



2020  
Project Implementation Review (PIR)



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Resilient nations.*

**GEF 6: Coastal/Marine BD**

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## A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	5750
GEF ID	9804
Title	Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in coastal marine production landscapes
Country(ies)	Panama, Panama
UNDP-GEF Technical Team	Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Project Implementing Partner	Government
Joint Agencies	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Type	Medium Size - 2 steps

Project Description
<p>13. The GEF alternative scenario will mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into production landscapes for the integrated environmental management of coastal marine areas and for the benefit of the coastal populations. It is framed within the GEF biodiversity focal area strategy, more specifically Objective 4 (BD-4): Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes/seascapes and sectors; Program 9: Managing the Human-Biodiversity Interface.</p>

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Other Partners	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

**B. Overall Ratings**

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	low

## C. Development Progress

Description					
Objective					
To mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into production land/seascapes for integrated environmental management of coastal marine areas and for the benefit of the coastal population					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
Number of people benefiting from strengthened livelihoods through solutions for management of coastal marine natural resources and ecosystems services	0	1,560	4,467	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Cumulative progress: 972</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 122 Small Grant Programme grantees (91 men, 31 women)</li> <li>- 732 beneficiaries of the Small Grant Programme grantees' activities (data reported by the grantees on their project documents)</li> <li>- 13 participants: Geographic Information System (GIS) workshop with Environmental Ministry, August 27, 2019: 9 women, 4 men</li> <li>- 42 participants. Local Governing Board installation event: composed of 4 mayors and the Governor of the province. January 23, 2020</li> </ul>

					<p>- 27 participants: Training courses. Strengthening of capacities of the Coasts and Oceans Direction of the Ministry of Environment. From June 29 to July 7 2020</p> <p>- Technical assistance and participation in the Watershed Committees 124 and 126: 22 and 14 members respectively</p>
Area (hectares [ha]) of land/seascape with improved management	0 Ha	102,540 ha	292,970 ha	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>24,288 ha</p> <p>24,284 ha correspond to Refugio Vida Silvestre Isla de Cañas where Azuero Sostenible is helping to develop institutional agreements with the participation of the local community to prevent the illegal extraction of sea turtle eggs.</p> <p>4 ha correspond to the area of influence of the projects co financed through the Small Grants Program</p>
The progress of the objective can be described as:		On track			
<b>Outcome 1</b> <b>Strengthening the regulatory and institutional frameworks</b>					

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
National Coastal and Marine Policy	There is no National Coastal and Marine Policy	National Policy Proposal being discussed and in development	National Coastal and Marine Policy approved	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>A National Ocean Policy is under development. A public process was launched in March 2020 and it is expected to be adjudicated on August-September 2020.</p> <p>The company has one year to develop the policy, at the end of which it will be approved by the Environmental Policy Department of the Environment Ministry of Panama.</p>
Number of existing Environmental Advisory Committees (EAC), Watershed Committees (WC), and an Institutional Environmental System (SIA) strengthened.	-EAC: 0 -WC: 0 -SIA: 0	-EAC: in process -WC: in process -SIA: in process	-EAC: 1 -WC: 1 -SIA: 1	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>EAC: in progress WC: in progress</p> <p>The project consolidated the creation of a local governing board to oversee the activities of the project. It is also expected to be the seed of a larger environmental group/committee/council that oversees topics related to the Coastal Marine Special</p> <p>Management Zone (ZEMMC) of the southern part of the Azuero peninsula, with the support and participation of representatives from the civil society, groups such as Community Based Organizations, leaders of artisanal fishing groups, sustainable tourism groups and others.</p>

					<p>This local governing board is constituted by the Mayors of the three districts (Pocrí, Pedasi and Tonosí) of the ZEMMC, and also by the province Governor and the Mayor of Las Tablas, a neighbor district. This structure was initiated in January 2020.</p> <p>In the case of the Watershed Committees, in 2019, the project assisted as guests to two meetings of the Watershed Committee 126 and one meeting of the Watershed Committee 124.</p> <p>The intention was to listen and observe their interactions in order to identify areas where the project could assist.</p> <p>In the case of the Watershed Committee 124, Azuero Sostenible gave them assistance with the development of their annual activity plan.</p> <p>Azuero Sostenible also attended two physical meetings of the Watershed Committee 126 (one on November 2019 and one on January 2020) and</p>
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					<p>gave presentations about its activities and the launching of a brand contest.</p> <p>In April 2020, the coordination unit (coordinator, administrative assistant) were included in the Whatsapp group of Watershed Committee 126 and on June 2020 were included in the Whatsapp group of Watershed Committee 124.</p> <p>The Watershed Committee 124 has 22 active members, 4 of which are women.</p> <p>The Watershed Committee 126 has 14 active members, 5 of which are women.</p> <p>Both Watershed Committees have stopped formal activities since the beginning of the quarantine in Panama (March 2020) and the situation continues equal as of June 2020.</p>
Increased government financing for the integrated environmental management of the coastal marine areas	\$806,000 (budget assigned 2019) (included as discussed during the 2020 PIR Review)	\$900,000	\$1,000,000	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>The project estimated the baseline, and targets during this PIR period.</p> <p>According to the Coastal and Oceans Direction of the Ministry of Environment, the baseline for this</p>



					<p>indicator is US\$806,000 (budget assigned in 2019).</p> <p>The mid-term target is US\$900,000</p> <p>The end of project target is US\$1,000,000.</p> <p>It is important to note that these amounts were estimated before the current COVID-19 situation and they might be reduced.</p>
<p>Change in capacity of decision makers for marine coastal biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and reduced threats through the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard</p>	<p>-MiAmbiente: 67% (24)</p> <p>-ATP: 67% (24)</p> <p>-MIDA: 67% (24)</p> <p>-ARAP: 64% (25)</p> <p>-Districts: 30% (11)</p> <p>-NGOs: 70% (23)</p> <p>-Producer's Associations: 67% (24)</p>	<p>-MiAmbiente: 72%</p> <p>-ATP: 72%</p> <p>-MIDA: 72%</p> <p>-ARAP: 69%</p> <p>-Districts: 35%</p> <p>-NGOs: 75%</p> <p>-Producer's Associations: 72%</p>	<p>-MiAmbiente: 77%</p> <p>-ATP: 77%</p> <p>-MIDA: 77%</p> <p>-ARAP: 74%</p> <p>-Districts: 40%</p> <p>-NGOs: 80%</p> <p>-Producer's Associations: 77%</p>	<p>(not set or not applicable)</p>	<p>The project is proposing to reduce the number of stakeholders which will receive training to increase their capacity on the conservation and management of coastal and marine resources. The proposed stakeholders are MiAmbiente, Districts, ATP, NGOs, and Producers Associations. This is because these are the stakeholders that are likely to make a difference in terms of contributing to the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources. The project will seek the approval of the Steering Committee for this adjustment.</p> <p>A key priority for MiAmbiente is to improve its capacity to interact with other stakeholders in the area. This</p>

					<p>information is an important planning and action tool for the Ministry of Environment in the territory.</p> <p>In this context, the project carried out an analysis of social actors in the three main districts of the project. The analysis included governmental representatives, mayors, environmental NGO and activists, research and religious organizations, local actors whose means of life depend on natural resources, such as: fishermen associations, agricultural and cattle industry representatives and tourism operators, among others.</p> <p>The project also developed a roadmap together with the Ministry of Environment for the strengthening of capacities for their technical, administrative and management personnel that started in June 2020 with courses in strategic planning related topics. A second phase (under development) includes training courses on financial strategies for the sustainability of the ZEMMC and Integrated Coastal and Marine Management.</p> <p>Districts: Mayors of the three districts (Pocri, Pedasi and Tonosi) are aware of the environmental problems on their</p>
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					<p>territories and are actively participating in the implementation of local solutions with the social and governmental actors. They are part of a local governing board that represents a first step towards a local and participatory governance structure for the coasts and marine management.</p> <p>NGO: through the Small Grants Programme the capacity of NGOs has been improved through training in administrative and planning topics, co-financing and monitoring during project implementation. This training is covered by grants for 7 NGOs that aim to implement initiatives related to conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land use. Support includes</p> <p>Producers associations: through the Small Grants Programme the capacity of two local producer associations to formulate project proposals was improved through sustainable tourism projects.</p> <p>Under development: actions with ARAP, ATP and MIDA.</p>
<p><b>The progress of the objective can be described as:</b></p>		<p><b>On track</b></p>			
<p><b>Outcome 2</b></p>					

Integrated environmental management of the target ZEMMC in the southern part of the Azuero Peninsula					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
Number of female olive Ridley sea turtles ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> ) nesting in 1.8 kilometers of protected beaches: La Marinera (0.8 km) and Isla de Cañas (1 km, natural nursery site)	-Isla de Cañas: 6,486; females  -La Marinera: 15,000 females	-Isla de Cañas: 6,486; females  -La Marinera: 15,000 females	-Isla de Cañas: 6,486; females  -La Marinera: 15,000 females	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>The 2019 monitoring report of the Ministry of Environment presents the following numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2019 Isla de Cañas: 8,425 nests</li> <li>- 2019 La Marinera: 31,078 nests</li> </ul> <p>A consultancy organization is carrying out activities in Isla de Cañas to reach an agreement with the community to regulate the current situation of extraction of sea turtle eggs.</p> <p>There will be an analysis of economic alternatives to this practice in order to offer solutions to the people of the community.</p> <p>The consultancy also includes the analysis and proposals regarding the situation of coastal lights that can affect the sea turtles. The consultancy organization started on April 2020 with the analysis of documentation but the quarantine situation in the country as of June 2020 has delayed the field work.</p>

Coverage of mangroves in the southern part of the Azuero Peninsula	6,072.3 ha	6,072.3 ha	6,072.3 ha	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>The number of hectares is stable, according to the Ministry of Environment 2019 mangrove coverage map in Peninsula de Azuero.</p> <p>See map <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y8gqjcvg">https://tinyurl.com/y8gqjcvg</a></p> <p>A publication about Mangrove Restoration with local examples is under development by the Ministry of Environment with the support of Azuero Sostenible. This publication represents a technical tool that will be shared and promoted among local actors in the region. It is expected to be launched on September-October 2020.</p>
Sizes of fish species of commercial importance by project end	<p>-Grouper (<i>Epinephelus</i> spp.): X (Baseline will be determined during project implementation)</p> <p>-Snapper (<i>Lutjanus</i> spp.): 30.7 cm (Baseline will be confirmed during project implementation)</p>	<p>-Grouper (<i>Epinephelus</i> spp.): equal to the baseline</p> <p>-Snapper (<i>Lutjanus</i> spp.): equal to the baseline</p>	<p>-Grouper (<i>Epinephelus</i> spp.): equal to the baseline</p> <p>-Snapper (<i>Lutjanus</i> spp.): equal to the baseline</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	A consultancy to elaborate the baseline sizes of fish species is under development. It started on June 2020 and it is expected to last for 10 months.

Percentage of small-scale fishing cooperatives that adopt best practices for biodiversity-friendly and sustainable fishing practices based on the FAO code of conduct	0% (10 cooperatives are currently operating in the ZEMMC in the southern part of the Azuero Peninsula)	10%	20%	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	0%  Through the analysis of social actors in the three districts (Pocri, Pedasi and Tonosi) we identified five small scale fishing associations with interest to implement sustainable fishing initiatives.  Currently we are working with these associations on project ideas to participate in the call of proposals for the second Small Grants Program that was launched on June 22, 2020.
Average income of the small-scale fishers who adopt biodiversity-friendly and sustainable fishing practices	\$400/month	\$400/month	\$500/month	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	We will be able to measure this indicator once we have activities under development with local fishing associations.
Number of MiPyME associated with sustainable tourism throughout the marine coastal area with environmental management plans (EMP)	0 (65 tourism businesses registered in the Province of Los Santos, without EMP)	2 MiPyMEs associated with sustainable tourism with EMP	4 MiPyMEs associated with sustainable tourism with EMP	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Two (2) organizations whose activities are related to sustainable tourism were awarded Small Grants Program in 2020.  Project 1: Conservation and promotion of environmental activities in El Arenal beach, Pedasi district. Proponent: Asociación de Pescadores Pedasieños Unidos. The project includes the development of a Good Practices Guide for fishing and tourism activities of the association. It also

					<p>includes the rehabilitation of 3km of riparian forests.</p> <p>Project 2: Community empowerment for the conservation of natural resources in Los Santos province. Proponent: Tourism Chamber, Los Santos. The project includes the identification of species and signposting of a natural trail to promote ecotourism activities.</p>
Number of agreements between the districts of Pocrí, Pedasí, and/or Tonosí and the urban sector for the prevention, reduction, and control of land-based contamination and the management of trash and solid waste	0	3	5	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>No agreements have been established to date.</p> <p>The project is working with the districts to formalize this agreements.</p>
Number of farms and cattle ranches with sustainable production certified by MiAmbiente or another competent authority	<p>-7 agro-tourism farms certified in the Province of Los Santos</p> <p>-0 agricultural farms and cattle ranches certified</p>	<p>-1 new agro-tourism farms</p> <p>-1 agricultural farm or cattle ranch certified</p>	<p>-2 new agro-tourism farms</p> <p>-2 agricultural farms or cattle ranches certified</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>During 2019 there were conversations with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture (MIDA) about certification schemes for farms and cattle ranches. MIDA has a joint certification with the Tourism Authority of Panama for Eco - Agritourism Farms. MIDA also has a best practices and traceability certification program.</p> <p>There are three certified agricultural and cattle ranches certifies by MIDA-ATP and three other identified ranches</p>

					<p>with potential and interest for certification.</p> <p>Azuero Sostenible contacted the representatives of these three ranches with potential for certification to identify ways in which we can collaborate with their certification process.</p> <p>Conversations are under development but slowed down during the quarantine situation.</p>
The progress of the objective can be described as:		On track			
<b>Outcome 3</b>					
<b>Gender Mainstreaming, Knowledge Management and Learning</b>					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
Progress in the in the implementation of the Project Gender Mainstreaming Plan (see Gender Mainstreaming Plan, Annex M)	0%	50%	100%	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	National Oceans Policy: gender aspects were included in the Terms of Reference of the process. Public consultations, including citizen participation, should be conducted according to the law and assuring gender equity. Also, it is required that the methodology for gender perspective includes a proposal specially oriented to gender and assure gender perspective inclusion not only on participative processes, but also in the proposals and instruments included in the public



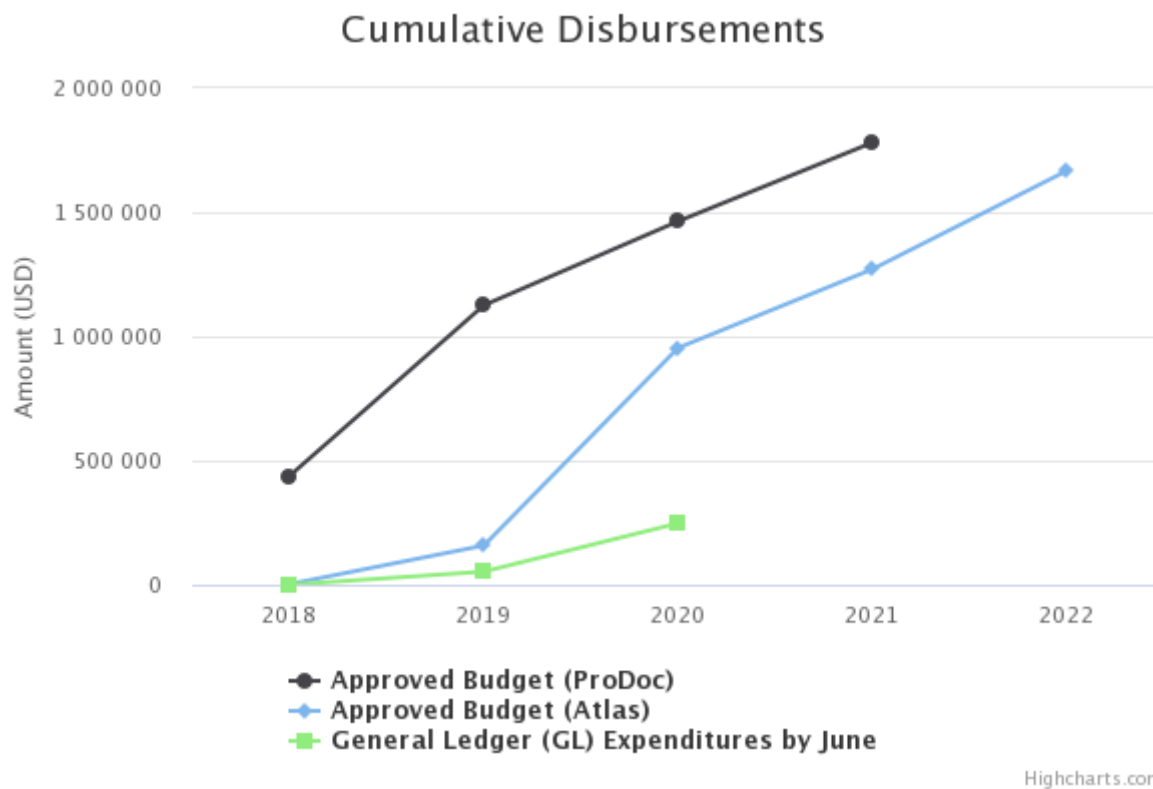
					<p>environment policy. Furthermore, gender perspective should include gender differentiated diagnosis.</p> <p>In terms of the Small Grants Programme, six out of nine projects adjudicated in 2019 are led by women (67%) and 25% of the participants/members reported by these organizations are women (31 out of 122).</p> <p>In the case of Pedasieños Unidos Association their main activities include training in sustainable tourism and reforestation of riparian forests and the participation of women includes the wives and daughters of the associates, that until know have only participated in administrative tasks within the organization.</p> <p>NGO Fundaproverde is developing a rainwater harvesting project where they will train 10 women to operate the harvesting system and two women to bottle purified water for them to obtain income through this activity.</p> <p>NGO Fundación Pro Eco Azuero Organización is working on community</p>
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					led gardens to produce raw materials for artisan women of Paritilla and Bajo Corral in Los Santos province.
Information management and monitoring system on coastal marine biodiversity	0	Information management and monitoring system on coastal marine biodiversity in the planning process	Information management and monitoring system on coastal marine biodiversity operating	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Development of six maps and a digital database based on official coverages provided by the Environmental Information Direction of the Ministry of Environment (DIAM), to establish a baseline for some core indicators and logical framework indicators, a database structure and a visual tool for activities such as local workshops for community mapping.</p> <p>These maps will be the basis of an information system for the coastal marine biodiversity.</p> <p>The six maps are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ZEMMC of southern part of Azuero Peninsula: hectares of the official zone and the proposed extension zone</li> <li>2. Watersheds: includes the delimitation of the sub watersheds associated to the watersheds that influence the ZEMMC.</li> <li>3. Land use and coverage</li> <li>4. Economic activity disaggregated by districts: population over 10 years, number of people employed on any economic activity,</li> </ol>

					<p>unemployed people and people who reported no economic activity</p> <p>5. Conservation areas established inside the ZEMMC</p> <p>6. Fishing operations and fishing arts more prevalent in the ZEMMC</p> <p>These maps were delivered to the Ministry of Environment for their integration to SINIA (National Environmental Information System) and guidelines to add information to this system are being analyzed to contribute all relevant data generated by the project to this system.</p> <p>Furthermore, Small Donation Program grantees will receive instructions and training to deliver their data based on these guidelines.</p>
Number of documents on best practices and lessons learned made available to other ZEMMCs in the country and internationally	0	0	1	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>A guide for Mangrove Restoration with examples of species and restorations in different territories in the country is under development by the Ministry of Environment with the support of Azuero Sostenible (expected publishing date: August 2020) The guide will be circulated thoroughly among stakeholders and work is under development to have it permanently posted on the Municipalities websites.</p>

					Also, a publication based on the analysis of 86 social and environmental stakeholders of Azuero is under development and expected to be published by the end of 2020.
<b>The progress of the objective can be described as:</b>		<b>On track</b>			

## D. Implementation Progress



Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	13.9%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	16.91%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August):	247,573

<b>Key Financing Amounts</b>	
PPG Amount	45,662
GEF Grant Amount	1,780,822
Co-financing	5,603,208

<b>Key Project Dates</b>	
PIF Approval Date	Mar 20, 2017
CEO Endorsement Date	Apr 11, 2018
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Sep 20, 2018
Date of Inception Workshop	Mar 27, 2019
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

Actual Date of Mid-term Review	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Jun 20, 2022
Original Planned Closing Date	Sep 20, 2022
Revised Planned Closing Date	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

<b>Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2019 to 1 July 2020)</b>
2020-01-23
2020-07-09
2019-04-11

## E. Critical Risk Management

Current Types of Critical Risks	Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period
Social and Environmental	Mobility restriction imposed by the government due to COVID-19 paralyzed field activities the project between March and June, 2020. Nonetheless, the project improvised by holding virtual sessions with project beneficiaries. Also, the project has mandatory a biosafety protocol for all activities and beneficiaries.

## F. Adjustments

### Risk Management

The Country Office is responsible for completing the Risk Management section of the PIR in consultation with the RTA. Before updating the PIR, the Country Office must update project-level risks in the Atlas Risk Register line with UNDP's enterprise risk management policy and have a detailed discussion with the RTA on risk management. Next, the Country Office must select below the 'high' risks identified in the Atlas Risk Register as well as any other 'substantial' risks from the Atlas Risk Register identified by the RTA as needing to be addressed in the PIR. Moderate and Low risks do not need to be entered in the PIR Risk Management section. After selecting the risk, a text field will appear where the Country Office should describe the risk and explain actions undertaken this reporting period to address the risk selected.

**Select the risk(s) from the options that match the 'high' risks in the project's UNDP Risk Register as well as any 'significant' risks from the register, as agreed with the RTA. Please describe the risk identified and explain the management approach agreed between the RTA and Country Office on managing/mitigating the risk.**

Social and Environmental

### Comments on delays in key project milestones

**Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.**

A six-month delay was noticed on the inception workshop. The decision to delay the inception workshop was made due to the pre electoral situation in the country, because during the first months of 2019 the national parties were absorbed in primary elections processes and public servants of many institutions were leaving temporarily their positions to compete for a candidature or support other candidatures. Thus the inception workshop was organized when official candidates were already announced and postulations closed.

**Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.**

A six-month delay was noticed on the inception workshop. The decision to delay the inception workshop was made due to the pre electoral situation in the country, because during the first months of 2019 the national parties were absorbed in primary elections processes and public servants of many institutions were leaving temporarily their positions to compete for a candidature or support other candidatures. Thus the inception workshop was organized when official candidates were already announced and postulations closed.

**UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.**

The Project Document states that the inception workshop must be held within two months after the project document has been signed. In this case, the project held the inception workshop 6 months after the signature of the project document. The project document was signed on September 20,



2018 and the inception workshop was held on 27 March, 2019. The electoral period particularly in early 2019 was a key factor that influenced the delay in the organization of the inception workshop.

## G. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
<b>Project Manager/Coordinator</b>	Moderately Satisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>The cumulative progress during the first 18 months of implementation of this project is rated as Moderately Satisfactory because it is considered that the project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets.</p> <p>Although there was some initial challenges and delayed progress on the 2019 annual workplan, the project has taken steps to attend the shortcomings and it is on its way to catch up on the delivery expected.</p> <p>The initial challenges were related to various factors, including the national elections that implied changes in all directive structures at the counterpart Ministry of Environment, governmental institutions directly working with the project (Tourism Authority, Agriculture Ministry and Fishing Authority, among others) and local government mayors. This situation demanded a considerable work to socialize all aspects of the project with the new authorities.</p> <p>Another challenge was related to the presence of the coordination unit in the province of impact (Los Santos). During 2019, the coordination unit shared its time between the capital city and Los Santos, but this model proved difficult to advance in the key work of stakeholder involvement. In 2020 the coordination unit was reorganized, and new personnel started on March 2020 (coordinator) and June 2020 (technical assistant) and both are required to be full time in Los Santos.</p> <p>Although personnel have not been able to relocate to Los Santos due to the quarantine and COVID-19 mobility restrictions, some activities are being reformulated to virtual settings and are currently under development. For example, training activities for personnel of the Ministry of Environment and the launching of the Small Grants Program are both running adapted to virtual modality.</p> <p>Outcome progress</p> <p>Progress under outcome 1: strengthening the regulatory and institutional frameworks is rated on track because the project has been able to advance on key activities.</p> <p>In terms of regulatory frameworks, the project is supporting the development of the National Oceans Policy. A public acquisitions process was launched in March 2020 and it is expected to be adjudicated on August-September 2020. The company has one year to develop the policy, at the end of which it will be</p>	

officialized by the Environmental Policy Department of the Environment Ministry of Panama.

In terms of the strengthening capacities of the Coastal and Oceans Direction of the Ministry of Environment there is a training roadmap that started in June 2020 with courses in strategic planning related topics for 30 public servants. A second phase is expected to follow this year and includes training on financial strategies for the sustainability of the ZEMMC and Integrated Coastal and Marine Management.

At the local level the project consolidated the creation of a governing board to oversee the activities of the project, which is expected to be the seed of a larger environmental group/committee/council that oversees topics related to the Coastal Marine Special Management Zone (ZEMMC) of the southern part of the Azuero peninsula, with the support and participation of representatives from the civil society, groups such as Community Based Organizations, leaders of artisanal fishing groups, sustainable tourism groups and others. This local governing board is constituted by the Mayors of the three districts (Pocrí, Pedasí and Tonosí) of the ZEMMC, and also by the province Governor and the Mayor of Las Tablas, a neighbor district. This structure was initiated in January 2020.

In the case of the Watershed Committees 124 and 126, the project has achieved to have presence in their regular meetings and communication channels, and opportunities to collaborate and advance their work have been identified. However, it is important to point out that both Watershed Committees have stopped formal activities since the beginning of the quarantine in Panama (March 2020) and the situation continues equal as of June 2020.

Also, the project produced an analysis of social actors in the three main districts of the ZEMMC of the southern part of Azuero. The analysis included governmental representatives, Mayors, environmental NGO and activists, research and religious organizations, local actors whose means of life depend on natural resources, such as: fishermen associations, agricultural and cattle industry representatives and tourism operators, among others. The document includes interviews with 86 representatives and a thorough analysis of the power and social relationships among them.

Progress under outcome 2: Integrated environmental management of the target ZEMMC in the southern part of the Azuero Peninsula is rated off track.

Outcome 2 is the largest in terms of number of activities and indicators that should be advanced at a local level, therefore it was fairly impacted by the initial challenges described earlier in this assessment.

One of the outputs affected is related to the agreements that should be advanced between the districts of Pocrí, Pedasí, and/or Tonosí to tackle the main environmental threats identified in the zone. Only one of the agreements

is under development, related to the illegal extraction of sea turtle eggs in the Protected Area of Isla de Cañas.

In the case of outputs related farms and cattle ranches with sustainable production certified by MiAmbiente, the project identified certification mechanisms and cattle ranches with potential and interest for certification but still there is no advancement in this regard. Moreover, mobility restrictions are slowing down further progress.

Finally, in terms of outputs related to small-scale fishing cooperatives that adopt best practices for biodiversity-friendly and sustainable fishing practices, currently we are working to encourage identified associations to participate in the call of proposals for the second Small Grants Program that was launched on June 22, 2020.

On the other hand, progress can be reported on sustainable tourism with two organizations with projects implemented in this area, through the Small Grant Program:

Project 1: Conservation and promotion of environmental activities in El Arenal beach, Pedasi district. Proponent: Asociación de Pescadores Pedasieños Unidos. The project includes the development of a Good Practices Guide for fishing and tourism activities of the association. It also includes the rehabilitation of 3km of riparian forests.

Project 2: Community empowerment for the conservation of natural resources in Los Santos province. Proponent: Tourism Chamber, Los Santos. The project includes the identification of species and signposting of a natural trail to promote ecotourism activities.

Progress under outcome 3: Gender Mainstreaming, Knowledge Management and Learning is rated on track.

Gender mainstreaming can be reported on the following:

National Oceans Policy: gender aspects were included in the Terms of Reference of the process. Public consultations, including citizen participation, should be conducted according to the law and assuring gender equity. Also, it is required that the methodology for gender perspective includes a proposal specially oriented to gender and assure gender perspective inclusion not only on participative processes, but also in the proposals and instruments included in the public environment policy. Furthermore, gender perspective should include gender differentiated diagnosis.

In terms of the Small Grants Programme, six out of nine projects adjudicated in 2019 are led by women and 25% of the participants/members reported by these organizations are women (31 out of 122).

An important update is that the process to hire a gender specialist for the project is under way as of June 2020.

In terms of knowledge management the project developed six maps and a digital database based on official coverages provided by the Environmental Information Direction of the Ministry of Environment (DIAM), to establish a baseline for some core indicators and logical framework indicators and a database structure. These maps are expected to be the basis of an information system for the coastal marine biodiversity.

The six maps are:

- 1.ZEMMC of southern part of Azuero Peninsula: hectares of the official zone and the proposed extension zone
- 2.Watersheds: includes the delimitation of the sub watersheds associated to the watersheds that influence the ZEMMC.
- 3.Land use and coverage
- 4.Economic activity disaggregated by districts: population over 10 years, number of people employed on any economic activity, unemployed people and people who reported no economic activity
- 5.Conservation areas established inside the ZEMMC
- 6.Fishing operations and fishing arts more prevalent in the ZEMMC

These maps were delivered to the Ministry of Environment for their integration to SINIA (National Environmental Information System) and guidelines to add information to this system are being analyzed to contribute all relevant data generated by the project to this system.

Furthermore, Small Donation Program grantees will receive instructions and training to deliver their data based on these guidelines.

Finally in terms of documentation generated by the project, a guide for Mangrove Restoration with examples of species and restorations in different territories in the country is under development with the Ministry of Environment (expected publishing date: August 2020) The guide will be circulated thoroughly among stakeholders and work is under development to have it permanently posted on the Municipalities websites. Also, a publication based on the analysis of 86 social and environmental stakeholders of Azuero is under development and expected to be published by the end of 2020.

Final remarks: after initial challenges were identified and tackled timely, it is considered that the project is on track and prepared to achieve its end of project targets. As for the current mobility restrictions due to COVID-19, the project has been able to advance on areas where virtual tools are available and feasible, such as trainings and the Small Grant Program assessment. However, it is crucial for the coordination unit to gain mobility to the area to further advance the activities of outcome 2.

<b>Role</b>	<b>2020 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2020 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>UNDP Country Office Programme Officer</b>	Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
<b>Overall Assessment</b>	<p>The rating we give is moderately satisfactory.</p> <p>The project with some adjustments is on time to accelerate the achievement of the objectives and indicators set. Although there were some stumbling blocks identified as risks, timely actions were taken, highlighting that for the CO it has been a major challenge since it has had to assume greater dedication of time and technical assistance so that activities could continue, and somehow consolidate inter-institutional relations at the local level mainly with the Municipalities of the districts involved, as well as the Governorate. Being this one of the biggest challenges, to maintain the local appropriation and inform, active and sustained local stakeholders' participation, thus that indicators related to biodiversity, and sustainable management with a landscape approach can be achieved.</p> <p>The 2019 work plan was not completed in its entirety and implementation remained low. However, efforts must be upheld to make the indicators visible so that progress can be measured in a participatory manner with local stakeholders, the most critical of which are those related to sustainable fishing, mangrove coverage, waste management, reduction of human conflict with sea turtles, and improvements in people's incomes and livelihoods.</p> <p>In addition to the institutional strengthening of both the Ministry of Environment and the Municipalities.</p> <p>In the area of gender mainstreaming, it is hoped to close the year 2020 with positive gender indicators, efforts are being made from the formulation of documents including terms of reference for procurement, as well as in processes with local actors on the empowerment of women and the improvement of their quality of life with access to opportunities.</p> <p>The Project Coordination Unit has been significantly strengthened to accelerate all these processes, and programmatic mechanisms have been adopted at the Project Board level to guarantee agility and commitment to work on environmental conservation, biodiversity, and climate action in these coastal communities, consolidating the social fabric, with interventions that combine the natural and social sciences with local knowledge. For example, expand the use of UNDP's Low-Value Grant mechanism using the Small Grants Programme platform implemented by UNDP, as well as the innovation challenge tool.</p> <p>With regard to the project's risks due to COVID-19, it should be mentioned that biosecurity protocols have been developed for fieldwork. It should be noted that the Azuero area has the lowest incidence of positive cases and lethality in the country, consequently since June, within the Province of Los Santos, there are no mobility restrictions as in other parts of the country. This makes it possible to gradually resume actions on the ground. And during the closing of the pandemic, activities were advanced where the technological platforms</p>	

	<p>available could be used to hold meetings, workshops, presentations, exchange information, and sign documents, among others.</p> <p>The UNDP Country Office considers Azuero Sustainable, as it is known, as an emblematic initiative that shows how to articulate the level of national public policies with local action, and how to localize the sustainable developments goals. Also, as a way to demonstrate, the interlinkages between environmental interventions and sustainable development, especially now that it is essential to display success stories of how the green-blue economies can support inclusive early recovery, with people, adapting to their realities and their context. And we hope it will further strengthen the Ministry of Environment which has few resources, human, technological and financial, to be able to assume all its functions and competencies in marine coastal spaces according to the law.</p>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2020 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2020 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>GEF Operational Focal point</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2020 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2020 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>Project Implementing Partner</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2020 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2020 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>Other Partners</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2020 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2020 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser</b>	Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>This the first PIR of a 4-year project aiming to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the Coastal Marine Special Management Zone (ZEMMC) in the southern part of the Azuero Peninsula of Panama. The project is granted a rating of Moderately Satisfactory (MS) as current evidence indicates that it is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings. This rating is granted taking into account the impact of COVID-19 which affected project activities between March and June in Panama due to mandatory lockdowns and mobility restrictions. Nonetheless, the government has been removing these restrictions and in July-September</p>	

the project should be able to return to the field and in compliance with mandatory biosafety and social distancing measures.

To date, the project with the support of the Small Grants Programme and other sources of co-financing has strengthened the livelihoods of about 972 people through solutions for management of coastal marine natural resources and ecosystems services and is working with local communities to improve the management of the Refugio Vida Silvestre which covers 24,288 ha.

Under Outcome 1 (Strengthening the regulatory and institutional framework) the project launched a public process to procure the services of company that will draft the National Coastal and Marine Policy which should be completed in about a year. The institutional framework and governance of local Environmental Advisory Committees (EAC), Watershed Committees (WC), and an Institutional Environmental System (SIA) is also being strengthened. In January 2020, a local governing board was created to oversee the activities of the project. The local governing board is constituted by the Mayors of the three districts (Pocrí, Pedasi and Tonosí) of the ZEMMC, and also by the province Governor and the Mayor of Las Tablas, a neighboring district.

This board is also expected to be the genesis of a larger environmental group, committee, or council that oversees topics related to the ZEMMC with the support and participation of representatives from the civil society, groups such as Community Based Organizations, leaders of artisanal fishing groups, sustainable tourism groups and others. The project is also supporting Watershed Committees (WC) with their annual activity plans. These WCs stopped activities in March-June due to COVID-19 but they should be resuming work in August-September.

The project estimated the baseline and targets for increased government financing for the integrated environmental management of the coastal marine areas. The project is encouraged to start identifying finance mechanisms such as crowdfunding linked to the support of rangers or other causes. It should be noted that increased financing for coastal marine areas is likely to be affected by a change in priorities from potential funders due to urgent COVID-19 related needs.

The project is currently working to increase the capacity of local stakeholders for marine coastal biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and reduced threats and is proposing to reduce the number of stakeholders to those that are likely to have the highest impact in the area. The proposed stakeholders are MiAmbiente, Districts, ATP, NGOs, and Producers Associations. The project will seek the approval of the Steering Committee for this adjustment.

Key activities to increase the capacity of these stakeholders include the development of a roadmap together with the Ministry of Environment for strengthening of capacities for their technical, administrative and management personnel that started in June 2020 with courses in strategic planning related topics. A second phase (under development) includes training courses on financial strategies for the sustainability and Integrated Coastal and Marine Management of the ZEMMC. The capacity of NGOs has also been improved through training in administrative and planning topics, co-financing and monitoring of projects. The producers associations capacities to formulate



project proposals has also been improved through sustainable tourism projects funded by the Small Grants Programme.

Under Outcome 2 (Integrated environmental management of the target ZEMMC in the southern part of the Azuero Peninsula) the project is consolidating key partnerships with local organizations and making preliminary progress in the delivery of outcomes that show improvements in the environmental management of ZEMMC. Nonetheless, the project is strongly encouraged to focus and consolidate the preliminary efforts reported under this outcome during the next 2020-2021 PIR period.

It is important to report that the number of nests of the olive Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) reveal a healthy population. The 2019 count of nests in La Marinera (8,425 nests) and Isla de Cañas (31,078 nests) are significant. However, the project indicator is on number of females and not number of nests. The project is encouraged to count the number of females for the next time this indicator is measured which should be prior to the terminal evaluation. The project will continue working with the community to regulate the consumption of turtle eggs. Also, there is a need to assess the impact of coastal lights on turtles.

Another positive outcome of the project is that the current area of mangroves (6,072 ha) in the southern part of the Azuero Peninsula is the same as the one reported in the baseline. The project together with MiAmbiente is working on a publication about mangrove restoration which is expected to be launched on September-October 2020. This publication will guide restoration activities of the mangrove ecosystem to be carried out by the project in 2020-2021.

Ensuring that small-scale fishing cooperatives adopt best practices for biodiversity-friendly and sustainable fishing practices is a key priority. The project identified five small scale fishing associations with interest to implement sustainable fishing initiatives in Pocrí, Pedasí and Tonosí. Similarly, the project will work with two organizations (MiPyME) that will be trained on sustainable tourism with the support of grants from the Small Grants Program.

The coastal and marine ecosystems of the ZEMMC are being severely affected by pollution and solid waste. The project needs to facilitate agreements between the districts of Pocrí, Pedasí, and/or Tonosí and the urban sector for the prevention, reduction, and control of land-based contamination and the management of trash and solid waste. This is also a key priority for the project.

Similarly, farms and cattle ranches also have an impact on the coastal and marine environments and the project is mitigating this impact with training on good production practices and certificates issued by MiAmbiente or another competent authority. In 2019, the project had conversations with the Ministry of Agriculture about certification schemes for farms and cattle ranches. MIDA has a joint certification with the Tourism Authority of Panama for Eco -Agritourism Farms. To date three agricultural and cattle ranches have been certified by MIDA-ATP and three other ranches are interested in receiving training on best practices so that they can be certified. The project contacted the representatives of these three ranches with potential for certification to identify their needs.

Under Outcome 3 (Gender Mainstreaming, Knowledge Management and Learning) the project advanced on the implementation of the Project Gender Mainstreaming Plan by including gender aspects in the terms of reference for the development of the National Oceans Policy. The policy approval process should include public consultations and gender considerations. The project has mainstreamed gender through the grants of the Small Grants Programme where six out of nine projects adjudicated in 2019 are led by women (67%) and 25% of the participants/members reported by these organizations are women (31 out of 122). The Pedasieños Unidos Association is promoting sustainable tourism, reforestation of riparian forests and the participation of women includes the wives and daughters of the associates. The NGO Fundaproverde is developing a rainwater harvesting project where they will train 10 women to operate the harvesting system and two women to bottle purified water for them to obtain income through this activity. The NGO Fundación Pro Eco Azuero Organización is working on community led gardens to produce raw materials for artisan women of Paritilla and Bajo Corral in Los Santos province.

The project is also supporting an information management and monitoring system on coastal marine biodiversity which developed six maps and a digital database based on official coverages provided by the Environmental Information Direction of the Ministry of Environment (DIAM). This system is also being used for updating information for the core indicators and the logical framework indicators. A key publication under this outcome include a guide on Mangrove Restoration with examples of species and restorations in different territories in the country is under development by the Ministry of Environment with the support of the project and to be published in late 2020.

In terms of implementation during this PIR period, the project is granted a rating of Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU). To date the project has disbursed US\$247,573. This is 13.9% of the accumulative delivery and to date it should have been 16.91%. The MU rating also takes into account delays in project delivery between March and June caused by lockdown and mobility restrictions imposed by the government in response to the COVID-19 situation.

The MU rating is also supported by limited achievements of the following outputs and activities during this PIR period: a) no agreements were signed for the prevention, reduction and control of land-based contamination and the management of trash and solid waste; b) the project did not estimate the baseline and targets for the indicator on the sizes of fish species of commercial importance; c) the proposal for the National Coastal and Marine Policy should have already being drafted; and d) small-scale fishing cooperatives were not trained on biodiversity-friendly and sustainable fishing practices based on the FAO code of conduct.

The project still needs to disburse the remaining US\$1.5 m in two years as it closes in September 2022. This is likely to be difficult given the project's previous performance but possible as the government is removing COVID-19 mobility restrictions in September and the project with the support of the UNDP CO is already taking measures to improve a poor implementation trend identified in 2019. These measures include: 1) a new project manager and technical support person were hired and deployed to the region in March, 2020; 2) the political profile of the project within the Ministry of Environment was

increased by involving the Minister in recent project activities; and 3) the project management unit was strengthened with a gender specialist.

In addition, the RTA proposes the following action plan in order to expedite implementation during the remaining years of project implementation: 1) continue increasing the political profile of the project within government institutions and leaders through brief trimestral reports on achievement of project outputs/outcomes and share these reports with the Environment Minister, the governor of the Province, local mayors and the UNDP Resident Representative; 2) assign a person from the project management unit to be in charge of the following tasks: i) monitoring and evaluation of project's activities, ii) progress and compliance with indicators of the logical framework, iii) monitoring of the project's delivery rate, and iv) monitoring of the disbursement rate of co-financing and contribution of co-financing sources to the project's outcomes; and 3) carry out a strategic planning meeting in January 2021 to take stock, assess project implementation, and ensure that project activities are implemented on schedule by project end (September 2022).

## H. Gender

### Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning. The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

<b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <a href="#">GenderPlan_July.docx</a>
<b>Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.</b>
<a href="#">GenderPlan_July.docx</a>
<b>Atlas Gender Marker Rating</b>
<b>GEN2:</b> gender equality as significant objective
<b>Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):</b>
Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes
Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes
Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes
Not applicable: No
<b>Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.</b>
<b>Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.</b>
In terms of the National Oceans Policy gender aspects were included in the Terms of Reference of the process. Public consultations, including citizen participation, should be conducted according to the law and assuring gender equity. Also, it is required that the methodology for gender perspective includes a proposal specially oriented to gender and assure gender perspective inclusion not only on participative processes, but also in the proposals and instruments included in the public environment policy. Furthermore, gender perspective should include gender differentiated diagnosis.
In terms of the Small Grants Programme, six out of nine projects adjudicated in 2019 are led by women (67%) and 25% of the participants/members reported by these organizations are women (31

out of 122). Women leading these projects are strengthening their management capacities to propose, implement, manage and monitor environmental initiatives.

- In the case of Pedasieños Unidos Association their main activities include training in sustainable tourism and reforestation of riparian forests and the participation of women includes the wives and daughters of the associates, that until now have only participated in administrative tasks within the organization.

- NGO Fundaproverde is developing a rainwater harvesting project where they will train 10 women to operate the harvesting system and two women to bottle purified water for them to obtain income through this activity.

- NGO Fundación Pro Eco Azuero Organización is working on community led gardens to produce raw materials for artisan women of Paritilla and Bajo Corral in Los Santos province.

**Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.**

We are working on strengthening local governance structures such as watershed committees, and other participative spaces at the local level. The goal is to further women participation and therefore decision making in environmental issues that affect their communities. The project is also analyzing economic activities in the region and means of life around natural resources, where women participate as well as opportunities where they can be trained and guided to participate, such as fishing, vegetable gardens, sustainable tourism and others.

## I. Social and Environmental Standards

### Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

The Project Manager and/or the project's Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

<p><b>SESP:</b> <a href="#">PIMS 5750 BD Panama Marine Coastal Areas SESP.docx</a></p> <p><b>SESP:</b> <a href="#">Entramado social Mapeo Azuero Sostenible.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.</b></p>
<p><a href="#">Entramado social Mapeo Azuero Sostenible.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?</b></p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.</b></p>
<p>In the case of the interventions proposed in the protected area Isla de Cañas, there is a risk that the activities will potentially adversely impact intangible forms of culture in the case of turtle eggs extraction and consumption.</p> <p>The intervention consists in reaching agreements with the community for sustainable alternatives to turtle eggs extraction and consumption by the community.</p> <p>The project designed a political incidence plan to mitigate possible negative impacts from the community which involves wide and constant communication with different stakeholders, involvement of the community in the design of the agreements and the study of viable economic alternatives related to tourism that will be proposed.</p>
<p><b>2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.</b></p>
<p>No</p>
<p><b>If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.</b></p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>

<b>3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.</b>
Yes
<b>If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?</b>
No
<b>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

## J. Communicating Impact

**Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's lives.**

**(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)**

Azuero Sostenible has worked to strengthen capacities and governance structures at local and institutional levels in order to transform the development model of the province and the region, aligned with the country priorities as stated in the National Biodiversity Strategy, the National Climate Change Strategy, the National Wetlands Policy and more recently the Oceans National Policy, currently under development with involvement and intervention of Azuero Sostenible.

The region of south Azuero has historically faced environmental challenges with serious social and economic consequences. The deforestation is extensive and has degraded more than half of mangrove coverage in the last fifty years. Contamination of water sources due to agrochemicals abuse, added to unsustainable fishing practices can escalate the damage to fragile ecosystems, with direct impact to biodiversity and the communities that depend on natural resources.

One of the pillars of the project is to work with local stakeholders. In this regard, the local municipalities are key actors of the sustainable development in their territories. Azuero Sostenible consolidated the creation of a local governing board to oversee the activities of the project that is expected to be the seed of a larger group/committee/council that oversees topics related to the Coastal Marine Special Management Zone (ZEMMC) of the southern part of the Azuero peninsula, with the support and participation of representatives from the civil society, groups such as Community Based Organizations (CBO), leaders of artisanal fishing groups, sustainable tourism groups and others.

In terms of the work with local groups, NGOs and CBOs, the project has supported through the Small Grants Program, nine groups to develop activities related to sustainable tourism, reforestation, sea turtle conservation and monitoring, fishing statistics and data and water harvesting, among others. The impact of these projects is reaching more than 700 direct beneficiaries and more than 4 hectares with sustainable practices developed.

Finally, the project has worked with the Ministry of Environment to strengthen the capacities of the technical, administrative and supervision level personnel of the Coasts and Oceans Direction, through a training program that includes a first phase on strategic planning, evaluation, annual operative plans and procedures and a second phase on topics related to integrated marine coastal management. The first phase directly benefited 30 public servants during 2020.

### Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media

**Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**



**Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file library' button in the top right of the PIR.**

Knowledge activities advanced in this period are:

Contribution to the establishment of an information management and monitoring system on coastal and marine biodiversity through the development of six maps and a digital database that constitute the basis of an information system for the coastal marine biodiversity in the ZEMMC of the southern part of Azuero. The six maps are:

- 1.ZEMMC of southern part of Azuero Peninsula: hectares of the official zone and the proposed extension zone
- 2.Watersheds: includes the delimitation of the sub watersheds associated to the watersheds that influence the ZEMMC.
- 3.Land use and coverage
- 4.Economic activity disaggregated by districts: population over 10 years, number of people employed on any economic activity, unemployed people and people who reported no economic activity
- 5.Conservation areas established inside the ZEMMC
- 6.Fishing operations and fishing arts more prevalent in the ZEMMC

Development of documentation on new knowledge regarding mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into production landscapes/seascapes for the integrated environmental management of coastal marine areas: a guide for Mangrove Restoration with examples of species and restorations in different territories in the country is under development by the Ministry of Environment with the support of Azuero Sostenible (expected publishing date: August 2020) The guide will be circulated thoroughly among key actors of the project and work is under development to have it permanently posted on the Municipalities websites. Also, a publication based on the analysis of 86 social and environmental stakeholders of Azuero is under development and expected to be published by the end of 2020.

Also, in terms of communication and outreach tools the project commissioned a stock of more than 500 professional photos and 5 thematic videos that includes landscapes, biodiversity and people in the three districts of the ZEMMC of the southern part of Azuero. These materials have been used for events, flyers and social media posts. Finally, a public contest was launched to develop a logo and name easy to recognize, remember and that could be immediately associated with the main objective of the project. The name chosen is Azuero Sostenible, composed by the name of the region and the term sustainability. See the logo here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/155976344@N02/50051863928/in/dateposted-public/>

Stock of professional photos

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/155976344@N02/albums/72157703703941112>

Project page and press releases on the UNDP website

<https://www.pa.undp.org/content/panama/es/home/projects/conservacion-y-uso-sostenible-de-la-biodiversidad-en-las-zonas-d.html>

<https://www.pa.undp.org/content/panama/es/home/presscenter/articles/2019/biodiversidad--ecoturismo-y-pesca-sostenible---arranca-proyecto-0.html>

<https://www.pa.undp.org/content/panama/es/home/presscenter/articles/2019/empoderando-a-las-comunidades-locales-de-azuero-para-lograr-solu.html>

Outreach

<https://www.miambiente.gob.pa/empoderando-a-las-comunidades-locales-de-azuero-para-lograr-soluciones-basadas-en-la-biodiversidad/>

<http://www.enterate507.net/municipio-de-pedasi-representado-por-su-alcalde-miguel-batista-participa-en-la-firma-de-la-junta-local-del-proyecto-azuero-sostenible/>

<https://www.metrolibre.com/nacionales/126330-siete-millones-para-el-desarrollo-economico-proteger-los-manglares-y-conservar>

<https://sertv.gob.pa/crisolfm/azuero-sostenible-ii-convocatoria-cofinanciamiento-de-proyectos-comunitarios/>

Virtual Event Call for proposals - Community Projects 2020

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79RY9jEt\\_Zo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79RY9jEt_Zo)

Project video

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/luh3gkzzfwu3btX/2020-gef-pir-pims5750-gefid9804.docx?dl=0>

Small Grant Programme outreach

<https://www.miambiente.gob.pa/azuero-sostenible-ii-convocatoria-cofinanciamiento-de-proyectos-comunitarios/>

<https://mailchi.mp/undp/boletn-ppd-julio-2020-azuero-sostenible?e=b59fb5448c>

Photos of SGP project with NGO Mar Alliance

[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOZSUEK8Uc\\_zfK2paLbJZOtOoVCQxNxDO9W2PA3sIQ6UcezqpFDn0f4au2EeTK2Q?key=UThhWGEyVE5sOENxVU9DNXJ4enBXTETvMIdPUHZR](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOZSUEK8Uc_zfK2paLbJZOtOoVCQxNxDO9W2PA3sIQ6UcezqpFDn0f4au2EeTK2Q?key=UThhWGEyVE5sOENxVU9DNXJ4enBXTETvMIdPUHZR)

Social media coverage

<https://twitter.com/PNUDPanama/status/1270137153314488322>

<https://twitter.com/PNUDPanama/status/1259894607107837953>

<https://twitter.com/PNUDPanama/status/1278378746614091783>

<https://twitter.com/PNUDPanama/status/1278329364388724738>

<https://twitter.com/PNUDPanama/status/1277691814842171394>

<https://twitter.com/PNUDPanama/status/1275889094241988609>

[https://www.instagram.com/p/B\\_219lxJiUM/](https://www.instagram.com/p/B_219lxJiUM/)

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B7sAp3Dh9D0/>

[https://www.instagram.com/p/B7r2Jm\\_B8hS/](https://www.instagram.com/p/B7r2Jm_B8hS/)

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CCHH3qEBUJz/>

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CCB\\_cfshbrE/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CCB_cfshbrE/)

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CB1Rx6bBpeg/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CB2z0RVhuTV/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CB3AjAvpblz/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CCGbr2kpvxV/>

Branding contest

[https://www.instagram.com/p/B6UdGScBMQI/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet](https://www.instagram.com/p/B6UdGScBMQI/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8\\_ZdL9O8bXA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_ZdL9O8bXA)

### Project Location Data

Provide the coordinates for the project's geo-location sites. Provide the coordinates in decimal degrees (Longitude and Latitude). If you are not able to provide the coordinates in decimal degrees, you can alternatively provide them in the Degrees, Minutes, Seconds format. If you have this information stored in a GIS file, upload it below (e.g. shapefile, kmz/kml, or csv). If the project has multiple sites, please attach an Excel file with the coordinates for each site in either decimal degrees or in degrees, minutes, seconds format.

**Please attach the GIS data. Any of the following formats are acceptable: shapefile (.shp)\*, .kmz, .kml. If helpful, see here a quick note on how to gather geo-reference info. \*Note that a**

<p>shapefile is composed of several files: a .shp file should be zipped in a folder accompanied by the file extensions: .shx, .sbn, .prj, .dbf, .cpg, .sbx, .xml.</p> <p>If the project has multiple sites, please attach an Excel file with the coordinates for each site in either decimal degrees or in degrees, minutes, seconds format.</p>
<p><a href="#">Download GIS data here.docx</a></p>
<p><b>Provide geo-location in longitude, latitude, format.</b></p> <p>If you have this information stored in a GIS file, please upload it below (e.g. shapefile, kmz/kml, or csv).</p>
<p>-80.415934</p>
<p><b>Longitude</b></p>
<p>34.335256</p>
<p><b>Alternatively, provide geo-location in degrees, minutes, seconds format. Please also provide information on what the coordinates point to in the space provided.</b></p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>
<p><b>Minutes</b></p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>
<p><b>Seconds</b></p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>
<p><b>Coordinates description</b></p>
<p>Special Coastal Marine Zone of Southern Azuero</p>

## K. Partnerships

### Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important! All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

<b>Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?</b>
Yes
<b>Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?</b>
No
<b>Does the project work with the Private Sector?</b>
Yes
<b>Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?</b>
Yes
<b>Does the project work with UN Volunteers?</b>
No
<b>Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?</b>
No
<b>CEO Endorsement Request:</b> <a href="#">PIMS 5750 BD Panama Marine Coastal Areas CEO Endorsement.docx</a>
<b>Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.</b>
<p>At the local level the project consolidated the creation of a governing board to oversee the activities of the project, which is expected to be the seed of a larger environmental group/committee/council that oversees topics related to the Coastal Marine Special Management Zone (ZEMMC) of the southern part of the Azuero peninsula, with the support and participation of representatives from the civil society, groups such as Community Based Organizations, leaders of artisanal fishing groups, sustainable tourism groups and others. This local governing board is constituted by the Mayors of the three districts (Pocrí, Pedasi and Tonosí) of the ZEMMC, and also by the province Governor and the Mayor of Las Tablas, a neighbor district. This structure was initiated in January 2020.</p> <p>In the case of the Watershed Committees 124 and 126, the project has achieved to have presence in their regular meetings and communication channels, and opportunities to collaborate and advance their work have been identified. However, it is important to point out that both Watershed Committees</p>

have stopped formal activities since the beginning of the quarantine in Panama (March 2020) and the situation continues equal as of June 2020.

Also, communication channels with representatives of ARAP, MIDA and ATP have been advanced and plans for joint activities are under development.

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) has allowed Azuero Sostenible to interact and work with local NGO and Community Based Organizations, Producers Associations and Cooperatives. Nine SGP projects are under development in the ZEMMC of the southern part of Azuero and neighboring areas. A second call for projects was launched in June 2020.

## L. Annex - Ratings Definitions

### Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

### Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.