the Mid-Term Review (US \$) (*)</u>	
[1] Financing of GEF:	6,699,315.00	4,167,641.00	
[2] UNDP contribution:	0.00	0.00	
[3] Government:	26,098,314.00	24,960,413.14	
[4] Other Partners:	0.00	0.00	
[5] Total co-financed (2+3+4)	26,098,314.00	24,960,413.14	
TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT (1+5)	32,797,629.00	30,265,955.00	

Source: Project executing unit

1.2. Project Description

The project Conserving Biodiversity through Sustainable Management in Production Landscapes in Costa Rica, aims to “generalize the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable land management, and the objectives of carbon sequestration towards production landscapes and the interurban biological corridors of Costa Rica”. It will have a national impact triggered by policies and action on the ground and will allow obtaining global environmental benefits by promoting a dynamic process of multisectoral management of official environmental information, to increase collective action for the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity through sustainable land use management in rural and urban landscapes. The strategy is tested in the production landscapes of La Amistad Pacifico Conservation Area (ACLAP) and the María Aguilar River Interurban Biological Corridor in San José (MAIBC).

1.3. Project Progress Summary

The project has a highly satisfactory assessment and is on track to achieve its goals and development objective. This assessment maintains for the general objective and the results of the three components.

1.4. Summary table of assessments and achievements of the MTR

Table. Summary of assessments and achievements of the MTR of the project Conserving Biodiversity through Sustainable Management in Production Landscapes in Costa Rica.

Parameter	TRM Assessment	Description of achievement
Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress in the achievement of OUTCOMES	Objective:	The project has a highly satisfactory appraisal and is on track to achieve its goals and development objective.
	Assessment of the achievement of the objective (6-point assessment scale)	The project presents a highly satisfactory assessment and is on the way to achieving the goals and the achievement of its development objective "Generalize the issue of biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and the objectives of carbon sequestration in productive landscapes and urban biological corridors in Costa Rica". This assessment will be maintained for the general objective and the results of the three components
	Component 1: Favorable conditions (policies, technologies, markets, and finance) for delivering multiple GEBs in managed production landscapes and interurban biological corridors.	The Project has an integral impact on the creation of policies, the consolidation of tools and the financing of actions (together with a deep technical support) of actions that generate GEBs both in the ACLAP region and in the MAIBC.

	<p>Outcome 1.1. The ability of the State to enforce the Forestry Law and generate economic incentives for maintaining ecosystem services is strengthened through:</p> <p>i) Interinstitutional agreement formalizes the National Monitoring System for Land Use Change in Production Landscapes (MOCUPP)</p> <p>ii) Eleven (11) interinstitutional agreements signed annually with the National Territorial Information System (SNIT), linking georeferenced information with land ownership data and the most recent and available satellite imagery, and available through the SNIT/MOCUPP viewer.</p>	<p>Progress level: highly satisfactory</p> <p>The progress is highly satisfactory in enabling policies, institutional arrangements, community participation, and market conditions to generate Multiple Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) in the production landscapes. The exit of the former Minister of the Environment Carlos Manuel Rodríguez and the institutional dynamics delayed the formalization of the decree. In addition, there are capacities in the institutions and a strategy to give MOCUPP sustainability. The advocacy work during the first semester of 2021 must be strong to achieve the approval of the two legal instruments. In addition, MOCUPP approval must be considered before CONAC, which will be feasible in the remaining period of the project. In a satisfactory manner there is a draft Decree to formalize SICOMUTE, pending approval in parliament. 2) In a highly satisfactory manner, an Executive Ministerial Order of the MINAE (N ° 0006-2020) was signed instructing the ministerial units to use the MOCUPP in the monitoring of changes in land use; and 3) A satisfactory draft of the SINAC Modernization Law Project (amendment to article 43 of the Forestry Law No. 7575 on the distribution of the tax on timber, which allocates 4% of the collection to support the financing of GIS platforms). 4) Highly satisfactory with the training of 601 people in MOCUPP topics; and 5) highly satisfactory in relation to the institutional agreements required to consolidate the SNIT, with the publication of the Decree (42120-JP of February 12, 2020), which creates IDECORI, which instructs public institutions to provide information to the SNIT without the need for bilateral agreements.</p>
	<p>Outcome 1.2. Ten (10) agreements established with international buyers for the acquisition of products verified as free of loss of forest cover.¹</p>	<p>Progress level: Moderately Unsatisfactory (HU)</p> <p>The project is progressing moderately unsatisfactory (HU), in relation to the international buyers informed for the acquisition of products free of loss of forest cover, the project is supporting production free of loss of forest cover and developing steps to establish the seal / formal verification system for the placement of these products in differentiated markets. The project estimates that around 500 companies (national and international) could be informed that in CR they could buy products with the free verification of loss of forest cover (MOCUPP) but still is pending signed at least 5 agreements with national companies (or international) for the purchase of Costa Rican products free from loss of forest cover.</p>

¹ Modified indicator, previously "Number of agreements established with international buyers for the acquisition of products free from loss of forest cover", by "Number of international buyers informed for the acquisition of products free from loss of forest cover."

	Output 1.1: Highly satisfactory	There is an institutional agreement that instructs the ministerial units to use the MOCUPP to monitor changes in land use.
	Output 1.2: Highly satisfactory	With the publication of Decree 42120-JP of February 12, 2020, which creates IDECORI (Costa Rican Spatial Data Infrastructure) whose data viewer is SNIT (National Territorial Information System), the signing of agreements with institutions to provide georeferenced information is no longer required. Which affects the institutionalization of MOCUPP.
	Output 1.3: Satisfactory	The level of achievement of this result is satisfactory. Defining a product of this nature is crucial since it aims to ensure that the results and tools of the project are accepted and used by the institutions and that they have sustainability over time. The inclusion of an amendment to article 43 of Forestry Law No. 7575 that updates the distribution of the tax on timber, so that 4% of the collection is allocated to financing GIS platforms for monitoring changes in land use, aims to the sustainability of the actions in this result.
	Output 1.4: Highly satisfactory	Publication of base studies on loss and gain of forest cover in pineapple productive landscapes for the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.
	Output 1.5: Highly satisfactory	Preparation of a base study for 2015 on the cover of pastures and oil palm crops. Specifically: 1) Pineapple area 2018, 2) Pineapple area 2019, 3) Oil palm area 2018, 4) Oil palm area 2019, 5 Pasture area of the pilot plan in ACLAP 2018. Pastures will be published (year 2019).
	Output 1.6: Highly satisfactory	Training of 601 people (255 women and 346 men), from CONARE-PRIAS, the Judiciary, the Attorney General's Office, the Comptroller's Office, SINAC, the Presidential Commission and other conservation areas, in advanced techniques for classifying satellite images in conjunction with international scientific peers, and in the computational development required to automate data processing to monitor trends in forest cover and land use.
	Output 1.7: NA ²	The SNIT is updated according to the guidelines and technical and internal work processes of the ING, beyond the scope of the project.
	Output 1.8: Highly satisfactory	The information generated by Participatory Brigades for the Monitoring of Species is being integrated to the national information repository, which was collaboratively implemented between public and private actors and the civil society, including women, and linked to PROMEC. The registry contemplates the monitoring of birds and mammals and an application and a website are being consolidated in accordance with PRONAMEC.
	Output 1.9: Satisfactory	Although MINAE has not formalized a verification system that can establish that 25% of agricultural, pineapple and grassland production units are free of loss of forest cover, the project makes important progress by establishing agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, which promote connectivity and reduction of forest losses. The verification system will be the MOCUPP and important advances have already been made with this instrument (as mentioned).
	Output 1.10: Moderately satisfactory	This output was modified to inform 500 international companies about the products with the free of loss of forest cover verification (MOCUPP), and to establish 5 agreements signed with national companies for the purchase of Costa Rican products free of loss of forest cover, as well as several producers registered in PROCOMER with a differentiated registry for their products. The project makes progress in establishing a stamp or verification system in conjunction with institutions such as MINAE and CORFOGA-MAG.

² It was not addressed by the Project, because it was a competence of the National Geographic Institute (ING). Therefore, it does not receive an assessment.

	Component 2: Multiple GEBs (biodiversity conservation, reduction in carbon emissions, and increase in carbon stocks) are generated in productive landscapes in the forest area of the ACLA-P buffer zone (Region 1) and MAIBC (Region 2)	<p>The outputs achieved are obtaining favorable conditions (policies, technologies, markets, and finances) for the generation of multiple GEBs in productive landscapes and managed interurban biological corridors. Elements such as periodic monitoring of changes in land cover and actions that are establishing a future verification system for production units free of loss of forest cover verification are carried out with high-quality technical bases and involving key actors in the process at both the institutional and local levels. Assistance and articulation are provided with government authorities, local governments, communities, and private owners (mainly from the livestock, pineapple and oil palm sectors) from different strategies to achieve the objectives set.</p>
	Region 1: ACLA-P	
	<p>Outcome 2.1. Connectivity and biodiversity conservation between production landscapes and ACLA-P's protected areas are increased over 700 ha of micro corridors and 2,000 ha of silvopastoral systems through the implementation of Landscape management tools (LMTs).</p>	<p>Progress level: highly satisfactory</p> <p>The progress is highly satisfactory. It was possible to improve the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity, through the concretion of 480 hectares in micro-corridors and 1,170 hectares of silvopastoral system. Mid-term goals exceeded for results for Micro-corridors (300 ha) Silvopastoral systems (800). It is very close to achieving the Goals by the end of the project: with an execution of 69% in micro-corridors, and 58% silvopastoral systems.</p>
	<p>Outcome 2.2. Increase of forest cover and carbon storage within in the ACLA-P buffer zone's farms leading to: i) 85,649.6 tCO₂eq biomass stocks derived from LMTs. ii) Reduction in 14,232.5 tCO₂e /year emissions in project farms. iii) Presence of key bird species in the ACLA-P remains stable: Quetzal</p>	<p>Progress level: highly satisfactory</p> <p>The progress is highly satisfactory: i) The biomass reserves derived from LMT is increased by 94,052 tCO₂eq. The indicator exceeded by 9.80% with respect to the final goal; ii) and a total reduction of 18,944 tCO₂e/year in CO₂e emissions on project farms. The indicator exceeded by 33% with respect to the final goal; iii) The project advances in the monitoring of species initially established for ACLA-P. In addition, the list of reported species increased and the number of planned brigades. Another highly satisfactory result is the presence of key bird species in the ACLA-P remains stable: Quetzal (<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>), Three-wattled bellbird (<i>Procnias tricarunculata</i>) and Great tinamu (<i>Tinamus major</i>). The Project is also tracking other species.</p>

	(Pharomachrus mocinno), Three-wattled Bellbird (Procnias tricarunculata), and Great tinamu (Tinamus major)	
	Outcome 2.3. 820 ha of avoided loss in forest cover by project end (reduction of forest cover loss from 699.9 ha/yr. to 535.9 ha/yr.)	Progress level: satisfactory There is satisfactory progress in the avoided loss of forest cover in an area of 3,559.67 hectares in farms where integrated production systems are being promoted or where there is forest; and 262.34 hectares (made up of primary and secondary forests) with potential to be part of the pilot.
	Outcome 2.4. 50 farms verified as free of loss of forest cover	Progress level: highly satisfactory There is highly satisfactory progress. The final goal of the project is exceeded: 560 farms are part of the project and in implementation 8,944.73 ha of silvopastoral systems with the potential to be verified as free from loss of forest cover by means of MOCUPP has been achieved.
	Outcome 2.5 Change in annual income per initiative and disaggregated by gender with verified increase in forest cover	Progress level: satisfactory There is satisfactory progress. Baseline and goals in process. A very good progress is taking place in relation to the 27 financed productive initiatives, which are on the way to improve the annual income with a verified increase in forest cover.
	Output 2.1. Highly satisfactory	Establishment of 20 nurseries for endemic and native plant species to support landscape management tools (the nurseries have an agricultural production component. Technical support and accompaniment are provided to improve the economic capacities of the project's beneficiary families and neighbors of the community with the generation of jobs and the trade of differentiated products).
	Output 2.2. Highly satisfactory	Social productive community initiatives financed and in operation, in the ACLA-P that support the implementation of LMT (tools for landscape management). Financing of around 900 thousand dollars has been granted to the 27 socio-productive initiatives that benefit 45 organizations, about 550 families and more than 200 people. The model is successful, generates valuable results, knowledge, and practices for the management of productive landscapes.
	Output 2.3. Highly satisfactory	Establishment of a Measurement, Reporting and Verification System (MRV) to monitor the possible impact of the implementation of landscape management tools in the intervention area from ACLA-P's socio-productive initiatives.
	Output 2.4. Highly satisfactory	Forest Brigades are being consolidated to strengthen community and institutional capacities (ADIs and SINAC), and relevant technical studies are also being developed for the creation of a risk mapping system for the prevention of forest fires that includes a classification of the vegetation to determine its level of combustion.
	Output 2.5. Highly satisfactory	A mobile application was built for the registration of species in the field, which will be implemented, together with a management model, by

		PRONAMEC as its official protocol for citizen science projects in other Conservation Areas of the Country.
	Output 2.6. Highly satisfactory	There are important advances (for the country and not just the target region or the Project) in relation to land ownership records, disaggregated by gender, for a 50-km ² production land area in the buffer zone of ACLA-P finalized and updated in SNIT. A total of 338 cases have been analyzed corresponding to a land register of 1,554 records disaggregated by gender (approximately 81 km ² (51 km ² within buffer zones of protected wild areas, 25 km ² within biological corridors and 4 km ² distributed in other sectors of the ACLA-P territory).
	Output 2.7. Highly satisfactory	As part of a forest, use assessment in lands owned by the State by the State or that do not have a registered owner (to strengthen connectivity in ACLA-P landscapes). At least 13,000 ha of forest cover identified and the coverage with content of TAF by slopes measured, defined by categories 7 and 8 of the Methodology for the capacity of land uses of Costa Rica.
	Output 2.8. Highly satisfactory	MINAE personnel, municipal authorities, judges, and private producers have been informed and trained on the MOCUPP and its uses to enforce the Forestry Law.
	Output 2.9. Highly satisfactory	An environmental education program by and for ACLA-P is being consolidated, in alliance with various civil society organizations, SINAC and even ASADAS (involved with the conservation of biodiversity and forests in productive landscapes)
	Output 2.10. Satisfactory	A verification system for production units free of loss of forest cover verification (developed based on the MOCUPP) is being designed and discussed with multiple stakeholders in ACLA-P. The work through the productive initiatives is achieved and there are 3,559.67 protected hectares through the signing of memorandums of understanding with livestock farmers, which lays the foundations so that, together with other actions, the verification system can be consolidated.
	Output 2.11 Highly satisfactory	The work through the Participatory ecological monitoring brigades (BPME, in Spanish), socio-productive initiatives and environmental education programs affect the strengthening of local and institutional capacities for citizen participation and governance in the productive landscapes of the ACLA-P.
	Region 2: MAIBC	
	Outcome 2.6. Increase of biological diversity, forest cover and carbon storage within the MAIBC leading to: i) 2,050 hectares of landscape management tools (micro corridors, protection zones and urban green areas ³) increase connectivity and	Progress level: highly satisfactory The progress is highly satisfactory: i) The biomass reserves derived from LMT increased by 94,052 tCO ₂ eq. The indicator exceeded by 9.80% with respect to the final goal; ii) and a total reduction of 18,944 tCO ₂ e/year in CO ₂ e emissions on project farms. The indicator exceeded by 33% with respect to the final goal; iii) The presence of summer tanager was verified (1%) and of the Baltimore oriole (1.75%), within the framework of the flora and fauna inventory in the MAIBC. In addition, 308 species reported, distributed in 40 families of birds.

³ Urban parks, urban open space, tree-lined streets and avenues.

	<p>conserve biodiversity within MAIBC.</p> <p>ii) 91,336.67 tCO₂eq of biomass stocks derived from LMTs (target will be confirmed during project implementation).</p> <p>iii) Presence of migratory bird species in the MAIBC remains stable: Summer tanager (<i>Piranga rubra</i>) and Baltimore oriole (<i>Icterus galbula</i>).</p>	
	<p>Outcome 2.7. 148.94 ha of avoided loss in forest cover by project end (reduction of forest cover loss from X ha/yr. to X⁴ ha/yr. result) (baseline and target will be determined during project implementation).</p>	<p>Progress level: highly satisfactory</p> <p>The progress is highly satisfactory. In the MAIBC 100% of the final goal is achieved. MAIBC: 148.94 hectares constituted by riparian forest in the Maria Aguilar river have been delimited and are part of protected areas that SINAC and municipalities must protect. The project works closely with these institutions to avoid loss in forest cover in this area.</p>
	<p>Output 2.13 Highly satisfactory</p>	<p>The signing of the Pact for the Maria Aguilar (which involves 17 institutions, organizations and community representatives and includes more than 40 action commitments by the MAIBC) led five municipalities and other public entities to sign joint action agreements to control solid waste, discharge to rivers, promote connectivity and green areas, conservation, and rehabilitation of riparian forests of this river and its tributaries.</p>
	<p>Output 2.14 Highly satisfactory</p>	<p>The project has created a methodology to delimit (digitally) the protection zones of rivers and streams to comply with Article 33 of the Forestry Law and other Regulations, this includes contour maps.</p>
	<p>Output 2.15 Highly satisfactory</p>	<p>Various efforts at the legal level and technical studies have made significant progress in the formalization of protocols for inter-institutional coordination to address issues related to discharges, solid waste disposal, illegal constructions and changes in land use in the margins of the Maria Aguilar River.</p>
	<p>Output 2.16 Highly satisfactory</p>	<p>Elaboration of an Environmental Diagnosis for the MAIBC that includes the digital delimitation of 219 hectares of protected areas (PA) and determines</p>

⁴ The information on the coverage loss rate is not available for the baseline or the goal. However, the project managed to achieve the goal of 148.94 ha.

		the different uses and coverage of the land, as well as infrastructures in rivers and risks of contamination, floods, among others.
	Output 2.17 Highly satisfactory	There is a study of forest cover gains and losses in the MAIBC for the years 2017, 2019 and soon for 2021. This identification of green areas in an urban space is highly innovative and is a highly valuable tool for the management of landscapes in cities and urban planning.
	Output 2.18 Highly satisfactory	The Project developed an urban and forest cover baseline (2017) as part of MOCUPP's annual monitoring of urban encroachment on the natural environment. This Urban MOCUPP is a valuable and innovative tool that allows monitoring changes in the use of the landscape in the interurban corridor of María Aguilar.
	Output 2.19. NA ⁵	Although this product is stated in the PRODOC, neither the UNDP nor the Project have the competence to carry out a process of formalization nor open hearings of cadastral records. The Public Registry executes this process.
	Output 2.20 Highly satisfactory	Government personnel (MINAE, Ministry of Health, CENIGA and INVU), authorities from five municipalities, judges, and men and women from the private sector are being informed and trained in the use of this urban MOCUPP, and in how to use it as a tool for enforce the Forestry Law and to make decisions in urban environments for the planning of cities.
	Output 2.21 Highly satisfactory	To support landscape management and strengthen capacities at the municipal level for MAIBC, 7 nurseries established: 3 nurseries in San José, 1 nursery in Curridabat, 2 nurseries in La Unión, 1 nursery in Alajuelita, and the nursery in Montes de Oca will be finished during 2021.
	Output 2.22. Satisfactory	About 8,200 (out of the 16.000 targeted) endemic and native tree and shrub species have been planted at MAIBC. This means that more than 120 hectares have been intervened with different green infrastructure to contribute to connectivity in the biological corridor.
	Output 2.23. Satisfactory	The environmental education processes in the MAIBC are important, however, they have not yet been established as an Environmental Education Program led by the SINAC aimed at economic and social actors related to the conservation of biodiversity in the MAIBC. However, the environmental education program for MAIBC is in a participatory construction process.
	Output 2.24. Satisfactory	The achievement of this component is satisfactory. In December 2019, a Communication Strategy for the MAIBC delivered to the MAIBC Technical Committee. A series of truly relevant communication products has been generated related to the interventions that are carried out in the field and with the actions that support the work that is carried out in this region from an institutional and normative point of view.
	Component 3: Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation	There is a wide production of documents and knowledge of an extremely high level (related to products of component 1 and 2 and that are crucial for the achievement of its objectives). The project has achieved in a highly satisfactory way the production of 25 studies on successful experiences of incorporating the objectives of biodiversity conservation, land management and carbon sequestration in productive landscapes and sustainable urban biological corridors in Costa Rica. A satisfactory change in the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices indices in ACLA-P (0.768) and in the CBIMA (0.800).
	Output 3.1. Satisfactory	The project is successfully achieving the systematization of experiences and lessons learned from the monitoring of changes in land cover, the

⁵ The project lacks the competencies to carry out a process of formalization and open hearings of cadastral records. Therefore, there is no assessment of the achievement of the product.

		conservation of biodiversity, the reduction of carbon emissions, and the improvement of carbon stocks, as well as the Gender equality and the empowerment of women in the productive landscapes of the forested areas of the ACLA-P buffer zone
	Output 3.2. Satisfactory	There is progress in the systematization of experiences and lessons learned from monitoring changes in land cover, biodiversity, emissions, and carbon stocks, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women in the MAIBC in guidance documents and toolkits to serve as input for future urban policies.
	Output 3.3. Satisfactory	The project is developing a significant number of thematic studies and knowledge, as well as a series of communication products and public awareness materials with a gender perspective. Beyond this, the project has managed to mainstream this issue from the design to the execution of actions in the field. It is worth noting that a strategy has been developed that seeks to influence the structures that may affect the participation of women at the legislative level and negatively impact them in interventions related to environmental issues.
Project execution and adaptive management	The assessment of the implementation of the project and adaptive management is highly satisfactory.	The MTR does not foresee corrective actions applicable to the management mechanisms. The project achieved and maximized results, which includes the achievement of important unforeseen results that correspond to new needs, which must be addressed to advance with the goals proposed in the work plans.
Sustainability	Project sustainability is likely (L)	Regarding socioeconomic risks, the Project has generated capacities in organizations and people. The MUCOPP has a proposal for a financial strategy and an institutionalization mechanism. Associativity between regional and local actors is strengthened. The maintenance of reforested areas and the traditional roles assigned to women represent a risk. Regarding the risks related to the institutional framework and governance, the project contributed to the governance of the protection zones, the development of a community management model, and the institutionalization process of the MOCUPP. The risks refer to the lack of capacity of the institutions to assume the tasks and strategies. The MOCUPP depends on the resistance being transcended; the success of the project requires the correct implementation of the guidelines and the formalization of SICOMUTE. Regarding the risks related to the environmental variable, the project facilitates the sustainable management of productive landscapes and fire management. The risks caused by climatic variations and the risk of forest fires are taken into consideration.

Source: Prepared by us based on evaluation work.

1.5. Summary of findings

The project is complex, presents a comprehensive multisectoral strategy and involves actors at the national level that have an important incidence for the execution of actions at the political, technical and articulation levels. It has had a remarkable management and a great advance in all its components. The technical studies were key to sustain the actions, and to have a monitoring and follow-up system, and for the coordination with the counterparts, as well as for the adaptive measures considered. The project presents a highly satisfactory evaluation.

On the other hand, the “theory of change” is not clear, which affects the interpretation and operationalization of PRODOC. The alignment of the outputs with the indicators is unclear.

The project categorizes as gender-responsive, however, it does not address the root of the problem of inequalities in the daily lives of women (however it is not its objective either). It follows the logic of the original design and the Logical Framework (LF), through adjustments and adaptive management that have contributed to the achievement of the products. The work with organizations at the local level and the establishment of consortia around productive initiatives is notable.

The implementation of the project and the adaptive management is highly satisfactory. The project involves women in all its initiatives and it did not identified deep structural barriers or limitations that could affect their participation. The work carried out in the ACLA-P region on all products is outstanding and initiatives for management models of urban areas are outlined in the MAIBC. A major concern is that SINAC is not using MOCUPP to prosecute non-compliance with the forest law. Sustainability is Likely (L) and represents minimal risk to sustainability. The most important results are on track to their achievement at the conclusion of the Project.

1.6. Summary of recommendations

It is essential that the project continue to strengthen its “political muscle” to achieve results and strengthen the strategy to achieve Component 1. It must prioritize investments by targeting the budget on strategic issues (results). In addition, it is recommended to highlight a positive approach of the MOCUPP as an instrument for verifying good practices in sustainability, and to achieve the incentive mechanism so that, both in the private and public sectors, changes in land use are monitored. It is necessary to have a legal tool that integrates all the existing information systems in the country in geospatial matters, to strengthen the sustainability of the MOCUPP, and strengthen the role of MOCUPP within the CENIGA. SINAC should take advantage of the MOCUPP to supervise non-compliance with the forestry law and take advantage of the support that the project can provide during the remaining validity period.

The MTR proposes to find a unified system to capture and report the results (data reporting tool) of Monitoring, Follow-up and Evaluation. The wording of some indicators, the alignment of results and indicators, the ToC model and the logical framework should be reviewed.

It is recommended that for future projects (based on the experience of this project) a diagnosis of gaps in gender equity be carried out from the design phase. It is also necessary to increase the amount of information on the advantages of production free of loss of forest cover and to advance in the creation of an incentive system.

Regarding their implementation activities, the MTR recommends to find a balance between the team's actions in the field and the coordination with the entities and decentralize the actions. Community organizations should be strengthened, and the institutions involved (local governments, public institutions, etc.) should designate personnel and a budget for the sustainability of the actions.

2. INTRODUCTION

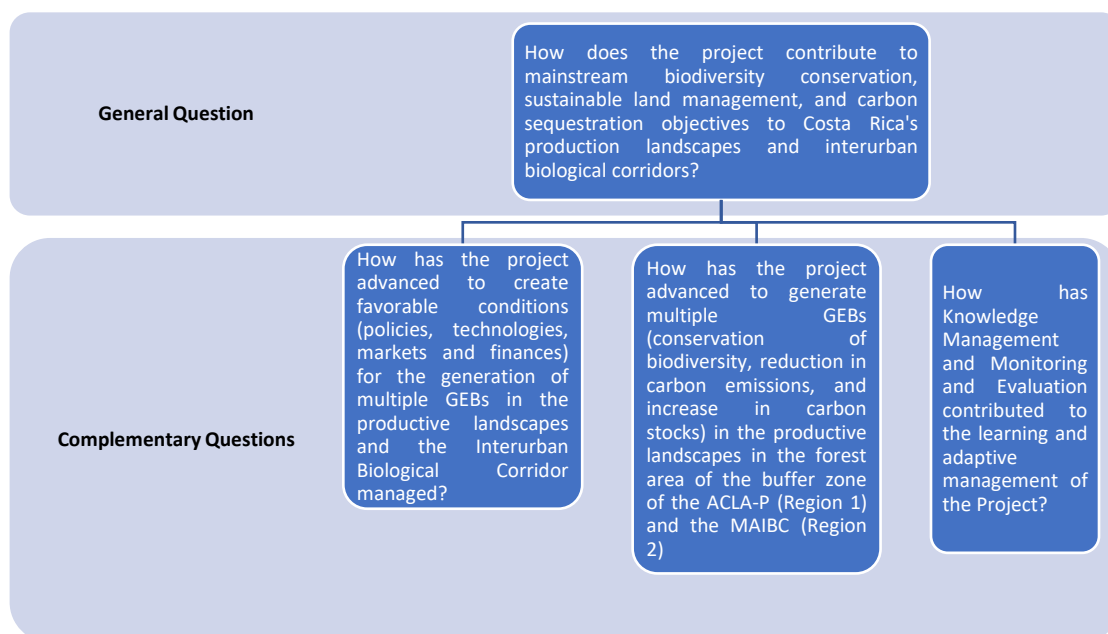
2.1 Purposes and objectives

The objective of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) requested by the United Nations Development Program was to "Evaluate the Project *Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica*"⁶. For this, specific objectives were established:

- Evaluate the progress in the achievement of the objectives and results of the Project that were set out in the Project Document (PRODOC).
- Analyze possible signs of success or failure to identify any changes that are necessary to reorient the Project and achieve the desired results.
- Review the Project strategy and risks associated with its sustainability.
- Analyze the Project's progress in relation to the Project's strategy, progress towards the achievement of results, Project execution and adaptive management, and the four sustainability factors.

The MTR answered the general question and the three complementary questions posed in its design (see Figure 2.1).

Figure 2: Questions of the Midterm Review (MTR).



⁶ As in the ToR (Annex 1)

2.2 Scope and Methodology

2.2.1 Principles of design and execution of the MTR

The MTR⁷ follows the UNDP and GEF evaluation policies, guidelines, rules and procedures, specifically the “Guide for Conducting the Mid-Term Review in UNDP-Supported and GEF-Financed Projects”. It covered the evaluation of the four categories of progress of the Project: 1) Project Strategy, 2) Progress towards the achievement of results, 3) Project Execution and adaptive management and 4) Analysis of the Sustainability criterion in its four dimensions (financial, socio-economic, governance and institutional and environmental framework). Furthermore, it is performed under the evaluation matrix that includes the criteria, indicators, sources of verification and the methodological proposal to address the evaluation questions (Annex 2).

2.2.2 MTR approach and data collection methods

The MTR contemplated a formative, participatory and collaborative approach. The field mission included meetings and visits in the two regions of the Project implementation (see itinerary in Annex 6.3. Through open and semi-structured individual and group interviews, 182 people were consulted (see Annex 6.4: List of people and stakeholders consulted) representing various institutions and stakeholders. The instructions used for data collection are included in Annex 6.5 and the documentation consulted in Annex 6.6.

In addition to the one-on-one interviews, workshops, focus groups, group interviews, observation visits, and a survey held with project beneficiaries in the two intervention areas to find out their perception of the Project and the results that achieved up to date.

The assessment of progress, execution and sustainability was guided by the specifications of the GEF guide mentioned above, as well as based on the criteria and scales indicated for each assessment (see annex 6.7).

2.2.3 Limitations of the MTR

There were no limitations when performing MTR. The evaluation team had free access to information sources, which were abundant, to carry out the evaluation process. The field mission made it possible to obtain and analyze substantive elements to assess the level of progress of the project in the field, being able to acquire firsthand data, as well as the experiences of the actors from their experiences and their subjectivities. Furthermore, the evaluation team had sufficient and necessary independence to carry out this external review.

Regarding the current pandemic situation caused by COVID-19, various methodological and operational strategies were taken into consideration to address the field missions to comply with the sanitary standards issued by the Ministry of Health (MINSa) of Costa Rica in force at the time of the evaluation. The measures taken complied with those suggested by MINSa:

⁷ As requested in the ToR (Annex 1)

1. The measures established by the institutions and organizations where the sessions were held, were addressed.
2. Generally, the activities were carried out in wide and ventilated spaces. When this was not possible, the activities were done in the outdoors.
3. Use of appropriate rooms that allow adequate distancing and capacity control according to the available room.
4. Only people with no cold symptoms could participate.
5. Hand washing and use of alcohol gel.
6. The use of masks for face-to-face sessions and inside vehicles was mandatory.

2.2.4 Structure of the MTR report

The structure of the report is in accordance with the indications in Annex B of the TOR (See Annex 6.1.) "Guidelines on the content of the Mid-Term Exam Report", which proposes six chapters:

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. Description of the project and context
4. Proven facts
5. Conclusions and recommendations
6. Annexes

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND THE CONTEXT

3.1 Development context: environmental, socioeconomic, institutional, and political factors relevant to the objective and scope of the Project

Although Costa Rica has around 27% of its territory protected, the pressure on the use of land and the expansion of the agricultural frontier threatens protected wild areas. The forest cover of urban spaces is not spared from a disorderly and excessive growth that affects the existing natural resources in the protected areas. Therefore, the development of productive models and sustainable cities is required.

Changes in land use in productive landscapes, generated by unsustainable models, is the key element that affects, in most cases, the loss of forest cover, the deterioration of water sources and its quality, and the negative impact on forests, buffer zones and biodiversity in general. Regulatory and legal frameworks cannot always respond to changes in land uses and updates are required, but most important, to create institutional capacities for monitoring and for adequate legislation in the correct use of land, landscapes, and natural resources.

The weak management and control capacity of national authorities to implement measures that ensure compliance with existing legislation and sustainable models to guarantee productivity and soil conservation exacerbate this problem.

3.2 Problems that the Project sought to address: threats and barriers

3.2.1 Threats

Based on the objective of the Project, the biodiversity and natural forests of Costa Rica faces four threats⁸:

- Expansion of unsustainable agricultural practices, especially cattle ranching and cash crops (i.e., pineapple and African palm oil)
- Uncontrolled urban growth and land use change
- Forest fires.
- Loss in forest cover and degradation of forests and mangroves due to conventional production practices

3.2.2 Barriers

In addition to efforts to mitigate the threats identified in the previous point (3.2.1.), according to the PRODOC, it is necessary to address the solution of the following barriers:

- Ineffective use of environmental information to enforce environmental regulations and promote sustainable practices.
- Collaborative action between public, private, and civil society sectors to address drivers of habitat loss in production and urban territorial settings is scarce.

3.3 Project strategy and description

The objective of the Project is to "mainstream biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and carbon sequestration objectives into the production landscapes and interurban biological corridors of Costa Rica."

The project contemplates three components⁹, through which it expects to achieve the following results:

- a) **Component 1:** Favorable conditions (policies, technologies, markets, and finance) for delivering multiple GEBs in managed production landscapes and interurban biological corridors.
- b) **Component 2:** Multiple global environmental benefits (biodiversity conservation, reduced carbon emissions and increased carbon storage) are delivered in production landscapes in the ACLA-P forest zone of the buffer zone (Region 1) and Maria Aguilar Inter Urban Biological Corridor (Region 2)
- c) **Component 3:** Knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation

⁸ Defined in the PRODOC (p 8).

⁹ Annex 1 contains the project results framework taken from PRODOC, where objectives, components, results, indicators, means of verification, risks and assumptions are detailed.

The project started on March 19 2018, with the start-up workshop carried out in May 2018. However, the appointment of the coordination took place until September of the same year. Its execution is planned for five years. The Project will have an impact at a national level generated by the application of national policies and actions. Based on the established outputs (pages 16-30 of PRODOC) for these three components, the Project is expected to impact six different areas: 1) 2,505.9 ha of improved connectivity in production and urban landscapes in ACLA-P and MAIBC; 2) 11 inter-institutional agreements linking geo-referenced information; 3) 176,986.27 tCO₂eq of biomass reserves derived from landscape management tools; 4) Annual deforestation in ACLA-P reduced from 699.9 ha to 354 ha; 5) The relative abundance of keystone species in ACLA-P and MAIBC remains stable; and 6) 50 farms in ACLA-P verified as free from deforestation.

The GEF's financing is of USD 6,699,315 and a co-financing of USD 26,098,314 is expected. The strategic partners identified are: Global Environment Fund (GEF) and as part of the national counterpart the National High Technology Center (CeNAT), National Center for Geo-environmental Information / Ministry of Environment and Energy (CENIGA-MINAE), Corporation of Livestock Development (CORFOGA), National Geographic Institute (IGN), Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers (AyA), National Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) and National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC).

3.4 Project execution mechanisms

The project is implemented and executed by UNDP¹⁰, under the direct implementation modality (DIM), by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), with the participation of Local Development Associations, non-governmental organizations, community groups, institutional actors, chambers of private sector and civil society producers.

It is structured at the national level with a general direction carried out through the Project Board as the highest body responsible for making management decisions and to advise the Project Coordination. In said board, UNDP assumes the role of Executive and MINAE the role of Beneficiary.

The UNDP, in addition to being an Implementing Partner¹¹, provides the supervision and guarantee of the project, with the participation of the UNDP Sustainable Development Officer from the Country Office.

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) develops the Project. The execution is led by a team led by a Project Coordinator (PC), which includes 21 specialists¹² (Administration, Agronomy, Architecture, Institutional arrangements, Biology, Visual communication, Coordination, Diagramming, Environmental education, Gender, Geography, Knowledge Management, Forest Engineering, Environmental Legislation, Topography, among others). In addition, the project received technical support from contracted consultants, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and experts.

¹⁰ UNDP's role in this Project is twofold.

¹¹ Provides project cycle management services as defined by the GEF Council

¹² At the time of the evaluation: Biodiversity, Climate change, gender and human rights, Disaster risk management.

3.5 Project execution deadlines and milestones to be met during development

The project began operations in 2018 and its execution is planned for five years. It is currently in its third year and if it does not require an extension, it will end in 2023. The PRODOC establishes a series of goals for the Project, which represent milestones to achieve during its development in relation to its results. Key moments from the point of view of their management are indicated for the proposed output (See table 3.5.)

Table 3.5: Milestones to achieve during its development.

Milestones	Years				
	1	2	3	4	5
Component 1: Favorable conditions (policies, technologies, markets, and finance) for delivering multiple GEBs in managed production landscapes and interurban biological corridors.					
Interinstitutional Agreement / Ministerial Decree (MOCUPP)					
Agreements to offer updated, geo-referenced information to MOCUPP.					
Sustainability strategy for MOCUPP					
2000-2015 baseline study of total forest cover gains and losses within production landscapes					
2015 baseline study of total land cover of pastureland for cattle grazing and pineapple and palm oil crops.					
CONARE-PRIAS staff trained					
SNIT online map viewer is updated and enhanced with new applications for users					
National repository of information for participatory ecological monitoring					
25% of the agricultural, pineapple, and pasture production units verified as free of loss of forest cover by MINAE.					
500 international companies informed about the verification "free of loss of forest cover verification" and 5 signed agreements. Producers registered in PROCOMER.					
Component 2: Multiple GEBs (biodiversity conservation, reduced carbon emissions, and increased carbon storage) are delivered in production landscapes in the ACLA-P buffer zone forest area (Region 1) and the MAIBC (Region 2)					
Region 1: La Amistad Pacific Conservation Area - ACLA-P					
Twenty (20) nurseries for endemic and native plant species established to support the landscape management tools.					
Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P support the implementation of LMTs					
Measurement, Reporting and Verification System (MRV) to assess the impact of LMT on biodiversity conservation.					
Risk mapping system for the prevention of forest fires includes the classification of vegetation to determine its combustion rate.					
Participatory biological monitoring pilot program linked to PRONAMEC and an interactive online platform for the exchange of information.					
Land ownership registry, disaggregated by gender finalized and updated in SNIT					
Land sustainability for forest landscape studies to strengthen connectivity.					
MINAE, municipal staff, judges, and private producers informed and trained in MOCUPP					
Environmental education program led by SINAC.					
Verification system of productive units free of loss of forest cover verification.					
Strengthened local and institutional capacities for citizen participation and governance of SP.					
Region 2: María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor (MAIBC)					

Five municipalities in the MAIBC and other public entities sign joint action agreements for controlling solid waste and discharge into rivers and promoting the connectivity of urban green areas, conservation, and rehabilitation of riparian forests					
Delimitation of protection zones.					
Protocols for inter-institutional coordination to address issues of discharges, solid waste disposal, illegal construction and changes in land use in the MA river.					
Environmental assessment for MAIBC.					
Gains and losses of forest cover within the MAIBC for years 2017, 2018, and 2019					
Baseline study of urban land and forest cover (2015) of urban encroachment on natural habitat.					
Formalization and open audience of cadastral records by the DRI within the MAIBC					
Government and private personnel informed and trained in SNIT / MOCUPP.					
Eight (8) nurseries established to support landscape management tools.					
16,000 individuals of endemic and native species of trees and shrubs planted.					
Component 3: Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation					
Systematization of the monitoring of changes in land cover, biodiversity, carbon emissions and stocks, and gender equality and empowerment of women in productive landscapes (ACLA-P).					
Systematization of the monitoring of changes in land cover, biodiversity, carbon emissions and stocks, and gender equality (in MAIBC) as an input for future urban policies.					
Thematic studies and other knowledge documented, and communication and public awareness materials with a gender perspective produced and available for dissemination.					

Source : Own elaboration document, Adapted from PRODOC.

3.6 Main stakeholders: List of key actors

The main national actors identified in the PRODOC were SINAC, Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), Livestock Corporation (CORFOGA), High Technology Center Foundation (FUNCENAT), implementing agencies and others (such as local governments involved, IGN, INVU, municipalities, local organizations, and committees). However, the direct participation that national, sub-national and local stakeholders have had in the process of project implementation, including capacity building, is described below (Box 3.6).

Table 3.6.: Main stakeholders (summary)

Main Stakeholders	Roles and mechanisms of participation
Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), Office of the Minister and Vice Ministers	MINAE is the GEF Focal Point and ruling institution for natural resources in Costa Rica, except for forestry issues, wildlife, and PAs (responsibility of SINAC). MINAE will have direct interaction with the National Director of the Project to ensure the implementation of the project. MINAE assigns a person to occupy a position on the Project's Board of Directors.
National Center for Geo-environmental Information (CENIGA)	CENIGA is coordinates the SINIA it will chair the Technical Committee No. 1 of the project and will be directly responsible for the supervision and implementation of the MOCUPP following the guidelines of the SIMOCUTE.
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)	MAG is the lead institution of the agricultural sector; it will guide the development of an institutional framework to ensure sustainable production in agriculture and livestock. The MAG will appoint a focal point within the Technical Committee (specifically a person from the MAG in the Brunca region) and will provide assistance regarding with compliance with

	the Livestock NAMA Program by producers who will benefit from socio-productive community initiatives.
Livestock Development Corporation (CORFOGA)	A non-state public entity, which aims to promote livestock in Costa Rica. Contributes to the implementation of community socio-productive / LMT initiatives related to sustainable livestock issues in ACLA-P. CORFOGA is a member of the Technical Committee of the project for the ACLA-P region.
National Center for High Technology - PRIAS Laboratory (CeNAT-PRIAS)	CeNAT is the scientific program of the Council of State Universities (CENARE), which hosts the PRIAS Laboratory. The PRIAS Laboratory is dedicated to the acquisition, processing, storage, analysis, representation, and dissemination of spatial information; it promotes scientific research through dissemination of geospatial data and academic exchange among universities and other specialized institutions at the international level. CeNAT-PRIAS acts as an implementing partner and provides services to the project in the form of baseline studies and annual maps of forest cover gains and losses within productive landscapes and urban biological corridors. PRIAS generates the information that feeds the MOCUPP.
National Geographic Institute (IGN)	IGN has the mandate to administer the SNIT. It is responsible for the continuous updating of the SNIT web tool / map viewer. It is a national geo portal and acts as the "window" through which the MOCUPP is viewed.
National Registry (DRI)	DRI is mandated to administer SIRI. It plays a key role in updating land ownership records in ACLA-P and MAIBC and as such is a direct beneficiary of project implementation.
National Forest Financing (FONAFIFO)	FONAFIFO executes the country's Payment for Environmental Services Program. FONAFIFO participates in the development of verification standards considering the Forestry Law. Although PRODOC is considered as a key partner in the execution of the project (with contributions of counterpart resources), until now it has not been actively involved in the execution of actions. Its role would be relevant in the establishment of the verification system for production systems free of loss of forest cover verification.
National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC)	SINAC is a fully decentralized government institution of MINAE in charge of the administration of the country's public protected areas and the management of forestry and wildlife both inside and outside the protected areas. SINAC has a position on the Project's Board of Directors and on both Technical Committees and is a key partner in the implementation of actions in both regions and at the central level. The work articulated with SINAC in the field is crucial for the sustainability of the results over time, and to ensure that the MOCUPP becomes a tool in the implementation of the regulations regarding the proper use of land in the country.
Production / agricultural sector	The project executes socio-productive initiatives in the agricultural and livestock sector. People and families are beneficiaries of innovative and sustainable practices that seek to increase their ecological competitiveness. It also works with organized groups of women. The project in turn works with two Chambers of Livestock (Pérez Zeledón and San Vito), and coordinates actions with CORFOGA (which executes NAMA Livestock in coordination with the MAG), among other key functions. The project is moving forward to define mechanisms for the recognition of production free of loss of forest cover verification; a stronger process of support is initiated so that its products link with differentiated markets (national and eventually international).
MAIBC Committee	Local It is composed of representatives of the national government institutions that manage the MAIBC. In coordination with this committee, the project executes actions in the area and supports the articulation of its members.

	In addition, it is part of the Technical Committee of the project for the MAIBC, made up of municipalities, SINAC and UNDP.
CSOs, including women's groups, and NGOs	Within the ACLA-P intervention area, the beneficiaries are farmers' organizations, small and medium producers who implement innovative sustainable management practices, including the implementation of LMT. Within the MAIBC, they participate in environmental education workshops, the implementation of LMT, and reforestation and rehabilitation activities on riverbanks and other ecologically sensitive areas. In both regions, Participatory Biological Monitoring Brigades are established at community level and for the ACLA-P of forest fire management.
National Institute of Housing and Urban Development (INVU)	Public agency in charge of executing policies and plans in matters of land use and land development at the national level. The INVU is part of the Technical Committee of the MAIBC and supports in the articulation of actions, studies and development of methodologies and policies for the management of the María Aguilar basin, and the integrated management of this landscape.
Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers of Costa Rica (AyA)	AyA is the national public institution in charge of providing technical and financial assistance to improve water management in rural and urban areas. Although in PRODOC it appears as a co-financier with in-kind resources, no actions or articulations with this entity were identified in the implementation of the Project.
National Institute of Women (INAMU)	INAMU is the lead institution that promotes gender equality as a crosscutting issue in national and subregional planning, policies, and strategies. INAMU coordinates with the Project (specifically the gender specialist) the development of policies and decrees to incorporate gender issues in sustainable landscape management measures and decision-making. In addition, the incorporation of the gender approach in the verification system of production free of loss of forest cover verification is being coordinated.
UNDP	UNDP implements the project as the executing agency of the GEF (direct implementing partner). It provides technical and administrative support, management tools, and practical and theoretical knowledge. It articulates the interested parties involved in the execution of the project.

Source: Adapted from ProDoc.

4 FINDINGS

4.1 Project Strategy

4.1.1 Project Design

The project considered national and institutional realities in its design, and supports the efforts made by Costa Rica towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, it contributes to the scope of: Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women); Goal 11 (Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable); Goal 12 (Responsible consumption and production); and Goal 15 (Manage forests sustainably, combat desertification, halt, and reverse land degradation, halt the loss of biodiversity). Furthermore, it contributes to the National Strategy for the Recovery of Urban Watersheds 2020-2030 and to the achievement of the Pact for the María Aguilar River. Moreover, it is contributing to the Decarbonization Plan of Costa Rica, which relates to initiatives of solutions based on nature and protection of riparian areas.

Productive Landscapes will contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Goals of the Biodiversity Convention (specifically goals 5, 7, 11 and 14), related to reducing, by 2020, the rate of loss of natural habitats by half; sustainably manage areas under agriculture; promote the connectivity of protected areas; and ecosystem restoration.

The aligns with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in its Focal Areas BD-4, LD-2 (Program 3), LD-3 (Program 4), and SFM-1 (Program 9). And with the Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) 2013-2017 for Costa Rica, and supports the achievement of Expected Results 1.1, 2.2 and 5.3.

Likewise, it takes up the results of the Project Monitoring of land Use Change in Productive Landscapes (MOCUPP), developed between 2011 and 2015 by UNDP through its Green Commodities Program, which was outlined as an innovative tool to support land management, which, using satellite technology, could facilitate the monitoring of changes in land use and the analysis of deforestation processes associated with agricultural dynamics in the country. It also incorporates the guidelines established in the document "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Practice (2014)" of the Scientific and Technological Advisory Program (STAP) of GEF regarding: a) spatial and land use planning to ensure that the use of land and resources are effectively managed to maximize production without impairing or degrading; b) improving and changing production practices; and c) implementing a financial verification mechanism.

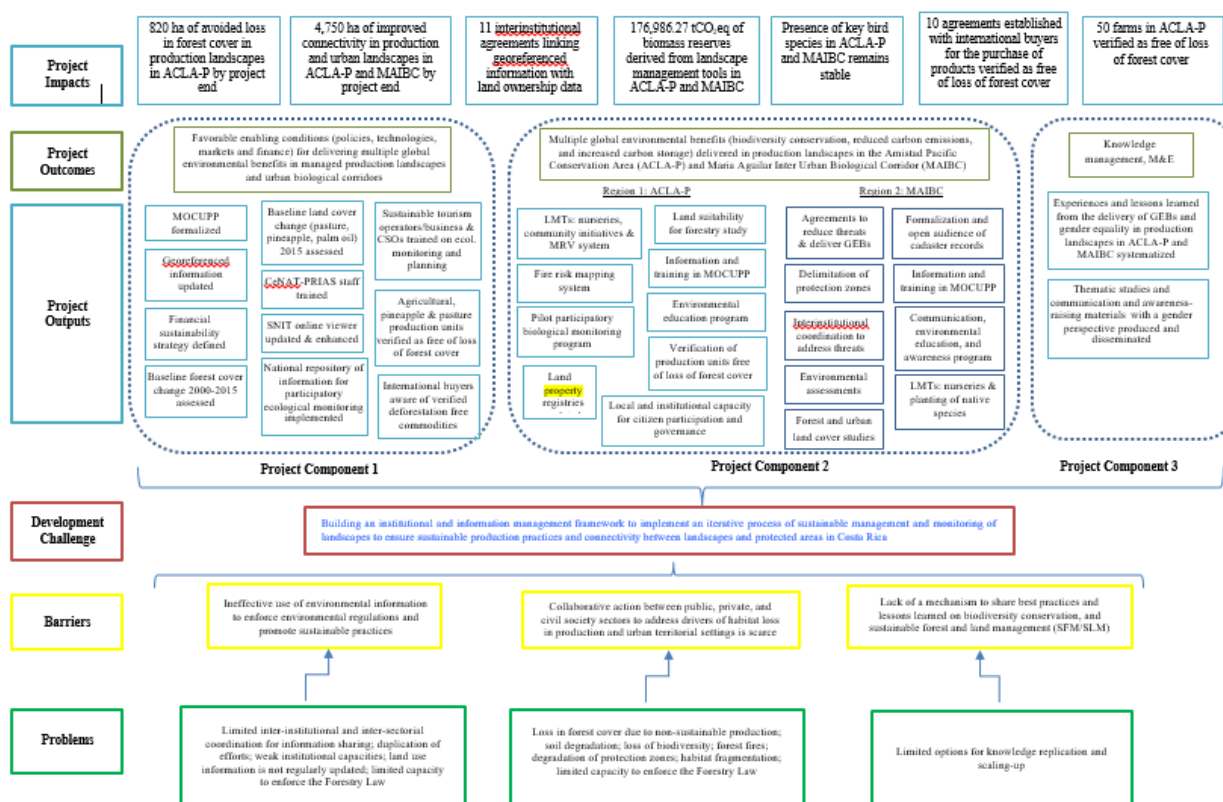
PRODOC states that "The project will focus on reducing the loss of natural habitat generated by rapid and uncontrolled changes in land use due to agricultural expansion in ACLA-P and urban expansion in MAIBC." On this subject, the problems identified during the formulation correspond to the conditions present in the country and to the intervention areas. They are priority issues in the sustainable management of the country's productive landscapes. This is reinforced by the information obtained from the interviews and the documents consulted during the evaluation mission. Considering these problems, the Theory of Change of the project is coherent, which states the need to build "... an institutional and information management framework to implement an iterative process of sustainable management and monitoring of landscapes to ensure sustainable production practices and connectivity between landscapes and protected areas in Costa Rica". In

this way, it proposes increasing the capacities of SINAC and other actors involved for a sustainable management of productive landscapes and mitigating the prevailing threats to biodiversity. Through “... an interactive process to sustainably manage production and urban landscapes, thus ensuring sustainable production practices and connectivity between these landscapes and protected areas”.

Following this logic, the “Theory of Change” of the project proposes the achievement of multiple environmental benefits through sustainable production practices, and the effective application of the Forestry Law; inter-institutional exchange of information on LC/LU, information on forest gains and losses, that is accessible to multiple actors and institutional and individual capacities that allow sustainable management and monitoring of landscapes. The above is feasible through the achievement of the expected results for the three components, as proposed in the strategy (See simplified causal model in the following figure (Figure 1)). However, the ToC, as expressed and represented in the PRODOC (page 11), does not manage to interconnect outputs and effects between the components, it even mixes levels of results, which are in different plans and times of occurrence. This affects the interpretation and operationalization of the PRODOC. All these aspects are considered in the assessment made in this MTR.

However, in the analysis carried out on the Theory of Change, it is important to point out that through the expected results the project will generate, as expressed by PRODOC, multiple GEBs, including less loss of forest cover and fewer carbon emissions, improving the conservation of biodiversity, and a stable abundance of species of global and local importance, better carbon stocks and other benefits.

Figure 3: Causal model according to the PRODOC theory of change.



Source: PRODOC.

As established in the Project Identification Form (PIF), the project addresses the diagnosed problems. As part of the solution, it raised the challenge of solving four threats and two barriers (See point 3.3. Of PRODOC), through a strategy and a results framework conceived in a logical and achievable way.

The level of participation in the project design had a strategic vision oriented by the managerial and technical fields, and was based on a regional basis, especially in ACLAP, when considering the cattle ranchers' chambers. Regional, local and community actors did not participate in the project design phase: NGOs, local organizations, or indigenous communities. However, their participation in the operational planning of the actions carried out at the field level was outstanding.

Regarding the activities within indigenous communities, and the work in these territories, the Project designed (during its implementation phase), a "Plan for the Participation of Indigenous Peoples" (PPPI), in order to comply with the UNDP SES policy. This IPP plan includes for each product, the identification of the risks and the proposed mitigation measures, a series of indicators and activities for their mitigation. In general, there are moderate risks in aspects of work within indigenous territories. Other issues such as gender related impacts or possible vulnerabilities towards climate change are determined as moderate risks as well.

Based on the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SESP) screening checklist, it is possible to determine that the overall project risk categorization is moderate. These possible impacts related to aspects such as gender related issues, vulnerability towards climate change, possible economic displacement, and the existence of project activities within indigenous territories).

Specifically, the IPPP indicates that specific mitigation measures will be used to assess/manage to ensure the participation of representative institutions of indigenous peoples and different groups in vulnerable situations. It raises intercultural dialogue, participation, and respect for the various representative institutions of indigenous peoples, the inclusion of traditional authorities, intergenerational participation, gender equality and parity, the use of indigenous languages, construction content, among others. However, there is no detailed description of the mechanism to comply with the FPIC requirements of the UNDP SES Policy. The IPPP is under revision and will include a detailed description of how the project complies with such mechanisms in line with government regulations. There are no complaint mechanisms (grievance and redress mechanisms at the project level) to attend potential grievances and such measures must be developed along with the implementation of the new SESP.

The project categorizes as Gender Responsive: the results addressed the differential needs of men and women and the equitable distribution of benefits, resources, status, and rights, but did not address the root of the problem of inequities in women's lives. It included a detailed Gender Generalization Plan (included as Annex K). It envisaged that gender equality and women's empowerment would be addressed through planned actions within ACLAP and MAIBC, including their participation in sustainable production systems and conservation efforts in biological corridors, technical assistance programs, access to knowledge, decision making, MOCUPP. The evaluation of the role of women, systematization of the lessons learned and exchange of knowledge among women. However, in future projects it will be possible to take a further leap forward, not waiting for a gap diagnosis in stage 1, but from the design stage. It can easily be done with focus groups, quick online consultation, forms, etc.

The gender approach is mainstreamed since the design of the Project. According to informants “From the first meeting it was seen that the GEF sees the gender issue as transversal and starts the design process, beyond the parity issue. There are specific, numerical and more quantitative and financial impact indicators, for example, in socio-productive initiatives” (key informant, personal communication). In addition, since the formulation of the Action Plan, the project addressed the gender issue, which links to the Project Results Framework. The logic followed was to propose an approach that “would guarantee political incidence to strengthen the participation of women at the local level, at multiple levels, knowledge management, etc.” (Key informant, personal communication).

Through the Social and Environmental Screening checklist (SESP), the Project identified two specific risks related to gender issues. Among the adjustments made with respect to the initial SESP, a risk related to possible negative impacts on women related to or increased by the situation faced because of the COVID 19 crisis was included. Finally, the Project visualizes possible risks related to the reproduction of discriminatory patterns or that they make women visible especially in “non-traditional” activities. Along with the identification of these risks, concrete and corrective actions are proposed to mitigate the possible negative effects and policies, training processes and concrete interventions have been developed around this issue (which will be addressed below).

The design approach is satisfactory; the UNDP office in Costa Rica was recently awarded with the highest certification in the Global Seal of Gender Equality, which shows that this approach is also a strong axis in the design of its projects.

There is no doubt that, as stated in the SESP, “the project recognizes that the urgency of transforming the social norms of gender imposed by culture, and that they have an important effect on women (...) comes from the understanding that women are essential agents of conservation and play a leading role in reducing the loss and deterioration of nature (...). Women are fundamental in the protection and conservation of landscapes, be they rural or urban” (SESP, p. 1). The project has a solid Action Plan for Gender Equality, aligned with the results framework, and it includes clear activities and results (as outlined in the project SESP).

The project involves women in all its initiatives, clearly responding to the logic of the spaces/contexts where it develops. No deep structural barriers or limitations are identified that could affect their participation. On the contrary, the processes of training and development of actions in general are open to women, and in the cases of productive initiatives, they focus specifically on supporting women owned projects.

At the beginning of the project, they developed a study to identify the existing gender gaps, especially for women in rural areas. The initial work plan (and its updates) was carried out based on data analysis that provided an overview of the reality faced by women (especially in rural areas), taking quantitative and qualitative (secondary) data for this evaluation.

The logic of the original design remains the same, in general terms. The PRODOC, despite the aforementioned aspects has turned out to be an instrument that has facilitated the management by results of the project, as well as the annual planning (AOP) and its programmatic execution. Adaptive management has contributed, in general, to the achievement of the proposed outputs and, in some cases, to increase the scope of the proposed results.

4.1.2 Results Framework / Logical Framework

In general, the Logical Framework (LF) of the project remains the same from the design phase in the PRODOC, except for two variants:

Indicator 6, "Number of agreements established with international buyers for the acquisition of products free of loss of forest cover", was replaced by "Number of international buyers informed for the acquisition of products free of loss of forest cover", because it was not relevant to measure project results.

For indicator 10 (Relative abundance of key mammalian species (medium and large) and birds in ACLA-P remains stable), the list was expanded to 32 species. In this case, the initial list had 3 species of mammals and 4 species of birds.

The LF allows us to understand the vertical logic and is supported by the results chain incorporated in the "Theory of Change" and in the project's results framework. There is an alignment between the instruments and the overall objective pursued by the project.

Regarding the horizontal logic, the original design of the project has had some changes because of adaptive management. The LF does not visualize these changes, although some are in the complementary results framework, which includes:

1. Support for the creation of a commission to attend to the results of the National Forestry Cadaster, as it turned out that its development was not the responsibility of the project.
2. The increase in results in the participatory biological monitoring brigades, which went from 3 to 17 brigades taking advantage of the same program resources.
3. The creation of a new category of ASP, not foreseen, because of a request made by MINAE and called Urban Natural Parks (UNP) (PANU for its acronym in Spanish).
4. Support for the change of category of the Las Tablas Protective Zone to the Pajaro Campana Bicentennial Biological Reserve (currently in the approval process at CONAC).
5. Incorporation of a productive initiative located in the indigenous territory of Boruca, outside the ACLA-P buffer area, with great success in its execution and based on an important model of productive chain of cultural, economic, and environmental value.
6. Creation of an "urban MOCUPP", a tool of great importance for decision-making and control over the urban green area; and great value for the management of the MAIBC.
7. Creation of a methodology for the determination of Protected Areas, well received by different institutions, particularly by the INVU.
8. Establishment of a policy for the digital delimitation of the protection areas of rivers brooks and streams, formalized by the INVU.
9. Support project operations through an Executing Unit improving the effectiveness of its management.
10. Follow-up results by indicator and output through groups of experts.
11. Support the proposal to update the Biodiversity Law, which includes an article that would give sustainability to the MOCUPP.
12. Support for the Ministerial Directive for the prohibition of monocultures in ASPs:

- Ministerial Decree that forces public institutions to use the information generated by MOCUPP.
- Executive Ministerial Order (N ° 0006-2020) signed by MINAE instructing the ministerial units to use the MOCUPP in monitoring land use changes.
- Presentation of Bill 22,401 “Partial Reform to the Forestry Law”, inclusion of articles 33 bis and 33 tris to clarify competences and procedures for the management of river protection areas (pending the legislative process).

The complexity of the project is transferred to the LF indicators. To analyze the causality of the results, the technical team tried to align the Outcome indicators with the outputs of the strategy (See Annex 6.8), with comments on the alignment exercise. Regarding the issue of indicators, it was possible to observe some situations¹³ that needs considerations when interpreting project performance:

1. Indicators with a simple conceptualization, however, the formulation necessary for their estimation is extremely complex. The Outcome of Indicator 1 depends on the achievement of 13 outputs. Other Outcomes, although in a lesser way, also present a certain level of complexity, depending on 2 or 4 outputs (See annex 6.8).
2. There is no data sheet that explicitly indicates how to calculate the value achieved by the indicators.
3. Possibility to include other indicators that improve the understanding of the results achieved by the project, and that correspond to the weakness identified in the theory of change that goes from results at the product level to impact results, leaving a gap in the interconnection of these with the effects.
4. The writing of some indicators can be improved (indicators 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 15, see notes in annex 6.8, that presents and alternative wording).
5. It will be necessary to adjust the target of indicator 14 towards more realistic parameters. In addition, adjust the goal of indicator 6 since the indicator was changed but the goal of the new one was not set out.
6. As a core aspect of the project strategy is the “effective application of the Forestry Law”, the logical framework lacks an indicator related to this issue.
7. The project provided unscheduled technical support among PRODOC services, which improved the effectiveness of the actions taken with the communities and regional and local organizations; however, there is no indicator to measure the result.
8. It was stated “as of the publication of Decree 42120-JP of February 12, 2020, which creates the IDECORI (Costa Rican Spatial Data Infrastructure) whose viewer is the SNIT, the signing of agreements to provide georeferenced information with institutions is no longer required”. Given that the decree fully complies with this indicator, it was agreed in 2020, during the assessment of the II PIR not to make a drafting adjustment, since the achievement is reached.

¹³ For further information, see annex 6.8.

Specifically, within the results framework, 16 indicators are proposed, of which two have an explicit gender focus in their approach. The vast majority do not allow contemplating a gender or incidence approach on women in a particular way. However, there are two indicators: 11 (number of farms verified as free from forest loss), and 16 (number of documents produced from successful experiences) that are not formulated by displaying information related to gender in a disaggregated manner. However, in the analysis of the existing information of the project, this information is disaggregated by gender in the repositories, so it is suggested to exploit this information further.

The information on brigade training, environmental education, and productive initiatives, as well as studies on income baselines and CAP, have disaggregated information and capture the way in which interventions may affect different populations in the future. The inclusion of a socio-productive initiative in indigenous territory stands out, which is key within the project and for the development of the territory.

Therefore, considering these findings, the wording of some indicators, the alignment of results and indicators, the TC model and the logical framework, respectively, should be reviewed, and the Project can build a simple dashboard (system of indicators) that looks at the results of all products. Likewise, the MTR recommends an improvement in the wording of the indicator and the definition of the file.

4.2 Progress in the achievement of results

Objective of the project, results, and products / activities

The objective of the project is "to generalize the conservation of biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica."

Each component of the project establishes several outputs associated with the general objective. Below is a description of the results, outputs, and activities of the project:

Component 1: Favorable conditions (policies, technologies, markets, and finance) for delivering multiple GEBs in managed production landscapes and interurban biological corridors.

The achievement of this Component is proposed through agreements for the institutionalization, financial sustainability and provision of geospatial information and operation of the MOCUPP. Studies of losses and gains of forest cover and grassland cover, and oil palm crops; CONARE-PRIAS staff trained, updated, and improved SNIT online viewer, the national information repository for ecological monitoring, agricultural, pineapple and grassland production units verified as free of loss of forest cover verification and informed international companies to make purchases through the verification free of loss of forest cover (MOCUPP). The outputs summarized above are further explained below:

Output 1.1: Interinstitutional agreement/Ministry Decree formalizes the establishment, management arrangements, and financial sustainability of the MOCUPP as part of the SIMOCUTE, including annual monitoring of forest cover change and land degradation within agricultural production landscapes and interurban biological corridors in Costa Rica, as well as the review of current national forest policy and regulations.

One of the main axes of the Project, which in some way represents a common element for both regions, is the use of MOCUPP as a tool for periodic monitoring based on reliable data on changes in land use. The project presents important advances to move towards an "institutionalization" and generalized use of this tool in the management (technical and normative-legal) of productive landscapes.

There was a strong institutional resistance to use MOCUPP during the early stages of project implementation. This issue has changed since the project has managed to facilitate favorable conditions for reaching agreements that lead to the institutionalization and use of this tool, with the aim of positioning the MOCUPP as a central element of the Monitoring System for Land and Ecosystem Cover and Use (SIMOCUTE), which made it possible to achieve important instruments. However, MINAE authorities consider that MOCUPP should have a positive approach, which implies emphasizing the benefits it can have for producers instead of highlighting its capacity to control environmental crimes.

Along these lines, it is worth highlighting the impact the project had on establishing a Ministerial Decree that indicates public institutions to use the information generated by MOCUPP, and an

Executive Ministerial Order (No. 0006-2020) signed by MINAE instructing the ministerial units to use MOCUPP in monitoring land use change. This achievement reflects the actions at the political level (accompanied by robust technical processes) that the project is obtaining. This is reflected in turn in a decree published in the Gazette for the formalization of SICOMUTE (there is a draft Decree) that includes the MOCUPP and proposes a strategy to use this tool in the management of the environmental sector. In addition, the MOCUPP has been positioned as a central element of the Monitoring System for Land and Ecosystem Cover and Use (SIMOCUTE for its acronym in Spanish), and starting on June 2020 MOCUPP statistics are being published in the National Environmental Information System (SINIA). There is also a draft ministerial guideline for the publication and dissemination of the results of the MOCUPP, which broadens the availability of the information.

The level of achievement of this result is highly satisfactory. These advances are crucial so that this tool can be adopted at the national level in a consolidated and generalized way and that it is useful not only for public entities in their work to regulate the use of land in productive spaces, such as urban spaces, but also for private actors (for example, agricultural companies or livestock producers, etc.).

In terms of advocacy, the project's executing unit achieved influence at the political level of key institutions, such as MINAE-SINAC, MAG, INTA, TAA, SETENA, DINA, Judicial Power, and municipalities, so that the project could move forward. These results are important because the MOCUPP can become a tool of the Costa Rican State, capable of generating economic incentives for the maintenance of ecosystem services, but also for compliance with environmental legislation.¹⁴ In addition, it has enormous potential for actors in both the productive sector and public entities to use periodic and accessible information for its management. The private sector (productive companies or enterprises) can use it to demonstrate their production processes are free of loss of forest cover verification. And the public sector can use this data as a tool to control the adequate use of the land and the areas destined for production and conservation.

Although the implementation of the MOCUPP initially faced resistance from productive companies in some sectors and even from public institutions, the political work, dialogue, and negotiations made by the technical team of the project that transcends political articulations, stands out. It bases in demonstrating the potential that MOCUPP has to position the country within international markets by promoting sustainable production free of loss of forest cover verification. The logic (not only the technical team of the project but also representatives of high sectors of the government and public entities) of encouraging MOCUPP as a tool to encourage seems appropriate.

It should be noted that the MOCUPP, as a tool, has been recognized internationally (by the United Nations System) as an innovative initiative and example, which has great potential for monitoring land use. The technical team of UNDP and the project have managed to serve in some way as interlocutors between various actors and sectors, promoting an inter-institutional dialogue based on technical elements, verifiable data, and a constructive approach.

Output 1.2: Agreements with 15 institutions to provide updated geo-referenced information to MOCUPP through the geoportal of the National System of Territorial Information (SNIT and associated services) annually so that the images are linked to land ownership.

¹⁴ The rapid availability of high-quality technical information has drawn the attention of the Environmental Court, which requested judges to be trained on the use of MOCUPP layers to prosecute cases of infringement of the forest law.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. Within the work carried out by the project, it contributed to the establishment of a Decree that instructs public institutions to supply information to the SNIT without the need for bilateral agreements. This means that although this output is no longer relevant (in terms of the need to generate the agreements), its possible impact is very significant. Specifically, as it is from the publication of Decree 42120-JP of February 12, 2020, which creates the IDECORI (Costa Rican Spatial Data Infrastructure) whose viewer is the SNIT, that signing of agreements with institutions is no longer required to provide georeferenced information. The approach changed to promote the registration / adding layers of information to the SNIT.

It stands out that in addition to achieving a more “institutionalized” use of the MOCUPP in relation to the information that feeds the data system, it has a more multisectoral approach, as it has different entities providing information. In turn, it is worth mentioning that efforts were made (prior to the signing of the Decree) to promote these agreements with various entities (Municipalities of San José and Curridabat), CONAGEBIO and the South Cattle Ranchers Chamber, FONAFIFO and the Administrative Environmental Court (TAA for its acronym in Spanish). There is information available in the SNIT on biodiversity, protection areas of the María Aguilar River, land use of the project's productive initiatives, baseline of pasture areas in ACLAP, as well as information on loss and gain of coverage in relation to pineapple. In other words, the decree exists, but a management process was also established to promote the existence of the MOCUPP and its potential among various institutions, and technical studies were prepared with key information on changes in land use in both regions.

Output 1.3: An agreed-upon long-term inter-institutional financial sustainability strategy to fund: i) forest cover monitoring services provided by the Council of State Universities (CeNAT-PRIAS) for the MOCUPP; ii) updating of the cadaster map, according to technical parameters provided by DRI to declare new cadaster zones that may be consulted via SNIT, including gender-disaggregated data; and iii) the continuous updating of the SNIT web-tool by the IGN.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. Defining an output of this nature is crucial since it aims for the results and tools of the project to be accepted and used by the institutions and that they have sustainability over time.

Due to the above, the project's progress in this output is highly satisfactory. The legal and technical team of the project managed to influence the inclusion of a modification to article 43 of the Forestry Law No. 7575 that updates the distribution of the tax on wood, so that 4% of the collection is allocated to financing GIS platforms for monitoring land use change. This update proposal was included in the bill for the modernization of SINAC (partial reform of the Biodiversity Law and other related laws).

The aforementioned bill is still pending to enter the legislative stream for its processing and approval. However, taking into account the technical and political capacity of the project team, the support and accompaniment of both the Executive and Legislative Powers during the process of formulation, and that a new tax is not being created, but rather the distribution of an existing tax is being updated and optimized, its approval is considered highly feasible. This will guarantee the financial sustainability of MOCUPP indefinitely.

In addition, during the first half of the execution period, the project has focused on positioning the MOCUPP before the institutional framework, promoting its use as a tool to support the fulfillment

of its competencies, which has been achieved with success. This is a key preliminary step for the process of ensuring its financial sustainability, in which, as indicated, there are already important advances that will end up consolidating during the second half of the execution period.

Output 1.4: 2000-2015 baseline study of total forest cover gains and losses within production landscapes.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. A constant base in the execution of the project is the generation of data and information based on evidence and technical processes. Among these results, the scope of this product stands out, where data on the loss and gain of forest cover have been published in the pineapple productive landscapes for the years 2016-2017, and 2017-2018¹⁵.

It should be kept in mind that the generation of information of this nature allows to have technical inputs for landscape management based on reliable data, which provides the country's environmental sector with tools and concrete evidence to be able to promptly legislate on changes in uses of the land in case of irregularities. It also allows the establishment of the bases so that the work carried out by some sectors in the protection of natural ecosystems is recognized.

Having this type of information has also contributed to the resistance that the MOCUPP faced (and continues to face, but to a lesser extent), and is expected to be even less once the evidence on land use allows for effective management of productive landscapes.

Output 1.5: 2015 baseline study of total land cover of pastureland for cattle grazing and pineapple and palm oil crops.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. Although the MOCUPP exists prior to the beginning of the Productive Landscapes project, the interventions that carried out in its execution are promoting its use and consolidation. In this sense, the incorporation of two more crops in the studies of land use stands out: grassland cover (livestock) and oil palm. It is striking that the process of dialogue with key sectors prior to incorporating these two sectors has made the MOCUPP face less resistance than in the case of pineapple. The dialogue and consultation strategy that the project has followed is key. In this line, the Project made studies and published them on the production of: 1) Pineapple area 2018, 2) Pineapple area 2019, 3) Oil palm area 2018, 4) Oil palm area 2019, 5) Area of ACLAP 2018 pilot plan pastures. Information about pastures will be published soon (year 2019). In addition, the following documents were prepared: Review of Land Use Change Monitoring Solutions in Support of Deforestation Free Commodities (in English and Spanish); Diagnosis of the current situation of the flow and generation of geographic information in the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC): Knowledge base line on GIS, SNIT and MOCUPP, and 12 articles were delivered to the journal Ambientico about the monitoring of productive landscapes and green areas.

This type of actions shows that the project follows a multisectoral and comprehensive approach based on studies and technical data, but that is also wise in the execution of concrete actions in the field and coordination with different entities, both at the public and private levels.

¹⁵ The MOCUPP reports for this output and 1.5 can be found on the CONARE website.

Output 1.6: CONARE-PRIAS personnel trained in advanced satellite image classification techniques in conjunction with international scientific peers, and the computational development required to automate data processing to monitor trends in forest cover and the use of soils.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. The work approach mentioned in the previous output reflects also in establishing processes of transfer of capacities and knowledge to key actors and sectors. Along these lines, a total of 601 people (255 women and 346 men) received training in the use and analysis of the MOCUPP. The trainings reflect the comprehensive and multi-sectoral perspective of the project and include officials of the judicial branch (Environmental Prosecutor's Office, Forensic Biology, Third Chamber, First Chamber, Agrarian Defense Office), Comptroller General of the Republic, Attorney General's Office, Commission Presidential, Conservation Areas Directors (SINAC), Technical Staff AC Guanacaste).

In other words, the Project promoted the consolidation of the MOCUPP as a technical tool, but they also acted on the development of capacities so that the people and entities that monitor and apply the legislation on land use can use the information accurately and based on technical and updated data. The MTR considered the work of going beyond the training work with PRIAS as a great advance for the project's achievements.

Output 1.7: SNIT online map viewer is updated and enhanced with new applications for users.

Although PRODOC established this output as part of the project's actions, the execution unit of the Project explained that the SNIT updates according to the technical and internal work processes and guidelines of the institution, beyond the scope of the project. In other words, this management is part of the work that the IGN must carry out¹⁶.

Output 1.8: National repository of information for participatory ecological monitoring implemented collaboratively between public, private, and civil society stakeholders, including women, and linked to the National Ecological Monitoring Programme (PRONAMEC).

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. The project has established Participatory ecological monitoring brigades at community level in both regions. Out of three proposals in the PRODOC, 18 are created¹⁷. Besides carrying out training processes in the field, the project is working on the creation of tools, registration, and analysis information to transcend the execution of the project. Along these lines, the Project developed a mobile application, which is under final review, as well as a website (under construction) for the registration of species in the field. This registry contemplates the monitoring of birds and mammals and the application and the website will be made official by the National Ecological Monitoring Programme (PRONAMEC) as an official protocol for citizen science projects in other Conservation Areas of the Country. Results of this type show the focus of the project in going beyond the regions where it is executed, and promotes the establishment and consolidation of actions that go beyond the project execution framework and have a national, and even a regional scope.

Output 1.9: 25% of the agricultural, pineapple, and pasture production units verified as free of loss of forest cover by MINAE.

¹⁶ Therefore, the output is not assessed.

¹⁷ It is expected to create a new one in 2021.

The level of achievement of this output is satisfactory. With the strengthening of MOCUPP, the project has established that its use can identify production units as free of loss of forest cover verification. This also shows that the MOCUPP is under institutionalization as a tool for landscape management that recognizes the sustainability actions (in this case environmental) carried out by some small and medium-scale producers and companies.

As part of an initial process, and directly related to project management, nurseries and socio-productive initiatives and agroforestry and silvopastoral practices that are aimed at determining these properties as deforestation-free properties, have been established. In the same line, efforts to effectively increase the number of biological micro-corridors and therefore forest coverage, as well as the coverage of other systems such as plantations, agroforestry systems, silvopastoral systems that promote and contribute to connectivity have been established.

Based on the results analyzed, it is estimated that 25% of the agricultural production units will be verified using the information provided by the MOCUPP.

Output 1.10: 500 international companies informed that in CR they can buy products with the verification of free of loss of forest cover verification (MOCUPP). Five agreements signed with national companies for the purchase of products from Costa Rica free of loss of forest cover verification and Number of producers registered in PROCOMER with a differentiated record that their products are free of loss of forest cover verification.

The level of achievement for this output is moderately satisfactory. Initially, this output had been considered in the PRODOC as: "At least 1,000 international companies buying commodities from Costa Rica aware of the free of loss of forest cover verification.", when the project began its execution, it was perceived as outside the scope of the project. In other words, purchases by international companies of deforestation-free products were outside the project management and involved a work process that is not compatible with the nature of the project. For this reason, during the Board of Directors of July 2020, it was agreed to modify this output and establish it as 500 informed international companies, 5 national agreements signed, and producers registered in PROCOMER with a differentiated registry. This adaptive management makes sense since the project cannot influence the purchase decisions of companies at an international level, but it can generate technical information and free of loss of forest cover product verification processes that can open differentiated markets for people and companies that produce sustainably.

The development of the "seal" or verification system for crops that are free of loss of forest cover verification is pending, so as the work with companies that know and/or buy these products in a differentiated way. Still, the results suggest that during the rest of the execution of the project progress in consolidating these results will be made. The verification system to be used is the MOCUPP. The measures taken are appropriate and strategic.

The level of progress in achieving result 1 is highly satisfactory, as the outputs achieved are promoting favorable conditions (policies, technologies, markets, and finances) for the generation of multiple GEBs in productive landscapes and managed interurban biological corridor. The work that the project does in technical and political terms to influence a long-term enabling environment to generate multiple GEBs in productive landscapes is evident. The results aim at achieving the goal of conserving biodiversity by reducing changes in land use from natural forest to other uses. The work of strengthening MOCUPP and supporting SIMOCUTE to consolidate an information system for

environmental decision-making that is applied annually is solid and lays the foundations for this tool to be widely used in the future. With these bases, the project can now guide actions to further support the strengthening of CENIGA's role so that it can fulfill its mandate as a regulatory entity and axis for the various institutions that provide environmental information, particularly related to forest loss in the country (as stated by the ProDoc itself). The results further align with the GEF's integrated approach to "Eliminate Deforestation from Commodity Supply Chains" (ProDoc) as it supports production and supply interventions that do not contribute to loss of forest cover; rather, they promote sustainable production. There is still work remaining for increasing the information that buyers have on the advantages of production free of loss of forest cover verification and to advance in the creation of an incentive system to position these products within specialized markets. However, the actions carried out by the project at the political level, with technical assistance, studies and the strengthening of MOCUPP in general, are solid bases for promoting this, and other results in the future.

Component 2: Multiple GEBs (biodiversity conservation, reduced carbon emissions, and increased carbon storage) are delivered in production landscapes in the ACLA-P buffer zone forest area (Region 1) and the MAIBC (Region 2)

To achieve this Component, interventions in two regions of the country were proposed: The La Amistad Pacifico Conservation Area and the María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor. The outputs summarized above are expanded below:

Region 1: ACLA-P

In the case of ACLA-P, the achievement of this result is proposed through the establishment of twenty nurseries for species; the financing of socio-productive community initiatives; MRV system assess the evaluation of the impact of LMT on the conservation of biodiversity; risk mapping for forest fire prevention; a pilot project for the implementation of PRONAMEC; to carry out registry of land ownership records in the buffer area; a study of forestry land aptitude that contributes to connectivity in landscapes; MINAE personnel, authorities informed and trained on MOCUPP; an environmental education program; a verification system for production units free of loss of forest cover verification; and the strengthening of local and institutional capacities for citizen participation and governance. The description of the products and their results is below:

Output 2.1. Twenty (20) nurseries for endemic and native plant species established to support the landscape management tools.

At the ACLA-P level (and later it will be seen that at the MAIBC also) a significant and outstanding achievement of the project has been to establish, expand or promote endemic and native plant nurseries to improve and manage landscapes to promote biological connectivity. However, the possible impact and the results go further, influencing the reforestation processes, CO₂ capture, and connection of micro corridors and generating environmental services within productive units that previously did not do so in a comprehensive manner.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. The Project established 20 nurseries, adding an agricultural productive component to all of these, such as the production of improved coffee, cocoa, ornamental plants, medicinal plants, and horticultural plants (coffee, cocoa, bamboo,

ornamentals, vegetables, medicinal and others). At the same time, it provides technical support and accompaniment so that the economic capacities of the families benefiting from the project and people living in the community improve by generating employment and trade in differentiated products. All nurseries have an annual work plan, established at the beginning of the year. During the current period, it is a guide for the activities within the nursery and allows the activities carried out not only for an environmental purpose, but also for the generation of income in families or groups, and the creation of new technical capabilities.

Through the actions in this product, the necessary material to sow the productive systems with which the project works, as well as in conservation areas that are in recovery, has been generated. More than 80 thousand plants produces in the nurseries.

Output 2.2. Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P support the implementation of LMTs.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. One of the most significant results within component 2 and for the ACLA-P region has been the implementation of productive initiatives. The selection, financing and technical support model for these projects is successful and generates results, knowledge, and practices for the management of productive landscapes that are very valuable, for not only the project and the region, but also for the country. The number of initiatives executed within this output represent almost a Program in itself, and denotes the complexity of the project, but above all, it highlights the technical management capacity of the team.

Along these lines, the Project provided a funding of around 900 thousand dollars to the 27 socio-productive initiatives¹⁸ (see summary of the initiatives in Annex 6.10) that benefit 45 organizations, about 550 farms and more than 200 people. All the initiatives are implementing their non-returnable investment fund, advice, and technical support in productive, forestry, project management, agronomic, equipment issues (see Annex 6.13), among others. Each one has an initial project document, a mid-term report and must present a final report when the execution of activities and budget is completed. Data indicates that:

- 38% of all the people benefited are women and around 209 rural women are benefiting directly.
- There is an organizational and productive strengthening component that has around 10% of the financing of each project and that is supported by regional institutions such as MAG, ICAFE, CNP, Cooperativismo, SINAC, CORFOGA, INDER, INTA, etc. and international cooperation such as GIZ.
- Around 550 families directly reached with non-reimbursable funds, advice, and technical support in productive, forestry, project management, and agronomic issues, among others.
- A socioeconomic study carried out to estimate the baseline for this indicator (Variation in annual income per initiative and disaggregated by gender with verified increase in forest cover) and the amounts for each region disaggregated by gender.

Achievements in this result denote the joint work and commitment of institutions such as MAG, CORFOGA, SINAC, cattle ranchers' chambers, and of course, of the civil society organizations that benefit and execute the initiatives. At the same time, it highlights that the strategy followed is to implement production systems under sustainable schemes (agroforestry, agroforestry systems,

¹⁸ Only one of the initiatives presented execution problems, in which case the project intervened in a timely manner for its resolution.

management for the protection of watersheds and water sources, among others). This aimed at generating income, which allows the sustainability of the actions in the future, but also the improvement of the living conditions of the beneficiaries (see table 4.1.1.1).

Table: 4.1.1.1
Effects of Socio-productive Initiatives

Effects	Description
Conversion to sustainable production models	Sustainable production models strengthened and promoted such as: livestock in silvopastoral systems, coffee and cocoa in agroforestry, organic agriculture in pursuit of obtaining the certification, a more sustainable production with more efficient and lesser use of agrochemicals, production under blue flag seals, Rain Forest, green stamps, among others.
Ecosystem degradation reduction	Management of soils in cover and erosion and hectares of avoided deforestation of forests or Arborea cover.
Improved productivity and family income.	The contribution to improving the income of participating families. Includes more efficient systems such as sustainable livestock, use of improved varieties such as coffee and cocoa and better use of external resources as fertilizer, it has contributed to the improvement of farm production, also with investment in each farm from small donations, with the beginning of new activities such as medicinal nurseries or bamboo shoots, with the use of improved varieties and the diversification of farms.
Strengthen production chains, livelihoods, and cultural values	Strengthening the production chains of the following (among other) items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee and cocoa with improved varieties and agro-transformation. • Productive and commercial linkages with the production of vegetables and medicines. • Farm diversification for food security and rural tourism. • Strengthening of Boruca Crafts with raw materials and improvements in its trade. • Strengthening of the Sacha Inchi agroindustry. • Diversification of the primary supply of fruits such as citrus, avocado and blackberry. • Creation of the chain of bamboo shoots in the region • Increase in the production and supply of musaceae such as banana and plantain.
Conservation and recovery of forest cover	Each family and farm negotiates to conserve its current forest cover and increase it through reforestation processes with native trees produced in the nurseries or donated by external nurseries such as ICE and PINDECO. During 2019, 9000 native trees were donated to the organizations and around 15,000 during 2020.
Local capacities	All projects, to the extent that they are developed in specific communities and involve other organizations and other local actors, contribute to improving local capacities in management and implementation of funds for sustainable production projects, markets, agro-industry, among others.
Organizational capabilities	Each organization has received support and advice from the project on issues of project design, logistics and execution of funds, administrative issues, forestry production, and has implemented, with the support of other public and private organizations, its own training and strengthening plan on issues such as: Sustainable production; preparation and use of organic fertilizers. Markets and improved varieties of crops.

Source: Technical team consultation.

A key element has been the work led by women's groups and with women within the initiatives, and the inclusion of a project in an indigenous territory that indexes productive, forest conservation and cultural activities.

In the case of initiatives with women's groups, a project such as ASOMOBI stands out, where women are making use of the land with their own production systems, which generates not only financial returns (it is marketed from ASOMOBI), but also gives them empowerment and economic independence. Another initiative that stands out is that of the AMACOBAS, which in coordination with other grassroots groups in the community, articulates efforts to undertake agroforestry initiatives that integrate issues of protection of water sources, added value to products (such as cocoa, production and flour, etc.), and affects equity and income generation for women.

However, the participation of women is transversal and their role working in nurseries, in the diversification of production (as in the case of the Los Angeles community), in the development of initiatives from the community (project with the ADI of Biolley), where clearly present. This, without necessarily establishing actions on training in gender issues or empowerment explicitly (although they do), is managing to promote processes of equity in production processes, income generation and participation of women in different levels of development at the local level. The approach taken in conjunction with CORFOGA for the livestock sector is crucial, since they address the participation of women as key in the management of farms (especially at the administrative level) and their role as livestock farmers is enhanced as independent farmers or as a strategic part of family productive units.

Beyond productive initiatives, the project, through the participatory brigades, also allows promoting exchange and strengthening processes at the community level and lays the foundations for the development of knowledge and technical capacities, both for men and women, youth, and children in the communities. As part of the evaluation process, an online survey was carried out to find out the perceptions of the beneficiaries regarding the project. Out of 520 people, 98% indicated that the activities respond to solving problems in the area.

Among the most usual responses, the importance of training was mentioned since it contributes to the generation of knowledge and creates awareness at the individual and community level on the importance of conserving the environment and landscapes. A key element is that, in addition to having more technical information, which affects issues such as the perception of hunting or the technique of natural species, these are tools that allow the exercise of productive practices such as tourism. People feel more capable and knowledgeable about serving tourists who seek to learn more about the natural resources of the areas.

People considered the handling of technical equipment (such as camera traps, applications, binoculars, etc.) as relevant components, together with the accompaniment of technical personnel. Having items such as T-shirts creates a group adherence that is crucial for the protection of natural resources at the communal level: the sense of belonging to a natural and social environment is key.

A 98% of people also perceive that this activity has incorporated actions for equity between women and men, both for their participation and for the benefits achieved. Moreover, both in the socio-productive initiatives and in the brigades, the participation of women and young people is clear. There is a feeling (well perceived) that there is openness and non-discrimination, and the need for integrated participation is valued. In addition, the feeling of equity and generation of opportunities is persistent. Statements such as “the performance of each one is what really matters, gender does not matter”, or “we are all the same”. I have never observed the slightest difference between men and women. The participation of women is encouraged, recurrent and speaks of the affirmative actions carried out by the project.

More specifically, the work in the indigenous territory of Boruca is seen as outstanding, where the Project promotes an integral productive activity that considers cultural aspects and local development. The same respect for cultural differences is present in working with fire brigades. It is about training institutional staff, including the issues of indigenous worldview and the meaning and management of fire. The human and professional quality of the team enhances these actions.

Within the perspectives that arise from future needs, respondents of the survey stated that more technical support and even provision of equipment for the brigades and initiatives would be necessary. The work towards supporting the strengthening of the groups is part of the work that can be strengthened in the second half of the project.

Output 2.3. MRV system assesses the impact of LMT on biodiversity conservation derived from the financing of the socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. Corresponding to the correct logic of the project of generating information based on data and rigorous technical studies, the Measurement, Reporting and Verification system stands out to measure the possible impact of the implementation of landscape management tools in the intervention area starting from socio-productive initiatives. As part of the results, the project has achieved:

- The mapping of 560 farms involved in the project, corresponding to 8944.73 hectares. Likewise, the land uses, and coverage of the land were mapped in the initiatives involved (Classification: Forests and Natural Areas, Pastures, Agroforestry crops, others) (see Table 4.1.2).
- 480 hectares established as micro-corridors in ACLA-P, improving the connectivity between protected areas and biological corridors in the region. This was possible due to an agreement signed with the project farms to guarantee the protection of these areas.
- Implementation of 1170 hectares of silvopastoral systems with livestock producers that are generating environmental and economic benefits.
- In coordination with CORFOGA, efforts to involve its associates in the arborization of pastures and recovery of the riparian forest. Until June 2020, the project has estimated a total increase of 94,052 tCO₂eq in biomass reserves. This calculation derives from the primary and secondary forest present on the project farms and from the landscape management tools implemented in ACLA-P, specifically because of the establishment of micro-corridors and the application of the silvopastoral system on the farms of the project. A total reduction of 18,944 tCO₂e / year in CO₂e emissions estimated in the farms of the project. This calculation derives from the primary and secondary forest present on project farms and from the landscape management tools implemented in ACLA-P, specifically because of the establishment of micro-corridors and the application of the silvopastoral system on project farms.
- Furthermore, local Participatory ecological monitoring brigades are established, which are voluntarily working on updating data on species in ACLA-P. An online survey conducted in communities and citizen science reports (through biological monitoring applications such as e-birds and camera traps). Monitoring data is available for species of birds, mammals, and others. From the review and adjustment of the indicators, the list expands from 17 to 32 species of wild fauna (Birds and Mammals). The project works with 17 communities and soon it will add another one, out of these 17 communities, three indigenous territories are included, and a total of 255 people participate (90 women - 17 girls, 165 men - 27 boys), another relevant aspect is the participation of 39 indigenous persons.
- Mobile application for the registration of species in the field. Said application and the implemented management model will be made official by the National Ecological Monitoring

Programme (PRONAMEC) as the official protocol for citizen science projects in other Conservation Areas of the Country.

The communities have responded positively, they are highly active in the protection and sustainable use of natural resources. The different trainings have made it possible to strengthen education and environmental awareness. Former hunters are now dedicated to the protection of wild flora and fauna. The relationship and institutional image of SINAC-ACLAP is improved.

Table 4.1.2. Land coverage in the initiatives involved

LAND COVERAGE IN THE INITIATIVES INVOLVED WITH THE PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES PROJECT IN ACLAP

CLASSIFICATION	Type	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
FORESTS AND NATURAL AREAS	Forest	3717,80	51,1
	Secondary forest	485,12	
	Forest plantation	50,64	
	Forest fallow	99,57	
	Scrubland	211,59	
PASTURES	Clean pastures	1712,45	40,4
	Wooded pastures	1863,91	
	Silvopastoral	30,03	
AGROFORESTRY CROPS	Coffee with shade	260,47	6,9
	Shadeless coffee	192,43	
	Sugar cane	6,35	
	Banana / Plantain	10,65	
	Blackberry	50,32	
	Oil / African palm	92,71	
	Fruit trees	1,17	
OTHERS	Bare or degraded lands	40,34	1,6
	Undefined use	41,37	
	Infrastructure	50,13	
	Bodies of water / Hydraulic network	8,04	
	Total	8925,11	100

Source: Project Data.

As mentioned in the previous output, the strategy and tools used for landscape management are comprehensive, both in involving key actors (from the public, private and civil society sectors), and in addressing actions that contemplate the change to productive systems such as agroforestry and silvopastoral, and that aim to improve the productivity (therefore, future income) of the agricultural and livestock companies that are financed. There are also innovative elements, such as the production of bamboo for purposes of reforestation and conservation of water sources, but also productive purposes (human consumption), the production of balsa tree in indigenous territories for forestry purposes, for the production of handicrafts that at the same time have an impact on the safeguarding of cultural traditions (which generate income), the work with groups of women and the diversification of products, the development of actions with the local tourism sector, among many others. Also noteworthy, is the work with strategic biological corridors such as Alexander Skutch, which has an impact on enhancing the connectivity of micro-corridors with and in the ACLAP buffer zone.

Output 2.4. Risk mapping system for the prevention of forest fires includes the classification of vegetation to determine its combustion rate.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. The risk mapping carried out by the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center in coordination with the project delivered to ACLAP to be incorporated into the national forest fire risk database. This resource is in the hands of SINAC and it is expected to enhance the work not only at the regional level, but also at local level. The actions for the delivery of equipment (see annex 6.13), technical information and training are highly valued by development associations, SINAC and brigade members and affect local capacity to manage forest fires.

In addition, the project has promoted the creation of new, and the strengthening of existing Voluntary Fire Brigades and Forest Fire Brigades. This work carried out is very satisfactorily in coordination with SINAC and with development associations in various communities. To date, advances in logistical support to the brigades stand out in aspects such as the purchase of specialized equipment for forest fire brigades and ACLA-P communication (binoculars, motor pumps, camera traps, GPSs, and other technical equipment), but also in key interventions such as field training for brigade members on issues such as vegetable fuels, water, first aid and others. To date, the Project trained a total of 49 men and 11 women. Environmental education processes accompany the training actions of groups of brigades in the field.

In this sense, it is noteworthy the participation of women and the effort made by the technical team to introduce cultural aspects (indigenous worldview on fire, for example) with SINAC personnel to work in communities and with indigenous groups.

Output 2.5: Pilot project for the implementation of the PRONAMEC in ACLA-P includes an interactive online platform for the exchange of information.

A mobile application was built for the registration of species in the field. Said application, and the implemented management model, will be made official by the National Ecological Monitoring Programme (PRONAMEC) as an official protocol for citizen science projects in other Conservation Areas of the Country. The environmental education work carried out in the ACLA-P stands out as highly satisfactory and represents an outstanding intervention model. For the purposes of the pilot project to implement PRONAMEC in ACLA-P, the following significant achievements stand out:

- Work with 18 communities, which includes three indigenous territories. Based on the revision and adjustment of the indicators, the list expanded to 32 species of wild fauna (Birds and Mammals).
- Participatory biological monitoring brigades created in each community that include a total of 255 people (90 women - 17 girls, 165 men - 27 boys). Participation of indigenous people with a total of 39 people.
- Equipment (uniforms, species identification manuals, binoculars, camera traps) delivered to each of the brigades.
- Permanent training in species identification, in the use of the app and other platforms.

Output 2.6: Land property registries, disaggregated by sex, for a 50-km² area of production lands within the buffer zones of protected areas of the ACLA-P finalized and updated in the SNIT.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. Even though this output represents a great challenge because it is highly technical in cadastral, forestry and legal registration matters. The country presents important lags in matters of registration of these lands and the project is making important contributions. Resumes progress generated by the Regularization and Registration Program¹⁹. It is linked to institutional issues and reflects the work of coordination with public entities and the technical and legal support that the project has provided, directly linked to SNAC in ACLA-P, Executive Secretary of SINAC at the central level, the Public Registry (in cadastral matters) and with INDER. Specifically, there is progress in this output with the following actions:

- Cadastral mosaic of 1,554 records disaggregated by gender. They correspond to approximately 81 km² (51 km² within buffer zones of protected wild areas, 25km² within biological corridors and 4 km² distributed in other sectors of the ACLA-P territory). Because of this effort, a mosaic was generated, which in turn forged a map of ownership disaggregated by gender.
- The analysis of the plans of the INDER within the ACLA-P according to official letter RBPR-1657-2017 of October 19, 2017. The plans distributes in the cantons of Pérez Zeledón Buenos Aires and Coto Brus. Initially, a set of approximately 900 plans was delivered to the technical team, which were refined with respect to their location, resulting in a total of more than 700 plans. Of this figure, to date 338 cases have been analyzed (Instruments of findings and analysis reports of INDER plans of the Canton of Pérez Zeledón).
- From the analyzes carried out in each of the cases, 3 types of scenarios can be made. As part of the information that is generated for each case study, a series of documents is produced, including: a report of findings and at least 3 maps: a map in retrospective time (between 1997 and 1998), and a map in present time with inputs from the years 2005 and 2017, and a slope map (Land Capability for Forestry LCF).
- Based on this information, 20 summary tables and 14 lists have been created to sort the results, according to the category of the conclusive scenario found, and other relevant environmental aspects.

This output corresponds to a complex process; nonetheless, there is an achievement of great progress and results. The project has been able to analyze properties beyond INDER, but they laid the foundations so that progress can be made in in other regions and at the national level.

Output 2.7. Land suitability for forestry study for public lands or without registration ownership contributes to strengthening connectivity in landscapes of the ACLA-P.

The level of achievement of this output is highly satisfactory. At least 13,000 hectares of forest cover have been identified and work is being done to measure the coverage with LCF content by slopes (digital elevation model), defined by categories 7 and 8 of the methodology for the capability of land uses of Costa Rica. In this context, the project identified the forest cover of more than 230 State properties that may have State Natural Heritage (SNH).

In addition, the establishment of the forest cadaster is promoted, with the high-level technical group formed between the MINAE-SINAC and the National Registry-Real Estate Registry, there is: a) a geoservice test that shows the polygons of the farms of the State, as long as there is a cadastral

¹⁹ Executed by the Interamerican Development Bank inl 2007-2012.

map, and b) several officials authorized to test (review and download data) this geoservice trial.

The comprehensive approach of the project is again reflected in actions such as those related to this output. In this line, the project works on a set of layers in Geographic Information systems and the identification of SNH, mainly generating a layer of forest cover, a layer of slopes, and the official wetland layer for Costa Rica is used. With these layers, the project develops a coverage analysis system within the different properties of the State. In accordance with the priorities of the ACLAP, it began with the INDER properties to identify any heritage content within these properties.

Output 2.8: MINAE staff, municipal authorities, female and male judges, and female and male private producers informed about and trained in the MOCUPP and how to use it to enforce the Forestry Law.

As mentioned in the analysis of component 1, the project has executed the training processes around the MOCUPP in a highly satisfactory manner, and above all, to support political management and inter-sectoral dialogue for its institutionalization. Regarding this output, 601 people have been trained on the subject (255 women and 346 men), which includes civil servants of the judiciary: Environmental Prosecutor's Office, Forensic Biology, Courts, Agrarian Defense, General Comptroller of the Republic, Attorney General's Office, Presidential Commission, Conservation Areas Directors (SINAC), Technical Personnel AC Guanacaste, among others

Output 2.9: Environmental education program led by ACLA-P in coordination with stakeholders associated with biodiversity and forest conservation in production landscapes.

The implementation strategy of the actions around environmental education in ACLA-P stands out is highly satisfactory. The project has managed to articulate with organizations at the local level and around technical strategies to enhance the work carried out in the region on environmental education issues. Specifically:

- 1 environmental education program "Knowing Our Biodiversity" and didactic material has been produced for 7 educational modules (Adapted to virtuality because of the current health situation). 2 organizations implemented in 2020 in Pérez Zeledón have received microgrants to implement in 2021 in communities in the buffer zone of PILA (Red Quercus), NP Chirripó and Forest Reserve Los Santos (ASANA). A third organization (ASADA Gutiérrez Brown) will implement the "Endangered Fauna Program of the Cotón River in Coto Brus communities".
- 16 educational videos have been produced (still in the edit phase) for the campaign "Landscapes with sustainable production".
- Development of the ACLA-P EDUCA platform and app (in process).

Although the ACLA-P region did not have a specific environmental education program, an important contribution was to design an Environmental Education Plan for ACLAP. In addition, the progress made in terms of articulating and creating educational materials and processes on the subject have been important. The articulation with SINAC (which is weakened by the departure of key personnel), but especially with grassroots organizations in the area, means that actions can be sustained over time and not depend on the intervention of the project as such.

Output 2.10: Verification system for production units free of loss of forest cover designed and discussed in multi-stakeholder workshops and piloted within the ACLA-P.

This result is successfully achieved. The system (MOCUPP) could enhance the socio-productive initiatives carried out and therefore could find differentiated markets that recognize the particular way in which they are being produced. To date, the actions that developed to achieve this result are important and the foundations for its success. 3,559.67 hectares have been protected by signing of memorandums of understanding with the owners of farms where integrated production systems are being promoted or where there is forest, and 262.34 hectares have been identified (consisting of primary and secondary forests) with potential to be part of the pilot. In both cases, the project will use the MOCUPP as a monitoring tool to control these hectares of forest and it functions as a base tool for the verification system.

In addition, from the information provided by the MOCUPP, this system includes other elements: 1) technical assistance and facilitation of inter-institutional dialogue and consultation with the private sector; 2) regulation of the recognition; 3) promote the purchase of products from farms with the recognition; 4) Study the changes in their income. The MOCUPP has been presented to different regional and local authorities. Again, the articulation with entities such as SINAC-ACLA-P, CORFOGA, MAG and the Livestock Chambers, among others, is key in the progress of this output.

Output 2.11: Local and institutional capacities for citizen participation and governance in production landscapes of the ACLA-P strengthened.

The result is highly satisfactory. Capacity development is a central element to achieve the proposed changes. Through the project, 1899 people benefited from environmental education and capacity-building processes, achieving about 50-50% participation by men and women (see table 2.1.3). The quality of the materials used is high and they contribute to the knowledge and promotion of good practices and activities related to the conservation of biodiversity in productive landscapes.

Table 2.1.3. People trained in ACLAP.

ACPLA-P	Men	Women	Total
Citizen participation for the conservation of biodiversity	273	117	390
Responsible consumption and production	96	301	397
Comprehensive development of ACLAP staff	77	18	95
Education for sustainable development	133	129	262
Positioning of ecosystem services in productive landscapes	387	368	755
Total ACLA-P	966	933	1899

Source: Project files.

A high participation and appropriation of institutions such as SINAC, MAG and CORFOGA and other grassroots (such as ASANA, CCT, MONTAÑA VERDE, RED QUERCUS, ASADA GB), as well as the Forest Fire Brigades has been encouraged and strengthened.

From the actions of participatory biological monitoring²⁰, there are changes reported in all axes, the communities are highly active in the protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the different trainings have made it possible to strengthen education and environmental awareness, and some hunters are now dedicated to the protection of wild flora and fauna. The SINAC-ACLAP indicates that the different groups are highly motivated, and the institutional relationship and image has improved.

In total 2952 people (1602 men and 1350 women) are benefiting through different activities related to the management of natural resources and ecosystem services, as a non-reimbursable resource to apply landscape management tools on their farms, topographic registration processes and property within the prioritized areas for conservation purposes, training in biological monitoring tools under a citizen science approach and participation in environmental education activities.

These results demonstrate that the project's interventions are broad but promote the establishment of foundations at the institutional and community level that go beyond the framework and time of the project.

In general, the work carried out in the ACLA-P region in all products is outstanding and has a program rather than a project nature, as it carries out such diverse actions, with so many actors and above all because of the implementation of partner productive initiatives. The approach is comprehensive and executed by a team of highly competent and committed professionals who raise the level of the work.

The level of progress in achieving result 2 in ACLACP is highly satisfactory, as the outputs achieved are generating multiple GEBs (conservation of biodiversity, reduction in carbon emissions, and increase in carbon stocks) in the landscapes in the productive forest area of the buffer zone of the ASP Chirripó and PILA. The results can promote sustainable livelihoods for the inhabitants of the buffer zone, the management of the SNH, the management of landscapes at the national level and position the country in specialized markets that recognize production free of loss of forest cover in sectors such as the pineapple, oil palm, and beef cattle, but that can be replicated in other products and areas. The use of MOCUPP will be crucial as a verification and recognition tool (related to the seal, for example), but also the efforts that are coordinated with the public and private sectors in the area.

It also highlights the comprehensive work and in coordination with local entities around environmental education, and the establishment of participatory monitoring brigades, which in addition to providing tools and technical knowledge to the communities, provides them with bases for the development of productive activities (such as that of tour guides). The forestry brigades and the work with development associations are also crucial and reflect that the project, instead of executing actions in isolation, articulates them with existing networks and institutions that can transcend the project execution framework. This is a constant for all activities.

Region 2: MAIBC

For the MAIBC region, the achievement of this result is proposed by signing of agreements between the 5 municipalities, the delimitation of protection areas, the creation of formalized protocols for

¹⁷ It covers 4 axes: Environmental education, an environmental early warning system, support for rural tourism initiatives, and strengthening the relations between SINAC-ACLAP and the communities.

inter-institutional coordination; the preparation of an Environmental Diagnosis for the region; a study of forest cover losses (2017, 2018, and 2019); a baseline study of urban and forest coverage (2015), training of government and private sector personnel in SNIT / MOCUPP and its use; the establishment of 8 established nurseries and the planting of 16,000 trees and shrubs; an Environmental Education Program and a Communication Strategy. The products summarized above are expanded below:

2.12 Five municipalities in the MAIBC and other public entities sign joint action agreements for controlling solid waste and discharge into rivers and promoting the connectivity of urban green areas, conservation, and rehabilitation of riparian forests of the María Aguilar River and tributaries.

The level of progress in achieving the output is highly satisfactory. No doubt, one of the great achievements to date within the execution of MAIBC actions is the signing of the Pact for the María Aguilar River. This Pact ensures that the scope of this output is satisfactorily achieved, and the scope of this output is enhanced. A total of 17 institutions, organizations and community representatives signed the Pact, and it includes more than 40 commitments to action by the MAIBC.

One year after signing this Pact, progress in the fulfillment of these commitments was systematized, achieving results such as the officialization of the National Policy of Protection Areas of rivers, brooks, streams and springs, the development of mobile applications for the identification and species registration, the donation of 28,000 trees of native species for the recovery of the area, the start-up of nurseries, 4 municipal and 1 communal, among others.

Regarding the Policy, the project, in conjunction with key institutions such as INVU, SINAC and the municipalities, make a valuable contribution to the country and the management of water bodies in general, and within urban areas.

The project has also supported the management of the Technical Committee (Project) and Local Committee of the MAIBC and has established coordination meetings with the Municipalities that make up the MAIBC + Desamparados, for the formation of a legal entity and compromise agreements that allows them to work jointly and coordinated in issues of solid waste management and disposal, at scale. The Pact, the Policy and the coordinated inter-municipal actions are significant advances and achievements in the management of the project.

Output 2.13. Delimitation of protection zones in compliance with Article 33 of the Forestry Law and Regulation includes contour maps.

The level of progress in achieving the output is highly satisfactory. A significant achievement of the project has been the support in the advancement of efforts related to the delimitation of protection zones under the existing legislation. An important input was created: the Methodology for the digital delimitation of the protection areas of rivers, brooks and streams. This type of input (which is recurrent in the execution of the Project), establishes tools and guidelines that affect the regulations at the national level and that represent a basis for the sustainability of the actions.

In addition, the Project carried out a study to locate the properties of the state within the MAIBC, which includes the generation of 478 files, with their proper registry and cadastral report (plan), aerial photographic evidence of each of the properties and the percentage of the area of protection. See number of files in table 4.1.4:

Table 4.1.4.: Number of files with registry and cadastral report in the MAIBC.

Canton	Files
Curridabat	181
San José	171
Montes de Oca	70
Unión	56
Total	478

Specifically, there is progress in the delimitation of a total of 148.94 hectares made up of riparian forest that are part of protection areas that SINAC and the municipalities must protect. The project works closely with these institutions to avoid the loss of forest cover in this area and provides information and technical resources for monitoring, an element that is significant in achieving the result. In addition, 875.61 hectares have been identified within the MAIBC that represent urban green areas (mainly parks) that will be protected and intervened to promote a better connection with the riparian forest in the biological corridor.

The generation of files aligns with the municipal cadastral ordinance, also having inputs to be able to carry out reforestation in state properties, in addition digital topographic demarcations have been made to avoid invasions to neighboring properties.

As an unforeseen result, the project generated the Methodology for the digital delimitation of the protection areas of rivers, brooks, and streams. The INVU disseminated this methodology. In addition to the municipalities, the project trained INDER and SINAC and the municipalities of Heredia and Alajuela. It has potential for land use planning and the recovery and conservation of biodiversity in these areas.

An important element is the generation of maps and information to define the green areas, which represents an important milestone and an innovative element that can be replicated in other urban areas and for the monitoring of land uses. That allows the determination of the current state of the corridor, thus improving the connectivity with the crops throughout the project.

As part of the unforeseen results, the project supported the creation of a new management category for Protected Areas called Urban Natural Parks (UNP). The formulation of the Decree on the UNP is a significant contribution to the management of natural spaces and the protection of ecosystems in the urban areas of the country.

Output 2.14. Formalized protocols for interinstitutional coordination to address issues related to discharges, elimination of solid wastes and illegal constructions on the banks of the María Aguilar River formalized.

The advances in this output are summarized in the following concrete actions:

- Officialization of the Methodology for the digital delimitation of protected areas.
- Officialization of the National Policy for protected areas 2020-2030 and its Action Plan 2020-2022.
- Officialization of decree 42742-MINAE that creates a new management category: Urban Natural Park concluded and support for the current process of consolidation of an PWA under this category, in the area of influence of the MAIBC.

- Presentation of Bill 22,401 Partial Reform to the Forestry Law, inclusion of articles 33 bis and 33 trips to clarify competencies and procedures for the management of protected river areas (pending legislative process).
- Report on drains and illegal dumps in the MAIBC prepared.
- An App under development to view and record these findings, and coordination initiated to establish an approach between the Municipality and the governing areas of the Ministry of Health that participate in the CL-MAIBC.
- In the process of coordination with the municipalities of La Unión, Curridabat, San José, Montes de Oca and Desamparados for the preparation of a joint solid waste management plan.
- Initiation of coordination for the preparation of the Protocol for the maintenance of reforestations and the Protocol for the substitution of exotic species.

The level of progress in achieving the output is highly satisfactory. It is evident the progress and contribution made by the project in accompanying the development of technical and normative instruments so that they have an impact at the national level and not only in the intervened region.

Output 2.16. Environmental assessment for the MAIBC completed.

To understand MAIBC's environmental conditions, needs, threats, and potential, the project proposed to carry out an Environmental Diagnosis for MAIBC that would complement the efforts made in the other products in the region. This diagnosis was made in 2019; therefore, it has been achieved in a highly satisfactory way. It is an instrument of great value for the actors involved in the MAIBC). This included the digital delimitation of 219 ha of protected areas (PA) and the different uses and land covers were determined in the analysis of the use of land in these sites; as well as the identification of apparently occupied sites with infrastructure (12 hectares). It showed that approximately 934 meters of the Ocloro River, one of the main tributaries of the María Aguilar River, is piped and with constructions on its channel, causing high pollution, risk of flooding and total loss of forest cover in the protected area. It also points out that the natural dynamics of the rivers and streams of the María Aguilar sub-basin is affected by factors such as: occupation of the PA, soil waterproofing, channeling, use of gabions on the banks, invasive pastures, gray and black water discharges, accumulation of solid waste in the riverbed and margins, among others.

Output 2.17. Gains and losses of forest cover within the MAIBC for years 2017, 2018, and 2019.

The level of progress in achieving the output is highly satisfactory. To understand the changes in land use in both regions, the Project made studies, and collected information to determine the increase or decrease in forest cover, a key element in the entire execution of the project. For the specific case of this product, the elaboration of the green mesh layer for the year 2017 and 2019 has been concluded (for I semester 2021, the loss and profit data will be detailed). This was not done for 2018, as the update was scheduled to be done in 2021 so that the data is more up to date.

This type of study allows local governments and other public institutions to have maps that show the changes in urban areas from one year to another and if this occurs at the shores of the existing forest. Technical elements of this nature allow better management, for example, in determining possible infractions of the Forestry Law and in the guidelines set forth in the Municipal Regulatory Plans. It thus represents a monitoring tool for forest and municipal authorities to use in the application of forest regulations. Digital maps can be viewed through the SNIT geoportal and its associated geoservices.

Output 2.18. Baseline study of urban land and forest cover (2015) as part of the MOCUPP annual monitoring of urban encroachment on natural habitat.

In this output, the elaboration of the baseline was moved to the year 2017, which is concluded and carried out, as well as the mapping for the year 2019 and an update is planned for 2021, as mentioned above.

The level of progress in achieving the output is highly satisfactory. The gathering of this information has been called an Urban MOCUPP, which means an innovative element of the project not only for the country but also at the regional level. Ecosystem protections work within cities is relevant and important lessons are being generated from the project and its achievements.

At the national level, having an urban MOCUPP that can account for the Green Network along the river basin is considered an innovative tool for urban planning, decision-making at the institutional level and for regulatory and technical management of the city. The country is making progress on issues related to the management of natural landscapes in urban spaces and having scientific and periodic information is very useful.

Output 2.19. Formalization and open audience of cadastral records by the DRI within the MAIBC.

Project executors have indicated that, although this product was raised in PRODOC, neither UNDP nor the project have the competencies to carry out a process of formalization and open hearings of cadastral records. This process is executed from the Land Registry.

Output 2.20: Government staff (MINAE, Ministry of Health, CENIGA, and INVU), authorities from five municipalities, male and female judges, women and men from the private sector, community members and other interested parties informed about and trained in the SNIT/MOCUPP and how to use it to enforce the Forestry Law and decision making in an urban environment.

The level of progress in achieving the output is highly satisfactory. In the case of training and information processes related to the MOCUPP, the actions are articulated with Output 2.8. and the target audience for this particular result has been combined. It is worth mentioning that 15 people from the municipalities involved in the use of geospatial tools have been trained (in 2018).

Output 2.21. Eight (8) nurseries established to support the LMTs.

The level of progress in achieving the output is highly satisfactory. To support landscape management and strengthen capacities at the municipal level for MAIBC, a total of 7 nurseries have been established: 3 nurseries in San José, 1 nursery in Curridabat, 2 nurseries in La Unión, 1 nursery in Alajuelita, and during 2021 the nursery in Montes de Oca will be established. It is worth highlighting the scope of this result as this stage of execution, where in the first two years, 7 of the 9 nurseries proposed in the Results Framework were built.

A modern nursery system has also been provided, which includes infrastructure (reproduction areas, warehouses, sanitary services), irrigation module, equipment, and supplies. For its consolidation or expansion (in the case of San José the available species have tripled and in others such as Alajuelita and La Unión, a nursery has been built since there was not one available). In addition, there is a very high-quality technical support both in forestry and landscaping issues that

strengthen the capacities for the management of the nurseries, but above all so that they can be maintained once the project is finished. More than \$ 53.000 invested in supplies such as fertilizers, materials, bags, trays, etc. Moreover, more than \$ 100.000 in maintenance equipment, and almost \$ 300,000 in infrastructure.

Output 2.22: 16,000 individuals of endemic and native species of trees and shrubs planted in the MAIBC

The level of progress in achieving the output is satisfactory. To date, the project has intervened more than 120 ha in the MAIBC with different green infrastructure that contributes to connectivity in the biological corridor. The interventions significantly “greened” the city, according to the following data: Micro-corridors: 175.47 ha. Protected areas: 161.54 ha. Urban green areas: 151.22 ha.

Although coordination with the municipalities is not easy, the project has successfully managed the technical support. The challenge of executing concrete actions in Montes de Oca persists, but there is time for corrective measures to be taken, allowing the project to go beyond the proposed output (since the results are achieved).

This output is running satisfactorily, and half of the proposed results are achieved. A total of 8.200 species planted, which implies that in 2019, 456.07 Tons of Carbon have been fixed, and 479.64 Tons in 2020, for a total of 935.71 Tons of Carbon. In coverage, this represents a total of 128 hectares. An app is almost ready; it includes the trees planted and maintenance practices, which has a viewer who records and oversees what has been done and if there are maintenance alerts.

A total of 456.07 tCO₂eq of increase in biomass reserves have been estimated. This calculation derives from interventions in MAIBC through the establishment of micro-corridors, restoration of urban green areas and the recovery of the riparian forest on the María Aguilar River.

Although the result has not been achieved, there is time left in the execution of the project; also, a crucial element beyond planting trees is being able to provide maintenance to guaranteeing that they are sustained over time. The development of a mobile application allows to monitor each tree planted and to make the calculations that account for the area covered, the carbon captured and the increase in biomass for each tree.

In addition, the work with communities for planting actions has highly significant results at the level of construction of the social fabric and of environmental awareness. It highlights that during the COVID 19 pandemic, the Project developed a Family Sowing Brigades, in addition to involving people at the local level in reforestation processes, represented a family income during the health crisis that has affected the finances of so many families. Contributions of this type are remarkable in the execution of the project.

Output 2.23. Environmental education program led by SINAC for economic and social stakeholders associated with the conservation of biodiversity in the MAIBC.

This output is under development, but its level of progress in achieving the result is satisfactory. The project works to carry out an environmental education and awareness program that involves the entire population of the five cantons of the MAIBC, which also includes state entities, municipalities, and public and private banks. Conservation and monitoring efforts to conserve biodiversity reduce

carbon emissions and an environmental education program, led by SINAC, which will focus on issues related to environmental conservation, using an integrated basin approach, will complement increase carbon stocks. Specifically, the following thematic axes have been raised a) Awareness for the communities near the María Aguilar River to integrate the problems of the community with age participation, b) Awareness of the residents of the MAIBC in the use of water resources, climate change , mitigation against natural disasters, c) Knowledge of flora and fauna common in the metropolitan area, d) Treatment and Management of Watersheds, e) Management of Water Resources, f) Design and maintenance of gardens, g) Treatment and management of wastewater , h) Addressing the problem of diffuse pollution by wastewater to storm sewers and rivers, i) Integration of nature with the city, j) City planning in line with natural resources, and k) Solid and liquid waste management.

Beyond the definition of this environmental education program, which has been developed in a participatory manner, a total of 18,617 persons (9,867 women and 8,750 men) have been benefited and have been involved in different environmental education and awareness-raising activities such as awareness campaigns, reforestation, workshops, cleaning days in the María Aguilar river, among others.

The project requires great efforts to carry out environmental education initiatives in the CBIMA communities. The work with neighbors (mostly women) of the communities has been the intervention strategy and has allowed the process of creating social fabrics in the communities to be established. Trainings have been adapted to virtual formats, which has implied greater participation. Work is still pending with some of the entities (SINAC, or even the CBIMA Committee) so that the methodologies, work approaches, coordination, training of the Brigades for its institutionalization and have technical support beyond the project framework.

Output 2.24. Communications strategy for the MAIBC

The achievement of the output is satisfactory. For the MAIBC, the development of a communication strategy was defined and delivered in December 2020 to the MAIBC Committee. However, it is complex to develop this strategy for the MAIBC, since it is made up of different institutions that have their own communication strategies.

In this sense, the MAIBC has also been accompanied with the generation of various activities and communication products that reinforce the work in the region. However, the products are not exclusive in all cases. To reflect the achievement in communication, it is worth analyzing the actions in full:

- Development of strategic key messages for managing MOCUPP results, with a view to having the best management of potential crisis and outlining an active and non-reactive disclosure process (under development by authorities with the support of the Project, a disclosure protocol, which includes a communication perspective) (output 1.4)
- Appearance in the media of the work of the Participatory Biological Monitoring Brigades in ACLAP through a press release in December 2020 together with SINAC (2.5)
- Coordination of two editions of the NOTI Paisajes newsletter (III and IV quarter of 2020) for the writing / editing of articles, design, revision, and disclosure.
- Sending a press release and setting up a special web note on the Exposure platform for the International Day of Rural Women in October 2020

- Development and maintenance of the pressbook that records all media presences of the Project's actions
- Support, dissemination, and management in social networks of important virtual events of the project such as the Conversation "Climate Action in the Agricultural and Forestry Sector" with colleagues from Colombia (September 2020); the discussion "Building green and resilient cities from my community" with the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements and communities (October 2020 for World Cities Day), and the International Day of Rural Women (October 2020).
- Communication of the signing of the decree for the creation of the category of management of Urban Natural Parks (press release, video production, coordination of graphic pieces, targeted press management, social media management and more) (February 2021).
- Support to producers to create environmental education videos for ACLA-P, which will be released in coming months.

The communication elements are coordinated with the technical team of the project, but also with related entities, such as MINAE, SINAC and the municipalities.

In general, the execution of actions in component 2 for the MAIBC region is highly satisfactory. Although work in urban areas presents different challenges due to the complexity of the landscape, the fragmentation of land management and political elements (related to the logic and capacities of each municipality), there have been significant advances that allow the country to legislate on landscape management in urban areas.

The level of progress in achieving result 2 is highly satisfactory, since the products are having favorable conditions (policies, technologies, markets, and finances) for the generation of multiple GEBs in the productive landscapes and in the interurban biological corridor managed. Elements such as periodic monitoring of changes in soil cover and actions that establish the future verification system for production units free from loss of forest cover are being executed, with high quality technical bases, both at the institutional and local levels and with key actors within the process. To achieve the proposed objectives the Project provided assistance and articulation, with the help of government authorities, local governments, communities, and private owners (mainly from the livestock, pineapple, and oil palm sectors). In addition, the project works successfully, and in conjunction with local partner organizations, agricultural associations, and non-governmental actors, in innovative approaches to agricultural production at the level of small, medium, and large farms, as a learning method to offset threats and share knowledge.

COMPONENT 3: Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation

To achieve this Component, the systematization of experiences and lessons learned is proposed, the generation of thematic studies and documentation, and communication through public awareness materials with a gender perspective, as well as the development of an environmental education program at the MAIBC.

Output 3.1. Systematization of experiences and lessons learned from monitoring changes in land cover, conserving biodiversity, reducing carbon emissions, and improving carbon stocks, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women in the productive landscapes of the forested areas of the ACLA-P buffer zone

The achievement of the output is satisfactory. The project has been systematizing the experiences and lessons learned from the monitoring of changes in land cover, biodiversity, carbon emissions and stocks, gender equality, and forest nurseries. The project produced a significant number of documents as part of this product:

1. Review of monitoring services on changes in land use, national systems, and tools to support deforestation-free commodities: options for palm oil, soy, pasture (meat) and pineapple.
2. Protocol for participatory biological monitoring of productive landscapes: A case proposal for the buffer zone of the Protected Wild Areas of ACLAP.
3. Multistakeholder Collaboration for Systemic Change: A New Approach to Strengthening Farmer Support Systems.
4. Plan for environmental education and capacity building in the buffer zone of protected wild areas of ACLAP.
5. Measurement of vegetable fuels for the forest fire risk mapping system within the buffer zones in ACLAP.
6. Guide for the establishment of forest nurseries.
7. Protocol for participatory biological monitoring of productive landscapes: case proposal for the buffer zone of the Protected Wild Areas of ACLAP.
8. Multistakeholder Collaboration for Systemic Change: A New Approach to Strengthening Farmer Support Systems

In addition, it developed a series of education and communication products:

9. School Notebook (Knowing Our Biodiversity Program), 7 thematic modules.
10. Didactic resources for CONUBI: Illustrations, puzzles, maps of protected wild areas, educational cards - knowing my surroundings, Chirripó collector.
11. Interactive bird guide (QR)
12. Participatory Biological Monitoring Strategy
13. Notebooks Mi Finca 2020 and 2021. Knowledge management tool about the Productive Landscapes Project-GEF-UNDP and notebook for use in the management and control of activities in the work of the farms.
14. ACLAP Educa Platform

Output 3.2. The experiences and lessons learned from monitoring changes in land cover, biodiversity, carbon emissions and stocks, and gender equality and women's empowerment in the MAIBC systematized in guideline documents and toolboxes to inform future urban policy.

Systematized the key experiences in the MAIBC that include lessons learned and an experience of usurpation in the Ocloro River. The achievement of the result is satisfactory. The documents produced to date are:

1. National Strategy Clean Rivers Pact for the María Aguilar River
2. MAIBC Multidimensional Diagnosis Reforestation Course.
3. The María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor: a multidimensional perspective.
4. Integrated Water Analysis, MAIBC.
5. Inventory of Flora and Fauna, MAIBC.
6. MAIBC Multidimensional Diagnosis.

7. Methodology for the digital delimitation of Protection Areas of rivers, brooks, and streams.
8. National Policy of Protection Areas for rivers, streams, brooks, and springs.
9. Guide for the application of the reforestation protocol for the rehabilitation and maintenance in the protection areas of the GAM, Costa Rica
10. Pact for María Aguilar River

Output 3.3. Thematic studies and other knowledge documented, and communication and public awareness materials with a gender perspective produced and available for dissemination.

Beyond the preparation of documents from a gender perspective, the project has managed to mainstream this issue from the design to the execution of actions in the field. It highlights that a strategy has been developed that impacts the structures that may affect the participation of women at the legislative level and negatively affect them in interventions related to environmental issues.

The achievement of the output is satisfactory. Specifically, the project has:

- Provided support in the drafting and financing of the creation of the Gender Equality Policy for inclusive development in the Costa Rican agricultural, fishing, and rural sector 2020-2030 and an Action Plan.
- Supported the creation of the MINAE Institutional Directive (result of collective work with UNDP, which allows the Project to promote substantive transformations on gender equality in SINAC).
- Created a proposal Initiative: Women and Equality in Biological Corridors (seen as the innovative formula created in the project to transcend the results achieved.)

Output 3.4. Environmental education program led for economic and social actors associated with the conservation of biodiversity at MAIBC.

The achievement of the output is satisfactory. As mentioned above, this output is in the process of consolidation. Although environmental education processes are being carried out, there is still no program as such led by the social and economic actors of the MAIBC.

In general, the achievement of component 3 is Highly Satisfactory. (See Annex 6.11) There is a wide and remarkably high level of document production and knowledge (related to products also of component 1 and 2 and crucial for the achievement of its objectives). There are also differences in terms of products for the regions on issues such as environmental education in the two regions and an axis to produce ACLA-P information is not so clearly visualized (although it does occur).

The monitoring and follow-up of the projects is constant, and the technical team reports systematically and periodically and there is a cross-feedback between the entire team for decision-making, adjustment of actions (if necessary) and accountability. Likewise, this information returns to the beneficiaries and key entities. However, despite having a monitoring component, there is no consolidated information repository with information and key data from the project. There are time limits that can affect taking actions on an element of this nature, however, the richness of the project's achievements is such and so significant that this weakness may not be reflecting everything that the project achieved so far.

The project collects and exchanges lessons learned in a systematic and efficient way. These actions support adaptive management, since the project integrates experiences that are generated during the implementation of the activities in its new programmatic cycles. To track changes in land use in

productive landscapes and involving multiple public and private actors, many innovative methodologies generated. This has been achieved based on a novel technical approach and an important social, legal, and political interaction.

4.2.1 Analysis of progress on results

The project presents a highly satisfactory assessment and is on the way to achieving its goals and development objective "to generalize the issue of biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and the objectives of carbon sequestration in productive landscapes and urban biological corridors in Costa Rica". This assessment maintains for the general objective and the results of the three components (see estimation in annex 6.11).

The project has benefited 21,569 people, 11,217 men and 10,352 women. It has prevented a loss of forest cover in productive landscapes in 3708.61. Of these 3559.67 ha in the ACLAP and 148.94 ha in the MAIBC. The area (ha) of improved connectivity between productive landscapes, protected areas and green fabric is 968.21 ha, of which 480 ha belong to ACLAP and 488.21 to MAIBC. There is a draft Decree to formalize SICOMUTE, which is pending approval, and an Executive Ministerial Order (No. 0006-2020) signed by MINAE, which instructs the ministerial units to use the MOCUPP. With the creation of IDECORI, the public sector will coordinate the publication of geographic information without the need for bilateral agreements.

The project supports the production free of loss of forest cover and steps are being taken to establish the seal / formal verification system for the placement of these products in differentiated markets. In ACLAP: 1) The project has contributed 480 hectares of micro-corridors and 1170 hectares of silvopastoral systems, 2) an increase to 94,052 tCO₂eq in biomass reserves derived from landscape management tools; 3) a reduction in CO₂e emissions on farms (18,944 tCO₂e / year); 4) progress in the monitoring of species in the ACLAP, with the consolidation of 17 Participatory Monitoring Brigades and 13 Forestry Brigades, reaching a total of 380 monitored species. 5) 560 farms are part of the project and there are currently 8,944.73 hectares of silvopastoral systems in implementation that have the potential to be verified as free of loss of forest cover; and 6) sustainable production systems, which have the potential to increase the income of productive units.

MAIBC: 1) reached 1,660 hectares (480 in micro-corridors and 1,170 in silvopastoral systems) which contribute to improving the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity; 2) Increase of 18,944 tCO₂e / year in biomass reserves (tCO₂eq) derived from landscape management tools. An increase of 935.71 tCO₂eq in biomass reserves (tCO₂eq) due to the increase in reforestation. Reduction of CO₂e emissions in areas of influence of the CBIMA. Several bird species have been reported (70) and the presence of the Summer Tanager (1%) and the Baltimore Oriole (1.75%) has been confirmed.

Annex 6.9 presents the analysis of the project's "Results Progress Matrix". The matrix includes information related to the current value of the indicators, the valuation, and the justification of the results. Table 4.2.2. is a summary of this matrix. Based on the evaluations made (Annex 6.10.), It can be said that the project is progressing positively to achieve the development objective and the execution of the three results. Some particularities to consider are:

- Component 2: In general, the results were highly satisfactory in the La Amistad Pacifico Conservation Area ACLA-P.
- Component 2: In general, the results for Region 2 were satisfactory: María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor - MAIBC.
- Components 1 and 3: They could have highly satisfactory results by the end of the project, especially if the MOCUPP is institutionalized.

The assessment of the level of progress in the components, considering the assessment of the OUCOMES, as summarized below:

Outcome 1.1. The ability of the State to enforce the Forestry Law and generate economic incentives for maintaining ecosystem services is strengthened through: i) Interinstitutional agreement formalizes the National Monitoring System for Land Use Change in Production Landscapes (MOCUPP), ii) Eleven (11) interinstitutional agreements signed annually with the National Territorial Information System (SNIT), linking georeferenced information with land ownership data and the most recent and available satellite imagery, and available through the SNIT/MOCUPP viewer.

(Progress level: highly satisfactory)

The progress is highly satisfactory in enabling policies, institutional arrangements, community participation, and market conditions to generate Multiple Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) in the production landscapes. The exit of the former Minister of the Environment Carlos Manuel Rodríguez and the institutional dynamics delayed the formalization of the decree. In addition, there are capacities in the institutions and a strategy to give MOCUPP sustainability. The advocacy work during the first semester of 2021 must be strong to achieve the approval of the two legal instruments. In addition, MOCUPP approval must be considered before CONAC, which will be feasible in the remaining period of the project. In a satisfactory manner, the Project achieved a draft Decree to formalize SICOMUTE, which is pending approval in parliament. 2) In a highly satisfactory manner, a Executive Ministerial Order of the MINAE (N ° 0006-2020) is signed. It instructs the ministerial units to use the MOCUPP in the monitoring of changes in land use; and 3) in a satisfactory way, the Project contributed to the development of a draft of the SINAC Modernization Law Project (amendment to article 43 of the Forestry Law No. 7575 on the distribution of the tax on timber, which allocates 4% of the collection to support the financing of GIS platforms). 4) It is highly satisfactory in regards to the training of 601 people in MOCUPP topics; and 5) highly satisfactory in relation to the institutional agreements required to consolidate the SNIT, with the publication of the Decree (42120-JP of February 12, 2020), which creates IDECORI, and instructs public institutions to provide information to the SNIT without the need for bilateral agreements.

Outcome 1.2. Ten (10) agreements established with international buyers for the acquisition of products verified as free of loss of forest cover.²¹

(Progress level: Satisfactorily)

The project is progressing satisfactorily in relation to the international buyers informed for the acquisition of products free of loss of forest cover, the project is supporting production free of loss of forest cover and developing steps to establish the seal/formal verification system for the placement of these products in differentiated markets. Moreover, actions are starting to take place in relation to the 500 international companies informed that in CR they can buy products with the free verification of loss of forest cover (MOCUPP). So as with the 5 agreements signed with national companies for the purchase of Costa Rican products free from loss of forest cover and Number of producers registered in PROCOMER with a differentiated record that their products are free from loss of forest cover. During this last period, specific efforts must be implemented to achieve this outcome.

Outcome 2.1. Connectivity and biodiversity conservation between production landscapes and ACLAP's protected areas are increased over 700 ha of micro corridors and 2,000 ha of silvopastoral systems through the implementation of Landscape management tools (LMTs).

(Progress level: highly satisfactory)

The progress is highly satisfactory. It was possible to improve the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity, through the concretion of 480 hectares in micro-corridors and 1,170 hectares of silvopastoral system. Mid-term goals are exceeded for the results for Micro-corridors (300 ha) Silvopastoral systems (800). The project is very close to achieving the Goals by the end of the project: with an execution of 69% in micro-corridors, and 58% silvopastoral systems.

Outcome 2.2. Increase of forest cover and carbon storage within in the ACLA-P buffer zone's farms leading to: i) 85,649.6 tCO₂eq biomass stocks derived from LMTs; ii) Reduction in 14,232.5 tCO₂e /year emissions in project farms; iii) Presence of key bird species in the ACLA-P remains stable: Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*), Three-wattled Bellbird (*Procnias tricarunculata*), and Great tinamu (*Tinamus major*)

Progress level: highly satisfactory

The progress is highly satisfactory: i) The biomass reserves derived from LMT is increased by 94,052 tCO₂eq. The indicator exceeded by 9.80% with respect to the final goal; ii) and a total reduction of 18,944 tCO₂e/year in CO₂e emissions on the project farms. The indicator exceeded by 33% with

²¹ Modified indicator, previously "Number of agreements established with international buyers for the acquisition of products free from loss of forest cover", by "Number of international buyers informed for the acquisition of products free from loss of forest cover."

respect to the final goal; iii) The project advances in the monitoring of species initially established for ACLA-P. In addition, the list of reported species increased and so as the number of planned brigades. Another highly satisfactory result is that the presence of key bird species in the ACLA-P remains stable: Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*), Three-wattled bellbird (*Procnias tricarunculata*) and Great tinamu (*Tinamus major*). the Project is also tracking other species.

Outcome 2.3. 820 ha of avoided loss in forest cover by project end (reduction of forest cover loss from 699.9 ha/yr. to 535.9 ha/yr.)

(Progress level: satisfactory)

There is satisfactory progress in the avoided loss of forest cover in an area of 3,559.67 hectares in farms where integrated production systems are being promoted or where there is forest. A total of 262.34 hectares (made up of primary and secondary forests) are identified with potential to be part of the pilot of the Project.

Outcome 2.4. 50 farms verified as free of loss of forest cover

(Progress level: highly satisfactory)

There is highly satisfactory progress. The final goal of the project was exceeded. A total of 560 farms are part of the project and there are 8,944.73 ha of silvopastoral systems are implemented and have the potential to be verified as free from loss of forest cover by means of MOCUPP has been achieved.

Outcome 2.5: Change in annual income per initiative and disaggregated by gender with verified increase in forest cover

(Progress level: satisfactory)

There is satisfactory progress. The baseline and goals are in process. A very good progress is taking place in relation to the 27 financed productive initiatives, which are on the way to improve the annual income of producers, and can have a verified increase in forest cover.

Outcome 2.6. Increase of biological diversity, forest cover and carbon storage within the MAIBC leading to: i) 2,050 hectares of landscape management tools (micro corridors, protection zones and urban green areas²²) increase connectivity and conserve biodiversity within MAIBC; ii) 91,336.67 tCO₂eq of biomass stocks derived from LMTs (target will be confirmed during project implementation); iii) Presence of migratory bird species in the MAIBC remains stable: Summer tanager (*Piranga rubra*) and Baltimore oriole (*Icterus galbula*).

Progress level: highly satisfactory

²² Urban parks, urban open space, tree-lined streets and avenues.

The progress is highly satisfactory: i) The biomass reserves derived from LMT is increased by 94,052 tCO₂e. The indicator exceeded by 9.80% with respect to the final goal; ii) and a total reduction of 18,944 tCO₂e/year in CO₂e emissions on project farms. The indicator exceeded by 33% with respect to the final goal; iii) Was verified the presence of summer tanager (1%) and Baltimore oriole (1.75%), within the framework of the flora and fauna inventory in the MAIBC, in addition, 308 species are reported, and are distributed in 40 families of birds.

Outcome 2.7. 148.94 ha of avoided loss in forest cover by project end (reduction of forest cover loss from X ha/yr. to X ha/yr²³. result) (baseline and target will be determined during project implementation).

Progress level: highly satisfactory

The progress is highly satisfactory. In the MAIBC 100% of the final goal was achieved. In MAIBC: 148.94 hectares constituted by riparian forest in the Maria Aguilar river have been delimited and are part of protected areas that SINAC and municipalities must protect. The project works closely with these institutions to avoid loss in forest cover in this area.

4.2.2 Barriers that still exist for the achievement of the Project's objectives

In relation to the barriers identified in the PRODOC, related to the achievement of the results, it is possible to affirm that the project has made significant progress to overcome them. Therefore, it is not possible to affirm that the barriers persist in the same way as in the project design stage, because currently, in view of the progress achieved, these barriers are close to being overcome.

Regarding the barrier identified in the "Inefficient use of environmental information to apply environmental regulations and promote sustainable practices", a greater effort is required to institutionalize the MOCUPP. This implies a permanent action of this tool in the management of the corresponding public institutions.

4.3 Project Execution and Adaptive Management

4.3.1 Management mechanisms

The implementation of the project and the adaptive management is highly satisfactory; therefore, it is a good practice. Management is guided by the institutional arrangements defined in the PRODOC and many others developed by the project. UNDP provides the project cycle management services. The Project Board meets every six months to discuss accountability, decision-making and approval of the Annual Work Plan with the respective budgets.

²³ The information on the coverage loss rate is not available for the baseline or the goal. However, the project managed to achieve the goal of 148.94 ha.

The work of the technical team and the technical assistance provided by the PMU is highly valued and the criteria of SINAC, MAG, INVU and the organizations involved are favorable.

The 3 components have generated effective and very positive changes (enabling normative instruments for the generation of multiple GEBs, strengthening of MOCUPP, formalization processes as a LMT tool, studies of gain and loss of forest cover, environmental education programs and established participatory monitoring, biomass increase, establishment of socio-productive initiatives, land mapping and registration, agreements for watershed management, systematization of experiences, among others).

Table 4.2.2. Summary of the progress of indicators from their baseline to the proposed target.

Objective/Result	Assessment of the progress of the indicators
Project objective: To mainstream biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and carbon sequestration objectives into production landscapes and urban biological corridors of Costa Rica	Mandatory Indicator 1 (UNDP): Number of people benefiting directly from solutions for managing natural resources and ecosystem services, ensuring gender equality
	Project Indicator 2: Area (ha) of avoided loss in forest cover in production landscapes by project end
Component 1: Favorable enabling conditions (policies, technologies, markets, and finance) for delivering multiple global environmental benefits in managed production landscapes and urban biological corridors	Indicator 3: Interinstitutional agreement formalizes the National Monitoring System for Land Use Change in Production Landscapes (MOCUPP)
	Indicator 4: Number of interinstitutional agreements signed annually with the SNIT, linking georeferenced information with land ownership data and the most recent and available satellite imagery, and available through the SNIT/MOCUPP viewer.
	Indicator 6: "Number of international buyers informed for the acquisition of products free of loss of forest cover verification."
Component 2: Multiple global environmental benefits (biodiversity conservation, reduced carbon emissions and increased carbon storage) are delivered in production landscapes in the ACLA-P buffer zone forest zone (Region 1) and MAIBC (Region 2).	Region 1: La Amistad Pacífico Conservation Area - ACLA-P
	Indicator 6: Area (ha) of landscape management tools that contribute to improving ecosystem connectivity and biodiversity conservation established at the end of the project
	Indicator 7: Increase in biomass reserves (tCO ₂ eq) derived from landscape management tools
	Indicator 8: Reduction in CO ₂ e emissions in project farms
	Indicator 9: The relative abundance of key mammalian species (medium and large) and birds in ACLA-P remains stable
	Indicator 10: Number of farms verified as free of loss of forest cover
	Indicator 11: Change in annual income per initiative and disaggregated by gender with verified increase in forest cover
	Region 2: María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor - MAIBC
	Indicator 12: Area (ha) of landscape management tools (micro-corridors, protection zones*, urban green areas**) that contributes to improving ecosystem connectivity and biodiversity conservation at the end of the project * River and stream banks, spring buffers, groundwater recharge areas, and catchment areas or outlets for drinking water ** Urban parks, urban open space, tree-lined streets and avenues
	Indicator 13: Increase in biomass reserves (tCO ₂ eq) due to increased reforestation. Reduction of CO ₂ e emissions in areas of influence of the MAIBC
	Indicator 14: Presence of migratory bird species in the MAIBC remains stable
Component 3: Knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation	Indicator 15: Number of documents on successful experiences about the incorporation of conservation biodiversity objectives, land management, and carbon sequestration in sustainable production landscapes and interurban biological corridors in Costa Rica.
	Indicator 16: Change in the indices about Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP; indices will be defined at the beginning of the project) as a result of awareness and environmental education at the subnational and local levels

The management mechanism designed for the project did not consider the operation of the Technical Unit, this adaptation has been highly valued by the partners, since they consider it a support that provides high technical and operational quality. This unit has a relatively flat structure, despite that it has worked efficiently, since the responsibilities were clearly defined to all the staff. It works under a horizontal coordination approach, supported by a high level of leadership of the coordinator and the group intelligence of the entire team, which constitutes a good example for the results-based management of complex projects, such as those that lead to multiple benefits GEFs.

Another element of innovation in project management was the consortia, through which the management of production initiatives was facilitated. This management model at the local level contributed to streamline the execution of financed actions, offering an important role to articulation and coordination with local actors and regions, facilitating the monitoring of financed initiatives.

Decision-making is based on technical criteria that respond to the needs and context of the country and the sector and the objectives of the Project. Decisions are discussed at the level of the Technical Team, the Technical Committees, and the Project Board of Directors in a transparent and timely manner.

The execution is of high quality, the UNDP has a technical team that works with commitment, professionalism, and has the capacity to articulate with important key partners (SINAC, CENIGA, PRIAS, MAG, CORFOGA, etc.) At a specific level, execution and structure are carried out based on Technical Committees in decision-making structures, but also in technical execution, which strengthens technical actions at the field level and even at the political level. The Project responds to the GEF Policies on Gender Equity and seeks to transcend a gender parity approach, which leads to more transformative actions. This approach is mainstreamed from design to implementation and generation of knowledge.

The other critical approach that the project has followed has been the technical support of key institutions at the national level to incorporate the gender issue in documents, policies and regulations that have a deeper impact on the structures that affect women in a different way. The support provided for the drafting and financing of the creation of the Gender Equality Policy for inclusive development in the Costa Rican agricultural, fishing, and rural sector 2020-2030, and the Action Plan for its implementation stand out. Support in the creation of the MINAE Institutional Directive (the result of collective work with UNDP, which allows the Project to promote substantive transformations on gender equality in SINAC). Moreover, the proposal that has been created for Women and Equality in Biological Corridors (seen as the innovative formula created in the project to transcend the results achieved).

At the level of beneficiaries, actions are taken not only so that there is an equitable participation of women and men, but also affirmative actions are developed (such as support for socio-productive initiatives of women). At the team level, the staff accompany training on gender issues, in the planning of interventions and in their execution.

At the macro (national) level, the Project accompanied the creation of normative structures (policies and guidelines) to address the gender issue in the management of productive landscapes. The partners support the efforts made by the project in gender matters, which has had the strength of counting on the advice of the UNDP Office in Costa Rica, which has the highest Gender Equality Seal Certification

It stands out in a positive and significant way that the project is made up mostly of women and led by a female coordinator, who is an expert on gender issues, which represents an extremely valuable contribution, not only to the project, but also to the incidence, at the national level, on gender policies related to the issue of productive landscapes.

Of the total number of people who make up the technical team (20 people), 12 are women (60%) and 8 are men. Beyond the fact that there is a greater representation of women, the technical level of the entire team is remarkably high and highlights its multi-professional nature (expertise in different sectors) and that they have a deep commitment to achieving the proposed results (and more). The measures taken are highly satisfactory and the accompaniment of the gender expert from the technical team and the contribution to the UNDP office and the future execution of GEF projects is an example of good practice.

The composition of the Board of Directors is not so satisfactory, since it is made up of 5 men. However, this situation responds to the logic of each of the institutions that make up the Board, especially public institutions (CORFOGA, SINAC, Municipality of San José and MINAE). In the case of the Municipality of San José, the CBIMA Local Committee chose the person. The seats in this body are held by people who fulfill a specific role within each of these institutions and in most cases, these people are men.

The project recognizes the institutional framework and corrective measures have been taken in an inter-institutional way with the incorporation of gender policies.

4.3.2 Work planning

The activities are executed according to the Results Framework and the Multi-Annual Work Plan of PRODOC, and the annual plans approved by the Project Board. The planning of the work is oriented towards the achievement of the results and according to the statements of the results framework and the work plan defined in the PRODOC. It is worth mentioning that the results framework and the programming of activities defined to achieve it have not been modified. In the middle of the period (28 months after the start of the Project), the project has reached 63% of the execution of the resources, which represents a rather accelerated progress of the activities (which does not represent a detriment to the results). The exception is the Municipality of Montes de Oca, where, due to issues unrelated to the project, the nursery has not been built, however there are no delays in carrying out the activities.

The COVID 19 Pandemic represented a great challenge, especially in visiting socio-productive projects, environmental education work, and activities with participatory biological monitoring brigades. However, the team knew how to adapt its interventions to virtual modalities, where, especially in the case of environmental education processes (workshops, trainings, etc.) the scope and number of people involved was enhanced (especially in MAIBC). The challenges related to connectivity were greater in rural areas, but coordination through WhatsApp and adaptation to the possibilities of the context did not limit the execution of the Project. The adaptive management that carried out with the Family Reforestation Brigades also stands out: it was possible to maintain the reforestation actions in the MAIBC following the health protocols, and it gave a financial contribution to the families for their work, which contributed to alleviate the financial crisis due to the pandemic. For ACLA-P, the project created an environmental education program with an execution modality adapted to the virtual and to the connectivity possibilities of the beneficiaries and focused on children (WhatsApp).

The work planning processes bases on the Results Based Management model. The activities are carried out according to the PRODOC Results Framework and the annual planning, linked to the AWP of each of the people in the Technical Team. The responsibility of those who make up the Technical Unit is to monitor the assigned indicators. The coordination has made a significant effort to align the indicators with the results, as previously indicated. For the remaining period, a review must be carried out with the participation of SINAC (ACLAP and MAIBC), and IGN, to review the planning of the last two years of the project. In general, some changes have been made to adapt planning to the scope of some results.

4.3.3 Financing and co-financing

The project has followed the financial controls established in PRODOC and has been supported by the financial administrative system of UNDP, which favors adequate management and direction to make decisions based on accurate and relevant information on budgets and their financial execution. The system is transparent and allows the evolution of financial execution to be observed in a timely manner and to report it in the required time to the people linked to the management

The accumulated budget execution until February 2021 is of US \$ 4,290,806.00. The project shows an excellent level of budget execution in all its years of operation, reaching an average of execution of approximately 100%. It is important to mention that despite the Pandemic, in 2020 the execution rate (96%) remained high. The budgeted amount is also expected to be completed in 2021.

The project has been efficient in the execution of GEF resources, since by mid-term it has already managed to execute 62.21% of the resources and has spent only 36.55% of the budget allocated to PRODOC for project management. The project has the possibility of completing the operation and the remaining resources before the five-year period, so investments should be prioritized by targeting the budget on strategic issues (results).

Component 2 is where there is a higher percentage of execution. For this component, the project executed 46.28% of the funds contributed by the GEF, which represents 72% of the resources budgeted annually, and 73% of the resources assigned to the component. For this component, the project also contributed \$ 563,495.18 to finance investments in socio-productive initiatives (see annex 6.13).

It is important to establish an operational-financial exit route that is appropriate for sustaining results, both those achieved and those to be achieved. Due to the operational reduction of the project, a participatory closure plan must also be established with the key institutional actors (ACLAP, CBIMA and INVU) and the liquidation of the Executing Unit.

Table 4.3.3.1.: Budget execution of the GEF amount as of March 2021.

Year	2018	2019	2020	Total (US\$)	Percentage of the PRODOC (%)
PRODOC annual budget (US \$)	1,514,824	1,356,180	1,296,637	4,167,641	62.21
Annual Operating Plan amount (US\$)	854,466	1,554,937	1,881,403	4,290,806	64.05
Annual budget execution (US \$)	902,687.20	1,588,316.63	1,807,148.57	4,298,152.40	64.16
Percentage of execution of the annual operating plan	105.64	102.15	96.05	100.17	---

Source: Elaboration based on financial information provided ²⁴ by the project.

In terms of the totality of resources committed to PRODOC, the project has been highly effective and is close to reaching 100% of the co-financing. Based on the data reported by CeNAT, CENIGA-MINAE, CORFOGA, IGN, AyA, FONAFIFO and SINAC, the execution of resources from the co-financing committed by the country is also high (95.64%) and slightly higher in percentage terms than the one obtained from the execution of the resources of the funds contributed by the GEF (64.16%) (see table 4.3.3.2). However, the contribution reported by SINAC turns out to be very low (12.54%). In the opposite case, FONAFIFO (152%) and CeNAT (111.30%) exceed expectations. So, it is possible that at the end of the project the national counterpart can be achieved, or even exceeded.

Table 4.3.3.2.: Execution of co-financing resources.

Co-financing source	Entity	Type of Co-Financing	Amount financed as of the date of authorization	Amount actually contributed to the mid-term evaluation date.	% of
State entity	CeNAT	In-kind	786,594	875,513.56	111.30
State entity	CENIGA-MINAE	In-kind	127,000	63,500	50.00
Non-state public entity	CORFOGA	In-kind	31,590	15,795	50.00
State entity	IGN	In-kind	8,654,722	6,767,600	78.20
State entity	AyA	In-kind	237,675	227,032	95.52
State entity	FONAFIFO	Cash	10,693,000	16,312,752.58	152.56
State entity	SINAC	In-kind	5,567,733	698,220.	12.54
		TOTAL	26,098,314	24,960,413.14	95.64

Source: Elaboration based on financial information provided by the project.

4.3.4 Project monitoring and evaluation systems

The project has a monitoring strategy and the actions carried out in this area guides by the PRODOC Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E) and on UNDP tools. The Project's monitoring tools contain pertinent information, involve partners, and aligns with national systems. It currently has several instruments at the Project level: Inception Report, Project Implementation Reports (PIR), quarterly reports, ACLAP and MAIBC technical committee minutes, and Project Board (PB) minutes.

The Project has the particularity of having a component for Knowledge management, Monitoring and Evaluation. This is a differentiating element that makes the actions between the different regions and components more comprehensively integrated and generates key knowledge related to the subject of GEBs and productive landscapes. Additionally, as an adaptive management to the budget, 10% of the resources placed are assigned to accompany the socio-productive initiatives. It ensures that there is a constant report of activities from the Technical Team to the generation of reports, but also of key information (systematization of lessons and technical studies, among others).

However, there is no tool that provides a type of “dashboard” or control panel such as the one that this project requires, which allows visualizing the scope of all the products and the results achieved. A great gap identified in the PRODOC is that of the 36 outputs defined in the strategy, not all links to the outcome indicators (which are 17) and significant achievements may be left out.

At the level of productive initiatives (ACLAP), the consortia (executing organizations) prepare a follow-up report, which is approved by the expert in charge. The support model for these initiatives allows monitoring of the investments made, their activities and results.

Instruments such as the "Farm Book", makes it easy for producers involved in the initiatives, to collect information to carry out the income analysis of the productive units, which feeds one of the indicators.

At MAIBC, the work of the project team with the staff of the Environmental Management Unit of the participating Municipalities, allowed for good coordination and communication, from the formulation of the interventions to their implementation. It is also worth highlighting the role played by the local organizations that supported the actions in the field.

The financial follow-up is carried out by the administrative-financial expert, with the follow-up of the operations office of the UNDP office in Costa Rica.

The PMU is responsible for the daily monitoring, for this; it has its own monitoring instruments and mechanisms and a participatory work methodology, and the holding of monthly monitoring meetings.

The monitoring systems are aligned with the monitoring of gender issues and account for their execution in this regard. In addition, they allow them to articulate with actions to generate knowledge and key resources associated with this topic.

Regarding the monitoring and evaluation systems at project level, relevant gender issues were incorporated; It can be said that the project has a solid Action Plan for Gender Equality and the results are segregated by gender. This plan aligns with the results framework and includes clear activities and results. Beyond this, the Project promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women. Moreover, it does so through a “dual approach” that integrates an intersectoral gender perspective, related to specific results of the Project components, on the one hand, and, on the other, the

implementation of results to influence the empowerment and involvement of women in actions carried out at MAIBC and ACLA-P.

A differentiating element of the Project is that it has a component for knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation that allows incorporating key gender issues that go beyond data collection and allows generating key knowledge that considers how interventions can affect gender equality and populations differently.

The Action Plan for Gender Equality is updated annually, in such a way that it allows focusing or taking corrective measures to favor activities with women, promote the transformation of social gender norms and the promotion of equality between women and men.

The project applies a logic of accountability and follow-up to actions where "the whole team will give you an account of gender issue." In addition, permanent dialogue spaces were established at the technical level and with the entire Unit monthly. In addition, the Gender Plan is discussed and updated annually. At the annual meeting, an analysis of compliance and adjustment needs that the technical team has recognized during fieldwork is carried out.

4.3.5 Involvement of stakeholders

Involving stakeholders in project activities has had a positive impact in the project's outcomes. One of the strengths of the Project is its technical and political muscle for the creation of alliances, the dialogue process, and the synergies between stakeholders. The articulation work between local governments and key institutions in the management of an interurban basin in the case of the MAIBC is an achievement. At the ACLA-P level, a key actor such as SINAC is not only an executing partner, but also a strategic partner in decision-making, and in this case for execution in the MAIBC.

INVU's role has been outstanding with respect to the actions developed in the MAIBC, in relation to the areas of protection of bodies of water and the development of the methodology for their determination, as well as a member of the technical committee of the project. The MAG contributed to the training and monitoring processes of the productive initiatives in ACLAP. An important result is the rapprochement between MAG and MINAE, within the framework of conservation and sustainable production. INDER has also supported the actions carried out in the territories of its competence, the result of which will be the regularization of the State Natural Heritage.

MAIBC local governments play an active role in decision-making and as executors of actions. ACLA-P is one of the absent actors, because despite having been summoned, their involvement or participation in the actions of the project was not achieved. At the central government level, significant support for the project's objectives has been obtained, however, it has not been possible to involve FONAFIFO, which would be important for the sustainability of the project's results.

The project has contributed to public involvement and awareness, considering that the public entities (or at least the key people within them) that carry out the project in conjunction with the technical team are committed and sensitized to the objectives and strategies of the project.

At the country level, there is significant progress on key issues with the help of MOCUPP as a monitoring tool for changes in the use of landscapes and river management in interurban areas, among others.

The gender approach strategy is clearly visualized in two main areas of intervention. On the one hand, the action plan and the results framework that consider gender issues (especially the participation of women in various initiatives), and on the other, the establishment of intervention principles in socio-productive initiatives that actively involve women and women's groups as key axes in the development of activities. In addition, a process of training and constant accompaniment of the technical team has been carried out on theoretical and practical issues with respect to addressing the gender issue in projects of this nature.

Along these lines, there is a balance in the participation of men and women in environmental education activities, training at the field level and at key institutions, in the formation of participatory monitoring brigades, fire brigades and in socio-productive initiatives. However, this goes further, since socio-productive initiatives also have an impact on activities that can generate economic resources for women (which would be promoted in the future).

It is worth mentioning that in the work with beneficiary groups at the CBIMA level, most of the participants are women (18,617 people, of which 52% are women), who are voluntarily involved in recovery and maintenance activities of green spaces (among others), and these tasks could overload their roles within the community. The exception is the Family Reforestation Brigades where families, in addition to receiving a process of transfer of technical skills, received an economic incentive. The case is different in the socio-productive activities in the ACLA-P, where the participation of women through organized groups links, not only to a productive activity that includes technical training, but also because they aim at generating income in the future. Both approaches are satisfactory, however, it is important to consider mechanisms that do not negatively affect the involvement of women in voluntary activities in the future. Although there are non-economic returns, such as empowerment, the social relationships established with other women and people in the community, and the generation of knowledge within the project have a great capacity to transcend these barriers and to continue innovating in this line.

4.3.6 Social and environmental standards (safeguards)

The Project carried out a review and update of the Social and Environmental Screening Checklist (SESP) during 2020, and that started its implementation in January 2021. The risks are associated with aspects of gender discrimination, possible conflicts between sectors due to the data provided by the MOCUPP, possible negative impacts on women and/or girls since they work in sectors considered "non-traditional" or there could be situations of discrimination with respect to opportunities, participation, and benefits for women.

In addition, there are potential risks associated to ecosystems and biodiversity, with the project working in territories considered as "critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas" or their surroundings due to their conservation value and that are in special or differentiated management categories (specifically in conservation areas and buffer zones). The activities are sensitive to the effects of climate change and the interventions. Furthermore, there are risks identified within Indigenous Territories and/or related to their culture and natural resources. The possible (negative) impacts generated by the project in indigenous territories is moderate. There is no grievance and redress mechanism in place at the project level. However, the project is developing strategies to mitigate and manage this and the other risks. During design phase there was no consultation

conducted with the Indigenous Peoples, and the ProDoc has no mention of working with IP's. Consequently, the project is currently developing an Indigenous Peoples Participation Plan where there will be (currently under revision) a consultation plan to engage with IP's in the implementation of the productive initiatives within the Boruca Territory, and with the forestry brigades (control of fires) that are carried out in indigenous areas (Cabagra, Salitre and Ujarrás).

In general, the social and environmental screening and management measures proposed to address possible risks are coherent, and the Project has strategies for their mitigation. Some of these measures are the creation of an Action Plan for Gender Equality, political work and coordination for the use of the MOCUPP, the LMT, and plans to establish inclusive participation processes for women and indigenous people (IPPP), among others. These instruments can mitigate risks in a comprehensive manner. However, although there is a mention of potential physical and economic displacement, the project does not have a Resettlement Action plan nor a Livelihoods Action Plan in place. Still, such a plan should be developed only if the risk becomes a real situation in the execution of the Project.

The project follows the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening/Assessment and Management Procedures. For the gender issue and prior to the design of the Project, they carried out an assessment of the main gaps affecting women (especially in rural areas). For the design, elements of social management for gender mainstreaming and a Plan for Gender equality were considered. During 2020, together with the review of the SESP, the project made an Indigenous People Participation Plan (IPPP) for the ACLA-P zone (where activities are carried out with Forest Brigades and the development of a productive initiative in indigenous territories). This IPPP is under review and the Project team should incorporate any possible recommendations or adjustment suggested to ensure a proper participation of these communities.

Other management plans associated with the risks identified have to do with intervention in areas (such as riverbanks), where people in vulnerable conditions have settled. The Project works in an integral way to generate key information and work with public entities that can implement the regulations for land use planning. As mentioned above, the project should develop a Resettlement Action plan and a Livelihoods Action Plan, if this risk is confirmed after further assessment.

In general, the Project implements landscape management tools (LMT) in both regions, which help reduce the possible negative effects of climate change.

An element that is not included in the SESP (but is contemplated in the Project reports) is the issue of COVID 19, which, beyond presenting a risk, implies a context that affects the global system. The corrective measures and the project's ability to react on this issue were remarkable.

The Project does not fully meet the objectives of SESP. However, the project is currently reviewing and completing the UNDP SES requirements.

In addition to the elements mentioned above, the integration of the general principles to strengthen social and environmental sustainability is clearly explained in terms of how the project incorporates the human rights-based approach; how the project aims to improve gender equality and the empowerment of women; and how the project incorporates environmental sustainability. More than theoretical approaches, the actions of the project align with these principles.

Annex 6.12 presents the observations on the identification and management of social and environmental risks. The checklist for the diagnosis of social and environmental risks is correct; however, two considerations could be reviewed:

- Standard 1: Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources, which has to do with whether the use of genetic resources is involved in the project (ie collection and / or harvest, commercial development. It indicates that it does not exist involvement in this line, but the project promotes the collection of seeds (native species) to feed the seedlings of the developed nurseries.
- The PRODOC has no indication of existence of Indigenous peoples (given the project did not consult IP's during the design phase the implementation of activities with these groups or within indigenous communities). There was a biodiversity assessment conducted that showed however the existence of project sites within Indigenous Territories. In order to comply with the UNDP SESP, the project developed an IPPP, thus, the SESP should reflect the existence of the communities in the project. The question of "lack of culturally appropriate consultation such as FPIC conducted" should be revised in order to assess whether there was a properly implemented consultation process. This information should be contained in the IPPP.

The overall project risk is moderate and is actively being monitored by the UNDP CO. The Project Coordinator should be involved in this process.

4.3.7 Information

The Project presents reports periodically and in compliance with the requirements of the GEF. As for the internal reports made to the UNDP, it stands out that the formats do not allow for in-depth analysis of the achievements achieved. A report by indicators does not allow a visualization of all the activities executed and their respective achievements. The quarterly format does not include an orderly analysis of the indicators and the monitoring of actions, although it is reported, it is complex to analyze and visualize the process of change and progress with respect to previous periods, this considering an evaluation of this nature.

The Project communicates changes and its adaptive management internally to the technical team, with the technical committees, the board of directors, and counterparts. External communication strategies are valuable and the dissemination of Notipaisajes stands out (which accounts for the achievements and progress of the project, as well as successful cases).

The pandemic has promoted the use of WhatsApp and email to streamline communication with participatory brigades, technical committees, socio-productive initiatives, and other key actors.

4.3.8 Communication

Internal communication in the Technical Unit is horizontal, prompt, and transparent. The communication structure with the technical committees is fluid and stable (periodic meetings for the review and monitoring of actions and strategic decision-making). Once a year, the results, progress, and adjustment proposals are presented to the Board of Directors.

Communication is effective, both internally and externally. Communication in a complex project, like this one, is a challenge, but it can be achieved using communication, knowledge generation and information dissemination strategies. The project has a person in charge of communication (especially external) and another in charge of layout and visual aspects. The key actions of the project are reported through social networks (Facebook), Instagram and with strategic communications with resources such as NotiPaisajes.

4.3.9 Assessment of project execution and adaptive management

The assessment regarding the implementation and adaptive management of the Project is Highly Satisfactory. The MTR does not foresee corrective actions applicable to management mechanisms. The project manages to achieve and maximize results, which includes the achievement of important unforeseen results that correspond to new needs addressed to advance with the goals proposed in the work plans:

1. The project managed to move forward amid the health emergency due to COVID 19.
2. It adopted a management strategy based on an Executing Unit and the formation of consortia that allowed it to improve its efficiency.
3. The management model was consultative, participatory and decisions made based on group intelligence.
4. It included support for productive initiatives under a self-financing scheme that ensured the effectiveness of the resources assigned to the organizations.
5. The sensitivity and technical quality of the team of professionals that make up the technical team that make up the EU is recognized.
6. The different actors highlight the importance that UNDP has had as an implementing and supporting entity in political-institutional management to strengthen effectiveness in achieving results.
7. The relevance of the work methodology used, and the good level of communication and information offered to the partners.
8. Adherence to planning, monitoring and control methods that support the transparent implementation of the project and the achievement of the products.
9. Strengthening the role and participation of women and gender equity in all stages of the project.
10. The level of budget execution and the contribution of the co-financing counterpart has been efficient
11. Overall stakeholder involvement is positive and has an excellent level of ownership.

4.4 Sustainability

Sustainability is likely (P). The project presents minimal risk to sustainability. The most important results are on track for its achievement before the conclusion of the Project and are expected to continue in the near future.

Around 9 risks are identified within the Project's Social and Environmental Diagnosis Model. For each of these risks, the Project propose corrective measures, since they are well planned, so it is not estimated that they will have to be readjusted. However, it is important to monitor the measures

associated with the pandemic, both in the execution of actions in the field, and in the (possible) work overload for the technical team.

4.4.1 Socioeconomic risks for sustainability

Sustainability due to financial risk factors is probable because the Project has generated capacities in the organizations and people that participate in sustainable production initiatives, which implies an increase in income, which in turn would affect the maintenance of forest cover. In the case of MUCOPP, the financial strategy expects to generate the resources for its operation, and the project fostered and strengthened the role of women.

Sustainability due to social risk factors is likely. The project has strengthened the association between regional and local actors, local cohesion, participation, and ownership of the actions carried out and their results.

The risks are low. One aspect to consider is the possible participation of beneficiaries in key activities, such as the maintenance of reforested areas in the MAIBC, or participation in monitoring brigades or environmental education programs. If the structures for actions at the community level are not well organized and strengthened, their maintenance would be difficult. Women's participation is often affected by the traditional roles that are imposed on them, which mean that time is not always enough, and they suffer from an overload of tasks at the community level. In the case of socio-productive initiatives, diversification, and the generation of income from the activities implemented, it is crucial for families and organized groups to continue obtaining the benefit (beyond the environmental benefit) of sustaining related practices with LMT.

4.4.2 Risks to sustainability related to the institutional framework and governance

Sustainability by risk factors with the institutional framework and governance is likely. The Project strengthened the institutional and the legal and political frameworks of the country for the effective management of productive landscapes. It contributed to the governance of protected areas in the MAIBC and the PNE in the ACLAP. The development of a community management model with capacities to support state and municipal management has been favored. In addition, it is expected that the MOCUPP will be institutionalized as a tool to strengthen the governance of productive landscapes at the urban and rural levels.

The risks are low. One of the risks in this area is that the counterpart (public) institutions do not have the internal capacity to assume the tasks and strategies that have been implemented (both in technical capacity and political will). A specific case is MOCUPP, which is a tool with great potential to manage and apply regulations regarding the use of landscapes; however, its implementation depends on transcending the resistance that some sectors initially opposed. This also carries some risks, since both the MOCUPP and other initiatives (gender policies, regulation of areas around rivers, among others) depend on the correct implementation of these guidelines. Additionally, the formalization of SICOMUTE and the financing of the MOCUPP depend currently on approvals.

4.4.3 Environmental risks for sustainability

Sustainability due to institutional risk factors is likely. The actions of the project are focused on a sustainable management of productive landscapes, related to the protection of forests, water resources, the PNE, protection zones, environmental restoration, increase of the green fabric, sustainable agricultural production, and sustainable livelihoods for people.

The risks are low. There are possible climatic variations that could negatively affect some of the activities carried out with the project. Specifically, the reforestation initiatives in both areas (the maintenance of the planted species), or extreme conditions that affect the established productive systems. To reduce the risk of forest fires in ACLA-P, the project developed a risk mapping system for the prevention of forest fires.

5 CONCLUSIONS Y RECOMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

- 1 The project is extremely complex in terms of the different components (there are 3 components, 33 outputs and 16 indicators), its two areas of intervention, the scope and the number of institutions (public, private and community-level organizations) involved. However, it is highly innovative in its approach and responds to crucial needs that the country faces in its landscape management and changes in land use at the rural and urban levels (this being an even more innovative component). The two regions are extremely different and although there have been common axes of intervention (MOCUPP for both regions, nurseries and reforestation processes, establishment of brigades, definition of areas within landscapes, among others), they represent different challenges.
- 2 The strategy is comprehensive, multisectoral and involves actors at the national level (public, private and research entities) of great incidence for the execution of actions. Its execution as of this first half of the period has been outstanding. The incidence at the political, technical and articulation levels is exceeding the established goals and the projections for the achievement of more results are very positive.
- 3 The Project has had notable management and great progress in all its components, and developed innovative studies and tools for monitoring changes in land use, both in productive rural landscapes and in urban areas (this being the element that is more differentiating).
- 4 The technical studies to support the actions have been key and they have contributed at the country level in transcendental issues such as the identification and registration of land (and its classification), the creation or modification of land use regulations or progress in the creation of gender policies in specific sectors.
- 5 Having a monitoring and follow-up system, and coordination processes between the Technical unit and its counterparts, has been key for the project to have reached this level of progress and taken adaptive measures when necessary.
- 6 However, a major concern is that SINAC is not using the MOCUPP to prosecute non-compliance with the forest law.

- 7 The project has a highly satisfactory evaluation. The project progresses positively and is on track to achieve its objective and the three results are progressing in a highly satisfactory manner. There are some peculiarities that must be considered:
- Component 2: In general, the results in the La Amistad Pacífico Conservation Area - ACLAP are highly satisfactory.
 - Component 2: In general, the results obtained in Region 2: María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor - CBIMA have been satisfactory. The project should pay special attention to indicator 14 regarding the revision of the goal, as noted in annex 6.9.
 - Components 1 and 3: They have the ability to achieve highly satisfactory results by the end of the project, especially if the MOCUPP is institutionalized.
- 8 The project was efficient in executing GEF resources. Since by February 2021, US \$ 4.290.806,00 (62.21%) had been executed with an expense of only 36.55% of the budget allocated to PRODOC for Project Management. Component 2 had a major impact because it executed 73% of the resources assigned by the GEF.
- 9 The project considered national and institutional realities and needs for its design, however, the complexity of the project and the way in which the proposed "theory of change" are not clear for the interpretation and operationalization of PRODOC. There is not an appropriate connection between the Model of the CT, which makes difficult understanding the alignment between Outcomes and Outputs.
- 10 The project categorizes as Gender Responsive, and the design approach is satisfactory in this matter. However, it does not address the root of the problem of inequities. This aspect should have been approached in a transversal way.
- 11 In general, the logic of the original design and the Logical Framework (LF) maintains. Despite having some weaknesses, it has turned out to be a useful instrument for managing results. This could be solved with some adjustments and an adaptive management oriented to achieve the objectives of the project. Adaptive efforts generally contributed to the achievement of the proposed outputs and, in some cases, to increasing the scope of the proposed results.
- 12 Adaptive management has been evident in the context of the COVID 19 Pandemic, which, far from limiting the scope of the results, promoted some actions (for example, distance environmental education work, the creation of virtual and printed modules for support these trainings, work with family reforestation brigades, among others).
- 13 Progress at the community level, both with the BMBP and with the socio-productive initiatives is remarkable. The Project works with existing organizations at the local level, which is important, and makes efforts to establish some consortiums for the execution of initiatives and to link the Brigades with existing local structures, stands out.
- 14 The complexity of the project and the weakness in which the theory of change is expressed is transferred to the LF indicator system, which presents weaknesses that can be improved
- 15 The execution of the project and the adaptive management is highly satisfactory, therefore, it can be considered as a good practice, for several aspects: 1) Efficiency in the management and implementation of a Technical Unit; 2) Project management by consortia; 3) Accompaniment to incorporate the gender issue; 4) Planning based on the results-based management model; 5) Decisions supported by accurate and relevant information on budgets and their financial execution; and 6) management based on group intelligence.

- 16 The project involves women in all its initiatives, clearly responding to the logic of the spaces / contexts of its implementation. The MTR did not identified deep structural barriers or limitations that affect their participation.
- 17 The work that the project does in technical and political terms to influence a long-term enabling environment to generate multiple GEBs in productive landscapes is evident. The results are aimed at achieving the goal of conserving biodiversity by reducing changes in land use from natural forest to other uses.
- 18 The work carried out in the ACLA-P region on all products is outstanding and has a program rather than a project character, as it carries out such diverse actions, with so many actors, and above all because of the implementation of socio-productive initiatives. The approach is comprehensive and is executed by a team of highly competent and committed professionals who raise the level of work.
- 19 Sustainability is likely (L). There is minimal risk to sustainability; the most important results are on the way to completion of the Project and are expected to continue in the near future. The sustainability of the project can be assessed as probable (institutional framework and governance, environmental and financial): 1) The project has had an impact on policies, decrees and methodologies that affect the institutionalization and instrumentalization of its actions; 2) The actions undertaken contribute to a sustainable management of productive landscapes; and 3) finally, it is highlighted that socio-productive initiatives promote activities that generate economic resources while conserving and improving the natural environment in which they are developed.

5.2 Recommendations

- 1 The Project must prioritize investments by targeting the budget on strategic issues (results). For this, it is important to establish an appropriate operational-financial exit route for the results, both those currently achieved and what is yet to be achieved. This aligns with a participatory closure plan with key institutional actors (ACLAP, MAIBC and INVU) and the liquidation of the Executing Unit, due to the future operational reduction of the project.
- 2 It is key that the project continues to strengthen its “political muscle” to achieve results that guarantee the sustainability of the results. Such as the approval of the modification of the Biodiversity Law, through which the financing for the MOCUPP will be guaranteed.
- 3 Strengthen the strategy for Component 1, considering: 1) The advocacy work during the first semester of 2021 must be strong to achieve the approval of the two legal instruments; 2) In addition, the approval of the MOCUPP before the CONAC should be considered, which will be feasible in the remaining period of the project.
- 4 A positive approach of the MOCUPP that shows the benefits that this tool could have for producers should be emphasized with the actors instead of highlighting its capacity for the control of environmental crimes.
- 5 It is crucial that the incentive mechanism (seal) be defined so that production free of loss of forest cover verification is recognized.
- 6 The Project must continue its advocacy actions to position the MOCUPP as an essential tool for the official monitoring of changes in land use. In this sense, SINAC can take much more advantage of the existence of MOCUPP for the legal processing of potential breaches of the forest law detected by this tool. The MOCUPP is an early warning tool but it is also evidence of

previous impacts in which specific properties have lost forest cover throughout the country and not only in the project's intervention areas, in potential non-compliance with the Forestry Law. Therefore, it is recommended that this institution take advantage of the information that the project has generated since its PPG phase, particularly due to loss of forest cover associated with the pineapple expansion and file criminal complaints for non-compliance with the forest law. It is during the life of the project that it makes more sense for SINAC to present these complaints since it has a support team and legal and technical advice.

- 7 A legal-conceptual tool is required to organize and delimit the attributions, complementarities, and connections of all the information systems existing in the country in geospatial matters.
- 8 The project can now guide actions to further support the strengthening of CENIGA's role so that it can fulfill its mandate as a regulatory entity and axis for the various institutions that provide environmental information, particularly related to forest loss in the country (as proposed by the PRODOC).
- 9 Given the complexity of the project and since it has a component for Monitoring and Follow-up, a more unified system should be sought to capture and report the results (data reporting tool), which reflects all the scope of the project and that at the same time is consistent with its Results Framework, without leaving out any indicator. Even when the information is available, there is no central document or dashboard where the team can report data as part of an M&E component. PIR and reports do provide all the information but not in a consolidated database that can allow an easier comprehension of the development of the interventions.
- 10 The wording of some indicators, the alignment of results, the ToC model, and the logical framework, respectively, should be reviewed. As well as reviewing and adjusting, the system of indicators and the definition of the indicator file.
- 11 In future projects, a qualitative leap can be made in terms of gender, making a diagnosis of gaps from the design phase, so that it also analyzes the problem of inequities regarding women.
- 12 There is still work to be done to increase the information that buyers have on the advantages of production free of loss of forest cover and to advance in the creation of an incentive system to position these products within specialized markets. Although the achievement of the project's mid-term results is outstanding, there could be a risk of burnout of the human capita.
- 13 The crisis in the face of the pandemic exacerbated this situation. Therefore, it is recommended that a balance is made between the team's field actions and coordination with the entities that will be executing the project in the future. Decentralizing the actions so that the authorities in charge carry them out more proactively is crucial for the second half of the project.
- 14 It is important to strengthen organizations at the community level. Above all, in the case of the Brigades, they are linked to community development associations, but require strong support. In the case of socio-productive initiatives, a component that will enhance their sustainability is the execution of business plans linked to markets that can guarantee sales, and therefore, income to the producers.
- 15 It is key that the institutions involved (local governments, public institutions, etc.) designate personnel and budgets so that the investments that have been made in the areas are maintained and sustained over time (nurseries, planted trees, murals, equipment, and supplies delivered, etc.)

6 ANNEXES

Annex 6.1: Terms of Reference

United Nations Development Program
Mid-Term Review project Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica (PIMS 5842)

Name of the consultancy: Hiring of a team leader for the mid-term evaluation of the project Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica (PIMS 5842), Productive Landscapes Project.

INTRODUCTION

This is the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the full -sized UNDP-supported GEF-financed project titled Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica (PIMS 5842) implemented by UNDP country office in Costa Rica, which is to be undertaken in 2021. The project started on March 2018 and is in its third year of implementation. This ToR sets out the expectations for this MTR. The MTR process must follow the guidance outlined in the document Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects (http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/guidance/GEF/mid-term/Guidance_Midterm%20Review%20_EN_2014.pdf).

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In Costa Rica, approximately 27% of its territory forms a solid network of protected areas that are home to a diversity of ecosystems and a wealth of biodiversity. However, the expansion of the agricultural frontier, road infrastructure and urban development threaten natural ecosystems because the State has not managed to control the negative impacts on biodiversity due to the absence of systematic monitoring of the landscape. This despite the fact that the country has developed a solid legal framework. Consequently, the Costa Rican landscapes that are outside the network of protected areas are fragmented, and the few blocks that exist are threatened.

The rapid expansion of commercial agricultural crops has paralleled the explosive expansion of urban areas, which by 2010 covered 2,052 km². In the last 20 years, Costa Rica has evolved from being predominantly a rural society to being an urban society. Urban areas now constitute the second greatest threat to Costa Rica's biodiversity, as forest cover is removed to make way for residential areas.

The absence of updated regulatory plans, the expansion of unsustainable agricultural practices, especially livestock and cash crops, uncontrolled urban growth, inter and intra-institutional lack of coordination; as well as the weak infrastructure for sanitation, have allowed the invasion of the protection zones of rivers, changes in land use against the regulatory framework, pollution of rivers, streams and springs by illegal discharges and solid urban waste.

Based on the previous framework, the Conserving Biodiversity through Sustainable Management in Costa Rican Production Landscapes (Productive Landscapes) Project is conceptualized, with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and with the support of UNDP. Its general objective is: to generalize biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and carbon sequestration objectives to Costa Rica's production landscapes and interurban biological corridors. This goal will be achieved through a multifocal strategy that includes the development of enabling or enabling conditions (i.e. policies, technologies, markets and financial mechanisms) to deliver multiple global environmental benefits (i.e. biodiversity conservation, carbon emission reduction and greater carbon storage), in productive landscapes and in interurban biological corridors, specifically in two productive landscapes: the buffer zone of the protected areas of the Amistad Pacifico Conservation Area (ACLA-P) and the María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor (MAIBC) .

The project focuses on reducing the loss of natural habitat that results from the rapid and uncontrolled change in land use due to agricultural and livestock expansion in the ACLA-P and urban expansion in the MAIBC. The project will strengthen the capacities of the National Environmental Information System (SINIA) and the SNIT to generate annual data that can be used by public and private actors to address threats to biodiversity. The methodological standards for the generation and use of information on land use/cover will be available through the Soil and Ecosystem Cover and Use Monitoring System (SIMOCUTE), which is coordinated by CENIGA in the context of SINIA, as well as the inter-institutional arrangement in accordance with the roles and competencies that are defined in the current legislation.

The project is structured in three components. The first component seeks to create favorable or enabling conditions (policies, technologies, markets, and finance) for the delivery of multiple global environmental benefits in productive landscapes and interurban biological corridors. This is critical to investing in a long-term enabling environment for the delivery of multiple

global environmental benefits in production environments. To this end, the project has been working within the framework of SIMOCUTE to consolidate an information system for environmental decision-making, applicable annually. Decree No. 37658-MINAE names CENIGA as the coordinating entity of SINIA, which also coordinates SIMOCUTE. Therefore, through this component, the project has invested in strengthening the role of CENIGA, so that it can fulfill its mandate as regulator and axis of the various institutions that provide environmental information, particularly related to the coverage of forest loss in the country. This component has the following products:

- **Output 1.1:** Interinstitutional agreement/Ministry Decree formalizes the establishment, management arrangements, and financial sustainability of the MOCUPP as part of the SIMOCUTE, including annual monitoring of forest cover change and land degradation within agricultural production landscapes and interurban biological corridors in Costa Rica, as well as the review of current national forest policy and regulations.
- **Output 1.2:** Agreements with 15 institutions to provide updated georeferenced information to MOCUPP through the National Territorial Information System's (SNIT) Geoportal and associated services on a yearly basis so imagery may be tied to land property records.
- **Output 1.3:** An agreed-upon long-term inter-institutional financial sustainability strategy to fund: i) forest cover monitoring services provided by the Council of State Universities (CeNAT-PRIAS) for the MOCUPP; ii) updating of the cadaster map, according to technical parameters provided by DRI in order to declare new cadaster zones that may be consulted via SNIT, including gender-disaggregated data; and iii) the continuous updating of the SNIT web-tool by the IGN.
- **Output 1.4:** 2000-2015 baseline study of total forest cover gains and losses within production landscapes.
- **Output 1.5:** 2015 baseline study of total land cover of pastureland for cattle grazing and pineapple and palm oil crops.
- **Output 1.6:** CeNAT-PRIAS staff trained in advanced classification techniques of satellite images and remote-sensing processing equipment and software for monitoring trends in forest cover and land use.
- **Output 1.7:** SNIT online map viewer is updated and enhanced with new applications for users.
- **Output 1.8:** National repository of information for participatory ecological monitoring implemented collaboratively between public, private, and civil society stakeholders, including women, and linked to the National Ecological Monitoring Programme (PRONAMEC).
- **Output 1.9:** 25% of the agricultural, pineapple, and pasture production units verified as free of loss of forest cover by MINAE.
- **Output 1.10:** At least 1,000 international companies buying commodities from Costa Rica aware of the free of loss of forest cover verification.

The second component works on delivering multiple GEBs (biodiversity conservation, reduced carbon emissions, and increased carbon storage) in production landscapes in the ACLA-P buffer zone area and the MAIBC. In this component, the project works with local partner organizations, agricultural associations, and non-government stakeholders on innovative approaches to agricultural production at the small- and medium-size farm level as a learning approach to offset threats and share knowledge. Also, in an urban context, the project develops important interventions to connect and increase green areas and in MAIBC in alliance with local organizations, municipalities, and communities. Key elements of the previous component, such as the periodic monitoring of land cover change and the establishment of a verification system for free of loss of forest cover production units, are piloted in the ACLA-P and the MAIBC with the assistance of government officials, local governments, communities, and private landowners – including cattle, pineapple, and palm oil producers. This component includes the following outputs:

Region 1: ACLA-P

- **Output 2.1:** Twenty (20) nurseries for endemic and native plant species established to support the landscape management tools.
- **Output 2.2:** Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P support the implementation of LMTs.
- **Output 2.3:** MRV system assesses the impact of LMT on biodiversity conservation derived from the financing of the socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P.
- **Output 2.4:** Risk mapping system for the prevention of forest fires includes the classification of vegetation to determine its combustion rate.
- **Output 2.5:** Pilot project for the implementation of the PRONAMEC in ACLA-P includes an interactive online platform for the exchange of information.
- **Output 2.6:** Land property registries, disaggregated by sex, for a 50-km² area of production lands within the buffer zones of protected areas of the ACLA-P finalized and updated in the SNIT.

- **Output 2.7:** Land suitability for forestry study for public lands or without registration ownership contributes to strengthening connectivity in landscapes of the ACLA-P.
- **Output 2.8:** MINAE staff, municipal authorities, female and male judges, and female and male private producers informed about and trained in the MOCUPP and how to use it to enforce the Forestry Law.
- **Output 2.9:** Environmental education program led by ACLA-P in coordination with stakeholders associated with biodiversity and forest conservation in production landscapes.
- **Output 2.10:** Verification system for production units free of loss of forest cover designed and discussed in multi-stakeholder workshops and piloted within the ACLA-P.
- **Output 2.11:** Local and institutional capacities for citizen participation and governance in production landscapes of the ACLA-P strengthened.

Región 2: MAIBC

- **Output 2.13:** Five municipalities in the MAIBC and other public entities sign joint action agreements for controlling solid waste and discharge into rivers and promoting the connectivity of urban green areas, conservation, and rehabilitation of riparian forests of the María Aguilar River and tributaries.
- **Output 2.14:** Delimitation of protection zones in compliance with Article 33 of the Forestry Law and Regulation includes contour maps.
- **Output 2.15:** Protocols for interinstitutional coordination to address issues related to discharges, elimination of solid wastes and illegal constructions on the banks of the María Aguilar River formalized.
- **Output 2.16:** Environmental assessment for the MAIBC completed.
- **Output 2.17:** Gains and losses of forest cover within the MAIBC for years 2017, 2018, and 2019.
- **Output 2.18:** Baseline study of urban land and forest cover (2015) as part of the MOCUPP annual monitoring of urban encroachment on natural habitat.
- **Output 2.19:** Formalization and open audience of cadastral records by the DRI within the MAIBC.
- **Output 2.20:** Government staff (MINAE, Ministry of Health, CENIGA, and INVU), authorities from five municipalities, male and female judges, women and men from the private sector, community members and other interested parties informed about and trained in the SNIT/MOCUPP and how to use it to enforce the Forestry Law and decision making in an urban environment.
- **Output 2.21:** Eight (8) nurseries established to support the LMTs.
- **Output 2.22:** 16,000 individuals of endemic and native species of trees and shrubs planted in the MAIBC.
- **Output 2.23:** Environmental education program led by SINAC for economic and social stakeholders associated with the conservation of biodiversity in the MAIBC.
- **Output 2.24:** Communications strategy for the MAIBC.

Finally, the third component is about knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation. In this component, the project gathering and sharing of lessons learned in a systematic and efficient manner, with special emphasis on the development and dissemination of knowledge. Through M&E tools and learning this component support adaptive management so that the project integrates experiences that result during the implementation of the activities in the new programmatic cycles of the project. This component includes the following outputs:

- **Output 3.1:** The experiences and lessons learned from monitoring changes in land cover, biodiversity, carbon emissions and stocks, and gender equality and women's empowerment on production landscapes in ACLA-P systematized.
- **Output 3.2:** The experiences and lessons learned from monitoring changes in land cover, biodiversity, carbon emissions and stocks, and gender equality and women's empowerment in the MAIBC systematized in guideline documents and toolboxes to inform future urban policy.
- **Output 3.3:** Thematic studies and other knowledge documented, and communication and public awareness materials with a gender perspective produced and available for dissemination.

Through this strategy, the project will contribute to reducing the accelerated loss of natural habitat caused by rapid and uncontrolled land use change, primarily due to the expansion of agricultural activities in the ACLA-P and urban growth in the MAIBC. The project has span 5 years with a total investment of \$6,699,315 USD, which is to be provided by the GEF.

3. MTR Purpose

The MTR will assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document, and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The MTR will also review the project's strategy and its risks to sustainability.

4. MTR APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The MTR team will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure/SESP), the Project Document, project reports including annual PIRs, project budget revisions, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based review. The MTR team will review the baseline GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools submitted to the GEF at CEO endorsement, and the midterm GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools that must be completed before the MTR field mission begins.

The MTR team is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach²⁵ ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), the UNDP Country Office(s), the Nature, Climate and Energy (NCE) Regional Technical Advisor, direct beneficiaries, and other key stakeholders.

Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful MTR²⁶. Stakeholder involvement should include interviews with stakeholders who have project responsibilities, including but not limited to public institutions as MINAE, SINAC, MAG, FUNCENAT, Municipalities; executing agencies, senior officials and task team/ component leaders, key experts and consultants in the subject area, Project Board, project stakeholders, academia, local government and CSOs, etc. Additionally, the MTR must adjust to the context due to COVID-19, the MTR must be developed using virtual sessions with a minimum in person and field visits to ACLA-P and MAIBC, including project sites in Perez Zeledón, Buenos Aires, Coto Brus, La Unión, Curridabat, Montes de Oca, San José y Alajuelita. These field visits must include a sanitary protocol to prevent COVID-19 contagious.

The final MTR report must describe the full MTR approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the review.

As of 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the new coronavirus rapidly spread to all regions of the world. The Costa Rica government has implemented some restrictions to travel to the country depends on the region and country from arrives. These restrictions include that visitors complete the digital health form before boarding and present proof of international medical insurance or purchased from national insurers, which covers eventual long stays due to quarantine or hospitalization expenses in case of contracting the virus.

Due to context could change at any time, MTR team should develop a methodology that takes the conduct of the MTR totally or partially virtually and remotely, including the use of remote interview methods and extended desk reviews, data analysis, surveys and evaluation questionnaires. This should be detailed in the MTR Inception Report and agreed with the Commissioning Unit.

If all or part of the MTR is to be carried out virtually then consideration should be taken for stakeholder availability, ability or willingness to be interviewed remotely. In addition, their accessibility to the internet/computer may be an issue as many government and national counterparts may be working from home. These limitations must be reflected in the final MTR report.

If a data collection/field mission is not possible then remote interviews may be undertaken through telephone or online (skype, zoom etc.). International consultants can work remotely with national evaluator support in the field if it is safe for them to operate and travel. No stakeholders, consultants or UNDP staff should be put in harm's way and safety is the key priority.

A short validation mission may be considered if it is confirmed to be safe for staff, consultants, stakeholders and if such a mission is possible within the MTR schedule. Equally, qualified and independent national consultants can be hired to undertake the MTR and interviews in the country as long as it is safe to do so.

5. DETAILED SCOPE OF THE MTR

The MTR team will assess the following four categories of project progress. See the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for extended descriptions.

²⁵ For ideas on innovative and participatory Monitoring and Evaluation strategies and techniques, see [UNDP Discussion Paper: Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results](#), 05 Nov 2013.

²⁶ 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.

i. Project Strategy

Project design:

- Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document.
- Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
- Review how the project addresses country priorities. Review country ownership. Was the project concept in line with the national sector development priorities and plans of the country (or of participating countries in the case of multi-country projects)?
- Review decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design. See Annex 9 of *Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.
 - Were relevant gender issues (e.g. the impact of the project on gender equality in the programme country, involvement of women's groups, engaging women in project activities) raised in the Project Document?
- If there are major areas of concern, recommend areas for improvement.

Results Framework/Logframe:

- Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary.
- Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?
- Examine if progress so far has led to or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e. income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance etc...) that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis.
- Ensure broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively. Develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits.

Progress Towards Results

Progress Towards Outcomes Analysis:

- Review the logframe indicators against progress made towards the end-of-project targets using the Progress Towards Results Matrix and following the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*; colour code progress in a "traffic light system" based on the level of progress achieved; assign a rating on progress for each outcome; make recommendations from the areas marked as "Not on target to be achieved" (red).

Table. Progress Towards Results Matrix (Achievement of outcomes against End-of-project Targets)

Project Strategy	Indicator ²⁷	Baseline Level ²⁸	Level in 1 st PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Target ²⁹	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment ³⁰	Achievement Rating ³¹	Justification for Rating
Objective:	Indicator (if applicable):							
Outcome 1:	Indicator 1:							
	Indicator 2:							
Outcome 2:	Indicator 3:							
	Indicator 4:							
	Etc.							
Etc.								

²⁷ Populate with data from the Logframe and scorecards

²⁸ Populate with data from the Project Document

²⁹ If available

³⁰ Colour code this column only

³¹ Use the 6 point Progress Towards Results Rating Scale: HS, S, MS, MU, U, HU

Indicator Assessment Key

Green= Achieved

Yellow= On target to be achieved

Red= Not on target to be achieved

In addition to the progress towards outcomes analysis:

- Compare and analyse the GEF Tracking Tool/Core Indicators at the Baseline with the one completed right before the Midterm Review.
- Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project.
- By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.

iii. Ejecución del proyecto y gestión adaptativa

Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

Management Arrangements:

- Review overall effectiveness of project management as outlined in the Project Document. Have changes been made and are they effective? Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner? Recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of execution of the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of support provided by the GEF Partner Agency (UNDP) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Do the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and/or UNDP and other partners have the capacity to deliver benefits to or involve women? If yes, how?
- What is the gender balance of project staff? What steps have been taken to ensure gender balance in project staff?
- What is the gender balance of the Project Board? What steps have been taken to ensure gender balance in the Project Board?

Work Planning:

- Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved.
- Are work-planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning to focus on results?
- Examine the use of the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool and review any changes made to it since project start.
- Review and analyses any impact and challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Finance and co-finance:

- Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions.
- Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.
- Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds?
- Informed by the co-financing monitoring table to be filled out by the Commissioning Unit and project team, provide commentary on co-financing: is co-financing being used strategically to help the objectives of the project? Is the Project Team meeting with all co-financing partners regularly in order to align financing priorities and annual work plans?

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Co-financing amount confirmed at CEO Endorsement (US\$)	Actual Amount Contributed at stage of Midterm Review (US\$)	Actual % of Expected Amount
		TOTAL			

Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:

- Review the monitoring tools currently being used: Do they provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Are they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How could they be made more participatory and inclusive?
- Examine the financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget. Are sufficient resources being allocated to monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources being allocated effectively?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were incorporated in monitoring systems. See Annex 9 of *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Project management: Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?
- Participation and country-driven processes: Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation?
- Participation and public awareness: To what extent has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives?
- How does the project engage women and girls? Is the project likely to have the same positive and/or negative effects on women and men, girls and boys? Identify, if possible, legal, cultural, or religious constraints on women's participation in the project. What can the project do to enhance its gender benefits?

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

- Validate the risks identified in the project's most current SESP, and those risks' ratings; are any revisions needed?
- Summarize and assess the revisions made since CEO Endorsement/Approval (if any) to:
 - The project's overall safeguards risk categorization.
 - The identified types of risks³² (in the SESP).
 - The individual risk ratings (in the SESP).
- Describe and assess progress made in the implementation of the project's social and environmental management measures as outlined in the SESP submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval (and prepared during implementation, if any), including any revisions to those measures. Such management measures might include Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) or other management plans, though can also include aspects of a project's design; refer to Question 6 in the SESP template for a summary of the identified management measures.

A given project should be assessed against the version of UNDP's safeguards policy that was in effect at the time of the project's approval.

Reporting:

- Assess how adaptive management changes have been reported by the project management and shared with the Project Board.
- Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GEF reporting requirements (i.e. how have they addressed poorly-rated PIRs, if applicable?)
- Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners.

Communications & Knowledge Management:

- Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Are there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and investment in the sustainability of project results?
- Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?)

³² Risks are to be labeled with both the UNDP SES Principles and Standards, and the GEF's "types of risks and potential impacts": Climate Change and Disaster; Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups; Disability Inclusion; Adverse Gender-Related impact, including Gender-based Violence and Sexual Exploitation; Biodiversity Conservation and the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources; Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement; Indigenous Peoples; Cultural Heritage; Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention; Labor and Working Conditions; Community Health, Safety and Security.

- For reporting purposes, write one half-page paragraph that summarizes the project's progress towards results in terms of contribution to sustainable development benefits, as well as global environmental benefits.
- List knowledge activities/products developed (based on knowledge management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval).

iv. . Sustainability

- Validate whether the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Review/PIRs and the ATLAS Risk Register are the most important and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date. If not, explain why.
- In addition, assess the following risks to sustainability:

Financial risks to sustainability:

- What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)?

Socio-economic risks to sustainability:

- Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public / stakeholder awareness in support of the long-term objectives of the project? Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis and shared/ transferred to appropriate parties who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future?

Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability:

- Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits? While assessing this parameter, also consider if the required systems/ mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer are in place.

Environmental risks to sustainability:

- Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes?

Conclusions & Recommendations

The MTR team will include a section in the MTR report for evidence-based conclusions, in light of the findings.

Additionally, the MTR consultant/team is expected to make recommendations to the Project Team. Recommendations should be succinct suggestions for critical intervention that are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant. A recommendation table should be put in the report's executive summary. See the *Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for guidance on a recommendation table.

The MTR team should make no more than 15 recommendations total.

Ratings

The MTR team will include its ratings of the project's results and brief descriptions of the associated achievements in a *MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table* in the Executive Summary of the MTR report. See Annex E for ratings scales. No rating on Project Strategy and no overall project rating is required.

Table. MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table for Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica project

Measure	MTR Rating	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	

Progress Towards Results	Objective Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 1 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 2 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 3 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Etc.	
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	(rate 6 pt. scale)	
Sustainability	(rate 4 pt. scale)	

6. TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the MTR will be approximately **31 working days over a time period of 7 of weeks** and shall not exceed 3 months from when the consultant(s) are hired. The tentative MTR timeframe is as follows:

ACTIVIDAD	NÚMERO DE DIAS DE TRABAJO	FECHA DE CONCLUSIÓN DE ACTIVIDAD
Document review and preparing MTR Inception Report (MTR Inception Report due no later than 2 weeks before the MTR mission)	3 días	January 25 th , 2021
MTR mission: stakeholder meetings, interviews, field visits	15 días	February 15 th , 2021
Presentation of initial findings- last day of the MTR mission	2 día	February 18 th , 2021
Preparing draft report (due within 3 weeks of the MTR mission)	10 días	March 12 th , 2021
Finalization of MTR report/ Incorporating audit trail from feedback on draft report (due within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on the draft)	5 días	March 26 th , 2021

The Inception Report should present options for conducting field visits.

7. MIDTERM REVIEW DELIVERABLES

#	Producto	Descripción	Plazo	Responsabilidades
1	MTR Inception Report	MTR team clarifies objectives and methods of Midterm Review	No later than 2 weeks before the MTR mission	MTR team submits to the Commissioning Unit and project management
2	Presentation	Initial Findings	End of MTR mission	MTR Team presents to project management and the Commissioning Unit
3	Draft MTR Report	Full draft report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	Within 3 weeks of the MTR mission	Sent to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit, GEF OFP

4	Final Report*	Revised report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final MTR report	Within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on draft	Sent to the Commissioning Unit
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* The final report of the MTR must be presented in both Spanish and in its version translated into English. Once the product is approved, it must be delivered in digital form (in an editable MS Word version on an electronic device: USB key or similar) and in printed form (an original and a copy, bound separately and with transparent plastic cover), with a delivery letter from the consultant. They must be delivered to the UNDP offices.

8. MTR ARRANGEMENTS

The main responsibility in the management of this MTR corresponds to the Adjudicating Unit. The Adjudicating Unit for the MTR of this project is the UNDP office in Costa Rica.

The Adjudicating Unit will hire the consultants and will ensure the timely payment of per diem or per diem and travel expenses within the country corresponding to the MTR team. The Project Team will be responsible for communicating with the MTR team to provide all relevant documents, arrange interviews with stakeholders, and organize field visits.

9. COMPOSICIÓN DEL EQUIPO

The MTR team will consist of two independent consultants - a team lead person (with international experience, preferably in the region, and exposure to GEF projects and evaluations). This person will be recruited directly through the evaluation roster available to UNDP; and an expert person from the team, with knowledge and experience working on environmental-related projects in Costa Rica, who will be recruited using UNDP's individual hiring mechanisms. The consultants may not have participated in the preparation, formulation and / or execution of the project (including the drafting of the Project Document) and should not have a conflict of interest with the activities related to the same.

The team leader will be responsible for the results generated by the MTR process, this includes the general design of the MTR, definition of the methodological and conduction process and writing of the final MTR report, etc.) The expert person of the team will evaluate the emerging trends regarding regulatory frameworks, budget allocations, capacity building, coordinating with the Project Team in the development of the itinerary, etc.). Both, as a team, are responsible for including the gender perspective throughout the MTR process.

The selection of consultants will be aimed at maximizing the general qualities of the "team" in the following areas:

For the team leader³³

Education

- Professional with a minimum master's degree in evaluation, development, environmental economics, geography, natural resource management or related careers. Desirable with a PhD in the area.

Experience

- At least 10 years of professional experience in areas related to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, climate change and the environment.
- At least 8 years of experience in evaluation processes of projects with a gender perspective in Costa Rica and / or in the Latin American region both in urban and / or rural settings, under the results-based management approach and where they have been applied SMART indicators and processes of reconstruction or validation of initial scenarios (baseline scenarios) and adaptive management.
- Knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and / or environmental information systems. Present a certificate that accredits this knowledge, or a reference that demonstrates the application or knowledge of the GIS and / or environmental information systems, may be a document or publication on the subject.
- Demonstrated knowledge of gender-related issues and analysis of women's participation in non-traditional sectors of the economy such as livestock, agriculture, and biodiversity conservation. For which it must be specified in the CV format provided by UNDP.

³³ Esta persona trabajará en equipo con la persona experta de la evaluación

- A prerequisite for excellent English writing skills. The evaluation reports must be submitted in Spanish and English. Writing and reporting skills (presenting at least 3 references of prepared documents and presenting technical offer in Spanish and English).
- Project evaluation / review experiences within the UN system will be seen as an asset.
- Experience in implementing assessments remotely will be considered an asset. To consider it, it must be specified in the previous evaluation experiences in the CV.
- Desirable knowledge of Human Rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.
- Desirable knowledge about the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

Fort the national expert

Education

- Professional with a minimum master's degree in evaluation, development, environmental economics, geography, natural resource management or related careers. Desirable with a PhD in the area.

Experience

- At least 10 years of professional experience in areas related to results-based management (design, management or implementation and evaluation of processes, public policies, programs and development projects) or in technical areas relevant to the purposes of the Productive Landscapes project.
- Experience in the application of SMART indicators and in the reconstruction or validation of initial scenarios (baseline scenarios).
- Adaptive management skills applied in projects for biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and carbon sequestration.
- Experience in evaluating projects with a gender perspective in at least 10 evaluation processes in Costa Rica and / or in the Latin American region. It will be considered as a plus if evaluation teams have been led but must be specified in the professional profile (CV).
- At least 5 work experiences with the GEF or with evaluations carried out by this body.
- Knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and / or environmental information systems.
- Work experience in Costa Rica and / or in the Latin American region with projects in urban and rural areas.
- Demonstrated knowledge of gender issues and analysis of women's participation in non-traditional sectors of the economy such as livestock, agriculture and biodiversity conservation; experience in gender-sensitive assessments and analysis. For which it must be specified in the CV format provided by UNDP.
- A prerequisite for excellent English writing skills. The evaluation reports must be submitted in English. Writing and reporting skills (presenting at least 3 references of prepared documents and presenting technical offer in Spanish and English).
- Project evaluation / review experiences within the UN system will be seen as an asset.
- Experience in implementing assessments remotely will be considered an asset. To consider it, it must be specified in the previous evaluation experiences in the CV.
- Desirable knowledge of Human Rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.
- Desirable knowledge about the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

10. ETHICS

The MTR team will be held to the highest ethical standards and is required to sign a code of conduct upon acceptance of the assignment. This MTR will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The MTR team must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The MTR team must also ensure security of collected information before and after the MTR and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information, knowledge and data gathered in the MTR process must also be solely used for the MTR and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

11. PAYMENT METHODS AND SPECIFICATIONS

PRODUCTS	DELIVERY TERM	PAYMENT PERCENTAGE
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First payment. 10 business days after product 1 is approved: MTR initiation report. The MTR team clarifies the objectives and methods of the MTR.	25 January 2021	10% 10 business days after delivery and approval of the product and against delivery of electronic invoice.
Second payment: a) Presentation of initial conclusions of the MTR Initial findings report / systematization - last day of the MTR mission	Must be delivered within 3 weeks of the MTR mission (March 12, 2021)	40% 10 business days after delivery and approval of the product and against delivery of electronic invoice
b) draft MTR report Full report (use the guidelines on its content contained in Annex B) with annexes		
Fourth payment: Approved product 3: Final report of the MTR Revised report with proof of audit detailing how all comments received have been (or not) addressed in the final MTR report	Within 1 week of receipt of UNDP comments on the draft (March 26, 2021)	50% 10 business days after delivery and approval of the product and against delivery of electronic invoice

The payment of this 50% will be done taking into account the following criteria:

- The final MTR report includes all the requirements described in the terms of reference of this MTR and is in accordance with the MTR guidance.
- The final MTR report is clearly written, logically organized, and specific to this project (ie the text has not been cut and pasted from other MTR reports).
- The Audit Trail includes responses and justification for each comment listed.

In accordance with UNDP financial regulations, when the Executing Unit and / or the consultant determine that a deliverable or service cannot be satisfactorily completed due to the impact of COVID-19 and the limitations to the MTR, that deliverable or service will not be paid. .

Due to the current COVID-19 situation and its implications, a partial payment may be considered if the consultant invested time in the deliverable but was unable to complete it due to circumstances beyond their control.

The duration of the contract will be 3 months (90 days) from the signing of the contract. Within this period, a period of 31 effective working days is considered for the development of the products and a period of 29 days to make adjustments and close the contract.

12. APPLICATION PROCESS³⁴

Proposal presentation:

- a) Letter from the person who offers to UNDP confirming interest and availability using the model provided by UNDP (Attached Format) must include a paragraph indicating how their work and this consultancy will accelerate the fulfillment of the sustainable development goals and strengthen Gender equality.
- b) Updated resume that provides the information necessary to demonstrate the academic qualifications, knowledge and experience that enable it to perform the tasks requested in these terms of reference.
- c) Economic offer in colones for residents in Costa Rica and in dollars for people residing outside the country indicating the total price of the contract (indicating the amount per day), all included, supported by a breakdown of expenses, according to the format provided. If the Bidder works for an organization / company / institution, and he or she expects his or her employer to charge an administration fee in the process of releasing him / her to UNDP under a Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), The Bidder must indicate at this point, and ensure that all expenses are duly incorporated in the financial proposal presented to UNDP.
- d) Copy of university degrees and the necessary proofs to demonstrate the requested qualifications.

³⁴The hiring of consultants must be carried out in accordance with the hiring guidelines contained in the POPPs: <https://info.undp.org/global/popp/Páginas/default.aspx>

e) Declaration of good health, according to the format provided by UNDP.

+ This process is aimed at individual natural persons. Any offer received from a legal entity or from two (2) or more persons will be rejected.

Offers should only be sent to the electronic address adquisiciones.cr@undp.org indicating in the subject of the email: "CI / CRI / 2020/96514 / TEAM LEADER MTR PAISAJES PRODUCTIVOS GEF-PNUD". Each document must be sent in separate files, identified by the name of the document and the person offering. Incomplete offers will be excluded from the process.

The deadline for receiving offers is Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 23:59. (Costa Rica time). Technical or administrative queries will not be answered by telephone and should only be addressed to adquisiciones.cr@undp.org.

Criteria for the evaluation of the proposal: The evaluation of the offers received will be carried out in two stages:

Offer		Top Score	Bidders				
			A	B	C	D	E
1.	Technical	1000					
2.	Economic	300					
	Total	1300					

First stage: Evaluation of the technical offer. (1,000 points - I Stage):

This first stage contemplates the evaluation of the experience of the bidder and its correspondence with the Terms of Reference, according to the following criteria

Evaluation matrix

#	Required Profile and Bid Evaluation	
	Top Score	
Bidder's profile		
1	(Admissibility requirement) Professional with a minimum master's degree in evaluation, development, environmental economics, geography, natural resource management or related careers	Doctorate or higher: 200 points Mastery: 175 points
2	At least 10 years of professional experience in areas related to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, climate change and the environment.	More than 10 years: 50 points At least 10 years: 40 points Less than 8 years: 0 points
3	At least 8 years of experience in evaluation processes of projects with a gender perspective in Costa Rica and / or in the Latin American region both in urban and / or rural settings, under the results-based management approach and where they have been applied SMART indicators and processes of reconstruction or validation of initial scenarios (baseline scenarios) and adaptive management.	More than 8 years: 300 points At least 8 years: 280 points
4	The bidder presents some evidence that demonstrates their knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and / or environmental information systems. It can be a certificate that accredits this knowledge, or a reference	Present more than 1 evidence: 50 points Present 1 piece of evidence:

	that demonstrates the application or knowledge of the GIS and / or environmental information systems, it can be a document or publication on the subject.	40 points No evidence: 0 points
5	The bidder specifies in his resume his experience and knowledge of issues related to gender and analysis of the participation of women in non-traditional sectors of the economy such as livestock, agriculture and biodiversity conservation.	Specify in CV and provide evidence: 25 points Specify in CV: 15 points Does not specify experience: 0 pts
6	Excellent writing skills in English. The evaluation reports must be submitted in Spanish and English. Writing and reporting skills (presenting at least 3 references of prepared documents and presenting technical offer in Spanish and English).	Present evidence: 25 points No evidence: 0 points
7	Bidder presents his offer in Spanish and English	If you meet: 25 points Does not comply: 0 points
8	Experience in implementing assessments remotely (advantage)	Present evidence: 20 points No evidence: 0 points
Propuesta técnica		
9	The offer presents a description of how the evaluation process will be approached.	Exceeds expectations: 100 points Wide approach: 90 points Proposal for improvement: 75 pts
10	The offer includes a description of how the gender perspective will be included in the evaluation process	Exceeds expectations: 100 points Wide approach: 90 points Proposal for improvement: 75 pts
11	The offer shows a degree of understanding and ability to write in English.	Present evidence: 100 points No evidence: 0 points
12	The proposal includes information on knowledge, services, initiatives or work methods that demonstrate knowledge and experience on issues of promotion of human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, prevention of sexual harassment and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.	Includes information: 5 points Does not include information: 0 points
	Total points	1.000

Second Stage: Qualification of the economic offer (300 points - Stage II):

In this II stage, only those offers whose technical qualification (stage I) has reached at least 700 of the 1,000 possible points

will participate. The offer that presents the lowest price will obtain a qualification of 300 points and will be considered the base offer, the remaining offers will be awarded the corresponding points, after applying the following **formula**:

$$PFP = \left(\frac{POMB}{PO} \right) * 300$$

Where:

PFP = Price factor score.

POMB = Lowest price offered

PO = Price of the offer to qualify.

300 = Maximum score for the price factor.

The bidder must present a detailed economic offer in colones, containing the total value of their services for the tasks requested by the consultancy, in which the amounts for fees and other expenses that could be incurred during the provision of their services. The costs of activities such as workshops, reproduction of materials, etc. They are the responsibility of the project and should not be included in the financial offer.

This consultancy will be awarded to the person who obtains the highest total score, adding the two stages.

**Only selected people will be contacted
Women and people with disabilities are invited to submit their offer**

ToR ANNEX B: Guidelines on Contents for the Midterm Review Report³⁵

- i. Basic Report Information (*for opening page or title page*)
 - Title of UNDP supported GEF financed project
 - UNDP PIMS# and GEF project ID#
 - MTR time frame and date of MTR report
 - Region and countries included in the project
 - GEF Operational Focal Area/Strategic Program
 - Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and other project partners
 - MTR team members
 - Acknowledgements
- ii. Table of Contents
- iii. Acronyms and Abbreviations
1. Executive Summary (*3-5 pages*)
 - Project Information Table
 - Project Description (brief)
 - Project Progress Summary (between 200-500 words)
 - MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table
 - Concise summary of conclusions
 - Recommendation Summary Table
2. Introduction (*2-3 pages*)
 - Purpose of the MTR and objectives
 - Scope & Methodology: principles of design and execution of the MTR, MTR approach and data collection methods, limitations to the MTR
 - Structure of the MTR report
3. Project Description and Background Context (*3-5 pages*)
 - Development context: environmental, socio-economic, institutional, and policy factors relevant to the project objective and scope
 - Problems that the project sought to address: threats and barriers targeted
 - Project Description and Strategy: objective, outcomes and expected results, description of field sites (if any)
 - Project Implementation Arrangements: short description of the Project Board, key implementing partner arrangements, etc.
 - Project timing and milestones
 - Main stakeholders: summary list
4. Findings (*12-14 pages*)
 - 4.1 Project Strategy
 - Project Design
 - Results Framework/Logframe

³⁵ The Report length should not exceed **40** pages in total (not including annexes).

- 4.2 Progress Towards Results
 - Progress towards outcomes analysis
 - Remaining barriers to achieving the project objective
- 4.3 Project Implementation and Adaptive Management
 - Management Arrangements
 - Work planning
 - Finance and co-finance
 - Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)
 - Reporting
 - Communications & Knowledge Management
- 4.4 Sustainability
 - Financial risks to sustainability
 - Socio-economic to sustainability
 - Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability
 - Environmental risks to sustainability
- 5. Conclusions and Recommendations (4-6 pages)
 - 5.1 Conclusions
 - Comprehensive and balanced statements (that are evidence-based and connected to the MTR's findings) which highlight the strengths, weaknesses and results of the project
 - 5.2 Recommendations
 - Corrective actions for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project
 - Actions to follow up or reinforce initial benefits from the project
 - Proposals for future directions underlining main objectives
- 6. Annexes
 - MTR ToR (excluding ToR annexes)
 - MTR evaluative matrix (evaluation criteria with key questions, indicators, sources of data, and methodology)
 - Example Questionnaire or Interview Guide used for data collection
 - Ratings Scales
 - MTR mission itinerary
 - List of persons interviewed
 - List of documents reviewed
 - Co-financing table (if not previously included in the body of the report)
 - Signed UNEG Code of Conduct form
 - Signed MTR final report clearance form
 - *Annexed in a separate file:* Audit trail from received comments on draft MTR report
 - *Annexed in a separate file:* Relevant midterm tracking tools (*METT, FSC, Capacity scorecard, etc.*) or Core Indicators
 - *Annexed in a separate file:* GEF Co-financing template (categorizing co-financing amounts by source as 'investment mobilized' or 'recurrent expenditure')

ToR ANNEX C: Midterm Review Evaluative Matrix Template

Evaluative Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Project Strategy: To what extent is the project strategy relevant to country priorities, country ownership, and the best route towards expected results?			
(include evaluative question(s))	(i.e. relationships established, level of coherence between project design and implementation approach, specific activities conducted, quality of risk mitigation strategies, etc.)	(i.e. project documents, national policies or strategies, websites, project staff, project partners, data collected throughout the MTR mission, etc.)	(i.e. document analysis, data analysis, interviews with project staff, interviews with stakeholders, etc.)
Progress Towards Results: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved thus far?			

Project execution and adaptive management: So far has the project been implemented efficiently, profitably and adapted to changing conditions? To what extent do the project's monitoring and evaluation, information and communication systems contribute to its execution?			
Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socio-economic and / or environmental risks to the long-term sustainability of the project results?			

ToR ANNEX D: UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators/Midterm Review Consultants³⁶

The evaluators / consultants:

1. They must present complete and fair information in their assessment of strengths and weaknesses, in such a way that the decisions or actions carried out are well founded.
2. They must disclose the full set of findings together with the information of their limitations and have it available to all those affected by the evaluation who have the express right to receive the results.
3. They must protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should offer maximum notice time, limit time demands, and respect people's right not to get involved. Assessors must respect the right of individuals to provide information confidentially, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced back to its source. Evaluators are not required to evaluate individual persons but they must maintain a balance between the evaluation of management functions and this general principle.
4. At times, when conducting evaluations, evidence of crime will be uncovered. Such cases should be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Assessors should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is even the slightest doubt as to whether these issues should be communicated and how they should be communicated.
5. They must be sensitive to beliefs, practices and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their dealings with all interested parties. In line with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-esteem of those with whom they make contact during the evaluation. Knowing that the potential exists for the evaluation to negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, the evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate the purpose of the evaluation and its results in a way that clearly respects the dignity and self-esteem of those involved.
6. They are responsible for their performance and (the) product (s) they generate. They are responsible for a clear, precise and balanced written or oral presentation, as well as the limitations, conclusions and recommendations of the study.
7. They should apply sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using evaluation resources.

MTR Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the UN System Code of Conduct for Evaluators:

Consultant Name: _____

Name of Consulting Organization (when necessary): _____

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

Signed at _____ (Place) to _____ (date)

ToR ANNEX E: MTR Ratings

³⁶www.undp.org/unegcodeofconduct

Ratings for Progress Towards Results: (one rating for each outcome and for the objective)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve or exceed all its end-of-project targets, without major shortcomings. The progress towards the objective/outcome can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve its end-of-project targets with major shortcomings.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	The objective/outcome is expected not to achieve most of its end-of-project targets.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome has failed to achieve its midterm targets, and is not expected to achieve any of its end-of-project targets.

Ratings for Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: (one overall rating)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all seven components – management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications – is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with some components requiring remedial action.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive, with most components requiring remedial action.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.

Ratings for Sustainability: (one overall rating)		
4	Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes on track to be achieved by the project’s closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future
3	Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained due to the progress towards results on outcomes at the Midterm Review
2	Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on
1	Unlikely (U)	Severe risks that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained

ToR ANNEX F: MTR Report Clearance Form

(to be completed and signed by the Commissioning Unit and RTA and included in the final document)

Midterm Review Report Reviewed and Cleared By:

Commissioning Unit (M&E Focal Point)

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Regional Technical Advisor (Nature, Climate and Energy)

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Annex 6.2.: Evaluation matrix (RMT)

Table 6.2.: Evaluation matrix (RMT)

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
i. STRATEGY OF THE PROJECT ¿ To what extent is the project strategy relevant to national priorities and ownership and involvement of the country? Is it the best way to get the desired results?			
Design			
Does the quality of the project hypotheses correspond to the problem? Did the quality of the hypotheses and the context affect the level of project achievement?	The project hypotheses are relevant to the problem. The level of project achievement was not affected by the quality of the hypotheses and the context influenced the achievement of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents. • Project team • Project Personnel. • Project partners and key stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. • Interviews with MINAE / ACLAP / CBIMA • Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees
Were lessons learned from other relevant projects adequately incorporated into the project design?	Experiences and lessons learned from other relevant projects were considered in the project design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents. • Project team • Project staff • Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. • Interviews with MINAE / ACLAP / CBIMA • Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees
Was the project concept aligned with national sector development priorities and plans for the country?	Degree to which the project supports the objective of sustainable environmental management of the National Development Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents on the country's National Development Strategy. • Project team • Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. • Interviews with MINAE / ACLAP / CBIMA • Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
Was the perspective of those who would be affected by decisions related to the project, those who could influence its results, and those who could contribute information or other resources during the project design processes taken into account during the project design processes? ?	Level of involvement of government officials and other partners in the project design process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project team Project staff. Partners and key stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. Interviews with MINAE / ACLAP / CBIMA Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees Interviews with MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
Were relevant gender issues raised in the project document?	The project considers relevant issues and budgets on gender issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project team Project staff. Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. Interviews with MINAE / ACLAP / CBIMA Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results framework / logical framework 			
To what extent do the project indicators meet the "SMART" criteria?	The mid-term and end-of-term goals meet the following criteria: Specific, Quantifiable, Achievable, Relevant and Subject to deadlines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project team Project Personnel. Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees UNDP M&E and Gender Experts
Are the objectives and results of the project or its components clear, practical and feasible to carry	The objectives and results of the or its components are clear, practical and feasible to carry out in the time defined for the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project team Project Personnel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team.

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
out during the time stipulated for its execution?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project partners and key stakeholders Project consultancy reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees.
Has it generated beneficial development effects or could it catalyze them in the future so that they should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis?	<p>The developmental effects are beneficial and can be catalyzed.</p> <p>These effects are included in the results framework and are monitored annually.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project team Project Personnel. Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees Interviews with MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
Are gender-disaggregated indicators and other indicators that capture development benefits included?	Indicators 'development' SMART include indicators disaggregated by gender and others that capture the benefits of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents Project reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. UNDP M&E and Gender Experts
Has the broader development and gender aspects of the project been effectively monitored?	Development and gender aspects are effectively monitored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project team Project Personnel. Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the project coordinator. UNDP M&E and Gender Experts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii . PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING RESULTS ¿ What is the degree of compliance with the objectives and desired results so far? 			
Analysis of progress in achieving results (Logical framework)	Project Component 1 (create favorable or enabling conditions (policies, technologies, markets and finances) for the delivery of multiple global environmental benefits in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project monitoring instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
	<p>productive landscapes and interurban biological corridors).</p> <p>Indicator 4: Inter-institutional agreement that formalizes the National System for Monitoring Changes in Land Use in Productive Landscapes (MOCUPP)</p> <p>Indicator 5: Number of inter-institutional agreements signed annually with SNIT, linking geo-referenced information with land ownership data and the most recent satellite images available; all available through SNIT / MOCUPP viewer</p> <p>Indicator 6: Number of agreements established with international buyers for the acquisition of products free from loss of forest cover</p> <p>Component 2 (Achieve multiple global environmental benefits (biodiversity conservation, reduced carbon emissions and increased carbon storage) in production landscapes in the ACLA-P buffer zone area and in the CBIMA), and in Specific Products 2.1 to 2.11 for the ACLA-P Region and from 2.12 to 2.23 for the CBIMA Region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress matrix in achieving results • Quarterly and annual progress reports • Project team • National policies and strategies • Project Personnel. • Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation in the field (direct implementation areas of the project) • Interviews with staff from partner organizations. Group interviews with people from beneficiary groups benefiting from the project, with special attention to gender issues.

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
	<p><i>Region 1: La Amistad Pacífico Conservation Area - ACLA-P</i></p> <p>Indicator 7: Area (ha) of landscape management tools that contribute to improving the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity established at the end of the project</p> <p>Indicator 8: Increase in biomass reserves (tCO₂eq) derived from landscape management tools</p> <p>Indicator 9: Reduction of CO₂e emissions on project farms</p> <p>Indicator 10: The relative abundance of key mammalian species (medium and large) and birds in ACLA-P remains stable</p> <p>Indicator 11: Number of farms verified as free from loss of forest cover</p> <p>Indicator 12: Change in annual income per farm and disaggregated by gender with verified increase in forest cover</p> <p><i>Region 2: María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor - CBIMA</i></p> <p>Indicator 13: Area (ha) intervened with landscape management techniques (inter - Cuban micro-</p>		

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
	<p>corridors , protection areas *, green mesh **) that contributes to the improvement of the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity at the end of the project</p> <p>* Rivers and riverbanks, buffer zones, aquifer recharge zones, drinking water catchment areas.</p> <p>** Urban parks, open urban spaces, tree-lined streets and avenues.</p> <p>Indicator 14: Increase in biomass reserves (tCO₂eq) due to increased reforestation. Reduction of CO₂e emissions in areas of influence of the CBIMA</p> <p>Indicator 15: Increase in the number (diversity) of bird species present in the CBIMA area</p> <p>Component 3 (Knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation) and specifically Products from 3.1 to 3.3.</p> <p>Indicator 16: Number of documents produced indicating the successful experiences of incorporating the objectives of biodiversity conservation, land management and carbon sequestration in productive landscapes and sustainable urban biological corridors in Costa Rica.</p>		

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
	Indicator 17: Change in the indices of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (CAP; this will be defined at the beginning of the project) as a result of environmental awareness and education at the sub-national and local level.		
How are the results achieved beneficial in terms of income generation, gender equality and empowerment of women?	The results so far have generated beneficial development effects in terms of income generation, gender equality and the empowerment of women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents. • Project team • Project Personnel. • Project partners and key stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. • Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees • Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iii . PROJECT EXECUTION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT Has the project been implemented efficiently, profitably and adapted to changing conditions so far? To what extent do the project's monitoring and evaluation, information and communication systems contribute to its execution? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management mechanisms 			
Have changes been made and are they effective? Are the responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision making transparent and carried out in a timely manner?	<p>Changes generated from the project interventions.</p> <p>Definition and execution of responsibilities and hierarchical lines.</p> <p>Execution of decision making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents. • Project monitoring instruments • Progress matrix in achieving results • Project team • Board of Directors and executing partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of progress data and documents. • Observation in the field (direct project implementation areas) • Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. • Interviews with MINAE / ACLAP / CBIMA • Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees • Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, ING, INVU, Municipalities.

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
What is the quality of execution of the executing agency / implementing partner (s)?	Execution by the executing agency of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project team Project Personnel. Partners and key stakeholders of the project. Project consultancy reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. Interviews with MINAE / ACLAP / CBIMA Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
Does the executing agency / implementing partner and / or UNDP and other partners have the capacity to provide benefits or involve women?	Level of involvement of women at all levels of Project execution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project monitoring instruments Progress matrix in achieving results Project team and implementing partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. Interviews with MINAE / ACLAP / CBIMA Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
What is the gender balance of the project staff? What measures have been taken to ensure gender balance in project staff?	<p>Number of women and men working on the project.</p> <p>Measures and practices (policies, guidelines) to guarantee gender balance in staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents (PRODOC, contracts or forms, reports). Project team and implementing partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. Interviews with MINAE / ACLAP / CBIMA Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees
What is the gender balance of the Project Board? What steps have been taken to ensure gender balance on the Project Board?	<p>Number of women and men on the Board of Directors.</p> <p>Measures and practices (policies, guidelines) to guarantee gender balance in staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents that contain information on the people of the Board of Directors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with Coordinator Interviews with UNDP staff .

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
		(including meeting reports, etc.). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project team and board members. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work planning 			
Are there delays in the start-up and implementation of the project, identify their causes? If they exist, have they already been resolved?	<p>Execution of activities according to the Multiannual Work Plan.</p> <p>Corrective measures for the execution of activities with delay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents (Multi-year Work Plan). Project monitoring instruments Progress matrix in achieving results Project team and implementing partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of progress data and documents. Observation in the field (direct project implementation areas) Interviews with Coordinator Interviews with the Project Board Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
Are the work planning processes results-based? If not, can you suggest ways to reorient work planning to focus on results?	Execution of activities within the Project Results Framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents (emphasis on Multi-Year Work Plan and Results Framework) and follow-up reports). Progress matrix in achieving results. Project team and implementing partners. Project board report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. Interviews with the Project Board Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
Is the project results framework / logical framework used as a management tool? Have there been any changes since the beginning of the project?	Execution of activities within the Project Results Framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents (emphasis on Multi-Year Work Plan and Results Framework) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the Coordinator and the project team. Interviews with MINAE / ACLAP / CBIMA

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
		and follow-up reports). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress matrix in achieving results. Project team and implementing partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with ACLAP / CBIMA Committees
Have there been impacts and challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Changes in the execution of the Project due to COVID 19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents (emphasis on Multi-Year Work Plan and Results Framework) and follow-up reports). Progress matrix in achieving results. Project team and implementing partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of progress data and documents. Observation in the field (direct implementation areas of the project). Interviews with the project team.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing and co-financing 			
How has the financial management of the project been? How has the profitability of the interventions been?	Budget execution according to interventions. Number of activities carried out. Results achieved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents (emphasis on Multi-Year Work Plan and Results Framework) and follow-up reports). Financial performance reports. Project team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of progress reports and financial documents. Interviews with the coordinator and administrator of the project UNDP staff (Financial area)
Have there been any changes in fund allocations as a result of budget revisions? Have these	Budget execution of the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial performance reports. Project team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of progress reports and financial documents. Interviews with the coordinator and administrator of the project

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
reviews been appropriate and relevant?			
Does the project have adequate financial controls, including appropriate information and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and that facilitate a flow of funds on time and in adequate terms?	Controls and instruments for budget execution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial performance reports. Project team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of progress reports and financial documents. Interviews with project coordinator and administrator UNDP staff (Financial area)
Is co-financing used strategically to help project objectives? Does the Project Team meet regularly with all co-financing partners to align financial priorities and annual work plans?	<p>Budget execution of the Project.</p> <p>Meetings of technical and financial coordination of executors and co-executors of the Project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial performance reports. Reports and memories of coordination meetings. Project team and co- executors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of progress reports and financial documents. Analysis of reports or coordination reports. Interviews with project coordinator and administrator Interviews with cofinanciadores .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and evaluation systems at the project level 			
Do the monitoring tools currently used provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Are they aligned with or incorporated into national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they profitable? Are additional tools required? How can they become more participatory and inclusive?	Project monitoring tools contain relevant information, involve partners, and are aligned with national systems. They use necessary information and are efficient and profitable, participatory and inclusive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Monitoring Tools. Related national systems. Project team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of progress reports and project documents. Analysis of the monitoring system used. Interviews with the coordinator, the project team and the person in charge of monitoring and follow-up.

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
Are sufficient resources allocated for monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources used effectively?	Allocation of resources for monitoring and evaluation according to requirements and their use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Monitoring Tools. • Budgets and budget execution. • Project team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of progress and financial reports. • Analysis of the monitoring system used. • Interviews with the coordinator, the project team and the person in charge of monitoring and follow-up.
Were relevant gender issues incorporated into monitoring systems?	Monitoring Systems are aligned with the monitoring of gender issues and account for their execution in that sense.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Monitoring Tools. • Project team • UNDP specialists (gender and M&E) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-based analysis in the Guide to Conducting Mid-Term Reviews of GEF-Funded and UNDP-Supported Projects for further guidance. • Gender and M&E specialist interviews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder involvement 			
Has the project developed and forged the right alliances, both with direct stakeholders and other tangential actors?	Alliances (established) are adequate, both with direct stakeholders and with other tangential agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents. • Project team • Project Personnel. • Partners and key stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the project team. • Interviews with partners, co-financiers and key stakeholders. • Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
Do local and national governments support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to play an active role in the decision-making of the project that contributes to its efficient and effective execution?	National and local governments support the project and play an active role in decision-making, influencing its efficiency and effectiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents. • Project team • Project Personnel. • Partners and key stakeholders in national and local governments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the project team. • Interviews with key stakeholders. • Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
To what extent has public awareness and involvement contributed to the progress made towards achieving the project objectives?	Involvement and public awareness in the progress made towards the achievement of the project objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project team Project Personnel. Partners and key stakeholders in national and local governments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the project team. Interviews with key stakeholders. Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
How does the project involve women and girls? Is the project likely to have the same positive and / or negative effects on women and men, girls and boys ? Identify, if possible, any legal, cultural or religious constraints on women's participation in the project. What can the project do to improve its gender benefits?	Involvement and effect on boys and girls in a differentiated way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents (emphasis on Multi-Year Work Plan and Results Framework) and follow-up reports). Progress matrix in achieving results. Project team and implementing partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of progress data and documents. Observation in the field (direct implementation areas of the project). Interviews with the project team. Interview and focus groups with women, men, girls and boys . Interview with consultants / experts on the subject of gender.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social and environmental standards (safeguards) 			
Are reviews needed on the risks identified in the project's most recent SESP and the ratings for those risks?	Risks identified in the project's most recent SESP and the ratings for those risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents SESP Project Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of progress reports and financial documents. SESP analysis. Interviews with the project team.
What and how have the reviews been performed since CEO approval / approval (if applicable) for: The risk categorization of the general safeguards of the project.	<p>Review and approval of the risk categorization of the project's general safeguards.</p> <p>Review and approval of the types of risks identified (in the SESP).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents SESP Project Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of progress reports and financial documents. SESP analysis. Interviews with the project team.

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
The types of risks identified (in the SESP). The individual risk ratings (in the SESP)?	Review and approval of individual risk ratings.		
• Information			
How have the mechanisms been used by the Project Management to report changes in adaptive management and communicate them to the Project Board?	Mechanisms for communicating changes in adaptive management and communicating them to the Project Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents • Documents and internal and external communication strategy of the Project. • Project team (with an emphasis on leadership). • Board of Directors of the Project. • Memories of meetings and communication reports to the Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the project coordinator and team. • Interviews with key stakeholders (Board members) • Interviews with project staff. • UNDP M&E Officer
To what extent do the Project Team and its partners carry out and comply with all the GEF information requirements?	Compliance with GEF information requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF guidelines documents. • Project documents and reports. • Project team. • GEF representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the coordinator and the project team. • Interviews with GEF representative and key stakeholders. • Interviews with UNDP staff • UNDP M&E Officer
How have the lessons from the adaptive management process	Documentation and dissemination of lessons derived from the adaptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information documentation and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the project team.

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
been documented and shared with and internalized by key partners?	management process with key partners and their internalization.	knowledge construction instruments (lessons learned). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents, processes and tools for internal and external communication. Project team. Key partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with key stakeholders. Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication and knowledge management 			
Is there regular and effective communication? Are there important stakeholders left out of the communication channels? Are there feedback mechanisms when the communication is received? Does communication with stakeholders contribute to the latter having a greater awareness of the results and activities of the project, and a greater commitment to the long-term sustainability of the results of the project ?	Regular and effective communication Parties interested in communication. Communication feedback mechanisms. Communication with stakeholders contributes to greater awareness of the results and activities of the project, and a greater commitment to long - term sustainability of the results of the same .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents, processes and tools for internal and external communication. Project documents. Project team. Key partners (stakeholders). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the project team. Interviews with key stakeholders. Interviews with Project personnel. UNDP M&E Officer
Have adequate external communication channels been established - or are they being established - to express project progress and desired public impact (eg is there a web presence?)? Did	Adequate external communication channels to express the progress of the project and the desired public impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents, processes and tools for internal and external communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the coordinator, the project team (emphasis on the communicator).

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
the project carry out adequate communication and public awareness campaigns?).	Communication and public awareness campaigns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project team. Key partners (stakeholders). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
What have been (in a enumerated way) the activities / knowledge products developed (based on the knowledge management approach approved in the CEO Endorsement / Approval)?	Knowledge activities / products developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents, processes and tools for internal and external communication. Project documents. Project team. Key partners (stakeholders). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the project team. Interviews with key stakeholders. Interviews with Project personnel. UNDP M&E Officer
• iv . SUSTAINABILITY			
Are the risks identified in the Project Document, the Annual Project Review / PIR and the Risk Management Module of ATLAS the most important? Are the risk assessments applied adequate and up-to-date? If not, why?	Risks identified in the Project Document, the Annual Project Review / PIR, and the ATLAS Risk Management Module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents (PRODOC, Annual Exam, PIR, High Management). Project monitoring instruments Project team Project staff. Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis (PRODOC, Annual Exam, PIR, Registration Management). Interviews with the project team. Interviews with key stakeholders. Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, IGN, INVU personnel.
What is the probability that the availability of economic resources will be reduced or ceased once GEF assistance ends (taking into account that potential resources	Financial risk factors for the sustainability of the Project results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents. Project monitoring instruments Project team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysis. Interviews with the project team. Interviews with key stakeholders.

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
can come from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income-generating activities and other resources that will be adequate to sustain the results of the project)?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project staff. • Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
Are there social or political risks that could jeopardize the sustainability of the project results? What is the risk that the level of ownership and involvement of stakeholders (including governments and other stakeholders) is insufficient to sustain project results / benefits? Are the various key stakeholders aware that it is in their interest to keep the benefits of the project flowing? Do the public and / or stakeholders have a sufficient level of awareness to support the long-term objectives of the project? Does the Project Team document lessons learned on an ongoing basis? Are they shared / transferred to the appropriate agents who are in a position to apply them and potentially replicate and / or expand them in the future?	Socio-economic risk factors for the sustainability of the Project results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents. • Project monitoring instruments • Project team • Project staff. • Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the project team. • Interviews with key stakeholders. • Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, ING, INVU personnel.
Do governance frameworks, policies, structures and processes present risks that could jeopardize	Institutional risk factors for the sustainability of the Project results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the project team. • Interviews with key stakeholders.

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources of documentation	Methodology
the continuity of project benefits? When evaluating this parameter, it is also necessary to take into account whether the systems / mechanisms required for accountability, transparency and technical knowledge are in place.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project monitoring instruments • Project team • Project staff. • Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, IGN, INVU personnel.
Are there any environmental risks that could jeopardize the continuity of the project results?	Environmental risk factors for the sustainability of the Project results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents. • Project monitoring instruments • Project team • Project staff. • Partners and key stakeholders of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document analysis. • Interviews with the project team. • Interviews with MINAE, SINAC, MAG, Corfoga, FUNCENAT, Municipalities, IGN, INVU personnel.

Source:. Own elaboration based on GEF guidelines.

Annex 6.3.: Itinerary of the RMT mission

Table 6.3.: Itinerary of the RMT mission

Date	Activity
February 01 - 04	Interviews
February 05	Visit CBIMA
February 08 - 11	Interviews
February 12	Visit Herradura de Pérez Zeledón Vista Juntas de Pacuare de Pérez Zeledón Vista Quebradas de Pérez Zeledón
February 13	Visit Los Angeles de Paramo Visit Quizarrá, Alexander Scott Biological Corridor
February 14	Perez Zeledón ADI Ujarrás, Buenos Aires. Bioley, Buenos Aires
February 05 - 16	Bioley, Buenos Aires
February 17	Carmen, Buenos Aires ADI Boruca; Buenos Aires
February 18 - 25	Interviews
February 29	Debriefing

Source: Self-made.

Annex 6.4.: List of people and actors consulted.

Table 6.4.: List of people and actors consulted.

#	Person interviewed	Institution / position / relationship with Project
1	Roy Rojas Fernández	ADI Ujarrás Brigade
2	Adams Méndez Arrieta	Beneficiary.
3	Adrián López Marín	Monserrat Urbanization Committee, La Unión
4	Adriana Moya Alvarado	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, CBIMA. Expert Architect
5	Aimaré Espinoza Ulate	SINAC, head of the San José Subregional Office. CBIMA. Project Board.
6	Alejandra Rivera	Monserrat Urbanization Committee, La Unión
7	Alexander Cruz	Herradura Brigade, Pueblo Nuevo de Rivas Pérez Zeledón
8	Alexis Quirós Solís	Beneficiary. Río Nuevo Pérez Zeledón. Savegre
9	Alicia Arias	Beneficiary
10	Alis Maria Badilla	AMACOAS
11	Alonso Mayorga Obando	ADI Ujarrás Brigade
12	Amanda Quirós	Beneficiary. Concepción de Tres Ríos Urbanization Los Llanos
13	Ana María Lobo Calderón	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, CBIMA. Expert Environmental Legislation.
14	Ana María Soto Vega	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, CBIM. Topography Expert.
12	Ana Quiros Montoya	ASOMUBI
16	Ana Sánchez	Monserrat Urbanization Committee, La Unión
17	Anaccede Montero Morera	Puntarenas, Coto Brus
18	Andrea Arce Castillo	Beneficiary.
19	Andrea Herrera	ASANA
20	Andrea Meza Murillo	Minister, Ministry of Environment and Energy.
21	Andrea Rodríguez (bosque urbano)	Monserrat Urbanization Committee, La Unión
22	Ángel Esterlín Rivera	Beneficiary.
23	Anthony Garcia	Beneficiary.
24	Armando Quirós Montoya	Monserrat urbanization committee, La Unión
25	Aron Solis Ceciliano	ADI Ujarrás Brigade
26	Aurelio Mora (presidente)	ADI BORUCA
27	Bellanira Salas Espinoza	Beneficiary. Palmira School
28	Benito González Alvarado	AMACOAS
29	Benjamín Hidalgo	Brigade. Herradura.
30	Blanca Rosa Mena Gamboa	Beneficiary.
31	Carla Padilla Salas	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, CBIMA. Forest engineering
32	Carlos chacon	Monserrat Urbanization Committee, La Unión
33	Carlo Ulcigrai	CORFOGA
3. 4	Carlos Lázaro	ADI BORUCA
35	Carolina Brenes Fallas	Beneficiary. Herradura

36	Celimo Montoya	ADI UJARRAS, Buenos Aires
37	Cornelia Miller Granados	Director PRIAS
38	Cristian Monge Mora	Brigade. Herradura, Pérez Zeledón
39	Darío Aramburo Rojas	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, ACLAP socio-productive projects. Agronomist Expert.
40	Didier Solano	Monserat Urbanization Committee, La Unión
41	Diego Gómez	Asada Gutierrez Braum
42	Diego Gómez López	Nursery, Municipality of Alajuelita
43	Doris Aguilar	Monserat Urbanization Committee, La Unión
44	Dunia Alvarado Cordero	Beneficiary. Fila Mendez, Pittier
Four. Five	Dylan Arias Durán	Beneficiary. St Geronimo
46	Elena Vargas Fonseca	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, ACLAP socio-productive projects. Environmental education. Expert Biologist.
47	Elieth Quirós Hernández	Los Angeles Brigade
48	Ema Gómez	Linda vista, granadilla, Curridabat
49	Emilce Castro Román	ADI Ujarrás Brigade
fifty	Erick Fonseca Ureña	AMACOAS
51	Erika Calderón Jiménez	INVU Legal Advisor. CBIMA. Project Board.
52	Esteban Cordero Mata	Beneficiary. Savegre. Río Nuevo Pérez Zeledón
53	Esteban Mora Valverde	ADI Herradura
54	Eva Maria Zamora Viquez	ASOMOVI
55	Evelyn Romero Barrantes	Beneficiary. Santa Maria Brunka
56	Federico Leyva(junta directiva)	ADI BORUCA
57	Floribeth fallas Pizarro	Beneficiary. Lourdes
58	Flory Elizondo Ortíz	Beneficiary. Row Mendez
59	Francela Elizondo B	Horseshoe Brigade
60	Francini Acuña Piedra	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, CBIMA. Geographer Expert.
61	Frank Guevara Vargas	Brigade. ADI Ujarrás
62	Gabriel Brenes Solís	Brigade. Los Ángeles.
63	Gerardo Badilla	Brigade. ADI Ujarrás
64	Gerardo Carvajal Garro	AMACOAS
65	Gervacio Obando Obando	Brigade. ADI Ujarrás
66	Gilberth Fallas	Beneficiary. St Geronimo
67	Gilberth fundación	Las Quebradas biological center
68	Gilberth Villegas	Asada. Gutierrez Braum
69	Gloria Muñoz González	Union Municipality, Environmental Manager. CBIMA technical committee:
70	Gothsac Acuña Arroyo	Los Angeles Brigade
71	Graddy picado Quirós	Beneficiary. Tres colinas.
72	Gravin Villegas	SINAC. Protected Areas Manager. ACLAP
73	Guillermo Alvarado	UNDP - Costa Rica. Technical team of the Expert Project in Forest Engineering ACLAP

74	Guiselle Solis Gonzales	ASOMOVI
75	Gustavo Lara Barquero	Montes de Oca Municipality, Environmental Management.
76	Henry Campos Agüero	Beneficiary. Beneficiary. Fila Mendez Pittier
77	Henry Eduardo Fallas Gutiérrez	Beneficiary. San Rafael de Brunka Buenos Aires
78	Hugo Solís Fallas	Coope Ángeles development association (Manager), Pérez Zeledón
79	Hugo Soto Agüero	CORFOGA, Brunca Region Promoter
80	Ileana Cisneros Vargas	Beneficiary. Montecarlo from Cajon Pérez Zeledón
82	Ileana Solís Blanco	Beneficiary.
83	Iliana Flores Salazar	Beneficiary. Tres Colinas of potrero grande in Buenos Aires
84	Jafet Rojas Mora	Beneficiary. San Francisco de Cajon
85	Janet Montero	AMACOAS, President
86	Jenaro Campos Zamora	Municipality San José. Department of Environmental Services.
87	Jenny Vargas Villanueva	Brigade. Herradura.
88	Jimmy Ureña Quiros	ASOMUBI
89	Joaquín Hidalgo Villanueva	Brigade. Herradura.
90	Joaquín Quesada Corrales	Nursery, Municipality of Alajuelita
91	Johana Aveldaño	Monserat Urbanization Committee, La Unión
92	Johana González (junta directiva)	ADI BORUCA
93	Jorge Fonseca Ureña	AMACOAS
94	Jorge Gamboa Zamora	Beneficiary. Santa Rosa, Río Nuevo.
95	Jorge Picado Barboza	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, ACLAP. Expert Biologist.
96	José Daniel Estrada Sánchez	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, UNDP. Knowledge management. Expert in Monitoring and evaluation.
97	José Jimmy Ureña Quirós	Beneficiary. Palmira.
98	José Manuel Retana Vindas	Municipality Curridabat. Environmental manager. CBIMA technical committee.
99	José Venegas Valverde	Brigade. Los Angeles
100	José Villa Herrera	UTRAIPZ
101	José Villanueva Ureña	Brigade. Herradura.
102	Juan Manuel Herrera Zeledón	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, ACLAP. Expert in Environmental Legislation
103	Juliana Navas Barquero	CONUBI
104	Karen Gómez Navarro	Volunteer, ADI Ujarrás
105	Karen Iveth Delgado Salazar	Beneficiary. Saint Sebastian
106	Katia Picado Benavides	ADI Herradura. Brigade. Herradura.
107	Kendri Venegas Mora	Nursery, ADI Los Angeles de Paramo
108	Kendry Venegas Mora	Bigrada. Los Angeles.
109	Kervin Fallas Valverde	Bigrada. Los Angeles.
110	Kifah Sasa Marín	UNDP - Costa Rica, Environment Officer.
111	Kimberly Madrigal Monge	Beneficiary. Palmira. Pittier .Coto Brus
112	Laura Thomson Ruiz	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, CBIMA. Environmental Educator Expert
113	Leticia Artavia Haug .	Beneficiary. Savegre. Río Nuevo, Pérez Zeledón

114	Liliana Vargas Guillén	Alajuelita Municipality, Forest Engineer. CBIMA technical committee.
116	Lorena Monge Castro	Nursery, ADI Los Angeles de Paramo
117	Luz Ermida Araya Badilla	Beneficiary. La Luchita Potrero Grande
118	Luz Maria Garcez Cisneros	AMACOAS
119	Mabelly Fernández Villalobos	Beneficiary. Monterrey, Pittier, Coto Brus, Puntarenas, Costa Rica
120	Mainor Mario Ruiz Díaz (viverista)	Nursery, Municipality San José
121	Mainor Sibaja Loria	CONUBI
122	Manuel Sancho Gutiérrez	CONUBI
123	Maria Cecilia Vindas Hernández	AMACOAS
124	Maria Elena Garro Hidalgo	AMACOAS
125	Maria Isabel Arias	ASOMOVI
126	María José Elizondo Campos	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, CBIMA. Geographer Expert.
127	Marilyn Rodríguez	CCT
128	Marín Arias Retana	AMACOAS
129	Mario Mena Garbanzo	Beneficiary. Curridabat
130	Marlen Navarro Zúñiga	Brigada. ADI Ujarrás
131	Marlín Astorga	Linda vista, granadilla, Curridabat
132	Marlín Astorga	Linda vista, granadilla, Curridabat
133	Marlín Monge Mora	Brigada. ADI Ujarrás.
134	Marlon Alfaro Cordero	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, ACLAP. Expert surveyor.
135	Marta Aguilar Varela	Director of the National Geographic Institute.
136	Martí Mora Ramos	Brigada. Herradura.
137	Marvin Rojas Díaz	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team, Expert in Visual Communication
138	Marvin Sancho Zúñiga	CORFOGA
139	Maureen Ballesteros Vargas	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team. Expert in institutional arrangements.
140	Mayela Montero Morera	Beneficiary. Fila Mendez Pittier District
141	Mayra Hidalgo Venegas	Beneficiary. Pueblo nuevo de Rivas
142	Mercedes Ramirez Arroyo	Brigada. ADI Ujarrás
143	Merilyn Altamirano Amador	Beneficiary. Santa Rosa, Brunca, Buenos Aires
144	Milena Obando Cerdas	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project technical team. Expert in Financial Administration.
145	Minor Quirós	MAG. ACLAP Technical Committee. Agricultural engineer.
146	Miriam Miranda Quirós	UNDP - Costa Rica. Project coordinator.
147	Moisés Delgado Rojas	Beneficiary. Altamira from Volcano Buenos Aires
148	Nayurel piedra García	Hatillo 2, San Jose
149	Nelson Torres	ACLAP, SINAC
150	Nely Fonseca Navarro	AMACOAS
151	Nidio Rivera Elizondo	CONUBI. (Asada de Bioley)
152	Nuria Villalobos Arias	Beneficiary. Row Mendez de Pittier
153	Olger Trejos Chavarría	Beneficiary. Monterrey

154	Oscar Fernández Fernández	Brigada. ADI Ujarrás
155	Oscar Iván Hernández Vásquez	Beneficiary. La Amistad neighborhood, Montecarlo, Cajón, Pérez Zeledón.
156	Oscar Muñoz Camarena	Nursery, Municipality of Alajuelita
157	Oscar Quesada	Nursery, Municipality of Alajuelita
158	Pedro López Amador	AMACOAS
159	Rafael Angel Espinoza	UTRAI PZ
160	Rafael Brenes f	ASECOME , Los Angeles
161	Rafael Monge Vargas	CENIGA Director
162	Rafaela Sánchez Mora	UNDP - Costa Rica. Gender Specialist Advisor.
163	Rolando Quirós Solís	Beneficiary. San Geronimo de San Pedro Pérez Zeledón
164	Ronald Chan Fonseca	SINAC. ACLAP Director.
165	Ronny bejarano arce	Beneficiary. San Pedro, Barrio Pinto
166	Ronny Rojas Solano	Beneficiary. Tres Colinas of Potrero Grande
167	Samir Acuña Arroyo	Brigada. Los Angeles
168	Santa Arroyo Álvarez	Brigada. Los Angeles
169	Saul Alvarado Pérez	Beneficiary. Palmyra
170	Schila Valverde M	Brigada. Los Angeles
171	Susan Vega Guillén	Beneficiary. Hatillo 2 lions park
172	Verónica Villarevia Vargas	Brigada. Rivas . Herradura.
173	Walter Fonseca Navarro	Brigada. ADI Ujarrás
174	Yariela Hernández Navarro	Beneficiary. Montecarlo de Cajón, Pérez Zeledón
175	Yeimy Altamirano Leiva	Beneficiary. Santa Rosa Brunka
176	Yeiner Calvo Román	Brigada. ADI Ujarrás
177	Yendri Suárez	ASOPROLA
178	Yennier calvo Román	Beneficiary.
179	Yeudi Mauricio Jiménez Álvarez	Beneficiary. Beneficiary. Monterrey, Pittier, Coto Brus, Puntarenas, Costa Rica.
180	Yordy Valverde López	Brigade. Los Ángeles de Páramo, Pérez Zeledón
181	Youdin Ríos Chaves	Beneficiary. Fila Mendez de Pittier
182	Zuly León	Beneficiary. Linda vista, granadilla, Curridabat

Fuente: Elaboración propia con base en la misión de campo.

Interview guide

Project Coordinator (An in-depth individual interview will be carried out with the questions below as a basis, and at the end of the round of interviews with other key stakeholders, a closing interview will be held to address issues that have remained pending or require some corroboration).

1. Regarding project design, was it aligned with national strategies, is it still relevant from your perspective? What adjustments would you consider necessary? Is the incorporation of the gender perspective relevant?
2. Regarding the logical framework, is it consistent with the actions carried out (and is it related to indicators and outputs)? It allows an adequate follow-up to the execution of the project.
3. From your perspective, what have been the main achievements and what factors have had an impact on achieving the same? And what have been the main limitations? Have there been any delays and what corrective measures are being taken?
4. Taking into account the organization chart of the Project, how is decision-making carried out? What is the relationship with the Technical Committee and with the Board of Directors (meeting frequency, decision-making process, accountability, etc.)?
5. As a particular emphasis, it is important to know how the people participating in the technical committees and in the BD were defined?
6. Regarding the financial management of the project, how have the resources been executed to date and the contributions of the co-financing ? Have there been important changes in the assigned items? How do you keep track of financial management and accountability?
7. How do you assess the strategic alliances with key players that have been established? Are there key actors / institutions that are not involved and who should be (public institutions, local governments, private companies, among others)? Do you consider that the project is influencing / sensitizing key sectors (governments, civil society, etc.)?
8. What is the relationship with GEF and the accountability processes? Do you think adjustments are required?
9. Regarding the communication of the project, how have the communication channels and contents and the audiences to whom it is addressed been defined, as well as the purposes for which these initiatives are developed?
10. From your perspective, what are the biggest challenges and advantages for the sustainability of the project?

In charge of Monitoring and Evaluation (individual in-depth interview)

1. Regarding the project design, how was it built and aligned with national strategies, is it still relevant from your perspective? What adjustments would you consider necessary? How was the gender perspective built and what key actors were involved?
2. Regarding the logical framework, is it consistent with the actions carried out (and is it related to indicators and outputs)? It allows an adequate follow-up to the execution of the project.
3. Regarding the monitoring and evaluation systems at the project level:
4. The monitoring tools currently used. Do they offer the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Are they aligned with or incorporated into national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they profitable? Are additional tools required. ¿ How they can be more participatory and inclusive?
5. From your perspective, are sufficient resources allocated for monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources used effectively?
6. How is the gender perspective incorporated in this monitoring?
7. From your perspective, what have been the main achievements and what factors have had an impact on achieving the same? And what have been the main limitations? Have there been any delays and what corrective measures are being taken?
8. How is the information gathered translated into lessons learned, technical knowledge, and content to communicate the project's achievements? How is this information incorporated into the management systems of the institutions involved?
9. From your perspective, what are the biggest challenges and advantages for the sustainability of the project?

Expert in gender issues (an in-depth individual semi-structured interview will be used)

This interview will be a little less structured, but emphasis will be placed on understanding how gender issues were considered in:

- The statement of the project problem and its design.
- In the Monitoring and Follow-up System (including the Logical Framework and in the follow-up to the achievement of results).
- In the decision-making structure of the Project (participation of women in the team, in the Board of Directors, the technical committees and in the beneficiary populations).
- Formulation and implementation of the gender plan.
- Way in which the inclusion of the gender perspective in the project could be improved.

In addition, the perspective of the expert will be addressed with respect to the way in which the project is influencing issues of gender inequality in the distribution of resources, participation in decision-making and management structures, among others. As well as the way in which the actions of the project are positively or negatively affecting women and girls.

In-depth individual interview with the project communicator

1. How is the internal and external communication of the Project carried out? (communication channels, content development, stakeholder engagement)?
2. How is the scope of communication products monitored (visits to web pages, social networks, etc.)?
3. What activities / knowledge products have been developed?
4. How is the information gathered translated into lessons learned, technical knowledge, and content to communicate the project's achievements? How is this information incorporated into the management systems of the institutions involved?
5. From your perspective, what are the biggest challenges and advantages for the sustainability of the project?

Project Technical Unit and Technical Committee.

This interview will be group interview and will be applied to the Technical Units of the project: at the central execution level (group A), ACLAP region (group B) and CBIMA region (group C). In turn, a group meeting will be held with the Technical Committee of both regions.

Before starting with the general questions, a short presentation will be requested (maximum 10 minutes for each person to present the work they develop and the achievements / barriers of the actions (in relation to the products they execute).

After that, the topics and questions that need to be answered in this MTR will be addressed in a general way. In general, this guide will include:

Design:

1. Regarding the project design, how was it built and aligned with national strategies, is it still relevant from your perspective? What adjustments would you consider necessary? How was the gender perspective built and what key actors were involved?
2. Do you consider that there are elements that can be recommended to improve the design?

Results framework:

3. Are the objectives and results of the project or its components clear, practical and feasible to carry out during the time stipulated for its execution? (¿Are they SMART?)
4. E I progress so far Has beneficial effects generated or could catalyze development in the future (eg in terms of income generation, gender equality and empowering

women, improving governance, etc.)? Are they all within the project results framework and are they monitored on an annual basis?

Progress in achieving results

5. How and to what extent are the expected results of the project being achieved?
6. What are the barriers or obstacles that the project has faced in advancing towards the goals stipulated in the progress matrix?
7. What factors have facilitated progress towards the goals stipulated in the progress matrix?
8. What changes (if any) could have been made to the project design to improve the achievement of the expected results?

Project execution and adaptive management

9. How effective has the Project management been as described in the Project Document -PRODOC?
10. Was adaptive management used or needed to ensure efficient use of resources?
11. How do you rate the quality of the support provided by UNDP?
12. Has the Project developed and forged appropriate alliances, both with direct stakeholders and with other tangential agents?
13. How do local and national governments support the objectives of the Project?
14. How has public involvement and awareness been raised and to what extent have they contributed to the progress made towards achieving the Project's objectives?
15. How is project management information compliant with GEF requirements, communicated to the Project Board, and lessons shared with and internalized by key partners?
16. Does the current planning approach and tools used effectively guide project management?
17. To what extent have financial management and co-financing been executed and how have they supported the implementation of the project actions?
18. How does monitoring and evaluation facilitate project management and results orientation?
19. With what actions would you strengthen the project management in the remaining period of execution?

Sustainability

20. To what extent are there financial, institutional, socio-economic and / or environmental risks to the long-term sustainability of the Project results?
21. How can the identified risks be overcome and managed in order to achieve the expected results of the project?

Board of Directors (semi-structured group interview)

1. Regarding the project design, how was it built and aligned with national strategies, is it still relevant from your perspective? What adjustments would you consider necessary? How was the gender perspective built and what key actors were involved?

2. Regarding the logical framework, is it consistent with the actions carried out (and is it related to indicators and outputs)? It allows an adequate follow-up to the execution of the project.
3. From your perspective, what have been the main achievements and what factors have had an impact on achieving the same? And what have been the main limitations? Have there been any delays and what corrective measures are being taken?
4. Taking into account the organization chart of the Project, how is decision-making carried out? What is the relationship with the Technical Committee and with the Board of Directors (meeting frequency, decision-making process, accountability, etc.)?
5. As a particular emphasis, it is important to know how the people participating in the technical committees and the Board of Directors defined themselves?
6. How are communication channels and decision execution channels established and executed between the Board of Directors and the Executing Unit, as well as with other actors / institutions involved?
7. Regarding the financial management of the project, how have the resources been executed to date and the contributions of the co-financing? Have there been important changes in the assigned items? How do you keep track of financial management and accountability?
8. How do you assess the strategic alliances with key players that have been established? Are there key actors / institutions that are not involved and who should be (public institutions, local governments, private companies, among others)? Do you consider that the project is influencing / sensitizing key sectors (governments, civil society, etc.)?
9. What is the relationship with GEF and the accountability processes? Do you think adjustments are required?

Focus groups in the field

At this point, it is difficult to present a detailed tool for collecting information in the field, however, during the information gathering sessions with key people or organizations, key information will be collected regarding:

- -Importance of the project for your community.
- -Activities executed and follow-up (relationship) with project executors.
- -Changes perceived on a personal and communal level in aspects: environmental, productive / income, social.
- -Recommendations for the execution of actions (possible corrective measures).

Consult the project beneficiaries

Consult beneficiaries of the Paisajes Productivos Project

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is executing a Mid-Term Review (RMT) of the project "Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica", also known as "Productive landscapes. Due to the importance of your opinion for this process, we send you this form and request your collaboration so that you can answer all the following questions. The information you provide is considered confidential. The questionnaire is answered online, from your mobile phone. We kindly ask you to click on the "send" option at the end of the form. This instrument can be shared with other people who have participated with you in the activities of the Productive Landscapes Project.

Name and surname

Direction

Phone number

Select the area of attention of the project where you have participated

Select all that apply.

María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor (CBIMA)

La Amistad Conservation Area (ACLAP)

Both

Indicate the name of the instance from which you have served.

* You can include the name of one of the following options: community, organization or institution.

Mention which is their role in the project

If you are a coordinator, liaison, official, participant of a brigade, member of the organization, beneficiary, or other position.

Mention the project activities in which you participated

Do you consider that the activities indicated by you respond to solving problems in your area?

Select all that apply.

Agree

In disagreement

None of the above

Justify the answer to the previous question (optional)

Mention the environmental achievements of the project

(These achievements are achieved from the activities carried out by the project)

Mention the achievements in production matters reached by the project

(These achievements are achieved from the activities carried out by the project)

Mention the achievements for the community achieved by the project
(These achievements are achieved from the activities carried out by the project)

Mention the personal achievements achieved through your participation in the project
(These achievements are achieved from the activities carried out by the project)

Has the project incorporated actions for equality between women and men, both for their participation and for the benefits achieved?

Agree

In disagreement

Neither agree nor disagree

Please explain your answer.

What would you recommend strengthening the project in the time you have left?

What would you recommend actions to achieve equity between women and men, regarding future benefits?

Annex 6.6.: Documents consulted

1. Calculation of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Index (CAP) in environmental matters for the communities surrounding the María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor (CBIMA) and the Amistad-Pacífico Conservation Area.
2. CONARE - CENAT, 2020. Final report of the results of the virtual tours for monitoring the productive landscapes of the MOCUPP in 2019. Project Conserving biodiversity through the management of productive landscapes in Costa Rica - MOCUPP. - San José, CR:
3. Costa Rica, 2021. Annual work report February 2020-January 2021. Achievements of the National Strategy for the Recovery of Urban Watersheds 2020-2030.
4. MINAE. 2019. Guideline No.-005-2019. "Reduction of gender gaps in the biodiversity sector -water, protected areas and forests-to ensure equality and the construction of women in said sector.
5. MINAE. Draft decree "Creation and operation of the National System for Monitoring the Coverage and Use of Land and Ecosystems (SIMOCUTE)".
6. MINAE / GEF / UNDP, 2019. Multidimensional Diagnosis: Analysis of the situation of the María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor.
7. Ministry of Environment and Energy, 2020. National Policy of Protection Areas for Rivers, Streams, Streams and Springs, 2020-2040. San José Costa Rica. 72pp.
8. UNDP. Indigenous Peoples Participation Plan. Biodiversity Conservation Project through Sustainable Management in Production Landscapes in Costa Rica. PRODOC.
9. MAG, 2020. Policy for inclusive development in the Costa Rican agricultural, fishing and rural sector 2020-2030 and its I Action Plan.
10. Minae. Monitoring change of use in productive landscapes (MOCUPP)
11. UNDP, 2019. Narrative reports. productive initiatives. PROJECT PIMS 5842 ID 00096514 "Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica".

Annex 6.7.: Rating scale of the RMT

Table 6.7.: Scales for the integral assessment of results

Ratings for Progress Towards Results: (one rating for each outcome and for the objective)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve or exceed all its end-of-project targets, without major shortcomings. The progress towards the objective/outcome can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve its end-of-project targets with major shortcomings
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	The objective/outcome is expected not to achieve most of its end-of-project targets
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome has failed to achieve its midterm targets, and is not expected to achieve any of its end-of-project targets.

Ratings for Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: (one overall rating)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all seven components – management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications – is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with some components requiring remedial action.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive, with most components requiring remedial action.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management

Ratings for Sustainability: (one overall rating)		
4	Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes on track to be achieved by the project's closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future
3	Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained due to the progress towards results on outcomes at the Midterm Review
2	Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on
1	Unlikely (U)	Severe risks that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained

Source: Terms of reference

Annex 6.8.: Annotations to the table tool alignment of indicators and products

Table 6.8: Annotations to the tool of the table alignment of the indicators of the logical framework and the products, according to the project strategy.

PROJECT: CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT IN PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES IN COSTA RICA OBJECTIVE. To mainstream biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and carbon sequestration objectives into production landscapes and urban biological corridors of Costa Rica.		
Indicador	Product/ ProDoc	Comments
1. Number of people benefiting directly from solutions for managing natural resources and ecosystem services, ensuring gender equality	<p>1.4 2000-2015 baseline study of total forest cover gains and losses within production landscapes.</p> <p>1.5: 2015 baseline study of total land cover of pastureland for cattle grazing and pineapple and palm oil crops.</p> <p>1.6 CeNAT-PRIAS staff trained in advanced classification techniques of satellite images and remote-sensing processing equipment and software for monitoring trends in forest cover and land use.</p> <p>1.7 SNIT online map viewer is updated and enhanced with new applications for users.</p> <p>2.1: Twenty (20) nurseries for endemic and native plant species established to support the landscape management tools.</p> <p>2.2: Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P support the implementation of LMTs.</p> <p>2.6: Land property registries, disaggregated by sex, for a 50-km2 area of production lands within the buffer zones of protected areas of the ACLA-P finalized and updated in the SNIT.2.3 Sistema MRV evalúa el impacto de LMT en la conservación de la biodiversidad derivados del financiamiento de las Iniciativas comunales socio-productivas en el ACLA-P.</p> <p>2.4: Risk mapping system for the prevention of forest fires includes the classification of vegetation to determine its combustion rate.</p> <p>2.9: Environmental education program led by ACLA-P in coordination with stakeholders associated with biodiversity and forest conservation in production landscapes.</p> <p>2.11. Local and institutional capacities for citizen participation and governance in production landscapes of the ACLA-P strengthened.</p> <p>2.13. Five municipalities in the MAIBC and other public entities sign joint action agreements for controlling solid waste and discharge into rivers and promoting the connectivity of urban green areas, conservation, and rehabilitation of riparian forests of the María Aguilar River and tributaries.</p> <p>2.15 Protocols for interinstitutional coordination to address issues related to discharges, elimination of solid wastes and illegal constructions on the banks of the María Aguilar River formalized.</p> <p>2.14: Delimitation of protection zones in compliance with Article 33 of the Forestry Law and Regulation includes contour maps.</p> <p>2.16 Delimitación de zonas de protección en cumplimiento con el Artículo 33 de la Ley Forestal y los Reglamentos, incluye mapas de contorno.</p> <p>2.21: Eight (8) nurseries established to support the LMTs.</p>	<p>Indicator 1 presents a simple conceptualization (coverage, product), however, the formulation necessary for its estimation is extremely complex, as it depends on the achievement of 13 outputs.</p> <p>For specific products, no indicators are presented, despite the fact that for achieving them they refer to important resources and actions.</p> <p>In addition, there is no "Indicator Reference Sheet" that explicitly indicates how to calculate the value achieved by indicating.</p> <p>Therefore, you must build a system of indicators and a simple "dashboard" (results dashboard). that contemplates the results of all the products.</p>

	<p>2.22: 16,000 individuals of endemic and native species of trees and shrubs planted in the MAIBC.</p> <p>2.23: Environmental education program led by SINAC for economic and social stakeholders associated with the conservation of biodiversity in the MAIBC.</p> <p>2.24: Communications strategy for the MAIBC.</p>	
2. Area (ha) of forest cover loss avoided in productive landscapes	<p>2.2 Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLAP support the implementation of LMTs.</p>	<p>This is an indicator of impact, whose causal logic is direct and clear.</p> <p>Product indicators can be added, in terms of the number of initiatives and the average amount financed. Thus, as an average avoided forest cover loss, in order to facilitate cost-effectiveness analysis at the end of the project.</p>
3. Interinstitutional agreement formalizes the National Monitoring System for Land Use Change in Production Landscapes (MOCUPP)	<p>1.1. Interinstitutional agreement/Ministry Decree formalizes the establishment, management arrangements, and financial sustainability of the MOCUPP as part of the SIMOCUTE, including annual monitoring of forest cover change and land degradation within agricultural production landscapes and interurban biological corridors in Costa Rica, as well as the review of current national forest policy and regulations.</p> <p>1.3 An agreed-upon long-term inter-institutional financial sustainability strategy to fund: i) forest cover monitoring services provided by the Council of State Universities (CeNAT-PRIAS) for the MOCUPP; ii) updating of the cadaster map, according to technical parameters provided by DRI to declare new cadaster zones that may be consulted via SNIT, including gender-disaggregated data; and iii) the continuous updating of the SNIT web-tool by the IGN.</p> <p>2.8. MINAE staff, municipal authorities, female and male judges, and female and male private producers informed about and trained in the MOCUPP and how to use it to enforce the Forestry Law.</p> <p>2.18. Government staff (MINAE, Ministry of Health, CENIGA, and INVU), authorities from five municipalities, male and female judges, women and men from the private sector, community members and other interested parties informed about and trained in the SNIT/MOCUPP and how to use it to enforce the Forestry Law and decision making in an urban environment.</p>	<p>This results that measures the indicator can be achieved with products 1.1 and 1.2., Mainly 1.1.</p> <p>For the four products, it is recommended to make indicators with their respective "Indicator Reference Sheet".</p> <p>A general observation applicable to several indicators is the form of writing, in the sense that for some it is not appropriate. For example, indicator 13 refers to an increase in biomass reserves, being the correct thing for the indicator to start as follows: "Biomass reserves (tCO2eq) derived from landscape management tools).</p>
4. Number of interinstitutional agreements signed annually with the SNIT, linking georeferenced information with land ownership data and the most recent and available satellite imagery, and available through the SNIT/MOCUPP viewer.	<p>1.2. Agreements with 15 institutions to provide updated georeferenced information to MOCUPP through the National Territorial Information System's (SNIT) Geoportal and associated services on a yearly basis so imagery may be tied to land property records.</p> <p>1.8. National repository of information for participatory ecological monitoring implemented collaboratively between public, private, and civil society stakeholders, including women, and linked to the National Ecological Monitoring Programme (PRONAMEC).</p> <p>2.13 Five municipalities in the MAIBC and other public entities sign joint action agreements for controlling solid waste and discharge into rivers and promoting the connectivity of urban green areas, conservation, and rehabilitation of riparian forests of the María Aguilar River and tributaries.</p>	<p>Due to what was analyzed in point _4.12, about the achievement of results, where it is mentioned that "as of the publication of Decree 42120-JP of February 12, 2020, which creates IDECORI (Spatial Data Infrastructure of Costa Rica) whose viewer is the SNIT, it is no longer required to sign agreements with institutions to provide georeferenced information ", the "Number of institutions that link georeferenced information" can be included for the remaining period of the project, as an indicator.</p>
5. Number of international buyers informed for the acquisition of products free	<p>1.10. At least 500 international companies informed that in Costa Rica they can purchase products that are verified as free of loss of forest cover and at least 5 agreements signed with national companies for the purchase of products from Costa Rica that are free of loss of forest cover and a number of producers subscribed to PROCOMER with a</p>	<p>Indicator 6 was changed, the previous one being "Number of agreements established with international buyers for the acquisition of products free from loss of forest cover." This new indicator is</p>

from loss of forest cover.	differentiated registry that their products are free of forest coverage loss. 2.10. <i>Verification system for production units free of loss of forest cover designed and discussed in multi-stakeholder workshops and piloted within the ACLA-P.</i>	relevant to the possibilities that the project has. This is an effect indicator (products free from loss of forest cover), which matches well with result 1.10.
6. Area (ha) of landscape management tools that contribute to improving the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity established at the end of the project	2.1 <i>Twenty (20) nurseries for endemic and native plant species established to support the landscape management tools.</i> 2.2. <i>Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P support the implementation of LMTs.</i>	In addition, the outcome that this indicator seeks can be fed by the results of OUTPUT 2.22. Likewise, an improvement in the wording of the indicator and the definition of the "Indicator Reference Sheet" is recommended. Thus, as the definition of indicators for the products. e.g. "The quantity of trees produced by the nurseries." A way to state this indicator is: "Land area (has) with landscape management tools that contribute to improving the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity established at the end of the project"
7. Increase in biomass reserves (tCO2eq) derived from landscape management tools	2.2. <i>Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P support the implementation of LMTs.</i> 2.22 <i>16,000 individuals of endemic and native species of trees and shrubs planted in the MAIBC.</i>	Likewise, an improvement in the wording of the indicator and the definition of the "Indicator Reference Sheet" is recommended. A way to state this indicator is: "Biomass reserves (tCO2eq) derived from landscape management tools"
8. Reduction of CO2e emissions on project farms	2.2 <i>Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P support the implementation of LMTs.</i> 2.4. <i>Sistema de mapeo de riesgos para la prevención de incendios forestales incluyendo la clasificación de vegetación para determinar su nivel de combustión.</i>	Likewise, an improvement in the wording of the indicator and the definition of the "Indicator Reference Sheet" is recommended. Thus, as the definition of indicators for the products. A way to state this indicator is: "CO2e emissions generated in the farms participating in the project"
9. The relative abundance of key mammalian species (medium and large) and birds in ACLA-P remains stable	1.8. <i>National repository of information for participatory ecological monitoring implemented collaboratively between public, private, and civil society stakeholders, including women, and linked to the National Ecological Monitoring Programme (PRONAMEC).</i> 2.5. <i>Pilot project for the implementation of the PRONAMEC in ACLA-P includes an interactive online platform for the exchange of information.</i>	The definition of the "Indicator Reference Sheet" is also recommended.
10. Number of farms verified as free from loss of forest cover	1.9. <i>25% of the agricultural, pineapple, and pasture production units verified as free of loss of forest cover by MINAE</i> 2.2. <i>Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P support the implementation of LMTs.</i>	The "Indicator Reference Sheet" is also recommended.
11. Change in annual income per farm and disaggregated by gender with	2.1 <i>Twenty (20) nurseries for endemic and native plant species established to support the landscape management tools.</i> 2.2. <i>Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLA-P support the implementation of LMTs.</i>	Likewise, an improvement in the wording of the indicator and the definition of the "Indicator Reference Sheet" is recommended.

verified increase in forest cover		A way to state this indicator is: "Annual income per productive initiative and disaggregated by gender with verified increase in forest cover"
12. Area (ha) intervened with landscape management techniques (inter-Cuban micro-corridors, protection areas *, green mesh **) that contributes to the improvement of the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity at the end of the project * Rivers and river banks, buffer zones, aquifer recharge zones, drinking water catchment areas. ** Urban parks, open urban spaces, tree-lined streets and avenues.	2.22 16,000 individuals of endemic and native species of trees and shrubs planted in the MAIBC. 2.24 Communications strategy for the MAIBC.	The definition of the "Indicator Reference Sheet" is also recommended.
13. Increase in biomass reserves (tCO ₂ eq)	2.1. Twenty (20) nurseries for endemic and native plant species established to support the landscape management tools. 2.2. Financing of socio-productive community initiatives in the ACLAP support the implementation of LMTs. 2.17. Gains and losses of forest cover within the MAIBC for years 2017, 2018, and 2019. 2.18: Baseline study of urban land and forest cover (2015) as part of the MOCUPP annual monitoring of urban encroachment on natural habitat.	Likewise, an improvement in the wording of the indicator and the definition of the "Indicator Reference Sheet" is recommended. Thus, as the definition of indicators for the products. A way to state this indicator is: "biomass reserves (tCO ₂ eq) due to increased reforestation. Reduction of CO ₂ e emissions in areas of influence of the MAIBC" A way to state this indicator is: "Biomass reserves (tCO ₂ eq) due to increased reforestation in the project areas".
14. Presence of migratory bird species in the MAIBC remains stable	2.16. Environmental assessment for the MAIBC completed.	Likewise, an improvement in the wording of the indicator and the definition of the "Indicator Reference Sheet" is recommended. A way to state this indicator is: "Number (diversity) of bird species present in the MAIBC area"
15. Number of documents on successful		The definition of the "Indicator Reference Sheet" is also recommended.

<p>experiences about the incorporation of conservation biodiversity objectives, land management, and carbon sequestration in sustainable production landscapes and interurban biological corridors in Costa Rica.</p>		
<p>16. Change in the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices indices (KAP; this will be defined at the beginning of the project) as a result of environmental awareness and education at the sub-national and local level</p>	<p>2.9 <i>ACLA-P in coordination with actors involved with the conservation of biodiversity and forests in productive landscapes</i></p> <p>2.21 <i>Environmental education program led by SINAC for economic and social actors related to biodiversity conservation.</i></p> <p>2.24: <i>Communications strategy for the MAIBC.</i></p> <p>3.1: <i>The experiences and lessons learned from monitoring changes in land cover, biodiversity, carbon emissions and stocks, and gender equality and women's empowerment on production landscapes in ACLA-P systematized.</i></p> <p>3.2: <i>The experiences and lessons learned from monitoring changes in land cover, biodiversity, carbon emissions and stocks, and gender equality and women's empowerment in the MAIBC systematized in guideline documents and toolboxes to inform future urban policy.</i></p> <p>3.3. <i>Thematic studies and other knowledge documented, and communication and public awareness materials with a gender perspective produced and available for dissemination.</i></p>	<p>The definition of the "Indicator Reference Sheet" is also recommended.</p>

Source: Modified from the information obtained from the project files.

Annex 6.9.: Progress matrix in achieving project outcomes.

Table 6.9. Matrix of progress in the achievement of outcomes (results obtained in comparison with the goals for the end of the project)

Project strategy	Indicator	Initial reference level	Level in the 1st PIR (self-reported JUN 2019)	Report level in 2020	Midterm Goal	Goal at Project End	Level and Mid-Term Assessment	Assessment of achievements	Justification of the evaluation
Objective of the project: Generalize the issue of biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and carbon sequestration objectives in productive landscapes and urban biological corridors in Costa Rica	The project has a highly satisfactory appraisal and is on track to achieve its goals and development objective. Through its contribution, it has benefited 21,569 people, 11,217 men and 10,352 women. The area (ha) of forest cover loss avoided by the project in productive landscapes is 3708.61, 3559.67 ha in the ACLA-P and 148.94 ha in the MAIBC. The area (ha) of improved connectivity between productive landscapes, protected areas and green fabric is 968.21 ha, of which 480 ha are from ACLAP and 488.21 ha are from MAIBC. There is a draft Decree to formalize SICOMUTE pending approval and an Executive Ministerial Order (No. 0006-2020) signed by MINAE instructing the ministerial units to use the MOCUPP. With the creation of IDECORI, the public sector will coordinate the publication of geographic information without the need for bilateral agreements.								
	Mandatory indicator 1 (UNDP): Number of people who directly benefit from solutions for the management of natural resources and ecosystem services, ensuring gender equality	Direct: 0 ACLA-P: 0 MAIBC: 0	Direct: 7337 ACLA-P: 1120 (280 farms 4 x family) 680 men 452 women MAIBC: 6217 3167 women 3050 men	Direct: 500 farms 21569 - 11217 M - 10352 H ACLA-P: 2952 - 1602 H - 1350 M MAIBC 18617 - 9867 M - 8750 H	Direct: ACLA-P: 160 (40 farms) MAIBC: 25,000	Direct: ACLA-P: 400 100 farms) MAIBC: 25,000	Direct: 560 farms 21569 - 11217 M - 10352 H ACLA-P: 2952 - 1602 H - 1350 M MAIBC 18617 - 9867 M - 8750 H	HS	The farms that received services from the project exceed the goal established by 40% of the goal at the end of the project. It is 14% away from achieving the goal of direct beneficiaries. (despite the fact that the data used corresponds to June 2020) The balance between women and men (52% / 48%) is fair. In addition, there is evidence of high levels of participation, leadership and empowerment of women. It is highly probable that the indicated results will increase to the project completion date.
	Project indicator 2: Area (ha) of forest cover loss avoided	- - ACLA-P: 0 (699.9 ha of annual forest cover loss)	ACLA-P: 1327 ha MAIBC: 148.94 ha	ACLA-P: 3559.67 ha under protection	ACLA-P: 287 ha	ACLA-P: 1327 ha	ACLA-P: 3559.67 ha MAIBC:	HS	In ACLAP the final goal is exceeded by 250%.

	in productive landscapes	- - MAIBC: 0 ha	<p>- Total Project: 1475.94 ha</p> <p>In MAIBC, 148.94 has been mapped and the project is working with institutions, local governments and local communities to protect them and prevent the loss of forests from this riparian forest.</p>	<p>(primary and secondary forest connecting corridors, includes IP and sustainable livestock.</p> <p>Identified 262.34 ha with topographic and registration processes in the 50km2 of buffer zone.</p> <p>MOCUPP: monitoring tool.</p> <p>MAIBC: 148.94 riparian zones in delimited protected areas and must be protected. Identified 875. 61 ha of green plot.</p>	MAIBC: 148,94 ha	MAIBC: 148,94 ha	148.94		In the MAIBC 100 of the final goal was met.
						Total 1475,94 ha	Total 3708,61		
Component 1: Favorable enabling conditions (policies, technologies, markets and finance) to	Regarding component 1, progress was satisfactory (and has the possibility of achieving highly satisfactory results) to enable policies, institutional arrangements, community participation and market conditions to generate multiple global environmental benefits (GEB) in production landscapes: 1) in a satisfactory manner by having a draft decree to formalize SICOMUTE, pending approval in parliament; 2) in a highly satisfactory manner, an Executive Ministerial order of the MINAE (No 0006-2020) signed instructing the ministerial units to use the MOCUPP in the monitoring of changes in land use; and 3) A satisfactory draft of the SINAC Modernization Law Project (amendment to article 43 of the Forestry Law No. 7575 on the distribution of the tax on timber, which allocates 4% of the collection to support the financing of GIS platforms); 4) highly satisfactory with the training of 601 people in MOCUPP topics; and 5) highly satisfactory in relation to the institutional agreements required to consolidate the SNIT, with the publication of the Decree (42120-JP of February 12, 2020), which creates IDECORI, which instructs public institutions to provide information to the SNIT without the need for bilateral agreements.								

generate multiple global environmental benefits in productive landscapes and managed urban biological corridors	Progress is being made in a satisfactory manner, in relation to the international buyers informed for the acquisition of products free of loss of forest cover, the project is supporting production free of loss of forest cover and developing steps to establish the seal / formal verification system for the placement of these products in differentiated markets								
	Indicator 4: Inter-institutional agreement that formalizes the National System for Monitoring Changes in Land Use in Productive Landscapes (MOCUPP)	0	<p>Under review: Draft decree to formalize the National Forest Cover and Use Monitoring System (SIMOCUTE) operated by MINAE.</p> <p>Analysis of integration of MOCUPP to SIMOCUTE.</p> <p>240 people (62 women and 78 men) in MOCUPP activities.</p> <p>Meetings with key institutions.</p>	<p>Decree awaiting officialization. The SIMOCUTE (draft Decree) is being formalized, which includes the MOCUPP and proposes a strategy to use this tool in the management of the environmental sector.</p>	<p>Draft of Interinstitutional Agreement</p>	<p>Interinstitutional Agreement published</p>	<p>Draft Decree to formalize SIMOCUTE in the legislative stream for its approval.</p> <p>Executive Ministerial Order (N ° 0006-2020) signed by MINAE instructing the ministerial units to use the MOCUPP in monitoring changes in land use.</p> <p>Draft SINAC Modernization Law Project (amendment to article 43 of Forestry Law No. 7575 on the distribution of the tax on timber, which allocates 4% of the collection to support the financing of GIS platforms)</p>	S	<p>The exit of the former Minister of the Environment Carlos Manuel Rodríguez and the institutional dynamics delayed the formalization of the decree. In addition, there are capacities in the institutions and a strategy to give MOCUPP sustainability. The advocacy work during the first semester must be strong to achieve the approval of the two legal instruments. In addition, MOCUPP approval must be considered before CONAC, which will be feasible in the remaining period of the project.</p>

							601 people (255 women and 346 men) on MOCUPP issues.		
	Indicator 5: Number of inter-institutional agreements signed annually with SNIT, linking geo-referenced information with land ownership data and the most recent satellite images available; all available through SNIT / MOCUPP viewer Indicator	0	5 draft institutional agreements to consolidate the SNIT / MOCUPP with land ownership data and available satellite imagery viewer are on the way with the following institutions	The creation of the Decree that instructs public institutions to supply information to the SNIT without the need for bilateral agreements, makes this product not relevant	5 agreements	11 agreements	Although this indicator is not relevant before the signing of the Decree (42120-JP of February 12, 2020), which creates IDECORI, which instructs public institutions to feed information to the SNIT without the need to make bilateral agreements.	S	With the creation of IDECORI, the need for the planned inter-institutional agreements will no longer be necessary, since the decree has an institutional scope for its application to the entire public sector. However, for this result to be satisfactory, it is necessary to institutionalize the MOCUPP, through the decrees pending officialization.
	6: "Number of international buyers informed for the acquisition of products free from loss of forest cover." ³⁷	0	No progress	500 international companies informed that in CR they can buy products with the free verification of loss of forest cover (MOCUPP).	5	10	To date, important advances have been made to support production free from loss of forest cover and steps are being taken	S	To date, important advances have been made to support a free from loss of forest cover production and steps are being taken to establish the seal / formal verification system for the placement of these products in differentiated markets.

³⁷ Modified indicator, previously "Number of agreements established with international buyers for the acquisition of products free from loss of forest cover", by "Number of international buyers informed for the acquisition of products free from loss of forest cover".

				5 agreements signed with national companies for the purchase of Costa Rican products free from loss of forest cover and Number of producers registered in PROCOMER with a differentiated record that their products are free from loss of forest cover.			to establish the seal / formal verification system for the placement of these products in differentiated markets.		
Component 2: Multiple global environmental benefits (biodiversity conservation, reduction in carbon emissions, greater carbon sinks) are generated in the productive landscapes in the forest zone of the ACLA-P buffer area (Region 1) and the	<p>Regarding component 2: Progress was made in a highly significant way.</p> <p>1. In general, highly satisfactory results were obtained in the La Amistad Pacifico Conservation Area ACLA-P.</p> <p>2. In general, satisfactory results were obtained in Region 2: María Aguilar MAIBC Interurban Biological Corridor.</p> <p>Region 1: La Amistad Pacifico Conservation Area - ACLA-P</p> <p>It was possible to improve the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity, through the concretion of 300 has of Micro corridors and 800 has of silvopastoral systems in a highly satisfactory way and exceeding the goal for the mid-term.</p> <p>The biomass reserves derived from LMT were increased by 94,052 tCO₂e and a total reduction of 18,944 tCO₂e / year in CO₂e emissions on project farms, in a highly satisfactory manner.</p> <p>Highly satisfactory The presence of key bird species in the ACLA-P remains stable: Quetzal (Pharomachrus mocinno), Three-wattled bellbird (Procnias tricarunculata) and Great tinamu (Tinamus major). Tracking other species</p> <p>There is satisfactory progress in the avoided loss of forest cover in an area of 3,559.67 hectares in farms where integrated production systems are being promoted or where there is forest and 262.34 hectares (made up of primary and secondary forests) with potential to be part of the pilot.</p> <p>In a highly satisfactory way, the identification of 560 farms and in implementation 8944.73 ha of silvopastoral systems with the potential to be verified as free from loss of forest cover by means of MOCUPP has been achieved.</p> <p>Work is being done on 27 financed productive initiatives which are on the way to improve annual income with a verified increase in forest cover, satisfactorily.</p>								
	Indicator 7: Area (ha) of landscape management tools that contribute to	Micro corridors: 0	Micro corridors: 345 ha	480 hectares in micro-corridors	Micro corridors: 300 ha	Micro corridors: 700 ha	The data report is the same as the	HS	Mid-term goals exceeded for results for Micro-corridors (300 ha) Silvopastoral systems (800).

Biological Corridor Interurban María Aguilar (Region 2) Outcomes: Region 1: ACLAP 2.1. Connectivity and biodiversity conservation between production landscapes and ACLAP's protected areas are increased over 700 ha of micro corridors and 2,000 ha of silvopastoral systems through the implementation of Landscape management tools (LMTs). 2.2. Increase of forest cover and carbon storage within in the ACLAP buffer zone's	improving the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity established at the end of the project	Silvopastoral systems: 0	Silvopastoral systems: 982 ha	1,170 hectares of silvopastoral system	Silvopastoral systems: 800 ha	Silvopastoral systems: 2,000	previous period: 480 hectares in micro-corridors 1,170 hectares of silvopastoral systems		It is very close to achieving the Goals by the end of the project: with an execution of 69% in micro-corridors, and 58% silvopastoral systems.
	Indicator 8: Increase in biomass reserves (tCO ₂ eq) derived from landscape management tools	0 tCO ₂ eq		A total increase of 94,052 tCO ₂ eq has been estimated in biomass reserves	35,121.5 tCO ₂ eq	85,649.6 tCO ₂ eq	The data report is the same as the previous period:	HS	The indicator exceeded by 9.80% with respect to the final goal
	Indicator 9: Reduction of CO ₂ e emissions on project farms Indicator	- 28,465.0 tCO ₂ e/año debido a pérdidas en plantaciones forestales		Estimated a total reduction of 18,944 tCO ₂ e / year in CO ₂ e emissions in the project farms	14,232.5 tCO ₂ e /año	14,232.5 tCO ₂ e /year	94,052 tCO ₂ eq in biomass reserves	HS	The indicator exceeded by 33% with respect to the final goal
	10: The relative abundance of key mammalian species (medium and large) and birds in ACLAP remains stable	Mammals -Ocelot (Leopardus pardalis) - Collared peccary (Pecari tajacu) - Red brocket (Mazama americana) Birds -Quetzal (Pharomachrus mocinno)	Training program at the community level for BD monitoring: 19 workshops 74 men 110 women 13 communities. Formation of participatory brigades for Monitoring. Brigades in training on digital platforms (E-Bird, Merlin and naturalist)	Online survey was conducted in communities, citizen science reports (through biological monitoring applications such as e-birds) and camera traps. Until June 2020 the	Mammals -Ocelot (Leopardus pardalis) - Collared peccary (Pecari tajacu) - Red brocket (Mazama americana) Birds -Quetzal (Pharomac	Mammals -Ocelot (Leopardus pardalis) - Collared peccary (Pecari tajacu) - Red brocket (Mazama americana) Birds -Quetzal (Pharomachrus mocinno)	Consolidated 17 Participatory Species Monitoring Brigades to monitor and identify the presence of birds and mammals. And 13 Forestry Brigades.	HS	The project advances in the monitoring of species initially established for ACLAP. In addition, the list of reported species increased and the number of planned brigades

farms leading to: i) 85,649.6 tCO₂e biomass stocks derived from LMTs. ii) Reduction in 14,232.5 tCO₂e /year emissions in project farms. iii) Presence of key bird species in the ACLA-P remains stable: Quetzal (Pharomachus mocinno), Three-wattled Bellbird (Procnias tricarunculata), and Great tinamou (Tinamus major) 2.3. 820 ha of avoided loss in forest cover by project end (reduction of forest cover loss from 699.9 ha/yr. to 535.9 ha/yr.) 2.5. 50 farms verified as		- Three-wattled bellbird (Procnias tricarunculata) - Black-faced solitaire (Myadestes melanops) - Great tinamou (Tinamus major)	Review of Protocol and Methodology for Participatory Monitoring	data capture shows information on mammals and birds (types and% of views and% of people who have seen species)	hrus mocinno) - Three-wattled bellbird (Procnias tricarunculata) - Black-faced solitaire (Myadestes melanops) - Great tinamou (Tinamus major)	- Three-wattled bellbird (Procnias tricarunculata) - Black-faced solitaire (Myadestes melanops) - Great tinamou (Tinamus major)	A total of 380 species identified in participatory monitoring. The specific species report and survey data remains the same as the previous period.		
	Indicator 11: Number of farms verified as free from loss of forest cover	0	280 farms and their sustainable practices on the baseline. a verification data will be incorporated (with information from MOCUPP) on how many of these farms have achieved a production free of loss of forest cover	500 farms involved. 1,170 hectares of silvopastoral systems	25 farms	50 farms	560 farms are part of the project and in implementation on 8,944.73 ha of silvopastoral systems with the potential to be verified as free from loss of forest cover.	HS	The final goal of the project was exceeded. The Incas verified as free from loss of forest cover were obtained 11 times and 6.5 times more from silvopastoral systems with the potential to be verified as free from loss of forest cover.
	Indicator 12: Change in annual income per farm and disaggregated by gender with verified increase in forest cover	Agricultural farms: average income is \$ 440.10 per month (annual is about \$ 4,401). - Male income: \$ 437.45 \$ 5,249.4 per year).	.	Socio-economic baseline produced at the beneficiary level. Baseline and goals in process	- Male income: \$ 437.45 per month (\$ 5,249.4 per year). - - - Women's income: \$ 339.99 per month (\$ 4,079.88 per year).	Income for men: \$ 481.19 per month (\$ 5,774.34 per year). - - Women's income: \$ 373.99 per month (\$ 4,487.87 per year).	Information on changes in income is not yet available.	S	The productive initiatives financed with are on track to bear fruit in the short term.

<p>free of loss of forest cover</p> <p>2.6. Change in annual income per initiative and disaggregated by gender with verified increase in forest cover (baseline and targets will be determined during project implementation)</p> <p>Region 2: MAIBC</p> <p>2.7. Increase of biological diversity, forest cover and carbon storage within the MAIBC leading to: i) 2,050 hectares of landscape management tools (micro</p>		- Women's income: \$ 339.99 (\$ 4,079.88 annually).							
	<p>Region 2: María Aguilar Interurban Biological Corridor MAIBC</p> <p>In the MAIBC contributed to the improvement of the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity: 1) In a satisfactory way, the intervention of 175.47 ha of micro-corridors, 161.54 ha of protected areas and 151.22 ha of green fabric ; 2) Moderately unsatisfactory, biomass reserves (tCO2eq) were increased by sowing 8200 species and 935, 71 Tons of Carbon; and 3) Satisfactory, a number of bird species (70) have been reported and the presence of the Summer Tanager (1%) and the Baltimore Oropendola (1.75%) have been confirmed. 148.94 hectares have been mapped satisfactorily and the project is working with institutions, governments and local communities to protect them and prevent the loss of forests in this riparian forest.</p>								
	<p>Indicator 13: Area (ha) intervened with landscape management techniques (inter-Cuban micro-corridors, protection areas *, green mesh **)</p> <p>that contributes to the improvement of the connectivity of ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity at the end of the project</p> <p>* Rivers and riverbanks, buffer zones, aquifer recharge zones, drinking water catchment areas.</p> <p>** Urban parks, open urban spaces, tree-lined streets and avenues.</p>	<p>Micro-corridors: 0</p> <p>-Protection zones: 0</p> <p>-Urban green areas: 0</p>	<p>Micro corridors: 153.44</p> <p>Protection areas: 148.94 ha</p> <p>Urban green areas: 122, 87 ha</p>	<p>Micro corridors: 175,47 ha.</p> <p>Protection áreas: 161,54 ha.</p> <p>Urban green areas: 151,22 ha.</p>	<p>Micro corridors: 400 ha</p> <p>Protection areas: 20 ha</p> <p>Urban green areas: 500 ha</p>	<p>Micro-corridors 1,000 ha</p> <p>Protection areas: 50 ha</p> <p>Urban green areas: 1,000 ha</p>	<p>The reported indicator is the same:</p> <p>Micro-corridors: 175.47 ha.</p> <p>Protected areas: 161.54 ha.</p> <p>Urban green areas: 151,22 ha.</p>	S	<p>The indicator for protected areas has been exceeded by more than three times that established by the end of execution. What is important for the protection of the last strongholds of natural forests. The progress in terms of the green plot and micro-corridors indicator has reached a little less than half of the ha established for the middle of the period. However, efforts are being made to advance on these two issues.</p>

<p><i>corridors, protection zones , and urban green areas) increase connectivity and conserve biodiversity within MAIBC. ii) 91,336.67 tCO₂eq of biomass stocks derived from LMTs (target will be confirmed during project implementation).</i></p> <p><i>iii) Presence of migratory bird species in the MAIBC remains stable: Summer tanager (Piranga rubra) and Baltimore oriole (Icterus galbula). 2.2. X ha of avoided loss in forest cover by project end (reduction of forest cover loss from X</i></p>	<p>Indicator 14: Increase in biomass reserves (tCO₂eq) due to increased reforestation. Reduction of CO₂e emissions in areas of influence of the MAIBC</p>	<p>– 0 tCO₂eq</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>8200 species sown. They involve: 456, 07 Tons of Carbon, 2020: 479.64 Tons of Carbon, TOTAL: 935, 71 Tons of Carbon.</p>	<p>45,668.33 tCO₂eq (The goal will be confirmed during project implementation)</p>	<p>91,336.67 tCO₂eq (The goal will be confirmed during project implementation)</p>	<p>935, 71 tCO₂eq</p>	<p>MI</p>	<p>Under the established goal, the level of reach in the biomass reserves and the reduction of emissions is very low, being 2% (approx.) Of the established goal. It will be necessary to adjust the goal towards more realistic parameters</p> <p>The goal set is not feasible because the MAIBC is occupied by about 75% of the cemented area, with a low forest cover (around 3000 ha) and the planting on public lands is limited by 14 existing settlements in precarious conditions.</p>
	<p>Indicator 15: Increase in the number (diversity) of bird species present in the MAIBC area</p>	<p>Summer tanager (Piranga rubra) -Baltimore oriole (Icterus galbula) –</p>	<p>Presence of summer tanager and Baltimore oriole was verified (within the framework of the flora and fauna inventory in the MAIBC (report prepared 308 species distributed in 40 families of birds.</p> <p>Confirmed the presence of these migratory bird species in MAIBC.</p>	<p>Verified species.</p> <p>February 2020: First bird count at MAIBC (13 sites) More than 70 species of birds reported. 12 are migratory birds. 49 women and 29 men participated Total of 12 summer tanager in 5 different sites. The</p>	<p>Summer tanager (Piranga rubra)</p>	<p>Summer tanager (Piranga rubra)</p>	<p>The indicator does not present changes with respect to the last report.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>A number of bird species have been reported (70) and the presence of the Summer Tanager (1%) and the Baltimore Oropendola (1.75%) have been confirmed. These values are expected to increase in the two years.</p>

<i>ha/yr. to X ha/yr. result) (baseline and target will be determined during project implementation).</i>				abundance represented 1%. A total of 21 Baltimore Orioles were recorded at 9 sites. The abundance represented 1.75%.					
Component 3: Knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation	Regarding component 3: Progress was made satisfactorily (and has the possibility of achieving highly satisfactory results) The project has achieved in a highly satisfactory way the production of 25 studies on successful experiences of incorporating the objectives of biodiversity conservation, land management and carbon sequestration in productive landscapes and sustainable urban biological corridors in Costa Rica. A satisfactory change in the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices indices in ACLA-P (0.768) and in the CBIMA (0.800).								
Outcomes 3.1. Ten (10) documents on successful experiences about the incorporation of conservation biodiversity objectives, land management, and carbon sequestration in sustainable production landscapes and interurban biological corridors in Costa Rica.	Indicator 16: Number of documents produced indicating the successful experiences of incorporating the objectives of biodiversity conservation, land management and carbon sequestration in productive landscapes and sustainable urban biological corridors in Costa Rica.	0	5 (see PIR for details)	12 studies carried out (see details in the product table).	5	10	The indicator does not present changes with respect to the last report.	HS	The goal set for the end of the execution has been exceeded at mid-term.
	Indicator 17: Change in the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices indices (KAP; this will be defined at the beginning of the project) as a result of environmental	ACLA-P: 0.702 MAIBC: 0.757 Under revision	Two qualitative studies have been concluded that contain a characterization of knowledge, attitudes and practices in ACLA-P and MAIBC.	In process on time (at the end of 2021 the follow-up information will be collected).	ACLA-P: 0.702 MAIBC: 0.757	ACLA-P: 0.768 MAIBC: 0.800	The value for the MAIBC of the CAP Index is 0.803. By gender, this value is 0.814 for women and 0.767 for	S	The goal at the end of the project in the MAIBC, was exceeded. The case of women happens in the same way. In the case of men, it meets the goal in approximately 99.86%. In the case of ACLAP, the value is lower than that reported in the baseline, which represents

3.2. Change in the indices about Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP; indices will be defined at the beginning of the project) as a result of awareness and environmental education at the subnational and local levels	awareness and education at the sub-national and local level		As part of this, the project works on a quantitative approach to determine an index applicable to both areas.				men, almost five percentage points higher for women. The CAP Index value for ACLA-P is 0.668. In the female gender, this value is slightly higher than the total and than the male gender (0.674 and 0.663).		inconsistent data, as recorded in the MTR consultation with the people participating in the program's initiatives, so a thorough review should be carried out , mainly from the baseline data. For future measurements, the application of the Panel methodology would be recommended.
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Source: Own elaboration based on information from the project.

Annex 6.10.: Productive initiatives financed in ACLAP.

Table 6.10 .: Productive initiatives financed in ACLAP.

#	Name of Project	Responsable Organiziation	# of organizations involved	Location	Approved amount in Colones
1	Improving the environment, biological connectivity and production in the Paramo Garden and Division, buffer zone of the Los Santos Forest Reserve.	Asada Jardín Paramo	6	Pérez Zeledon	€30 000 000,00
2	Establishment of a nursery and 10 ha of vegetation cover, for sustainable production in the Micro Basin of the Painer River, (Quebradas) district of Páramo, Pérez Zeledón	ADI La Ese	1	Pérez Zeledon	€11 850 000,00
3	Improvement of the conventional agricultural system, under a productive sustainability approach and increased forest cover, through the COOPEANGELES cooperative located on the slopes of Los Quetzales National Park and Los Santos Forest Reserve.	Coopeangeles	2	Pérez Zeledon	€23 772 000,00
4	Increase in forest cover, diversification and added value to production through permaculture, in a process of productive chain with the participation of families and women in the Savegre community	ASODIPPRO	1	Pérez Zeledon	€11 800 000,00
5	Diversification of sustainable productive systems with agroforestry coffee, sustainable livestock and vegetables from the united farmers affiliated to the Pueblo Nuevo de Rivas Development Association, in the buffer zone of the Chirripó National Park that promotes biological connectivity in the member farms (as).	ADI Pueblo Nuevo Rivas	1	Pérez Zeledon	€12 000 000,00
6	Protection of Springs and Rehabilitation of Degraded Areas with Bamboo in the Quebradas River Basin and Surrounding Areas	Fudebiol	1	Pérez Zeledon	€14 350 839,00
7	Production, industrialization, marketing and commercialization of SACHA INCHI, with producer families from Herradura de Rivas, in the buffer zone of the Chirripó National Park.	UTRAIPZ	1	Pérez Zeledon	€12 000 000,00
8	Harmonization of sustainable production systems for the management of Biodiversity of productive farms.	Asociación de Arrieros, Guías, Porteadores y Cocineros de San Gerardo de Rivas	1	Pérez Zeledon	€12 000 000,00

9	San José de Rivas contributes to the connectivity between the Productive Landscapes of the Chirripó buffer zone	ADI San Jose Rivas	1	Pérez Zeledon	€11 850 000,00
10	Support to the associated cattle producers of the A.C.G.U.S for the protection of the environment and generate productive improvements in the buffer zones of protected wild areas in the cantons of Pérez Zeledón and Buenos Aires.	Cámara Ganaderos Unidos del Sur	1	Pérez Zeledon/Buenos Aires	€45 762 290,00
11	Restoration of connectivity (structural and functional) in the Seasonal Evergreen Tropical Forest of the Alexander Skutch Biological Corridor	ASOCUENCA	3	Pérez Zeledon	€31 234 144,00
12	Planting and renovation of coffee in an agroforestry system for the industrialization of the Coopecedral cooperative in the buffer area of the Chirripó Pacifico park, under a sustainable model and promoting biological connectivity in member farms.	Coopecedral	1	Pérez Zeledon	€12 000 000,00
13	Planting, production and marketing of bananas, plantains, avocados, coffee and citrus fruits supported by productive and environmental training in the community of San Jerónimo with the planting of native and endemic forest trees in protected areas.	ADI San Jeronimo	3	Pérez Zeledon	€24 000 000,00
14	Producing Respecting the Environment.	ADI San Rafael San Pedro	2	Pérez Zeledon	€23 940 000,00
15	Productive diversification and coverage improvement through the planting of trees of native and productive species such as fruit, coffee and citrus, in the buffer zone of the Chirripó park in the communities of San Pedro de Pérez Zeledón.	ASADA San Pedro	3	Pérez Zeledon	€29 738 000,00
16	Planting, production and marketing of organic Bananas and citrus fruits supported by productive and environmental training for the communities of influence, as well as the planting of endemic and native species such as living fences.	ADI Fatima	2	Pérez Zeledon	€23 759 000,00
17	Forestry and strengthening the productive landscape, to improve the farms of the Associates of APROCOME and the community of Filas Piedras Blancas in Buenos Aires located in the Buffer zone of the PILA.	APROCOME	1	Buenos Aires	€11 670 000,00
18	Viveros Sostenibles Amazonas, Longo Mai, buffer zone of La Amistad International Park	Fundación Voz Propia/AMAZONAS	1	Buenos Aires	€11 993 636,85
19	Increased Connectivity and improvement of the productive landscape, through the improvement of production and establishment of new citrus and fruit plantations in agroforestry systems, productive diversification with medicinal plants for women and promotion of sustainable livestock in the Río Cañas Biological Corridor .	ADI San Rafael Brunca	3	Buenos Aires	€17 539 500,00
20	Alliance for sustainable coffee of the communities of La Lucha and La Luchita in the PILA buffer zone	ADI La Lucha/ASOPRO	2	Buenos Aires	€22 000 000,00

21	Family initiatives for biodiversity conservation, sustainable production and a better quality of life in La Luchita and neighboring towns in the PILA buffer zone under an eco-systemic approach.	AMANABIF	1	Buenos Aires	¢12 000 000,00
22	Promotion of agroforestry systems and restoration of degraded areas in the Fuente de Vida la Amistad Biological Corridor in the district of Biolley.	ADIALSI/ALTAMIRA	2	Buenos Aires	¢23 288 458,00
23	Planting coffee with an agroforestry system in the hands of women from the Association of Organized Women of Biolley de Buenos Aires de Puntarenas, on the border of La Amistad International Park	ASOMOBI	1	Buenos Aires	¢12 920 500,00
24	Agroforestry for land stewardship as a strategy to improve the productive landscape in the communities of: Colorado, El Campo and Biolley, Buffer Zone of La Amistad International Park (PILA).	ADI Biolley	1	Buenos Aires	¢12 000 000,00
25	Support in the cultivation of raft and other species for the expression of art and culture of indigenous families that contribute to the connectivity of the productive landscape of the Brunca Region (Boruca)	ADI Boruca	1	Buenos Aires	¢11 600 000,00
26	Agricultural production towards sustainable development, in harmony with the environment in Filla de Tigre de Pittier	ADI Fila Tigre	1	Coto Brus	¢11 580 000,00
27	Mitigation Actions in Breeding and Fattening Livestock in the Amortiguam Zone	Camara CGIZS	1	Coto Brus/Buenos Aires	¢36 941 182,83
	TOTAL		45		¢513 589 550,68

Source: Project Archives.

Annex 6.11: Overall assessment of the Project

Table 6.11.: Overall assessment of the Project

Variables	objective	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Project
Number of indicators (Data)	3	3	9	two	17
Highest possible score	18	18	54	12	102
Score obtained	18	15	48	11	92
Percentage achieved	100	83	89	92	90
Average points	6.00	5.00	5.33	5.50	5.41
Assessment	ACE	ACE	ACE	ACE	ACE

Source: Own elaboration.

Annex 6.12.: Corrective measure for management mechanisms.

Table 6.12: Corrective measures for management mechanisms.

Management mechanism factors	Leads to effective and efficient adaptive execution and management	Good practice / corrective action (AC)	Corrective measure
Management mechanisms	Yes	No corrective action required (AC)	
Work planning.	Yes	No corrective action required (AC)	
Financing and co-financing,	Yes	No corrective action required (AC)	
Monitoring and evaluation systems at the project level	Yes	No corrective action required (AC)	
Stakeholder involvement	Yes	No corrective action required (AC)	
Information	Yes	No corrective action required (AC)	
Communication	Yes	No corrective action required (AC)	

Source: Own elaboration based on information provided by the project and the field mission.

Annex 6.13: Annotated social and environmental risk identification matrix.

Table 6.13: Annotated social and environmental risk identification matrix.

What are the possible social and environmental risks	What is the level of importance of possible social and environmental risks?				OBSERVACIONES DEL MTR
Description of Risk	Impact and probability (1-5)	Importance	Comments	Description of the evaluation and management measures as reflected in the project design.	
Risk 1: In the framework of the calls that are carried out in the project for the different initiatives, there is the possibility that some key actors such as women, indigenous peoples or communities will be excluded, without intention.	I = 2 P = 2	Moderate	The project works in non-traditional sectors for women such as agricultural and livestock activities, as well as the conservation of natural resources. On the other hand, there are indigenous territories within the ACLAP that develop different productive activities that affect the state of the productive landscapes.	The project has a gender plan that ensures that the calls include a gender perspective. In addition, as a requirement to access the grants, it was included that groups of organized women should be evidenced and included in the different productive activities. Likewise, a plan for the participation of indigenous peoples is being developed to ensure a real inclusion of this population in the project. Since their inclusion was based on a request from the indigenous peoples themselves to the project through SINAC.	The Participation Plan for Indigenous Peoples and the Gender Action Plan are already in place. The activities that the Project addresses, far from excluding, seeks to strengthen affirmative actions regarding gender and be sensitive in relation to respecting the cultural practices of indigenous populations.
	I = 4 P = 3	Moderate	The MOCUPP is an innovative tool for decision-making in environmental matters and for the project it is key to ensuring sustainable management of production landscapes in Costa Rica. However, since the results are published, comments and complaints are always generated about the (little) action of the State in the face of the loss of tree cover (and forest) in some territories due to the growth of some crops, especially pineapple.	The project has involved the business and productive sector in the process of strengthening the MOCUPP as a tool. From this perspective, not only are consultation and training workshops held so that there is a common knowledge of MOCUPP by the productive sector, but also meetings and outreach work to the sector are held in order to know their perspectives on the tool and even possibilities of improvements in the management of the information that is generated.	This is considered a latent risk that must continue to be addressed comprehensively in the project. The MOCUPP represents a tool to analyze changes in land use that can be used to verify and recognize good practices of production processes free of forest loss. But it can also be used as a "control" tool of respect for regulations and legal frameworks in the (correct) uses of the land. The work of political and intersectoral articulation and the processes of dialogue and generation of technical information carried out by the project are important elements for mitigating this risk.
Risk 2: The environmental information generated by the MOCUPP could generate some conflict	I = 3 P = 2	Moderate	Although the country has made progress in empowering women and achieving gender equality in recent decades, lower rates of political participation and higher rates of unemployment,	The project has a robust Action Plan for Gender Equality, which is aligned with the results framework and includes clear activities and results. The Project promotes gender equality and the empowerment of	The project transversalizes a gender approach, and the risks that may arise in possible adverse impacts on gender equality are not perceived as moderate. The context itself can present moderate risks (associated with sociocultural

between the producers of the crops and the environmental sector.			underemployment and informal work still persist. In just three months, the impact of the pandemic on work brought women to a historical figure of 30% unemployment, ten percentage points higher than men (according to INEC's Continuous Employment Survey). This without counting the other problems: its recharge at home, worse than ever, domestic violence, recurrent femicides (with or without a pandemic) that impact both women who live in urban areas and those who live in rural areas.	women through the dual approach of integrating the intersectoral gender perspective that implies, on the one hand, the specific results of the Project components and, on the other, the implementation of results. to accelerate the empowerment of women according to the synergies that are based on the needs of women in both zones: CBIMA and ACLA-P for their politics, economy and physical autonomy. Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Action Plan for Gender Equality is updated annually, in such a way as to increase the activities and results in favor of women, the transformation of social gender norms and the promotion of equality among women. and men.	practices and sexist structures). Nevertheless, a negative scenario is not expected.
Risk 3: There could be some adverse impacts on gender equality and / or the situation of women and girls, especially because the areas in which the project works are sectors considered "non-traditional" in terms of participation of women and girls.	I = 3 P = 2	Moderate	The project recognizes that the urgency of transforming the social norms of gender imposed by culture, and that have as material effects on women, for example, making their role in the protection of natural resources invisible and significantly limiting their access to resources. natural resources. In addition, the project starts from the understanding that women are essential agents of conservation and play a leadership role in reducing this loss of biodiversity and carry out many activities that contribute to the conservation of terrestrial and marine resources, and also have specific knowledge and knowledge that promote the sustainable use and management of wild fauna and flora species.	The project has a robust Action Plan for Gender Equality, which is aligned with the results framework and includes clear activities and results. The Project promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women through the dual approach of integrating the intersectoral gender perspective that implies, on the one hand, the specific results of the Project components and, on the other, the implementation of results. to accelerate the empowerment of women according to the synergies that are based on the needs of women in both zones: CBIMA and ACLA-P for their politics, economy and physical autonomy. Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Action Plan for Gender Equality is updated annually, in such a way as to increase the activities and results in favor of women, the transformation of social gender norms and the promotion of equality among women. and men.	In addition to having an Action Plan for Gender Equality, the Project has supported national regulations on these issues. The risk is valid, but the mitigation measures are sound.
Risk 4: Situations of discrimination against women on the basis of their gender could be reproduced, without any premeditated intention, especially	I = 2 P = 2	Low	The ACLA-P is one of the 11 Conservation Areas in Costa Rica that are designed to conserve important biodiversity, and includes a UNESCO World Heritage site (Parque Internacional de La Amistad) and two Key Biodiversity Areas (Avistamiento de Birds identified as IPA-CR011 Los	The project facilitates the implementation of landscape management tools to achieve multiple local and global environmental benefits. In ACLAP we work with local organizations in socio-productive initiatives that contribute to the sustainable management of the landscape (micro-	The mitigation strategies are correct, and the practices related to the implementation of LMT are achieving measures with rather positive effects. This is more evident for the case of ACLA-P.

with regard to participation in the design and implementation and access to opportunities and benefits, especially because the areas in which the project works are sectors considered as "non-traditional" in terms of participation of women and girls			Santos la Amistad Pacífico and IPA-CR009 Cordillera de Talamanca.	corridors, living fences, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, among others) and to the increase of the connectivity between productive landscapes and the protected areas of ACLA- P. The CBIMA works on the improvement, recovery and rehabilitation of protection areas and urban green fabric with new trees and shrubs using endemic and native species that generate an increase in the amount of flora and fauna, including birds that transit the CBIMA as habitat. temporary, and an increase in resident local species or other vertebrates such as small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Reforestation and rehabilitation of protection areas located on the banks of rivers and springs, contribute to the improvement of the water quality of the María Aguilar River, by reducing sedimentation, erosion and filtering surface water runoff, as well as mitigating floods.	
Risk 5: The project works in territories considered as "critical habitats and / or environmentally sensitive areas" or their surroundings due to their conservation value and that are in special or differentiated management categories (such as protection areas, natural reserves, protected wild areas).	I =3 P = 3	Moderate	The CBIMA is located in a mostly urban area with limited green areas, which in turn have diverse land uses. This interurban biological corridor contains part of the only Key Biodiversity Area in the urban area in Costa Rica.	The project works on the recovery and rehabilitation of areas considered "degraded" within the framework of the implementation of landscape management tools. With this, the project contributes to reducing the risk of flooding and flash floods of rivers. In addition, to strengthen these actions, it will coordinate with the National Risk Prevention System of the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Attention (CNE).	
Risk 6: Project activities and results will be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change	I =2 P = 1	Low	Due to the physiographic characteristics of the territory comprised by ACLAP and CBIMA and its different elevational levels, changes in climate, particularly precipitation, can increase the risk in areas degraded by human action.	There are vulnerable populations that, in the absence of opportunities, live in forbidden places, such as riverbanks or lands that constitute the state's natural heritage. The information produced by the project may expose these situations, however, far from further damaging these people, the project will promote that this information be used by the competent State institutions, to seek comprehensive solutions that allow them to leave the informality and the dangerous	They are perceived as more complex to mitigate the elements associated with this risk for the CBIMA area. The urban land use planning process is difficult to tackle. In this sense, the work coordinated with local governments, with public institutions and the generation of technical information can provide inputs so that the regulations are applied in the future in these critical areas.

				situation that it represents in many cases, living on land unsuitable for housing construction due to the danger of floods, landslides or other risks.	
Risk 7:	I = 3 P = 3	Moderate	All the information generated by the project, both through the MOCUPP and the Methodology for the digital delimitation of protection areas, the Forest Cadastre and any other technical instrument, contemplates the international legal framework of human rights, as well as the regulations Costa Rican.	The project will work on the formulation of the indigenous participation plan to ensure an adequate approach in working with this population.	The LMT application approach in both zones favors increasing the resilience of productive and natural systems to the effects of climate change.

Source: Own elaboration, based on the update of the Social and Environmental Standards (SES), 2020

Annex 6.14: Direct investments of the Project

Table 6.14: Direct investments of the project

Concept	Investment (\$)	
Infrastructure (Nurseries, etc.)	Municipalidad de San José-Pavas Nursery	27 110.00
	Nursery Mesh MSJ	9 230.24
	Municipalidad de Curridabat Nursery	66 300.85
	Municipalidad de Alajuelita Nursery	14 786.83
	Municipalidad de San José-Montes de Oca Nursery	55 704.20
	Monserrat Nursery Improvements	7 461.19
	Rancho Fertilizers, Municipalidad de Alajuelita	2,930.83
	Alajuelita dry toilet	4,476.18
	Total	188,000.32
Machinery (Cocoa dryer and grinder, etc.)		
Equipment (computer, GPS, scythe bike, etc.)	CBIMA TEAMS	AMOUNT IN \$
	Small signs	3 960.21
	Large signs	3 876.08
	Edgebanders MSJ 10	8 120.20
	projector	717.75
	Digital camera	862.67
	Trap cameras	4 830.00
	printer	8 278.87
	speaker	378.67
	Branch shredder	1,669.89
	chainsaw	568.80
	brush cutters 2	1,250.30
	chipper 2	6 258.82
	telescopic chainsaw	750.03
	chainsaw	539.09
	Edgebander	930.07
	Waste baskets	9,982.03
	Wooden composters	6 617.70
	Total	59 591.19
	ACLAP TEAMS	AMOUNT IN \$
	60 binoculars	5 340.00
	2 Mercedes motor pumps	16 481.18

	Hard drives 1 379.02 camera traps 10 3 555.00 GPS 3 242.65 Binoculars 8 976.43 Binoculars 45 5 355.00 GPS, binoculars, Munsell chart 2 157.07 camera traps 45 7 425.00 Binoculars 60 5 340.00 camera stand 1 321.62 lens for camera 1,438.05 printer 2 270.00 projector 1 259.50 drone 2 450.00 Distance Meter 303.84 Laptop 1 198.00 lens for camera 1 110.00 motor pump 1 6 275.00 field teams brigades 4,064.46 Total 72 941.82
SUPPLIES Tools (shovels, picks, furniture, etc.	Inputs distributed among the CBIMA nurseries: \$ 53,568.19 Composts, chaff , garden tools, seed bags, hydrokeeper , plants, shrubs, etc.
Others (manuals and training materials, brigade uniforms, etc.	Printing of documents and other printed materials for environmental education and dissemination, audiovisual material, signage, murals, T-shirts, caps, sleeves and other training materials for ACLAP and CBIMA: \$ 189,393.66

Source: Project records

Anexo 6.15: UNDP-GEF MTR Report Audit

Note: The following is a template for the MTR Team to show how the received comments on the draft MTR report have (or have not) been incorporated into the final MTR report. This audit trail should be included as an annex in the final MTR report.

To the comments received on (8 de abril del 2021) from the Midterm Review of (Conservando la biodiversidad a través de la gestión sostenible en los paisajes de producción en Costa Rica (UNDP Project ID-PIMS 5842)

The following comments were provided in track changes to the draft Midterm Review report; they are referenced by institution ("Author" column) and track change comment number ("#" column):

Author	Page	Comment / Contribution to the draft MTR report	MTR team response and measurements
Fernando Pinel	Front page	GEF ID 9416	Adjusted
Fernando Pinel	2	Date adjustment	Adjusted
Fernando Pinel	8	Perhaps better to use Mid-Term Assessment?	Adjusted
Fernando Pinel	8	I'm not sure what the second report refers to, but please remember that it should be reported on the co-financing (also in the template that was sent).	Co-financing is reported, and the template is attached.
Miriam Mirada	9	Product wording adjustment 1.3	The proposed adjustment was accepted.
Miriam Mirada	10	The verification system will be the MOCUPP.	This explanation was considered and the MOCUPP was included as a verification system in this point and in others mentioned in the report.
Miriam Mirada	13	Product 2.12 does not exist, only 2.13. and implies an adjustment in the remaining numbering.	Product numbering was corrected based on the comment and the PRODOC.
Miriam Mirada	15	The Environmental Education Program for MAIBC is in the process of participatory construction.	This data was included with respect to the Education Program for the MAIBC.
Miriam Mirada	15	Output 2.24 A Communication Strategy for the MAIBC was delivered to the MAIBC Technical Committee in December 2019.	This data was included regarding the Education Program for the MAIBC.
Miriam Mirada	15	3.4 Does not exist in the PRODOC.	The numbering was adjusted based on the PRODOC and considering the comment.
José D. Estrada	29	Adjust the causal model according to the PRODOC theory of change.	Based on the information flow contained in the PRODOC, the figure was replaced.

Miriam Miranda	33	Results framework adjustment.	It was adjusted based on the proposal.
José D. Estrada	34	Proposes to indicate in point 5 of indicators which ones require improvement of the wording.	Information is included according to the following note: According to Annex 6.8., These would be indicators 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 15.
José D. Estrada	34	Point 9 on indicators: In 2020, during the evaluation of the II PIR, it was agreed with the RTA not to make a new wording.	Technical indication is included, and it is explained that a new wording was not required since the product was reached.
José D. Estrada	34	Indicator 16 of the CAP index is disaggregated by gender and this has been reported to the GEF.	The reference to the CAP as one of the documents that is not disaggregated by gender was eliminated.
Miriam Miranda	36	Product 1.1 formalization of the SICOMUTE already published in La Gaceta.	Observation and proposed explanation included.
Miriam Miranda	38	Output 1.3 is expanded in the explanation of the achievement of this output and an inclusion in the analysis is proposed	Observation and proposed explanation included.
Miriam Miranda	42	Product 2.1 is stated to be fully accomplished.	Adjusted as highly satisfactory.
Miriam Miranda	49	Output 2.6 includes inclusions and adjustments to the analysis that better explain the achievement of the results.	The contribution is considered very valuable, and the proposed modifications are accepted.
Miriam Miranda	50	Product 2.7 The forest coverage of more than 230 State properties that may have State Natural Heritage (PNE) has been identified.	The contribution is considered very valuable, and the proposed modifications are accepted.
Miriam Miranda	50	2.8 is presented as a fully compliant Product, much more than expected in the PRODOC Logical Framework.	It is rated highly satisfactory based on the explanations that account for the scope of the product.
Miriam Miranda	55	Output 2.10. It is MOCUPP.	It is MOCUPP. In addition, the information provided by the MOCUUP this system includes other elements: 1) technical assistance and facilitation of inter-institutional dialogue and consultation with the private sector; two) regulation of recognition. ;3) promote purchase of products from farms with recognition; 4) studies changes in your income.
Miriam Miranda	57	MAIBC Region: It is not the competence of the UNDP, only DRI can do it.	Thus, it is recorded in Output 2.19 "... This product was raised in PRODOC, neither the UNDP nor the project have the competence to carry

			out a process of formalization and open hearings of cadastral records. This is a process that is executed from the Land Registry ..."
Miriam Miranda	61	2.20 is presented as a fully compliant product.	It is highly satisfactory, since the scope was exceeded in the number of people trained, as well as the institutions they represent.
Miriam Miranda	61	2.21 is considered as a fully compliant product (8 nurseries)	It is adjusted as highly satisfactory based on the explanations that give an account of the scope of the product.
Miriam Miranda	63	2.23 education program for MAIBC	The explanation that raises that there is already an Education Program for the MAIBC delivered in December 2020 is considered.
Miriam Miranda	63	Output 2.2.2 It is not a strategy, it is a program that is under construction in a participatory way.	Allusion is incorporated to the construction of the environmental education program, and not to a strategy.
Miriam Miranda	63	2.23. Product delivered to the Local Committee in December 2019. Look for the Technical Committee minutes of that date, please.	The date of delivery of the product to the MAIBC Committee is included and the wording is adjusted.
Miriam Miranda	63	Product 2.24 delivered to the Local Committee in December 2019. Search for the Technical Committee minutes of that date, please.	The date of delivery of the product to the MAIBC Committee is included and the wording is adjusted.
José D. Estrada	65	Progress matrix in achieving results. Indicator 3 is not reported.	The indicator in Table 4.2.2 has been removed. and Annex 6.9 of this indicator.
José D. Estrada	65	Inefficient use of environmental information to apply environmental regulations and promote sustainable practices", a greater effort is required to institutionalize the MOCUPP: This identified barrier transcends institutionalization. Rather, the barrier refers to the use of information for the application of environmental legislation.	The wording was expanded for a better understanding "... a greater effort is required to institutionalize the MOCUPP, which implies a permanent action of this tool in the management of the corresponding public institutions".
Miriam Miranda	65	4.3.1 Management mechanisms: this representative was elected by the Local Committee (see PRODOC).	The wording explains that the people who make up the Board of Directors are elected by the institutions they represent. And this case is specified as suggested in the comment.

Miriam Miranda	78	4.3.5 Stakeholder involvement: I do not see it this way because it works with private territory. The role of FONAFIFO is different. Sustainability is the responsibility of SINAC and local governments since they are public lands.	FONAFIFO, the most important environmental fund in the country, executes the country's Payment for Environmental Services Program. In PRODOC it is considered a key partner in the execution of the project (with important contributions of counterpart resources), until now it has not been actively involved in the execution of actions. Their involvement would strengthen the financial sustainability of the project.
Miriam Miranda	80	Quarterly reports are not made to the GEF. The quarterly report is an internal UNDP matter and I strongly agree that it is stiff and it does not allow the report to be made as it should be done. At first it was semi-annual, then it changed to quarterly. If you report by indicator, half of what is done in products is left out. Each project should have its quarterly reporting matrix (casuistry) and not a general one for projects of a diverse nature.	The adjustments and explanations raised were considered since they reflect more accurately the situation and reporting forms of the Project.
Kifah Sasa		A specific recommendation is proposed. SINAC could take much more advantage of the existence of MOCUPP for the legal processing of potential breaches of the forestry law detected by this tool. The MOCUPP is an early warning tool but it is also evidence of previous impacts in which specific properties have lost forest cover throughout the country and not only in the project's intervention areas, in potential non-compliance with the Forestry Law. Therefore, it is recommended that this institution take advantage of the information that the	In point 2.8 the following note was included: "However, a major concern is that SINAC is not using the MOCUPP to prosecute non-compliance with the forest law that is detected through this system. In this sense, SINAC could take much more advantage of the existence of MOCUPP for the legal processing of potential breaches of the forest law detected by this tool. The MOCUPP is an early warning tool but it is also evidence of previous impacts in which specific properties have lost forest cover throughout the country and not only in the project's intervention areas, in potential non-compliance with the Forestry Law. " In addition, the following text was included in the Recommendations

		<p>project has generated since its PPG phase, particularly due to loss of forest cover associated with the pineapple expansion and file criminal complaints for non-compliance with the forest law. It is during the life of the project that it makes more sense for SINAC to present these complaints, since it has a support team and legal and technical advice.</p>	<p>“SINAC should take advantage of the information generated by the project through the MOCUPP, from its PPG phase, particularly due to loss of forest cover associated with the pineapple expansion and file criminal complaints for non-compliance with the forest law. It is during the life of the project that it makes more sense for SINAC to present these complaints since it has a support team and legal and technical advice.</p>
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Annex 6.13.: UNEG code of conduct for individual contractor for mid-term review

The evaluators / consultants:

1. They must present complete and fair information in their evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses, in such a way that the decisions or actions carried out are well founded.
2. They must disclose the complete set of conclusions together with the information of their limitations and have it at disposition of all those affected by the evaluation who have the express right to receive the results.
3. They must protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should offer the maximum notification time, limit the demands of time and respect the right of people not to get involved. Evaluators should respect the right of people to give information in a confidential manner and should ensure that sensitive information can not be traced back to its origin. Evaluators are not obliged to evaluate individual persons, but they must maintain a balance between the evaluation of management functions and this general principle.
4. Sometimes, when conducting evaluations, they will uncover evidence of crimes. It must be reported discreetly about such cases to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is the slightest doubt about whether these issues should be communicated and how they should be communicated.
5. They must be sensitive to beliefs, customs and practices and act with integrity and honesty in their relationships with all interested parties. In line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, evaluators should be sensitive to issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-esteem of those people with whom they establish a contact during the evaluation. Knowing that there is a possibility that the evaluation negatively affects the interests of some stakeholders, the evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate the objective of the evaluation and its results in a manner that clearly respects the dignity and self-esteem of those involved.
6. They are responsible for their performance and (the) product (s) they generate. They are responsible for a written presentation or oral clear, precise and balanced, as well as the limitations, conclusions and recommendations of the study.
7. They must apply sound accounting procedures and be prudent when using evaluation resources.

RMT Consultant Agreement For

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluators of the UN system:

Consultant Name: Ronny Ricardo Muñoz Calvo and Ariana Araujo Resenterra

Name of the Consulting Organization (when necessary):

I affirm that I have received and understood and that I will abide by the UN Code of Conduct for Evaluators.

Signed in (Place) a signature: _____,
(date)

Annex 6.14.: Form for approval of the report on the revision of the medium

FORM OF APPROVAL OF THE MIDDLE-TERM REVIEW REPORT

Midterm Review Report Revised and Approved by UNDP

First name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Regional Technical Advisor of the UNDP-GEF

First name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____