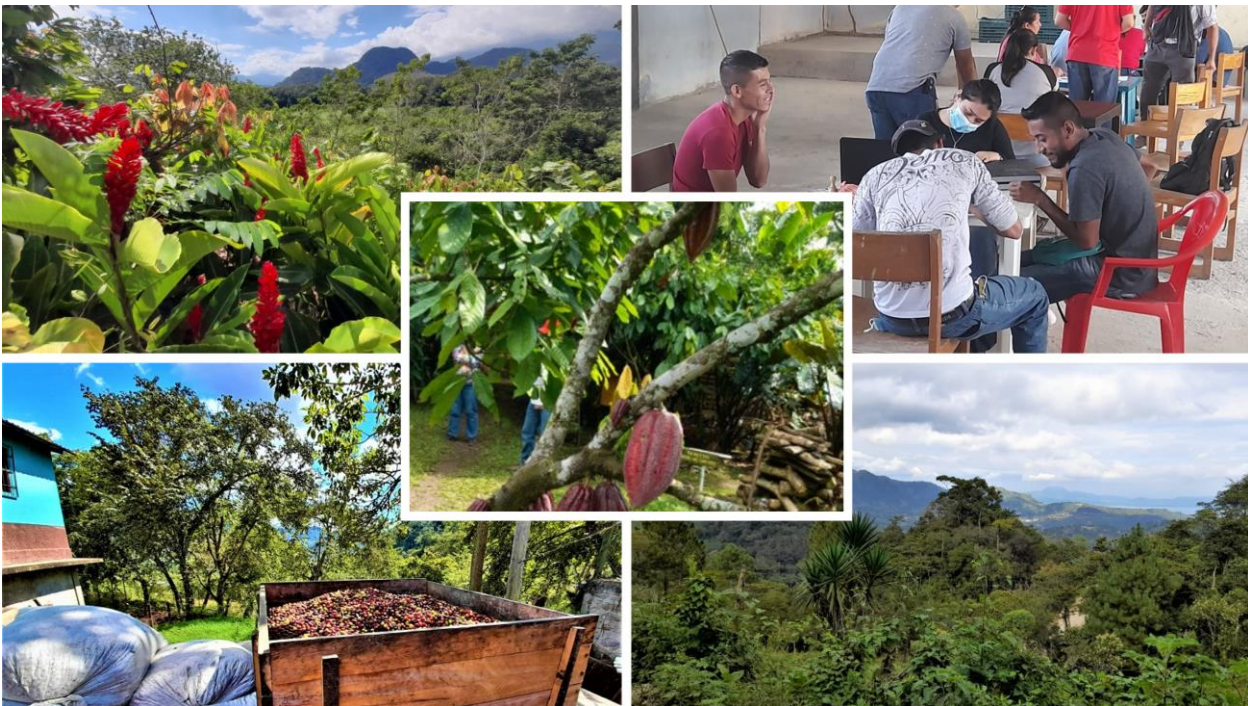




FINAL REPORT MID-TERM REVIEW

Agroforestry Landscapes and Sustainable Forest Management that Generate Environmental and Economic Benefits Globally and Locally CONECTA+



**PIMS: 5704
GEF ID: 9262**

March 2022

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Organización de las Naciones Unidas
para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AACID	Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation for Development
AAPP	Public Administration
AESMO	Ecological Association of San Marcos Ocotepeque
APROCACAHO	Association of Honduran Cacao Producers
BD	Biodiversity Focal Area
IADB	Interamerican Development Bank
CAFEL	Coffee Cooperative “Fraternidad Ecológica Limitada”
DC	Directive Council
LBC	Local Biological Corridors
CC	Climate Change
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
PSC	Project Steering Committee
CITES	Convention on the International Trafficking of Threatened Floral and Faunal Species Commerce
JC	Judgment Criteria
CONADIMCH	National Ancestral Coordinating Body for the Rights of Indigenous Maya Chortí of Honduras
CONIMCHH	National Indigenous Maya Chortí Council
COSUDE	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
Covid-19	Coronavirus 2019
DiBio	General Directorate for Biodiversity (MiAmbiente)
EQ	Evaluation Question
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FAPVS	Fund for the Management of Protected Areas and Wildlife
FUNDER	Fundación para el Desarrollo Empresarial Rural (Cofinancing partner)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GPS	Global Positioning System
ha	Hectare
HR	Human Rights
HS	Highly Satisfactory
ICF	National Institute for Forestry Development and Conservation
IHCAFE	Honduran Institute for Coffee
INA	National Agrarian Institute
INE	National Institute for Statistics
IUCN	International Union of Conservation for Nature
Km²	Square kilometers
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LD	Focal Area for Land Degradation
LMTs	Land Management Tools
MAPANCE	Mano-community of Municipalities for the Celaque National Mountain Park
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
m³	Cubic meters
METT	Management Effectiveness Monitoring and Tracking Tool
PAs	Protected Areas
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management

MU	Moderately Unsatisfactory
MiAmbiente+	Secretariat of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines
MS	Moderately Satisfactory
MTR	Mid-term Review
MUPLH	Table for the Unity of the Lenca Indigenous People of Honduras
NIM	National Implementation Modality
OCP	Project Coordination Office
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
ONILH	National Organization for the Honduran Indigenous Lenca People
OPEV	Presidential Office for the Green Economy
PO	Principle Objective
IP	Indigenous Peoples
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
PIF	Project Information Format
PIR	Project Implementation Report
POA	Annual Operating Plan
PPI	Plan for Indigenous Peoples
PROCACAO	Project for Improving Incomes and employment for the producers of cacao
ProDoc	Project Document
PRONAFOR	National Forestry Program
PSC	Project Steering Committee
REHNAP	Honduran Network of Private Natural Reserves
RTA	Regional Technical Advisors
S	Satisfactory
SAG	Secretariat of Agriculture y Livestock
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SESP	Social and Environmental Safeguards Plan
SINAPH	Honduran National System of Protected Areas
SMART	Outcome indicators that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable/Attributable, Relevant & Time-bounded.
STAP	Scientific Technical Advisory Panel (GEF)
tCO₂-eq	Volume of greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to one ton of CO ₂
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
U	Unsatisfactory
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Information Table

Table 1. Pertinent Information for the CONECTA+ Project

Agroforestry Landscapes and Sustainable Forest Management that Generate Environmental and Economic Benefits at a Global and Local Level CONECTA+			
UNDP Project (PIMS#):	5704	Date of Approval of the PIF:	9 June 2016
GEF ID (PMIS#):	9262	CEO Authorization CEO:	3 January 2018
Business Unit of (<i>Award # Proj. ID</i>)	00088099	Date of signing of ProDoc (date of startup):	5 July 2018
Country	Honduras	Date Project Coordinator was contracted:	January 2019
Region:	Central America	Date of Inception Workshop	10 January 2019
Area of action	Multifocal (Biodiversity, Land Degradation, IP SFM)	Date of Conclusion of the MTR	8 March 2022
Strategic Objective under GEF Focal Areas:	<p><i>Biodiversity Focal Area (BD):</i> <u>Objective BD 1:</u> Improving the Sustainability of Protected Area Systems, Program 1: Improving Financial Sustainability and Management Effectiveness of Ecological Infrastructure <u>Objective BD 4:</u> Incorporation of the Conservation of Biodiversity and the Sustainable Use of Productive Landscapes, Marine Landscapes and Sectors, Program 9: Management of the Human-Biodiversity Interface</p> <p><i>Land Degradation (LD) Focal Area:</i> <u>Objective LD 2:</u> Generation of Sustainable Flows of Ecosystem Services from Forests, Including Drylands, Program 3: Landscape Management and Restoration</p> <p><i>Sustainable Forest Management (SFM):</i> <u>Objective SFM 1:</u> Maintained Forest Resources: Reduce pressures on high conservation value forests by addressing the causes of deforestation.</p>	Estimated date of closing:	5 July 2025
		In the case of a review, the new proposed closing date is:	December 2025
Fiduciary Fund:	GEF Trust Fund		
Executing agency/Partner in the project execution	Secretariat of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines (MiAmbiente+).		
Other Executing Partners:	Honduran Institute for Coffee (IHCAFE), HEIFER, Foundation for Business Development (FUNDER), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), National Institute for Conservation and Forestry Development (ICF)		
Project Financing	As of the Date of the CEO Authorization (USD)	USD* at the time of the MTR	
[1] GEF Funding:	13,286,697	4,985,368.56 ¹	

¹ November 2021.

[2] UNDP Contribution:	0	0
[3] Government:	\$14,592,104	0
[4] Other Partners:	\$35,500,000	\$11,827,691.63
[5] Total cofinancing [2 + 3+ 4]:	\$50,092,104	\$11,827,691.63
TOTAL PROJECT COST [1+ 5]	\$63,378,801	\$16, 813, 060.19

Source: Consultant team with Information from PIR 2021; ProDoc and financial information provided by the UNDP to November 2021, and cofinancing data provided up to March 2022.

Project Description

The principal objective of the CONECTA+ Project is *to Strengthen the connectivity between protected areas (PAs) and production landscapes to generate environmental, social, and economic benefits in the dry-humid biological corridor of southwestern Honduras*. CONECTA+ relies on four main results to achieve this objective:

Outcome 1:

- Strengthened local and national governance for the dry-humid biological corridor with emphasis on PAs and production systems to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.
- **Outcome 2:** Generation of environmental, social, and economic benefits for communities through sustainable land management and rehabilitation of corridors to increase connectivity between PAs and production landscapes.
- **Outcome 3:** Establishing supply chain initiatives to increase income of farmers derived from coffee, cocoa, sustainable agroforestry, and ecosystem services.
- **Outcome 4:** Knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation.

The Project expects to consolidate 971,752 hectares (ha) of biological corridors that provide connectivity between Protected Areas (PAs) and forest remnants in production landscapes, the improved conservation of Key Biodiversity Areas in 15 Pas, and the capture of 470,601 tCO₂-eq through forest rehabilitation, reforestation, and agroforestry systems with the use of landscape management tools (LMPs) in 6,000 ha; and the reduction of about 20% of forest fires and 70% in the consumption of firewood and greenhouse gas emissions in prioritized landscapes, among others. At the same time, CONECTA+ aims to generate Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) related to biodiversity conservation, reduction of land degradation, and sustainable forest management. The project uses a participatory approach to ensure an equitable distribution of benefits between men and women, with 16,103 people directly benefiting from the project’s actions, including indigenous peoples owning communal and ancestral lands within the biological corridors that are the core axis of the project.

Summary of Findings²

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) was conducted between November 2021 and January 2022 by Joe Ryan (International Consultant) and Rafael Sambula (National Consultant). Visits were made to the project's intervention areas in December 2021, and an on-the-spot verification was done in January 2022. Key people helped to complete the findings and gaps identified in the draft Final Report were also interviewed. However, due to delays in receiving pertinent information from the Project and belated delivery of comments from the responsible partners, the report could not be completed until late April 2022. The MTR found that the project CONECTA+ implemented and incorporated good practices during its implementation.

²See the criteria ranking scales in [Annex 5b](#)

The last PIR registered in the UNDP-GEF system for the year 2021 indicates that the Project has achieved only three expected outcome indicators, and more than half (eight) of the 15 result indicators have not been achieved its targets, and four of the planned targets have been partially achieved. Sixteen outputs are either partially completed or not completed at all. The new data from the Report submitted to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) in December 2021, point out that the Project has managed to meet six (6) of the 15 result indicators, and two (2) indicators are identified with partial compliance, five (5) with positive evolution and two (2) unchanged, despite the COVID-19 pandemic (6 months of closure), natural events (hurricanes Eta and Iota) and political interference from the same government responsible for the implementation of the project in front of GEF and the co-financiers. These unusual incidents have prevented the hiring of a technical team to support the coordinator, resulting in a weak socialization process, attention to marginalized groups (indigenous peoples, women, and youth), and coordination with all key actors and partners responsible for the project's activities. During the verification mission, the evaluation team found weaknesses in the credibility of certain indicators that urgently need to be reviewed (see recommendations). In addition to the contribution in degraded areas and the improvement of ecological routes by the limited use of LMT, Honduras has a National Committee for Biological Corridors (BCs) formed within the framework of CONACOBINH, as well as defined work plan. In addition, the implementation of LMTs in the Project reports 10,042.96 ha are being considered for approval by the BC Committee, exceeding the goal and there are some 2,075 voluntary agreements for the implementation of good practices. However, there is no evidence to demonstrate there have been any coordination meetings to apply the LMT (using appropriate crops) in the Agroforestry Systems, nor are there any data available to describe the qualitative composition of the vegetation about these advances. However, there is considerable evidence based on complaints from citizens, that roads have been built in several biological corridors without the authorization of the ICF. Additionally, there been reports of out-of-control fires in some of the corridors (e.g., Sant Barbara) and a formal complaint by a Protected Area guard that there is widespread illegal hunting of CITES-listed species.

Despite the achievements presented in the project report in December 2021, the results of the mid-term assessment reveal some doubts about the composition of the beneficiary groups to the extent that they have contributed to the conservation of biodiversity, and the strengthening of biological corridors, among other expected results in the medium term. Therefore, several questions arise i) Were prior, free and informed consultations made as stipulated in ProDoc and according to the International Protocols of which the Honduran government has ratified?; ii) Was robust socialization made to disseminate the project and thus promote better ownership and sustainability?; iii) Has the technical team been hired if even partially, to improve the efficiency effectiveness of the implementation of the project?. Based on the verification it was found that these essential elements have not been addressed in a robust way and following international protocols. This void evidenced the lacking contribution to the conservation of biodiversity and management of biological corridors since the landscape management tools that the project has applied require the integration of responsible partners and participation of key actors. Without integrating all these elements, the project runs a high risk of not meeting its main goals and becoming unsustainable.

Below are the assessments of the key criteria of the MTR, based on the 2021 PIR and the summary updated in December 2021.

CRITERIA	RATING	FINDINGS
Project Design and Strategy	N/A	The strategy of the Project is relevant and elements of the design that have been well conceived were identified. However, the design was extremely ambitious in the area to be implemented and this presents weaknesses that may limit its effectiveness and affect the future sustainability of its actions. The gender strategy presented in ProDoc is very weak, both in the goals presented (which contribute to perpetuating gender gaps), and in its budget to contribute to gender equality. The ToC does not incorporate robust assumptions and some of the defined consequence indicators correspond to "outputs", and not to "effects" that lead to adaptive management principles. Given this finding, a rethinking of the matrix of actors is required, in the first line to obtain the data and later to carry out the incidence in each implementing entity the inclusion and approach of gender in all the actions of the project; since for the achievement of the project objectives this variable is highly relevant.
Progress towards Results	Objective achievement <i>Moderately Unsatisfactory (3)</i>	Despite some good practices related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable economic alternatives, the Project has a deficit in terms of its execution as planned. Regarding the expected results to achieve the main objective (OP), no baselines have been established for the key indicator species in the protected areas and the biological corridors. Despite this weakness, the project is on track to meet its mid-term goal of improving the livelihoods of more than 7,000 people and their farms. Although actions have been initiated to develop sustainable practices to produce coffee and cocoa, and agreements for sustainable practices in several farms. There is evidence that these benefits are tied at some level to solutions that have demonstrably improved the management of ecosystem services in a relatively small area. However, the lack of good geospatially referenced maps presents a barrier to any effort to assess their contribution to ecosystem conservation and resilience.
	Component 1 MU (3)	There is significant progress in the process to certify one of the biological corridors, diagnoses have been prepared and actions are being coordinated with actors who must participate in the certification of these corridors thanks to the leadership of the IUCN. However, the project still lacks SMART indicators of impacts that go far beyond indicators of processes, products, and checklists such as the tools of the ICF (Effectiveness of Management of PAs), the GEF (METT ³), and the criteria developed by the IUCN (Green List Indicators). In addition, METT assessments have not been prepared for any PAs and the problem arises that the baseline presented in the

³ The METT is indeed an important link in any results Biodiversity project's results chain. However, the METT measures processes and a checklist of outputs that should lead to outcomes. and as such it is an OUTPUT. Regarding the METT being SMART, I do not consider that it fits the Attribution criterion: Attribution requires that changes in the targeted developmental issue can be linked to the intervention. It does not meet the Relevance criterion: An indicator should be a valid measure of the result/outcome and be linked through research and professional expertise. There is no reason to create an indicator which does not relate to the larger outcome. The indicator should be meaningful and important to the outcome to certify that the results are showing a corresponding triple bottom-line impact. However, half of the new METT indicators can be considered as robust measures of outcomes: 5. Analysis of threats, considering the scope and severity and how these threats are managed. 6. Connectivity, considering the vulnerability of species in isolated environments or with little connectivity. 7. Condition of cultural values, considering that many protected areas contain important cultural values. 8. Conservation of indicator species. This indicator is key to determining how well protected areas are being managed. 9. Conservation of habitats and their status. Like the previous indicator, this indicator is key to determining compliance with conservation objectives.

CRITERIA	RATING	FINDINGS
		<p>ProDoc is based on METT 3.0, while there is currently a new version 4.0 of METT that must be applied. However, these weaknesses offer an opportunity to link these important output indicators with true effectiveness indicators that comprise another link in the causal chain towards the expected results. It is worth mentioning that there are actions that are being carried out to satisfactorily achieve this goal with the inter-institutional competition, with additional funds assigned by the project to the IUCN and at the time of submitting this report, IUCN and the CONECTA team updated the METT in April 2022. In terms of progress with governance platforms, a Lenca Chorti platform has been developed and is working, but local governance remains very weak at some levels. To overcome this, an improvement in participation is required, both by legally organized indigenous peoples, as well as women and youth. It is also urgent that specific resources be allocated to develop activities directly related to the additional strengthening of these organizations and their beneficiaries. It is noted that, in sustained work sessions with the indigenous peoples, an improvement has been verified in the capacity to execute resources that these organizations have. Finally, there is only one (Cerro Azul-Meámbar NP) of the 15 protected areas where it has been possible to reduce the financial gap to cover the operating expenses for the management of protected areas.</p>
	<p><u>Component 2</u> MI (3)</p>	<p>Although the project has identified actions to calculate carbon sequestration, these data and their verification are still missing. Regarding the improvements in connectivity in 13 biological corridors, no significant progress has been made to reach the goal established for the mid-term and the proposed indicators are extremely weak and do not measure the effectiveness of the corridors to improve the processes and function of these in terms of their effective connectivity with the prioritized protected areas. The available data indicate that there are positive signs regarding the decreased incidence of fires, although there is no evidence to show that this reduction has to do with the Project, since there was little agricultural activity due to the pandemic and climate change (e.g. , 2 hurricanes), and the data reported by the ICF based on NOAA LANDSAT and Modus satellite imagery have announced that there has been more than a 100% increase in the number fires reported for 2022, including one that is currently raging in the Santa Barbara PA and the rest of the CONECTA+ area as of April 2022.. This is surely something that must be analyzed over the long term by the Terminal Evaluation. Despite the coordination of MiAmbiente, ICF, and REHNAP, there is no evidence that sustainable forest management has been achieved in private reserves.</p>
	<p><u>Component 3</u> S (5)</p>	<p>CONNECTA’s achievement of economic benefits has been successful and the results are the most impressive of any of the four components. Consequently, the Project is very close to achieving its mid-term goal. In general, it is the men who have most benefitted</p>

CRITERIA	RATING	FINDINGS
		<p>from with the increased price of coffee, while women have received fewer benefits. More than 400 people who are indigenous benefited, but it is difficult to be certain about how many of these belong to legally constituted indigenous organizations, in accordance with the ProDoc guidelines. A link was created to create a credit manual and seven financial products were developed, which are already being implemented effectively, both by both partners through a center. However, there is a lack of data that demonstrates the extent to which the credits were used as incentives to improve environmental practices, which is a mandate of projects financed with GEF funds. The effort made to advance component 3 has shown a relatively positive result, since to sustain it a more specific information gathering process is required, adapted to reflect these parameters with quantitative values. Therefore, the team of implementing partners must propose a comprehensive intervention and interconnection strategy which will adhere to the principle of joint intervention, as it is currently fragmented as a result of the independent dynamics of each one's actions in the territories. They must be reoriented towards the establishment of an interaction that will accurately reflect the intervention as well as directly influence those activities that will provide direct benefit for achieving the goals of component 3.</p>
	<p><u>Component 4</u> MI (3)</p>	<p>More than 10 documents have been produced. This includes a methodology for managing biological corridors and carbon credits. Although the project finally hired a communications expert who is working on the layout of some of these documents, there is no evidence that they are ready for review by the Evaluation Team at the close of the MTR. However, the production of documents is not an outcome, but rather an output. It is also noteworthy that there is no documented evidence of successful experiences in incorporating the objectives of biodiversity conservation, to reduce land degradation in PAs and prioritized sustainable production landscapes.</p>
<p>Project Implementation and Adaptive Management</p>	<p>S (4)</p>	<p>The project has faced many barriers, both due to climate change and the COVID pandemic, but the biggest obstacle to CONECTA's efficiency and effectiveness has repeatedly come from political interference at the highest levels of MiAmbiente and the government. This has resulted in barriers to achieving efficient, effective, and effective implementation of the project, and it has prevented the project coordinator and the responsible partners from doing their work. Although, they have managed to adapt and overcome many of these unforeseen difficulties., the political interference has still led to delays of many of the originally planned activities and left bad feelings among many of the stakeholders/beneficiaries. The available evidence indicates that the Project has not adequately planned a strategy to coordinate the actions of the different partners and properly integrate the environmental dimension into its work. Even though there is a large gap regarding the inclusion of organized indigenous peoples and with a focus on gender issues, there has been a slowness in adapting</p>

CRITERIA	RATING	FINDINGS
		and correcting these serious errors. However, there are positive indications that this is being considered by IUCN and the Project Coordinator. The consulting team has found that the project has responded to the enormous vacuum created with the departure of UNEP, and only after several months of inactivity by this organization is the project creating the conditions for IUCN to begin these tasks. Despite the lack of leadership from the top level, the construction and order of the project have always maintained the proper direction and the project has not drifted.
Sustainability	MU (2)	There is a significant risk that some of the most important results will not be sustained after the Project concludes. The poor leadership by the high-level national authorities and the obstruction of many activities by those authorities have affected the overall performance and efficiency of the project, despite the good efforts of the Project coordinator to navigate in those political minefields. While there are positive signs of renewed interest and engagement of the new MiAmbiente Authorities to give optimism that great attention will be placed on correcting the previous Administration’s mistakes, the Project runs a high risk of failing and the loss of millions of dollars of investment from the government, other co-financiers, the UNDP, and the GEF if this problem is not overcome by those new officials. The need for applying an acceleration strategy is evident, but it must be accompanied by all technical work personnel with the relevant skills to work in the field, and not least, improve the approach strategy that must be comprehensive.

Summary of Conclusions

- ✓ The Project is well formulated, but it has not been effective in practice. The design of the Project was highly ambitious in a complex social, economic, and environmental setting. Although experiences in previous GEF projects indicate that the best approach to face complexity is the application of adaptive management principles, the design of CONECTA+ lacks robust assumptions that would have helped to proactively adjust the course of the project.
- ✓ Despite multiple impediments (conflicts and serious obstacles in the hiring of the technical team, 2 hurricanes, and the COVID-19 pandemic) to exercise its responsibility for the project, the MTR recognizes the excellent work of the coordinator and his commitment to overcome these barriers. This conclusion is based on the hostile context within which the project was implemented (according to multiple interviews), but it also highlights the commitment and responsibility of those involved with the implementation process and ensure that it continued despite political interference.
- ✓ Although the Project has managed to advance in the results and OP, the lack of integration, participation of the organizations of the Maya Chortí and Lenca IPs, it is evident that the effectiveness of the connectivity between the biological corridors has not been improved. With the exception of the proactive efforts of IUCN, the Evaluation Team finds no evidence that CONECTA followed FPIC guidelines to engage IP organizations. However, since November 2021 the project team has been taking actions to improve the active involvement of indigenous groups in the project. Since April 2022, two separate workshops took place for the Maya-Chortí and Lenca groups together with five responsible partners, MiAmbiente. UNDP has been present in both meetings (November 2021 and February 2022). The purpose of the meetings was to draft

collaborative workplans and agreements between the indigenous groups and the project RPs and Project team.

- ✓ The lack of an exit strategy for the Project reflects a confused execution strategy, as evidenced by the fact that planning for the 15 PAs was not prioritized, even though biological corridors connecting to those 15 PAs is the essence of the project. However, from an economic development perspective, there is a sustainability strategy at the level of attention to organizations in the coffee sector, since this intervention has its graduation tool, with 7 metric variables that will allow visualizing aspects of sustainability of organizations accompanied by the services provided by the CONECTA+ in the territories.
- ✓ Continuing to assist male and female producers and implementing the same technical assistance model and the lack of incorporating associates to IP organizations shows a weak approach towards good environmental practices comprehensively and systematically. It is worth mentioning that specific plans are being developed to address this issue specifically with IPs and responsible partners such as IUCN and those charged with alternative income generation incentives have achieved good results for the Lenca and Maya Chortí indigenous peoples. The intervention that Heifer has been developing as an implementing partner, is responsible for business development and income generation in the coffee value chain, has achieved inclusive aspects from a business perspective for the Lenca and Maya Chortí indigenous peoples, from an organizational business perspective, which favors the achievement of results. IUCN's engagement and proactive actions with IPs have been exemplary. This process must be prioritized, since a greater participation of the representatives of indigenous peoples is required in the implementation of the project, adjustments are being made for the effective incorporation of IP representatives to the organizational structures of intervention.
- ✓ The weaknesses in the planning and execution of the Project, in addition to the obstacles imposed by authorities of the focal point (MiAmbiente) and interference at all levels of the project from the Green Economy Project Office, have seriously impeded the ability to apply the principles of adaptive management effectively. Although there was participation in the design by the different interest groups at the level of creating property in the interested parties and beneficiaries, there is a huge gap in compliance with the Free and Informed Prior Consultation in the indigenous territories and their involvement in matters of the project. Also, the financial gap of the Protected Areas and the lasting implementation of the management plans are evident. Coordination between the partners IHCAFE, HEIFER, and FUNDER with the water boards has have been extremely weak; however, IUCN and FAO have done excellent work on the proposed corridors and protected areas. *However, it is important to underscore that due to the nature of the tasks assigned in the Letter of Agreement, neither FUNDER, HEIFER or IHCAFE are committed to coordinate their activities with the Water Boards⁴.* **This is a serious gap that must be addressed in the updated agreement with all responsible partners.**
- ✓ Despite CONECTA's extensive territorial coverage, the project's overall coordination was centered in Tegucigalpa. This negatively affected the overall coordination with responsible partners and communication with multiple levels of stakeholders in the territories comprising the biological corridors.
- ✓ The absence of the technical team to support the coordinator has impacted the efficiency, efficacy, and effectiveness of the project.
- ✓ The Project lacks systematic dissemination and socialization processes, including prior and free informed consultation.
- ✓ A large amount of information is not being captured in the PIRs, the reports, and in the context of the project that is hindering the capture of information and data that scales the Project, which makes it difficult for other actors to replicate (for example beekeeping, the production of honey and associated contribution to pollination of flowers in the corridors, advances with the process for legally registering the biological corridors). Although

⁴ Although it is not a specific function for several implementing partners, given the dynamics of the functionality of the water boards, they have not been directly linked, which should be reconsidered since, given the circumstances, direct involvement in project interventions and stakeholders is a priority. business management processes of the beneficiary companies of the CONECTA+ project.

the PIRs indicate that there are no baselines for conservation targets, there is evidence that there is a rich and robust baseline for many species that are listed on the CITES Red List that were not covered by PRODOC.

- ✓ While CONECTA does contain gender-sensitive indicators, their weakness lies in their inability to measure pertinent changes in eliminating gender equality gaps. Consequently, more robust gender-focused indicators would improve the measurement of how well CONECTA addresses this important issue.
- ✓ CONECTA+ does not have indicators based on metrics that measure the triple bottom-line impacts of corridors to promote the resilience of biodiversity in protected areas. The overall triple bottom-line impacts of these corridors is not measured, but instead characterized by indicators related to processes, performance, or simple ‘to-do’ checklist that the ICF (Management Effectiveness of PAs), the GEF (METT), and the criteria developed by the IUCN (Green List Indicators) measure. At mid-term, the project lacks both the presentation of geospatial data to produce maps that explicitly demonstrate the configuration of corridors, the baselines of their fragmentation, loss of key habitats, and fractals of those landscapes, as well as the importance of habitats in the life cycles of the indicator species to be conserved. It also lacks indicators that measure biodiversity resilience⁵ that CONECTA to which might have contributed.
- ✓ The only map that the project has produced to visualize the location and areal coverage of the was only released after 2.5 years of CONECTA’s inception. This has been a major impediment for socializing information about the project according to most of the interviewees, and it has forced several NGOs (Aldea Global, MARPANCE) to create that characterize the biological corridors within their municipalities. The main reason for this lengthy delay in producing the first map was due to political interference in the hiring of key technicians to support the coordinator.

Summary of Lessons Learned through Mid-term

The MTR finds that:

- The participation of all the actors of the Project with the watershed management boards (JAs) and local governments is crucial for sustaining the Project and increasing its effectiveness. Unless an approach is taken to clearly explain the Project to all beneficiaries and integrate them through inclusive governance mechanisms and to strengthen the resilience of the biological corridors and the people who depend on them, the Project will face serious difficulties during implementation and in sustaining the good practices developed by the project. FUNDER sets a good example with having signed agreements with 2 Municipalities in the coverage region that contribute substantially to conserving biodiversity and environmental protection.
- Unless the project planning, governance, and implementation are coordinated with responsible government authorities at the highest and lowest practical levels of government and involves all pertinent actors who influence the project’s target areas, there is a high probability that overall efficiency and effectiveness will be weak.
- Without the full technical team stipulated in the ProDoc, there is a high risk of reducing the effectiveness, efficiency, efficacy, and sustainability of the Project.

⁵ Multiple factors will determine ecosystem resilience. However, we still don’t know which will be the most important in determining resilience in particular functions or ecosystems. Ecosystem function is a priority to avoid loss of valuable ecosystem services. Several indicators could be considered:

1) *The ecosystem’s capacity to respond to natural and anthropogenic changes*; 2) *Changes in area, fractals and connectivity of suitable habitats relative to a baseline*; 3) *Changes in the connectivity between ecologically critical habitat patches* - key habitats that are nearer to each other are more strongly correlated and have a greater chance for species migration. If we want to get more technical, then the following indicators could be considered: 4) *Changes in the potential for alternate stable states* - Alternate stable states involve abrupt ecosystem shifts, tipping points, etc., all of which present a serious challenge to traditional ecosystem management approaches; 5) *Changes in local environmental heterogeneity*. Note that spatial heterogeneity can enhance the resistance of ecosystem functions by a) facilitating the persistence of individual species under environmental perturbations, thereby providing a range of resources and microclimatic refugia; and b) increasing overall species richness, which increases functional redundancy; 6) *Changes in Network interaction structure*: Most theoretical and empirical work deals with organisms occupying a single trophic level. However, interactions between species (e.g., predation, parasitism, mutualism) can have large influences on community responses to environmental change. The loss of highly connected species in interaction networks can cause extinction cascades and reduce network stability; 7) *Changes in Allee effects*: - Allee effects make populations more susceptible to environmental perturbations causing crashes that are difficult to recover from. Some species are more susceptible than others to Allee effects (e.g., inability to find mates, avoid predators or a limited ability to engage in co-operative behaviors).

- Unless the Project invests early in socializing its expected results, the mechanisms for achieving them, and the roles of the different actors in that process, there is a high risk that the project will not continue after funding runs out.
- Unless a project develops robust assumptions for its Theory of Change, formulates outcome indicators that adhere to SMART criteria (see Table summarizing strengths and weaknesses in the main report)), and develops an M&E platform that can incorporate reliable data, experience, and information. *If you don't measure outcomes, you can't tell success from failure. If you can't see success, you can't reward it. If you can't reward success, you're probably rewarding failure.*
- Unless co-managers and other key local government experts are involved in the design of baselines and follow-up monitoring, valuable metrics for measuring change will likely compromise the robustness of efforts to measure outcomes and triple bottom line impacts that a project should produce.
- A project must always establish social, economic, and environmental baselines early in its implementation and **never** halfway through its implementation. Existing data from other projects are invaluable for establishing context-specific baselines due to the variability of biodiversity and landscape characteristics of different protected areas.
- Without an agile and independent arbitration conflict resolution mechanism for a GEF project that is capable of rapidly resolving internal conflicts (e.g., the politicization of high-level powers in decision-making), there is a high risk of delays, de-motivation of beneficiaries, and the failure of implementing interventions and meeting objectives. The absence of a strategy with clear guidelines that links economic activities with efforts to improve, restore and/or maintain ecosystem resilience threatens the effectiveness and sustainability of projects aiming to strengthen the socio-environmental interconnectivity between protected areas.
- In the absence of a Theory of Change, PIRs lacking robust assumptions have certain limitations that prevent the application of adaptive management principles. Although the PIRs are essential to monitoring the extent to which the expected results are met in the mid-term and at the end of the project, this UNDP-GEF tool rarely includes assumptions that can facilitate the systematic application of the principles of adaptive management.
- Without a strong public policy and the government's willingness to monitor, control, and measure the impacts of said policy, there is a high risk that an important project such as CONECTA+ will not be sustained. The Decree PCM Spaces of Ecological Interest proposed by the new government represents a step forward to control the risks to the sustainability of CONECTA+.

Summary of Recommendations

The following table summarizes the MTR’s recommendations. These are expanded in [Sub-section 5.2](#) of this report.

CRITERIA	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE	WHEN
De sig	Recommendation 1: As a matter of urgency, the Theory of Change should be reconstructed to develop more robust assumptions ⁶ that will	UNDP,	Before Jun

⁶Comments to the assumptions listed in the ProDoc (page 29) are as follows Overall Objective- two of the three are superficial and address symptoms of a deeper problem that the project should be able to address through inclusive governance with stakeholders, especially IPs, which it has not. There was indeed interest on the part of the national government, but evidence indicates that it was mainly to a) use the project as a petty cash box; and b) to establish battle lines for establishing power between to rival ex-Ministers of MiAmbiente. However, the optimal sampling is indeed a robust assumption. Result #1- two of the four assumptions are robust and can be used to capture lessons systematically and drive the adaptive management process. Result #2 - neither of the two

	<p>help drive an adaptive management process, which is essential to “learn by doing” in with the complex landscapes, governance settings, and other issues that are currently affecting the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the Project. This should include a participatory process for developing SMART outcome indicators and a review of the risks to the Project's sustainability, as well as formulating mitigation measures if required. This could be done in a workshop facilitated by a ToC expert.</p>	<p>MiAmbiente, PSC, Responsible Associates</p>	
<p>Implementation</p>	<p>Recommendation 2: It is of the utmost importance that the Project's original priorities be reassessed and reorganized with the broad participation of marginalized groups who have been largely ignored in the implementation process until recently. This will require analyzing lessons from CONECTA’s implementation to date to address both the strengths and weaknesses identified in this report and developing an action plan to mitigate the gaps identified herein. This reorientation of priorities must be accompanied by a readjusting of the distribution of funds, to ensure that those remaining funds can contribute toward achieving triple-bottom-line impacts. These impacts include building social-cultural, ecosystem, and economic resilience for Indigenous Peoples (IP). In particular, the activities and overall transformations aiming to improve the livelihoods of these marginalized groups should be restructured in a way that they can demonstrate that they have led to measurable bio-ecological, social and economic benefits. These benefits include having access to credit, training on inclusive governance mechanisms, participatory outcome monitoring and evaluation of progress toward achieving triple bottom lines linked to participatory co-management of biological corridors within Indigenous Peoples’ Territories.</p>	<p>UNDP, HEIFER, FUNDER, IUCN, FAO, MiAmbiente, ICF</p>	

assumptions is robust and useful for driving AM and systematically capturing lessons, unless they are re-worded. Result #3 – these are adequate. Result #4 – these are superficial and could be greatly improved. Even if I could widely distribute the documentation, people must apply the guidelines.

<p>Recommendation 3: Prepare a Letter of Agreement⁷ for each responsible partner with explicit ToR before February 25 and obtain the signature of the partners before March 1 to guarantee that the readjustment of actions will benefit marginalized groups (women, indigenous peoples, and youth). From an ecological perspective, the agreement should include concrete measures (incentives, actions, management tools) to measurably build more resilient biodiversity in the targeted biological corridors and adjacent protected areas, as well as formulate an exit strategy and compile a systematic list of lessons learned and a toolbox of good practices that can help transfer and sustain an adaptive approach for learning and improving those good practices for other responsible partners. The implementing partners must also include a clause that outlines their commitments and the actions to be carried out with the organized indigenous peoples (they could sign some type of agreement so that at the time the project ends, since that alliance between indigenous peoples), which in the end, the legally organized indigenous people can attest to. All responsible partners should agree to work closely with the Water Boards. The team of implementing partners must also propose a comprehensive intervention and interconnection strategy which will adhere to the principle of joint intervention, currently it is distanced as a result of the dynamics of each one's actions in the territories, but they must be reoriented towards the establishment of an interaction that will accurately reflect the intervention as well as directly influence those activities that will provide direct benefit for the fulfillment of the goals of component 3. Finally, UNDP should have an independent technical support role for the project, which goes well beyond its present limited role for project oversight.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 4: The Project Steering Committee must be reorganized and updated under the leadership of the new government authorities, to integrate a gender balance and the participation of the leaders of the indigenous peoples, and representativeness of the youth. It is imperative that the new authorities consider the lessons learned regarding the consequences of any future political interference in CONECTA+ while taking advantage of the great opportunity to demonstrate to the GEF that Honduras would use the GEF funds and of the co-financiers most efficiently and effectively, for the benefit of the marginalized groups that are the objective of the CONECTA+ project. The National Management Committee of each Biological Corridor and project counterparts must meet monthly to socialize and plan joint actions virtually or in person, beginning with the last week of January. Due to the overambitious scope of the Project, it is essential as soon as possible to formulate an exit strategy to sustain investment and good practices, especially the value chains of rural banks.</p>		

⁷ Most of the letters of agreement between the responsible partners (HEIFER, FUNDER, IUCN, IHCAFE, FAO, and SOLIDARIDAD) and MiAmbiente were signed at the end of 2021, in this context it is recommended that they enter into an evaluation process at the end of May 2022, and if these agreements present compliance barriers and are not working in June 2022 due to administrative aspects and execution in the field, they are taken up by UNDP, to improve them and that the signature is between the responsible partners and UNDP.

<p>Follow-up M&E of the Effectiveness. . Efficiency and Adaptive Management</p>	<p>Recommendation 5: Participatory workshops should be held as soon as possible MiAmbiente, ICF, IUCN, FAO, responsible associates and Indigenous Peoples’ leader to address the deficiencies of biodiversity protection within the targeted biological corridors, as well as creating a participatory M&E process with the following purposes: i) Revisit the validity of the conservation objects and adjust them as necessary, as well as consider geospatially referenced indicators that measure changes in the configuration and fragmentation of the corridors (e.g., using fractals, etc.); ii) Establish a baseline with SMART⁸ Indicators for said objectives; iii) Incorporate a participatory approach (youth, indigenous peoples) for data collection for baseline and real-time monitoring; iv) With scientific advice, train non-scientists in a popular and participatory monitoring methodology; v) produce simple methodological guides and acquire key tools (e.g., GPS, computers, phones with APPS to record data) for this process. ToRs (inclusive) and contracts for indigenous safeguards must be developed and contracts signed.</p>		
	<p>Recommendation 6: The new authorities of the ICF and MiAmbiente, together with the IUCN, FAO, and the co-managers should create a technical working group to update the METT tool that the GEF requires in all its projects focused on PAs. It is important to underline that, despite its importance as a biodiversity conservation tracking tool for the GEF, the METT is an Output in a long chain of results toward the overall objective. This should be addressed with an analysis where the partners or other key actors who should: i) review the extent to which the indicators of the results (i.e., the consequences, or effects) of the project are SMART in that they measure changes in the three dimensions of the project (sociocultural, biological-ecological and economic); ii) review the steps and formulate the actions required to link each of the 15 METT ratings to the SMART Outcome indicators. Tools for monitoring the effectiveness of PA management such as those of the ICF (Management Effectiveness of PAs), the GEF (METT), and the criteria developed by the IUCN (Green List Indicators) are also output/process metrics, and they do not offer SMART outcome indicators capable of measuring the extent to which the interventions promote the expected changes.</p>	<p>PSC, ICF; DiBio, Co-managers, UICN, FAO, and other responsible associated</p>	
	<p>Recommendation 7: Taking into account the weaknesses in the Project's monitoring and evaluation system, the new authorities should ensure the continuity of the technical group working to implement Recommendation 6, and explore the feasibility of developing an integrated and real-time M&E Platform that measures the effects (outcomes) of the Project that can be linked to CONECTA-funded interventions (e.g., restoration of the resilience of biological corridors, solutions to reduce the coffee pulp waste ‘honey waters’) in real-time. In addition to biological-ecological monitoring, said platform should measure the changes in the baselines and</p>		

⁸ SMART Outcomes: **Specific** - the indicator clearly and directly relates to the outcome and described without ambiguities; **Measurable** – can be counted, observed, analyzed, tested, or challenged. If one cannot measure an indicator, then progress cannot be determined; **Achievable and Attributable** - the M&E system and related indicators can identify changes/effects resulting from the interventions; **Relevant** - must be a valid measure of the result/outcome and be linked through research and professional expertise., with relevance between what the indicator measures and the theories that help create the outcomes for the client, program, or system; **Time-bounded** – the M&E system and related indicators allows progress to be tracked in a cost-effective manner at the desired frequency for a defined time period, with clear identification of the particular stakeholder group(s) to be affected by the project or program over that specified timeframe.

	<p>indicators of SMART outcomes associated with the socio-cultural and economic dimensions, and thus evaluate the true effectiveness of the Project's management and interventions based on outcomes, and not the existing focus on outputs-oriented indicators. The budget designated for UNEP, and now for IUCN should be adjusted to cover the costs for: i) participatory monitoring and the creation of a comprehensive M&E Platform in real-time; ii) the hiring of a person to be responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the M&E platform in real-time, and iii) allocating funds to support ICF regional offices and co-managers to take an active role in sustaining said platform with new data that corresponds to real-time; iv) allocate funds so that the Water Management Boards (JA) can monitor the extent to which the owners of friendly/sustainable coffee and cocoa farms meet the JA-developed sustainability criteria, as well as the volume and quality of water available to the receiving municipalities of these benefits, and thus integrate these criteria into the M&E platform. Said platform must be based on a landscape ecology framework and must be directly related to a functional diversity that can demonstrate the connectivity envisioned in the ProDoc to restore the connectivity between protected areas. The SIMONI (https://monitoreoihcafe.com/#features) developed for IHCAFE to monitor climate impacts offers an excellent foundation for integrating biological corridors in the coffee-growing areas of CONECTA+ and the project should coordinate a way to improve upon it and feed in pertinent existing, and new data.</p>		
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>Recommendation 8: Immediate action should be taken by the new government authorities to streamline the purchase of relevant equipment, as well as training, technical and financial support for local actors to promote participatory monitoring at the basin level to streamline the baselines and monitoring of the effects of the Project to overcome the shortcomings from never having spent those funds to date. Priority equipment purchases include computers for the ICF regional offices, GPS, camera traps, and any other equipment necessary for good performance and management of the PAs. In addition, it will be necessary for the new authorities of the ICF to also confirm the contribution of the public sector to the financing that corresponds to them to complement what is required for the operation of their regional offices and support to the co-financiers to align in a new trajectory in the effective co-management of the AP at your own risk. Finally, the entire technical team with the relevant skills and by the ProDoc must be hired as soon as possible. Likewise, this team and the Project Coordinator must be strategically located in the geographical areas where the Project will be implemented. In addition to hiring the communication specialist, a communication, dissemination, and socialization strategy for the Project must be established before March 31, 2022.</p>	<p>MiAmbiente, UNDP, PSC</p>	
	<p>Recommendation 9: Within 3 months, the technical team of the Project and the new authorities should develop an operational strategy to socialize information about the project to inform the new local authorities and other territorial actors (co-managers, management committees, etc.). Additionally, a financial structure based on payments for ecosystem</p>	<p>Mi Ambiente, UNDP, PSC, IUCN</p>	

<p>services (PSE) should be created to address the financial gap in the operating costs of protected area management, and the historical failures to fill the financial gaps to sustain participatory and effective management (based on performance indicators). SMART consequences) of PAs. These PES must be managed with the water management boards in the basins and micro-basins present in these PAs since they are key to sustaining environmental services for these communities and biodiversity. Also, the co-managers in the planning processes of the protected areas must identify and build financing mechanisms for the PAs (called fee for visitation, the sale of voluntary carbon credits with the private company and others, as raised in the ProDoc). Finally, new management tools should develop or adopt effective solutions (e.g., see Colombia GEF project example) to reduce the wastewaters from coffee processing, since it is estimated that 80% of the river pollution in the coffee-growing areas comes from these effluents. The PSC should collaborate closely with the new government's SAG Commission which is addressing the issue for the first time in the past ten years.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 10: The Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the project partners should reconsider the ProDoc's modest target for benefitting female beneficiaries in the project and develop a more specific gender action plan that integrates a transparent monitoring mechanism and increase the number of female beneficiaries in the project results matrix.</p>	<p>PSC, MiAmbiente, ICF, UNDP Indigenous Organizations, and Responsible partners</p>	
<p>Recommendation 11:- The PSC and the project partners must rethink the target regarding the number of women beneficiaries in the project and land a more specific gender action plan that integrates a transparent monitoring mechanism and increase the number of beneficiaries in all the Results where they are targets of the intervention. All the reports of the responsible partners and the project coordinator must be approved by the responsible parties of the project within a period of a maximum of 10 working days.</p>		

	<p>Recommendation 12: As soon as possible, the Project coordination team, as well as the partners and the UNDP should review the possibility of adjusting the indicators in the ProDoc based on the realities of the protected areas and biological corridors and: a) ascertain whether these are realistic for all protected areas and corridors; b) examine the feasibility of substituting the indicators in the ProDoc with those that are already being monitored by the co-managers, municipalities, universities or other key actors; c) consult with the territorial actors and especially the indigenous communities if there are other key species that they consider important in their Cosmo Vision of Mother Earth (especially from the perspective of the indigenous communities that know the territory better than anyone). It is extremely important that the possibility of replacing the ProDoc indicators be consulted with the actors in each territory since it is possible that an indicator is not representative for all areas of CONECTA+ intervention. A table summarizing the strong and weak indicators is provided in the main report, with suggested indicators that might be more meaningful, and of course, SMART⁹.</p>	<p>PSC, MiAmbiente, ICF, PNUD IP organizations y Responsible partners</p>	
	<p>Recommendation 13: As soon as possible, the coordination of the Project, the IUCN, co-managers, and the National Committee of Biological Corridors must provide all the information required to ensure that the ICF and MiAmbiente recognize and legalize a Biological Corridor before November 2022, and thus overcome the slow and inefficient processes of the previous government. Said legalized corridor must have implementable guidelines whose effectiveness (consequences) are measurable in terms of restoration and actions that promote social, economic, and environmental resilience with these.</p> <p>Recommendation 14: The Project Board of Directors should be belligerent in accompanying the project progress closely and help accelerate effective decision-making processes and keep vigilant towards the achievement of the overarching goals of the project. Additional delays beyond the current time of the project can result in the need to request an extension of six months from the UNDP-GEF or the closure of the project before the project achieve its goals. There is a need to strengthen good practices verify the outcomes of new ones to restore biological corridors and replicate them wherever possible to promote social-cultural, environmental, and economic resilience, and recover a part of the time lost for the main reasons that affected the effective implementation of the project. If this is not possible, the implementation process should be accelerated, with the possibility of cutting activities if necessary. However, this last option represents a high risk to the sustainability of the project and could create mistrust in the new government, although this has not been the cause of these delays.</p>	<p>PSC, MiAmbiente, ICF, UNDP</p>	<p>Immediately (before 15 March 2022)</p>

⁹ The Table also provides indicators must measure the SMART outcomes achieved by the project in terms of biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, and capacity gains, etc.

1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose and objectives of the Mid-Term Evaluation

The Mid-term Review (MTR) presented herein, examines the GEF-supported project on Agroforestry Landscapes and Sustainable Forest Management Project that Generate Environmental and Economic Benefits at the Global and Local Levels, which was – (CONECTA+), which initiated in July 2018, and is in its third year of implementation. The MTR examines CONECTA’s advances toward meeting its principal objective and expected outcomes described in the Project Document (ProDoc) and aims to capture early signs of success, as well as mistakes, to assist the project team to identify possible changes that could be required to keep the Project on track for meeting targets once it is terminated. The MTR also assesses the Project design and any potential risks that could reduce the chances for it to be sustained after funding and technical support ends.

Scope and methodology of the MTR

Principles for the design and execution of the MTR

As defined in the Terms of Reference (ToR), the MTR follows the GEF’s guidelines¹⁰ for carrying out mid-term evaluations for projects executed by the UNDP with GEF funding, while evaluating a project’s results according to specifications in the ToR (see [Annex 1](#)). The Consultant applied a collaborative and participatory approach that ensures a close engagement with the main stakeholders involved in the Project, triangulating all information to produce a solid and evidence-based MTR Report, to allow useful observations and recommendations that are based mainly on the available information. The quality of the information collected, as well as its integrity and reliability for its incorporation into the analytical results of the consultant. The main starting point for the MTR is a review of the basic documentation available for the Project CONECTA+..

The Focus of the MTR

Although the ProDoc includes a Theory of Change (ToC), the consultant identified that it lacks robust assumptions¹¹ for the overall objective and for three of the four expected results¹². There are some gaps in the causative chain of the results aimed at the stipulated impacts, and specified outcomes are outputs. For this reason, the Consultant reconstructed the ToC ([Annex 2](#)), both to have an analytical framework that facilitates a systematic analysis of the progress of the Project in the Mid-Term, in terms of the effectiveness of holistic management in the different landscapes where the Project has intervened with its support, and to contribute to the formulation of the Evaluative Questions, which constituted another basic element of the development of this evaluation. For this reason, the strategic objectives of this evaluation sought to the extent that:

¹⁰ http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/guidance/GEF/mid-term/Guidance_Midterm%20Review%20_SP_2014.pdf

¹¹ Comments to the assumptions listed in the ProDoc (page 39) are as follows Overall Objective- two of the three are superficial and address symptoms of a deeper problem that the project should be able to address through inclusive governance with stakeholders, especially IPs, which it has not. There was indeed interest on the part of the national government, but evidence indicates that it was mainly to a) use the project as a petty cash box; and b) to establish battle lines for establishing power between to rival ex-Ministers of MiAmbiente. However, the optimal sampling is indeed a robust assumption. Result #1- two of the four assumptions are robust and can be used to capture lessons systematically and drive the adaptive management process. Result #2 - neither of the two assumptions is robust and useful for driving AM and systematically capturing lessons, unless they are re-worded. Result #3 – these are adequate. Result #4 – these are superficial and could be greatly improved. Even if I could widely distribute the documentation, people must apply the guidelines.

¹² The following observations are made regarding the assumptions listed on page 39 of the ProDoc.: Overall Objective- two of the three are superficial and address symptoms of a deeper problem that the project should be able to address through inclusive governance with stakeholders, especially IPs, which it has not. There was indeed interest on the part of the national government, but evidence indicates that it was mainly to a) use the project as a petty cash box; and b) to establish battle lines for establishing power between to rival ex-Ministers of MiAmbiente. However, the optimal sampling is indeed a robust assumption. Result #1- two of the four assumptions are robust and can be used to capture lessons systematically and drive the adaptive management process. Result #2 - neither of the two assumptions is robust and useful for driving AM and systematically capturing lessons, unless they are re-worded. Result #3 – these are adequate. Result #4 – these are superficial and could be greatly improved. Even if I could widely distribute the documentation, people have to apply the guidelines

- The strategy, design, and logic of the Project, the complementary instruments lead the project on the most efficient and effective path towards its results framed by the Results Framework.
- The progress that the Project has achieved in achieving its objectives and results stipulated in the Project (ProDoc), indications of incipient achievements, the difficulties/impossibility of achieving the goals of the project, and unforeseen consequences.
- The Project implemented adaptive management systematically.
- There are risks to the sustainability of the Project, beyond those conceived during the design of the action.

Additionally, a Results-Oriented Approach (Consequences) was used, in follow-up to the GEF evaluation guidelines, the MTR used the reconstructed ToC to help develop Evaluation Questions, Judgment Criteria, and Indicators, to examine cause-and-effect linkages along the project outcome chain (i.e., inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes), and to assess the adequacy of project assumptions and the extent to which risks have been mitigated.

Data Collection Methods

Qualitative methods of primary data collection were used in two modalities, using:

1. interviews, meetings, and/or remote consultations (via Zoom and telephone) with key stakeholders.
2. face-to-face interviews and field visits in the territories of the departments covered by the project¹³ (the Consultant was supported by a National Consultant, who has extensive experience in UNDP-GEF evaluations).

In this sense, interviews were conducted (during the period between November 2021 and January 2022) with the key GEF focal points of the GEF, the actors, and stakeholders of the project in Honduras, as presented in Annex 7. The Questionnaire and its guidelines were applied to each thematic group based on the evaluation matrix (See questionnaire in [Annex 4](#)).

Limitations of the MTR

The table below shows some of the potential risks that the consultant identified (and mentioned in the Initial Report) in its efforts to conduct a smooth Mid-Term Review, including possible actions taken to mitigate those risks. As can be seen in the last column, mitigative measures were effective for all risks except for serious information gaps that have yet to be filled despite repeatedly requesting key information for more than 4 months, and more than 4 weeks in delays to received comments to reports on the results of stakeholders. There was also a lengthy delay in the submission to the UNDP-GEF office of the MTR FINAL DRAFT Report submitted on the agreed upon date.

Table 2. Risks and mitigation actions

Risk	Level	Mitigation Actions	Final Risk March 2022
Limited availability of interested parties to be interviewed	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early contact with stakeholders during the initial phase to inform them about the mid-term evaluation and schedule follow-up interviews. ▪ Inform UNDP if there are unforeseen problems ▪ Inclusion of a local support consultant 	Low

¹³ The Project covers territory in the administrative departments of Copán, Ocotepeque, Lempira, Intibucá, Santa Bárbara, Cortés, Comayagua and La Paz.

Risk	Level	Mitigation Actions	Final Risk March 2022
Risk of Covid-19 infection and adverse health impacts of interviewees and experts	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most of the interviews were conducted virtually ▪ The lead expert and the local support expert are vaccinated. It is understood that the vaccination process in Honduras started effectively ▪ Periodic monitoring of the Covid-19 situation; prevention measures were carried out by the local consultant. 	Low
Information gaps that limit the approach of some evaluation indicators	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The consultant based his evaluation on the information available/accessible at the evaluation date. The lack of organization of information from the management of the Project will correspond to findings of the effectiveness of monitoring. 	High
Comments to reports on the results of stakeholder meetings are not provided on time.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revise the work plan and interview schedules 	High
Delays in fieldwork planning due to unavailability due to the general elections in Honduras held in November and the inauguration on January 27, 2022	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic review of schedule by all parties and corresponding actions was taken as appropriate 	Low
Subjective Assessment Bias #1 - Collection of biased information from stakeholders.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of evaluation tools and technical sheets and the development of questionnaires to generate data and information in a coherent framework. ▪ Triangulation of data and information obtained from interviews with stakeholders at the three project levels identified. 	Low
Subjective Assessment Bias #2 in limiting interviews to leadership, coordination, and project management positions	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total confidentiality during and interviews made with multiple levels of project involvement to assess the extent to which the project has included all relevant actors. 	Low

Source: The consultants

Structure of the MTR Report

The MTR has been structured according to the provisions of the ToR, as described below:

- Section 1: Executive Summary
- Section 2: Introduction
- Section 3: Project Description and Context
- Section 4: Proven Facts
- Section 5: Conclusions and recommendations
- Section 6: Annexes

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT

2.1 Development Context

Environmental, socio-economic, institutional, and political factors relevant to the objective and scope of the Project

The Republic of Honduras has a total area of 112,492 km² and a population that exceeds 8.3 million inhabitants, of which approximately 10% are indigenous. It is bounded to the north and east by the Caribbean Sea, to the southwest by Nicaragua, to the south by El Salvador, and to the west by Guatemala. The country is home to an exceptionally rich biodiversity relative to its size. Its tropical location between two oceans and its topographic conditions creates a wide variety of habitats found from the cloud, lowlands, and dry forests to mangroves and coral reefs, all of which are for producing a high diversity of flora and fauna. The ProDoc reflects that, according to the Study on the Biological Diversity of Honduras, the wealth of the country known to date represents 12% of the biological wealth of the planet. Around 8,000 species of plants, 250 reptiles and amphibians, more than 700 species of birds, and 110 species of mammals have been reported, distributed in the different ecological regions of the country.

Likewise, the ProDoc indicates that the area of influence of the Project presents rates of poverty and social and economic exclusion above those of the rest of the country. According to figures from the National Institute of Statistics (INE), for 2012, the departments with the most impoverished families are Intibucá, Lempira, Ocotepeque, and Copán, which are within the area of influence of the project, with more than 30% of the population living in poverty. In the Project area, most of the population belongs to the Lenca and Chortí indigenous peoples whose communal lands are located inside several of CONECTA's targeted biological corridors. The communities in this area are generally made up of small farmers, marginalized on the hillsides, and are characterized by high levels of population growth, unequal distribution of land, and low profitability and agricultural productivity. These families rely primarily on subsistence farming and the collection of forest products and farming on steep, stony slopes that were formerly tropical dry forests. Many of the small farmers maintain several of the dry forest species, mostly trees, within their fields as alternative sources of construction poles and firewood.

Recently, the global context has been affected by the appearance of COVID-19, detected at the end of 2019, and classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization since March 11, 2020. The Audit report of the Program of the United Nations for Development 2020 carried out within the Project framework indicates that the Government of Honduras declared a state of national emergency under Decree PCM-021-2020 and found it necessary to limit or suspend some of its activities and those of the different for-profit and non-profit organizations. It also implemented restrictions on the mobility of people as well as quarantine mitigation measures, all of which have greatly interrupted the normal development of businesses, associations, and organizations with negative implications for the execution of normal activities. Additionally, as of the date of this MTR, General Elections have been held in the country, and a new government has democratically taken power. With the change of government, there could also be changes in institutional structures, visions for closer relations with indigenous people, women, youth, and the environment, as well as new plans and public policies that could influence the project CONECTA+.

2.2 Threats and barriers to the Problems that CONECTA aimed to address

Data reflected in the ProDoc indicate that alarmingly, Honduras has an average deforestation rate of 80,000 ha/year, as calculated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and this has been mainly due to illegal logging and the expansion of the agricultural frontier, which uses inappropriate agricultural

techniques such as extensive cattle ranching, hillside agriculture, slash and burn. There have been widespread immunity violators of environmental and forestry legislation, mainly for those who wield power and wealth. When viewed from a social, cultural, climate change and ecosystem resilience perspective, the problem of deforestation and degradation deserves special consideration since in Honduras this occurs largely due to ancestral practices such as subsistence or migratory agriculture, and the irrational use of the forest for use as firewood. For example, in Honduras firewood is an important source of energy for a large percentage of the rural population. Annual firewood consumption reaches 6 million m³ and 70% of it (4.2 million m³) comes from broadleaf forests, which are present in the area covered by the project. The rural communities in the area of influence of the Project use mostly firewood as their main source of energy and this is altering important ecosystems and fragmenting habitats that are critical for many endangered species.

Other social aspects addressed in the ProDoc include migration and poverty, which are linked to the inadequate distribution of land and rural marginalization that have been major drivers of illegal occupation of forested areas in recent decades. Forest fires are also a significant threat to the forests in the Project area. In Honduras, an average of 1,668 fires occurs annually, and they affect more than 50,000 ha per year. Although most of these fires occur during the dry zone and with greater severity in the most degraded areas, the main cause of the fires continues to be intentional. Finally, it should be mentioned that pests are also a cause of forest loss, especially pine ecosystems that have been strongly affected by the bark beetle. It is estimated that pests and diseases have currently affected some 715,480 m³ of forest/timber.

As a long-term solution, the development of economic and community alternatives, CONECTA proposed to create the interconnection zones through biological corridors to strengthen the connectivity between protected areas (PAs) and productive landscapes. Proposed interventions include good practices that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable forest management, improvement of carbon stocks, protection of water sources and micro-watersheds, as well as the protection of agroecosystems, among others. However, as reflected in the ProDoc, there are currently three barriers that must be faced to achieve CONECTA's objectives, namely:

1. Environmental authorities have limited management and planning capabilities and lack training and access to information. These conditions affect their actions around biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, watersheds, climate change mitigation, and sustainable production at the landscape level.
2. Small producers lack incentives to participate in landscape management and have limited access to information and training on sustainable production systems.
3. Limited access to markets, credit, and incentives for sustainable production.

2.3 Description of the Project and overall Strategies

Objectives, expected outputs, and outcomes

The objective of the Project is “Strengthen the connectivity between protected areas (PAs) and production landscapes to generate environmental, social, and economic benefits in the dry-humid biological corridor of southwestern Honduras”. To achieve the objective of the project, four main results have been formulated with their respective expected outcomes:

Tabla 3. CONECTA+ Results and Indicators

Results	Indicators
Outcome 1: Strengthened local and national governance for the dry-humid biological corridors with emphasis on PAs and production systems, to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.	4. Number of biological corridors legally recognized as a result of the implementation of the regulation for the establishment of the biological corridor, 5. Change in management effectiveness (measured through METT) of 15 PAs covering 389,223 ha 6. Change in the financial gap to cover basic management costs and investments in 15 prioritized PAs. 7. Number of organizational structures * that participate in

	<i>decision-making for the reconciliation of biological corridors and PAs</i>
Outcome 2: Generation of environmental, social, and economic benefits through sustainable land management and rehabilitation of corridors to increase connectivity between PAs and production landscapes.	<p>8. <i>Sequestered carbon (tCO₂-eq) through the implementation of landscape management tools [LMTs] (biological micro-corridors, forest enrichment, live fences, windbreaks) in 6,000 ha by project's end</i></p> <p>9. <i>Area (ha) of improved connectivity in 13 prioritized biological areas by project end.</i></p> <p>10. <i>Area (ha) affected by fires annually</i></p> <p>11. <i>Area (ha) of forest in private reserves under sustainable management</i></p>
Outcome 3: Establishing supply chain initiatives to increase income of farmers derived from coffee, cocoa, sustainable agroforestry, and ecosystem services	<p>12. <i>Annual net income (USD) per producer and gender and derived from: a) coffee under agroforestry and b) cocoa under agroforestry.</i></p> <p>13. <i>Number of families with access to credit and environmental incentives to promote sustainable and biodiversity-friendly practices, including the improvement and development of the quality of approved products for coffee and cocoa producers under agroforestry.</i></p>
Outcome 4: Knowledge Management, monitoring, and evaluation.	<p>14. <i>Number of documents on successful experiences in the incorporation of conservation of biodiversity, SFM, and reduction of land degradation objectives in PAs and sustainable production landscapes prioritized by the project.</i></p> <p>15. <i>Number of replications of agroforestry systems using LMT that strengthen one local biological corridor not covered by the project</i></p>

Source: The consultants, based on the TdR

The Project will generate global and local environmental benefits related to the conservation of biodiversity, reduction of land degradation, and sustainable forest management, using a participatory approach, and ensuring the equitable distribution of benefits between men and women, with 16,103 people benefiting directly from the project. This will result, among others, in the consolidation of 971,752 hectares (ha) of biological corridors that provide connectivity between Protected Areas (PAs) and forest remnants in productive landscapes; improved conservation of Key Biodiversity Areas and 14 PAs; the capture of 470,601 tCO₂-eq through forest rehabilitation, reforestation, and agroforestry systems with the use of landscape management tools in 6,000 ha; and the reduction of nearly 20% in forest fires and 70% in firewood consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in prioritized landscapes. Carbon capture and other issues are of special importance for the National Committee of the Cocoa Value Chain.

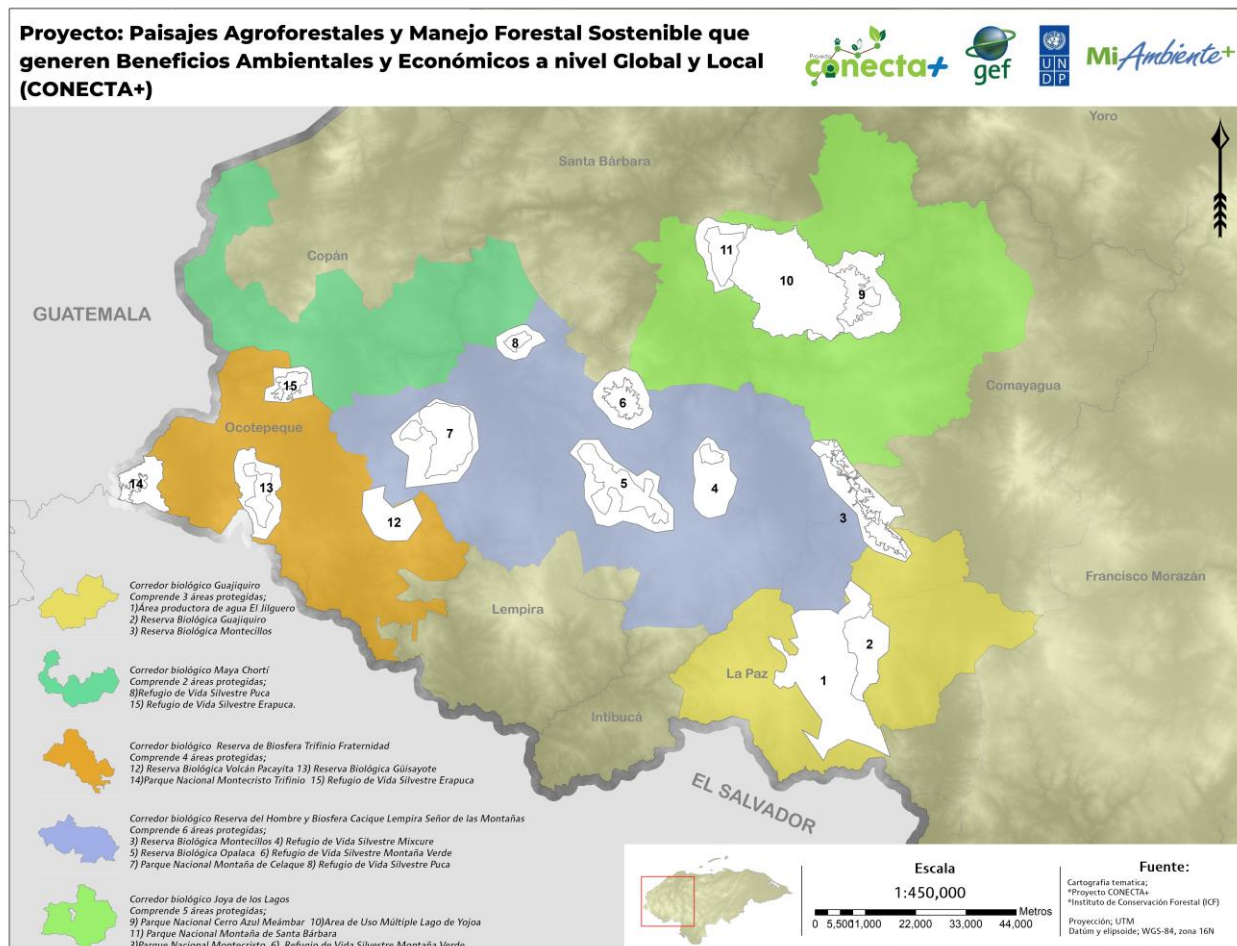
Description of the sites for which the Project was developed

The Project's area of influence covers 971,752 ha (9,718 km²) along the dry-humid corridor of southern Honduras. It includes 582,529 ha (5,825 km²) of biological corridors and 389,223 ha (3,892 km²) of Protected Areas (PAs). The Project covers territories of the departments of Copán, Ocotepeque, Lempira, Intibucá, Santa Bárbara, Cortés, Comayagua, and La Paz within the largest dry-humid biological corridor in Honduras (Figure 1). It is implemented along three biological corridors (Trifinio, Lempira, and Central), which connect 15 PAs with neighboring productive areas. These biological corridors consist of a network of 13 Local Biological Corridors (LBC), which will be strengthened through the landscapes. The LBC are divided into two categories: a) **Mosaic Corridors**, which includes all those where production systems such as coffee and cacao are in greater proportion than natural ecosystems in the corridor (Trifinio-Copán Ruins, Puca-Copán Ruins, Guajiquiro-Montecillos, Guisayote-Pacayita, Opalaca-Lake Yojoa, Mixcure-Goldfinch); and b) **Natural corridors**, including all the corridors where the presence of cloudy, mixed and pine forest ecosystems is naturally higher than the productive ecosystems (Celaque-Pacayita, Celaque-Opalaca, Montaña Verde-Puca, Montaña Verde- Lake Yojoa, Opacala-Mixcure, Lake Yojoa-El Cajon). Additionally, most of the Project's area of incidence is where the Lenca and Chortí indigenous peoples live and use natural resources.

Strengths and weaknesses of Biological Corridors in confronting habitat fragmentation

Biological Corridors require much more than a simple line on a map to mark biological corridor geospatial coordinates, fragmentation of landscapes and the loss of vegetation and ecologically important habitats for maintaining and/or building resilience. These corridors are dynamic in space and in time and they require methodical analyses and geospatial characterizations of changes over time.

Figure 1. The Biological Corridors covered by CONECTA + (Source: S. Martínez; based on WGS-84, zone 16N)



Despite the widespread application of biological corridors, global experiences indicate that current practice falls short of its conservation promise, as corridor applications are often based on simplistic representations of habitats if these provide key ecological processes. that the species in question require for their survival (Chietkewitz *et al.* 2006; Crooks and Sanjayon 2006; Simberloff *et al.* 1999). Typically, corridor applications proceed with little species-specific information and limited assessment, and ecological processes such as selection and movement between habitats are often assumed to occur through these connections (Santiago-Ramos & Feria-Toribio 2021; Chietkewitz *et al.* 2006; Haddad and Tewsburry 2006). However, initiatives that seek to establish biological corridors rarely apply metrics that capture these processes to assess designated corridors. For example, empirical studies to date suggest that habitat loss has a significant and persistent negative effects on biodiversity and its resilience. On the other hand, a synthesis of habitat fragmentation experiments spanning multiple biomes and scales in five continents and over 35 years demonstrates that habitat fragmentation reduces biodiversity by up to 75% and it impairs key ecosystem functions by decreasing biomass and altering nutrient cycles (Haddad *et al.* 2015). These findings underscore the importance of developing robust metrics to measure the effectiveness of biological corridors in space and over time. For example, the processes of habitat selection and movement can be integrated with landscape features using a variety of approaches, such as measuring changes indices of fragmentation, habitat

loss, and fractals ([McGarigal et al. 2003](#); [Tischendorf and Fahrig 2000](#)). These tools offer new ways to design, implement and study corridors as landscape links.

2.4 Project Implementation Mechanisms

Brief Description of the Project Steering Committee

As indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc), the Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee or referred to herein as the PSC) is responsible for making decisions by consensus, making management decisions whose project manager needs guidance, including recommendations for UNDP/implementing partner approval of Project plans and reviews. To ensure the ultimate responsibility that the UNDP has for the project, the decisions of the PSC must be made by standards that guarantee the management of results for sustainable development, a better value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effectiveness.

Agreements with the principal implementing partners

Regarding the management arrangements, UNDP as GEF Agency signed a National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the MiAmbiente of Honduras as Associate in implementation and the proposed management and governance arrangements under a Steering Committee (Project Board) were approved. The successful implementation of the Project depends to a large extent on effective communication and coordination with the multiple stakeholders of the Project and on the implementation of mechanisms that ensure the participation of the stakeholders. Actors at the national and subnational levels include MiAmbiente, ICF, INA, IHCAFE, SAG, among others. At the local level, the most relevant actors are municipal governments, organizations of small and medium farmers, organizations of coffee and cocoa producers, women's groups, local communities, Rural Savings and Credit Banks and indigenous peoples and organizations, and private sector organizations and financial institutions.

2.5 Project execution deadlines and milestones to be met during implementation

The Project started on October 12, 2018 (expected start date 06/2018 and end date 06/2025), with a term of seven (7) years (2018 to 2025). According to the PIR 2021, the key milestones of the project are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Milestones and key dates for CONECTA+ (Source: PIR 2021)

Milestones and Key Dates	
PIF approval date:	09 June 2016
CEO authorization	3 January 2018
Signature of the Project document (starting date of the project):	5 July 2018
Inception workshop date:	10 January 2019
Date of first disbursements:	29 January 2019
Expected date for MTR	7 November 2021
Actual date for MTR	<i>December 2021-March 2022¹⁴</i>
Estimated date for the Terminal Evaluation	5 April 2025
Original closing date	5 July 2025
Proposed Revised Closing Date	<i>December 31, 2025</i>

According to the Project documentation and key informants, although the first CONECTA+ meeting was held in October 2018, where the multi-year planning was approved by the project team, and also the participation of the

¹⁴ Delays are entirely due to the lengthy time it took for the ET to receive requested data and information from the project, which ranged from 2-4 months.

partners, the Project actually started in January 2019 due to various delays. However, the work team did not start accompanying the Project until May 2019, and there was a considerable delay there, although some of the partners managed to start as early as January of the same year. IUCN started more than halfway through 2019. This is a significant gap which mainly affected IUCN because it could not complete its responsibilities of monitoring and governance processes that had a special focus on indigenous peoples, as well as the delimitation of the biological corridors with a spatial analysis that could not be carried out.

2.6 Main actors

The project has six partners (Table 5). All signed letters of agreement with the project will have to be reformulated, as they expired on December 31, 2021.

Table 5. Main actors contributing to CONECTA+

Actor	Role
Secretariat of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines(MiAmbiente+).	Implementing partner
Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE)	Responsible partner
HEIFER	Responsible partner
Foundation for Business Development (FUNDER)	Responsible partner
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Responsible partner
National Institute for Conservation and Forestry Development (ICF)	Responsible partner
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Responsible partner

Source: The Consultants, based on Project details

3. FINDINGS AT MID-TERM

This section of the report systematically presents all the evaluation questions, their answers, and a narrative that supports the answers, depending on whether the judgment criteria and indicators defined for the MTR were validated.

3.1 Project Strategy and Design

A. Response to the first Evaluation Question (EQ 1)

EQ 1: To what extent is the Project's strategy relevant to the country's priorities, country ownership, and to what extent does it correspond to the best route to the expected results?

In general terms, the Project's strategy is relevant to the extent that elements of the design that have been well-conceived were identified, but it has weaknesses that may limit its effectiveness and affect the future sustainability of its actions. While the Project adequately incorporated the lessons learned from other relevant projects and was designed around a Theory of Change (ToC) pathway, the ToC lacks robust assumptions, as mentioned earlier. This makes it difficult to apply the principles of adaptive management and capture lessons from the implementation process, because testing the validity of robust assumptions is an excellent way to capture lessons from weak, or invalid assumptions. Regarding the outcomes presented in CONECTA's ToC, it is noted that several outcomes were mis-represented, because they are actually outputs. Nonetheless, the ProDoc makes a strong case regarding the actions needed to address the barriers that presently impede the creation of resilient biological corridors and sustaining the intervention beyond the life of the project. These interventions are also consistent with national priorities to reverse ecosystem fragmentation, biodiversity loss, and habitat degradation land in the arid-humid biological corridor of southwestern Honduras. The project design also

recognizes the importance of providing sustainable economic incentives to improve the living standards of the beneficiaries. However, the Project's design was extremely ambitious in its aim to cover such a large and socially complex area. Furthermore, the gender strategy presented in the ProDoc is weak¹⁵, both in terms of its goals and allocated budget for addressing gender inequality. As a result, it simply perpetuates existing gender gaps. While different interest groups participated in the project design, interviews with key indigenous stakeholders stated that they were used simply to check off the IP requirement and that the project paid little attention to involving them during the implementation process until very recently. Although the ProDoc stated explicitly that the project should focus on legally recognized Indigenous Peoples' (IP) structures, indigenous leaders indicated that the project worked with other IP stakeholders not linked with those organizations and that the project did not adhere to the international guidelines of free and informed public consultations for projects that could impact indigenous territories. Finally, there is no exit strategy to sustain the project after it closes.

B. Narrative and evidence supporting EQ 1

Project Design

JC 1.1 The objective of the CONECTA+ project is achievable, the activities are logical and SMART result indicators and sound assumptions are used and risks identified / adequately mitigated

In general, the Project has many good elements in its design. However, the report of the GEF's Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP¹⁶) Report underscores that the ProDoc was extremely ambitious and recommended that the coverage be reduced so that CONECTA+ is re-structured as a pilot project. There is no evidence that this recommendation was considered, no one interviewed had even read the STAP report and the mid-term results continue to support the STAP's recommendation to scale back.

i.1.1 A- Definition of SMART indicators and their coherence with the Project logic

Several of the expected outcomes are poorly formulated, they are not SMART¹⁷, and several are outputs. For example, Indicator 1.1 (Number of biological corridors legally recognized as a result of the implementation of the regulation for the establishment of biological corridors) does not report on its effectiveness in terms of the current resilience of the key species that are indicated in the ProDoc and the PIR. Despite the importance that the GEF attaches to its Management Effectiveness Monitoring Tool (METT), Indicator 2.2 is an indicator of the effectiveness (performance and processes) of protected area management. However, with the exception of five new METT 3.0 indicators, the remaining 30+ indicators do not measure the outcomes¹⁸. Although the METT is an important product in the results chain, it does not measure the effects caused by the performance of the criteria indicated in it. Regarding Indicator 4.1 (Number of documents on successful experiences in the incorporation of biodiversity conservation objectives, OFS, and reduction of land degradation in PA and sustainable productive

¹⁵ The Project's results framework presents a clear inconsistency between the principles of Gender Equality and the goals of beneficiaries and gender equality objectives, projecting greater benefits towards men.

¹⁶ *Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel*

¹⁷ SMART outcome indicators: **Specific** - the indicator clearly and directly relates to the outcome and described without ambiguities; **Measurable** - can be counted, observed, analyzed, tested, or challenged. If one cannot measure an indicator, then progress cannot be determined; **Achievable and Attributable** - the M&E system and related indicators can identify changes/effects resulting from the interventions; **Relevant** - must be a valid measure of the result/outcome and be linked through research and professional expertise., with relevance between what the indicator measures and the theories that help create the outcomes for the client, program, or system; **Time-bounded** - the M&E system and related indicators allows progress to be tracked in a cost-effective manner at the desired frequency for a defined time period, with clear identification of the particular stakeholder group(s) to be affected by the project or program over that specified timeframe.

¹⁸ The METT is indeed an important link in any results Biodiversity project's results chain. However, the METT measures processes and a checklist of outputs that should lead to outcomes. and as such it is an OUTPUT. Regarding the METT being SMART, I do not consider that it fits the Attribution criterion: Attribution requires that changes in the targeted developmental issue can be linked to the intervention. It does not meet the Relevance criterion: An indicator should be a valid measure of the result/outcome and be linked through research and professional expertise. There is no reason to create an indicator which does not relate to the larger outcome. The indicator should be meaningful and important to the outcome to certify that the results are showing a corresponding triple bottom-line impact. However, half of the new METT indicators can be considered as robust measures of outcomes: 5. Analysis of threats, considering the scope and severity and how these threats are managed. 6. Connectivity, considering the vulnerability of species in isolated environments or with little connectivity. 7. Condition of cultural values, considering that many protected areas contain important cultural values. 8. Conservation of indicator species. This indicator is key to determining how well protected areas are being managed. 9. Conservation of habitats and their status. Like the previous indicator, this indicator is key to determining compliance with conservation objectives.

landscapes prioritized by the project), the existence of these documents does not measure the outcomes, or effects, resulting from the outputs in the results chain. Table 6 summarizes the MTR's assessment of the degree to which of the outcome indicator presented in the results matrix ([Annex 5a](#)) are SMART.

Table 6. Findings of the analysis of Results Indicators from the 2021 PIR

Indicator	SMART	Suggestions
PO1: Number of people directly benefiting from strengthened livelihoods (differentiated by gender) through solutions for management of natural resources and ecosystems services	Green	None
PO 2: Presence of key indicator species in PAs and biological corridors	Yellow	<i>Would be better if this were tied to a # individuals per unit area over a specific period of time.</i>
PO 3: Area (ha) of farms that adopt sustainable practices for production of coffee and cocoa under agroforestry increase connectivity between their farms and PAs	Green	None
4. Number of biological corridors legally recognized as a result of the implementation of the regulation for establishing biological corridors	Yellow	<i>Historical records demonstrate clearly that legal designation of a PA in Honduras rarely leads to effective outcomes.</i>
5. Change in the management effectiveness (as measured through the METT) of 15 PAs covering 389,223 ha	Yellow	<i>While the METT is an important link in any results Biodiversity project's results chain, with the exception of five new METT 3.0 indicators, it only measures processes and checklists of outputs that should lead to SMART outcomes. As such it is an OUTPUT. It does not conform with the Attribution¹⁹ or Relevance²⁰ criteria. This is supported by empirical analyses of METT scores in at least six countries²¹</i>
6. Change in the financial gap for covering basic management costs and investments in 15 prioritized PAs	Green	None
7. Number of organizational structures that participate in decision making for the conciliation of biological corridors and PAs	Yellow	<i>The presence of organizational structures does not ensure expected outcomes</i>
8. Sequestered carbon through the implementation of landscape management tools [LMTs] (biological micro-corridors, forest enrichment, live fences, windbreaks) in 6,000 ha by project's end	Green	None
9. Area (ha) of improved connectivity in 13 prioritized biological areas by project's end	Yellow	<i>The term 'improved' has no metric. Therefore, it is CRUCIAL that parameters be developed to measure 'improved connectivity'.</i>
10. Area (ha) affected by fires annually	Yellow	<i>An increase or decrease in fires due to the nature of the phenomenon that creates a complex problem for measuring or estimating in percentage terms, because there is no single factor that determines this behavior of this, but there are many factors that give rise to a ambiguities in measuring this indicator.</i>
11. Area (ha) of forest in private reserves under sustainable management	Light Green	<i>However, this could be improved by adding a metric that measures the degree to which this sustainable management contributes to more resilient ecosystem services.</i>

¹⁹ Attribution requires that changes in the targeted developmental issue can be linked to the intervention

²⁰ An indicator should be a valid measure of the result/outcome and be linked through research and professional expertise. There is no reason to create an indicator which does not relate to the larger outcome. The indicator should be meaningful and important to the outcome to certify that the results are actually showing a corresponding triple bottom-line impact

²¹ This is based on data from over 100 METT scores from 15 countries, compared with real time scientific findings at the PA sites.

12. Annual net income (USD) per producer and gender and derived from: a) coffee under agroforestry and b) cocoa under agroforestry.		<i>While this includes a gender-sensitive indicator, its weakness lies its inability to measure pertinent changes in eliminating gender equality gaps. Consequently, more robust gender-focused indicators would improve the measurement of how well CONECTA addresses this important issue.</i>
13. Number of families with access to credit and environmental incentives to promote sustainable and biodiversity-friendly practices, including product quality improvement and development approved for producers of coffee and cocoa under agroforestry.		None
14. Number of documents on successful experiences in the incorporation of conservation of biodiversity, SFM, and reduction of land degradation objectives in Pas and sustainable production landscapes prioritized by the project.		<i>This is an OUTPUT. A document is a static indicator. Better to link it to a real time M&E platform that can provide long term tracking of the outcomes, and if they change, why?</i>
15. Number of replications of agroforestry systems using LMTs that strengthen one local biological corridor not covered by the project		This is an OUTPUT

1.1.2 B- Reconstructed Theory of Change

Structurally, the Theory of Change (ToC) presented in the Project design is logical but not robust (see the reconstructed ToC, Annex 2). The great weakness in the ToC is the lack of robust assumptions since this gap makes it difficult to apply adaptive management and the required actions systematically and in real-time. For example, an assumption that the MTR considers key is that the Project must follow the clear guidelines in the ProDoc in terms of prioritizing its work with the structures of the Indigenous Peoples that are legally organized. Another essential assumption that was not made in the original ToC is that the Project must have a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system and operational knowledge (as indicated in the ProDoc) with its baselines and management strategy monitoring immediately after the initiation phase of CONECTA+. In addition, an important and missing assumption was related to close coordination between partners to ensure that the primary goals of the GEF related to biological corridors, biodiversity, or other ecosystem services were addressed, instead of the narrow focus on the economic dimension, which is no longer in line with World Bank and IDB projects.

1.1.3 C- Risks and their adequate mitigation measures

Section 3 of this report describes some of the principal barriers that the Project faces (identified in its design phase) and the mitigation measures that were defined to address said barriers. The SESP is included in the Annex to the ProDoc, which integrates the identification of social and environmental risks (including the risks of limited consultation with legally recognized indigenous peoples' organizations (which is discussed in detail later). In the Annex to the ProDoc, A UNDP risk register matrix is also included, which includes political, strategic, financial, environmental, and operational risks. Therefore, the Project design considered the identification of the most important potential risks and their respective mitigation measures.

Of course, no one predicted the pandemic, and consequently, COVID-19 has been one of several barriers (as indicated later in other sections of this report) to the implementation of the Project.

1.1.4 D- Questions on the inclusion of Cross-cutting issues (Gender, Climate Change, and Indigenous Peoples) in the design.

The formulation of the Project included a gender analysis in the area of influence of CONECTA+, therefore, the design integrates a Gender Action Plan that encompasses the different components of the Project. On the other hand, the ProDoc includes both a budget and a ToR (profile) to guide the hiring of a gender specialist, to ensure

that the gender component is adequately integrated into the execution of the Project. The gender specialist was finally hired in May 2021, more than mid-way through the project's implementation. However, as mentioned above, there is a wide gap in the inclusion of gender equity issues when looking at the wide gender disparity in some of ProDoc's gender-disaggregated indicators²². For example, only about 30% of the targeted beneficiaries are women. Furthermore, the consultant identified that the Gender Action Plan is very general and that the gender approach is not mainstreamed in the plans for Stakeholder Participation or Communication Plans, much less any other plans designed for the Project. Finally, the ProDoc does not make references to or include the term inclusion.

The ProDoc, on the other hand, integrates an Indigenous Peoples Plan (PPI) aimed at achieving the effective participation of indigenous populations and guaranteeing free, prior, and informed consent for the implementation of Project activities. The PPI considers a budget for a specialist in indigenous peoples partially during the 7 years of validity, as well as consultations and workshops with indigenous peoples. Although the ProDoc clearly includes the RISK identification matrix and the risk of limited free and informed public consultations with Indigenous People (p. 106), as well as the UNDP risk matrix (p. 130), it highlighted the risk of limiting consultations with indigenous peoples. Despite the recommended mitigation measures, there is a huge gap in the attention that the Project has given to these marginalized groups. As detailed below, the participation of indigenous peoples in the formulation stage corresponds to one of the weaknesses identified in the Project's design. However, the project leadership has taken concrete actions to fill this gap and Indigenous leaders are optimistic, according to interviews as late as January 2022.

It is important to understand that in those communities inhabited by Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants, there are several social organizational structures, which are indicated in the ProDoc. The representatives of these organizations are elected by the highest authority, which is the Assembly (which is all the inhabitants of the community)²³. The Indigenous Councils are part of national, departmental, municipal, and local structures that follow strictly cultural lines and that are recognized at the national level, since they have a legal personality that supports them²⁴. Strategically, the Governments in power work with the formal structures that apply to normal societies that are not populated by Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants. Those interviewed leaders of the Indigenous Peoples stated that they normally follow the political guidelines of the local government in power, which is the one that legally recognizes them, affecting the self-determination of these communities. They also underlined that the foregoing is a strategy that, far from strengthening IPs' organizations, their culture, unity, working together, it is weakening and dividing them, and as a consequence, it affects their Cosmivision of life and biodiversity conservation practices. It is noteworthy that numeral 155 of the ProDoc specifies that the *beneficiaries of the project are the Lenca Sectoral Table and the Maya Chortí organizations and organizations that make up the Project Steering Committee*.

The ProDoc mentions carbon sequestration as a good initiative and the carbon sequestration baseline has recently been established by the FAO (Output 3.2). However, the lack of identification of aspects specifically related to adaptation to Climate Change in the design of CONECTA+ is evident.

JC 1.2 – The Project adequately incorporated lessons from other similar projects and these are included in CONECTA's Theory of Change.

1.2.1- Lessons from other projects incorporated into the Project design

²² The goals disaggregated by Gender (number of people who benefit) are not consistent with the Fifth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-5), nor with national policies and legislation on gender in Honduras.

²³ Among these are the Patronages that are recognized by the municipality as well as the Water Management Boards, there are also the Catholic and Protestant Churches, the Parents' Association, security, tourism, sports committees and associations of water producers. different items. In addition, there are associations related to the cultural part, such as dance groups

²⁴ In the case of the Lenca Indigenous People, there is the MUPILH, the Maya Chortí organizations are the National Ancestral Coordinator of Maya Chortí Indigenous Rights of Honduras (CONADIMCHH), and the National Maya Chortí Indigenous Council (CONIMCHH).

As indicated in the ProDoc, the Project design incorporated best management practices and lessons learned through the GEF-UNDP Project "Mainstreaming biodiversity in the coffee region in Colombia", about the market of certified and non-certified products, compensation by carbon sequestration and restoration programs. That Project was concluded in 2014 and its final evaluation determined that it had been successful in achieving the goals and results and that its impact was positive.

The ProDoc also indicates that the CONECTA+ Project would coordinate and incorporate lessons learned from the following 3 projects implemented by the Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation (FHIA), linked to the cocoa value chain:

- *"Project for the Promotion of High-Value Agroforestry Systems with Cocoa in Honduras"²⁵*, funded by the Canadian government and executed over 6 years (April 2010 to September 2016).
- *"Promotion of agribusiness initiatives to improve the productivity and competitiveness of cocoa producers in the Mayan corridor"²⁶*, executed in coordination with the ETEA Foundation and financed by the AACID (Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation). This Project was carried out in western Honduras and developed its activities in 3 stages: the first from April 2013-April 2015, the second from April 2015-June 2017, and the last from July 2017-May 2019.
- *"Project to improve income and employment for cocoa producers-PROCACAHO"²⁷* in Central America-Honduras Component, executed by a Consortium made up of FHIA, FUNDER and APROCACAHO (Association of Cocoa Producers of Honduras), during the period from August 2014 to December 2017, with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Interviews with key informants indicated that the CONECTA+ team members (for example, the Project coordinator) worked in other projects and that in the planning stage they have taken advantage of experiences and lessons learned from other initiatives to transfer them to CONECTA+. However, the evaluator also identified the late intervention of some key specialists, to transfer their experiences at certain strategic moments of planning that the Project demanded (for example, specialists in gender, communication, monitoring, safeguards, among others).

JC 1.3 -The Project design involved the participation of different interest groups to create ownership among the interested parties and beneficiaries.

1.3.1- Level of participation of different actors in the definition and scope of CONECTA's activities.

Although the ProDoc anticipates and includes as a risk the limited consultation of indigenous peoples, the lack of incorporation of the free and informed consultation of indigenous peoples who would be affected/influenced by the Project violates the rights of said peoples, of which the government of Honduras has attached, which is perceived by leaders (interviewed in the framework of this evaluation) of the Chortí Maya and Lenca, who also stated that they had not been taken seriously by the key authorities (local and national) of the Project. Even though the design of the Project included a comprehensive team to be able to follow up on these issues and adaptive management, until mid-term, at the evaluation date, there is no evidence that the indigenous safeguards have been hired²⁸, which exposes one of several of CONECTA+'s weaknesses.

According to the Project Inception Report, the IUCN should work with the Lenca and Maya Chortí groups on aspects related to the regularization and legalization of territories within the targeted micro biological corridors, in coordination with ICF, and consider the *Cosmovision* of Mother Earth that is held by these indigenous groups.

²⁵ "Proyecto de Promoción de Sistemas Agroforestales de Alto Valor con Cacao en Honduras; http://www.fhia.org.hn/html/Proyecto_de_Cacao_FHIA-Canada.html

²⁶ "Impulso de iniciativas agroempresariales para mejor la productividad y competitividad de productores de cacao del corredor maya"; http://www.fhia.org.hn/html/Proyecto_FHIA_Fundacion_ETEA.html

²⁷ http://www.fhia.org.hn/html/Proyecto_PROCACAHO.html

²⁸ On page 154 of the PRODOC there is a summary of the team that would be contracted by the Project, including a specialist in indigenous peoples.

Additionally, IUCN should work on a dissemination and governance strategy for biological micro-corridors, including governance mechanisms and how it complements those of indigenous peoples. About the issue of management of Biological Corridors and work in Public Administrations with the contribution of the IUCN, there is evidence that different IP representatives managed to participate and be heard in these events. However, there is no reference to the participation of indigenous peoples in the formulation of the strategies of the other partners about the actions to be taken to benefit these groups that were prioritized in the ProDoc. Consequently, the Plan formulated for the Indigenous Peoples was never executed because of the limited role of key actors who are essential for ensuring the effective implementation of the plan.

JC 1.4 -The Project design considered linkages with other interventions either currently being implemented or planned (*at the national-local level*).

1.4.1- Degree of complementarity with other initiatives related to CONECTA's activities in the geographic areas of the interventions in Honduras.

The Project promotes South-South cooperation with other countries in the region that are implementing similar initiatives (for example Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Colombia) through exchanges with the Country Offices and the Regional Offices for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) of the UNDP, as indicated in the ProDoc. Technically qualified personnel and groups of experts from these countries in relation to issues addressed by the Project will have the opportunity to exchange experiences and knowledge. Finally, successful experiences will be relevant in the lessons learned that will be disseminated to ensure their adoption and replication in other countries of the LAC region.

JC 1.5 Project design and actions are consistent with national priorities to reverse ecosystem fragmentation, biodiversity loss, and land degradation in the arid-humid biological corridor of southwestern Honduras.

1.5.1 Level of coherence of the Project Strategy (and its activities and products integrated into the results chain) with national priorities (public policy, plans) from the environmental, social, and economic perspective.

CONECTA+'s strategy is consistent with the objectives of the GEF and includes actions to contribute to the Biodiversity Focal Area (BD), Land Degradation Focal Area (LD), and Programming of funds for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Specifically, in the Biodiversity Focal Area (BD) it will contribute to BD Objective 1: Improve the sustainability of Protected Area Systems, Program 1: *Improve Financial Sustainability and Management Effectiveness of the National Ecological Infrastructure* and in BD Objective 4: *Incorporation of the Conservation of Biodiversity and the Sustainable Use of Productive and Marine Landscapes and Sectors*, Program 9: *Management of the Human-Biodiversity Interface*. In the Land Degradation Focal Area (LD) it will contribute to Objective LD 2: *Generation of Sustainable Flows of Ecosystem Services from Forests, Including Dry Lands*, Program 3: *Management and Restoration of the Landscape*, and finally, in the Programming of funds- Forest Management Forest (SFM) will contribute to SFM Goal 1: *Maintained Forest Resources: Reduce pressures on high conservation value forests by addressing the drivers of deforestation*.

The Project is also part of the UNDP's efforts to support the progress of Honduras in its struggle to achieve specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In particular, the Project will contribute to the achievement of the following SDGs: GOAL 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; OBJECTIVE 12: Ensure sustainable patterns of consumption and production; and GOAL 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss. However, it was identified that about SDG-5, although the Project integrates a Gender Action Plan, the CONECTA+ results framework presents some inconsistency with the development objectives in terms of gender equality, since the goals (project objective) reflect that almost 70% men and only 30% women will benefit. It is surprising that, in a 7-year project, and with the potential to reduce gaps, the goal is to benefit 11,184 men and only 4,919 women, regardless of contextual factors such as land ownership, which present barriers to gender

equality, and that projects such as CONECTA+ are relevant platforms to influence the elimination of these barriers.

The Project is aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2021²⁹ for Honduras, which supports the achievement of RESULT 5: *The poor and vulnerable population exposed to food insecurity in the prioritized regions has increased its production and productivity, access to decent employment, income, and sustainable consumption, considering climate change and the conservation of ecosystems.* Likewise, the Project is consistent with:

- **Honduras Country Vision 2010-2038 and National Plan 2010-2022**³⁰, specifically in guideline 7 on "Regional Development, Natural Resources, and Environment" where the bases for planning the economic, social, and political development of the country are established and the 16 development regions are established under the territorial approach determined by the hydrographic basin. **National Biodiversity Strategy and the Honduras Action Plan of 2000**³¹ (to be executed in 10 years), particularly with the relevant objectives for Protected Areas and *In Situ* Conservation, the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, and Incentives. Currently, it is also consistent with the **National Biodiversity Strategy and the Honduras Action Plan 2018-2022**³², in its strategic objective 1: "Improve the content of the legal framework and the quality of public management towards the conservation of biological diversity, strategic objective 2: "Improve the conservation conditions of natural ecosystems and productive landscapes", strategic objective 3: "Strengthen the protection of samples of biological diversity, to contribute to better scientific and general public knowledge, and strategic objective 7: "Position the conservation of biological diversity in the processes of economic development".
- The **Strategic Plan of the National System of Protected Areas 2010-2020**³³ and its objectives: O.1.3: "Guarantee coordination between the different actors involved in the management of SINAPH"; O.3.3: "Develop, update and implement participatory management plans for Protected Areas according to management categories"; O.4. Establish conditions for marketing the supply of environmental goods and services in PAs"; O.6.2 "Ensure that the State guarantees the allocation of resources from the national budget to feed and consolidate FAPVS as the financial arm of SINAPH".
- **The National Forestry Program- PRONAFOR (2004-2021)**³⁴, which is part of the National Policy for the Agrifood Sector and Rural Affairs and is the operational arm of the Forestry Policy. It will contribute to the achievement of the objectives contained in the following programs: Program for Forests and Community Development, Program for Forest, Water and Environmental Services, and Program for Forests and Biodiversity. The Project will also take measures to reduce GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions established in the National Strategy for Climate Change and the Framework Law for Climate Change (2014).

Finally, and as indicated in the ProDoc, the Project is part of the national legal framework related to corridors and protected areas, micro-basins, sub-basins, and basins, such as the General Law of the Environment, Decree No. 104-93; General Water Law, Decree No. 181-2009: Propose different management modalities to achieve, following the conditions of each service, sustainability in the provision of drinking water and sanitation services; Regulation of the Framework Law of the Potable Water and Sanitation Sector, Decree No. 118-2003; Law for the Protection of the Yojoa Lake Basin (Hondulago), Decree No. 46-200; Forest Law, Protected Areas, and Wildlife, Decree No. 98-2007; General Regulations of the Forest Law, Protected Areas, and Wildlife. Executive Agreement No. 031-2010; Declaration of Protected Areas and Cloud Forests, Decree 87-87; Regulation of the National System of Protected Areas, agreement 921-97; Coffee Activity Protection Law, Decree No. 199-95; Law of the Honduran

²⁹ <https://honduras.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/MANUD%202017-2021.pdf>

³⁰ Visión de País 2010-2038 y Plan de Nación 2010-2022 de Honduras; <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/sites/default/files/plan/files/HondurasPlandeNacion20102022.pdf>

³¹ National Biodiversity Strategy and the Honduras Action Plan of 2000; <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/hon157214.pdf>

³² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/hn/hn-nbsap-v2-es.pdf>

³³ Plan Estratégico del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas 2010-2020; <https://mocaph.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/2009-plan-estrategico-sinaph-2010-2020.pdf>

³⁴ El Programa Nacional Forestal- PRONAFOR (2004-2021); <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/hon148814.pdf>

Results matrix and logical framework

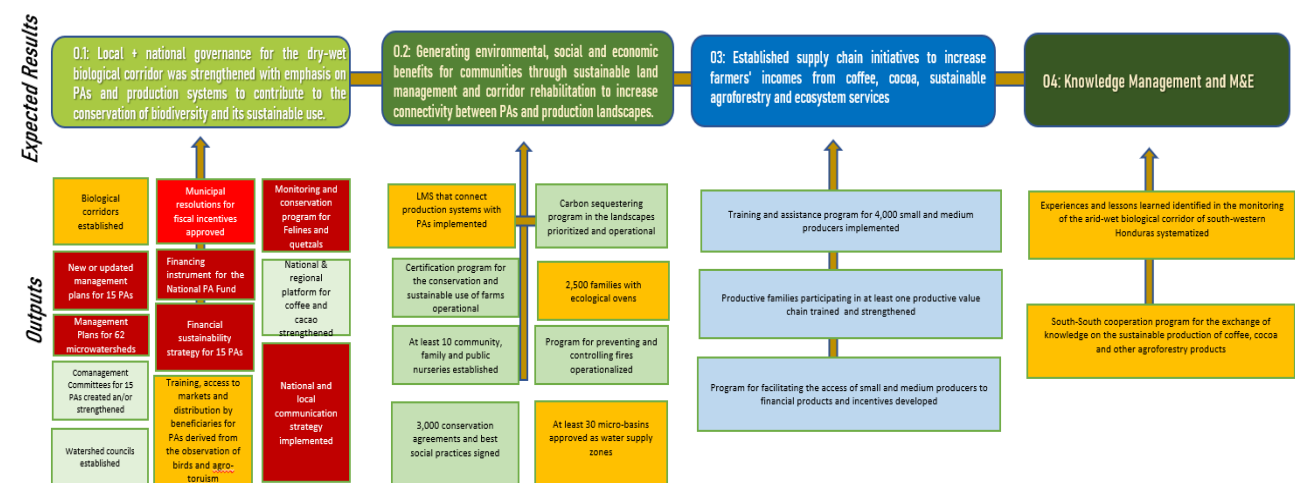
JC 1.6 The results (*outcomes*) monitoring and evaluation system was adequately designed and easily applied to contribute to the adaptive management process.

UNDP or other United Nations organizations use the enterprise resource planning system (ATLAS) to manage projects, finances, human resources, inventory, and procurement. Atlas also forms the basis of UNDP's internal control and accountability framework. However, based on the available evidence, the MTR identified that the Project lacks instruments to execute a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process that contributes to adaptive management, based on a causal chain of results, such as, and as it presents the ToC.

UNDP and UNDP-GEF projects use various monitoring and evaluation tools to provide internal control and accountability (e.g., ATLAS) and follow-up to present the results in terms of quality (e.g., PIR, METT) of their projects. Although CONECTA+ has satisfactorily fulfilled its elaboration of these tools, the available evidence from interviews and field visits indicates some entries in the Annual PIRs lack objectivity. Another weakness of the PIRs does not allow social, environmental, and economic changes to be evaluated in real-time, which is a major shortcoming for a project that deals with spatial and temporal dynamics of biological corridors, as does CONECTA+.

Another shortcoming is that the project has either failed to complete, or not satisfactorily completed east fourteen outputs (Figure 2) that are critical links for producing outcomes in the results chain (see [Annex 2](#), which presents the reconstructed Theory of Change for CONECTA+).

Figure 2. Summary of expected outputs contributing to the expected outcomes for each project component (red shading= not yet achieved, yellow =partially achieved and blue + green shading = achieved)



1.6.1 Both the PIRs and other tracking instruments contribute to the systematic application of adaptive management (changes derived from internal and exogenous factors (COVID-19))

The project has been forced to apply reactively, rather than proactive adaptive management. This is because the coordinator and the responsible partners faced multiple barriers, the root causes of which were related to the poor leadership and political infighting of the senior authorities at the highest levels of the GEF focal-point ministry. However, the responses by responsible partners to these serious impediments were excellent. They pooled resources, adjusted overcame the financial gaps caused by extensive delays in reimbursing their expenses, as well

as those owed to the project coordinator. These adaptive actions helped to overcome the absence of a complete technical team (also caused by the infighting) and inexplicable delays caused by the same authorities that prevented the coordinator and responsible partners to conduct programmed workshops and field visits.

Although the ProDoc integrates a subsection that describes a monitoring plan of the Project, that plan is not a comprehensive monitoring plan, but a plan that presents general guidelines on how to make the monitoring effective in a concrete way. Evidence is lacking to demonstrate CONECTA+, UNDP or the GEF have real-time³⁵ and integrated monitoring and evaluation framework that can measure the dynamic changes in space and time within the biological corridors in response to the project interventions. For example, the comprehensive monitoring based on the Theory of Change (ToC) is the best tool that enables a systematically applied adaptive management, and that allows to adjust the interventions based on the circumstances and adjust the course of the project based on the certainty of the assumptions presented in the ToC. For example, "if something is not right, it is reconsidered". Likewise, an initiative of this magnitude should adapt to i) the changes imposed by the project dynamics in real-time and ii) the local dynamics of the geographical context since these are key elements that would have been identified in the assumptions formulated to accompany the ToC. If there is no effective monitoring, there is no condition to be prepared to rethink, and consequently, the chances of achieving the planned goals are reduced. The consulting team developed a hypothesis that among the various causes of the steady loss of biodiversity in Honduras (as reported by MiAmbiente in December 2021) is the absence of a real-time, integrated M&E platform that is capable of measuring outcomes linked to the enforcement of pertinent legal instruments, management tools, institutional arrangements, and governance mechanisms used by environmental authorities and NGOs, and funded by international donors. This hypothesis is based on more than 30 years of combined experience of the evaluation team. Different people interviewed in the framework of this evaluation agreed that there has been little space to exercise monitoring that measures the effects of interventions, which at the same time reflects an opportunity for improvement for UNDP, but also for the implementer. - *If we are not measuring a project's outcomes, then it is not possible to determine whether we were successful in achieving expected impacts, or if we failed. If we can't measure success, we can't reward it, and if we can't reward success, we are probably rewarding failure. If we cannot see success, we can't learn from it, and if we can't recognize mistakes, we can't correct them. Finally, if we cannot demonstrate the expected effects that our project set out to achieve, key actors unlikely to have the necessary confidence required to sustain the interventions (adapted from Kusek and Rist 2004³⁶).*

3.2 Progress towards achieving the expected results

A. Response to EQ 2

EQ 2: What is the degree to which the Project has achieved its expected mid-term results?

Annex 5a presents the Results Matrix showing progress since CONECTA initiated. Although the second PIR 2021 recorded in the UNDP-GEF system indicates that the Project has achieved its expected targets for only three outcome indicators³⁷, as well as over half (eight) of the 15 outcome indicators have not been achieved, and four of the planned targets have been partially achieved. New data from the December 2021 PSC Report indicate that the Project has managed to meet 71.1% of the financial execution of the approved budget for this year.. Execution of the total project is 46%, the mid-term technical implementation of the overall indicators of the project is 66.7%; and, by the end of the project 61%. In addition, the technical implementation of the indicators of the 4 components of the project was achieved in the mid-term it is

³⁵ A real-time M&E platform involves the delivery of continuously updated information-streaming that could provide immediate application of adaptive management principles, rather than waiting to act based on annual PIRs. The overall approach involves working real-time from a theory-based approach and with a clear focus on achieving and assessing results. RT frameworks provide more timely responses that allow apply adaptive management principles, as well as stakeholder learning in real time, rather than waiting until it is too late to act. Tools can include simple smartphone apps, GIS, remote sensing tools, and on the ground reporting. It has been adopted by many leading donor organizations such as DANIDA, The World Bank, DFID, AUSAID, the GIZ and ASDI (Sweden), among others. The advantage is that the project team is well ahead of the PIRs and the MTE, and this essentially allows them to be ready for any surprises that might come too late. Had a real time M&E platform been in place with CONECTA, it might have forced the project to immediately conduct follow-up monitoring of biological baselines, as well as updating the METTs, to name a few examples.

³⁶ TEN STEPS TO A RESULTS-BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM: A Handbook for development practitioners. World Bank publication, 268 p..

³⁷ #2.3, 3.1 y 3.2

71.4%: and, by the end of the project 60.7%. In conclusion, until 2021 there is a deficit of 28.2% of financial execution, 33.3% of global indicators, and -28.6% of the 4 project components. However, interviews with various stakeholders contradict some of these data and some disagreement is perceived about the quality and reliability expressed in certain indicators. Therefore, the mid-term results reveal doubts about the composition of the beneficiary groups insofar as they have contributed to the conservation of biodiversity, the restoration, and the strengthening of the social, environmental, and economic resilience of biological corridors, among other mid-term expected results.

B. Narrative and evidence supporting the Finding for EQ2

Analysis of the progress toward the expected results

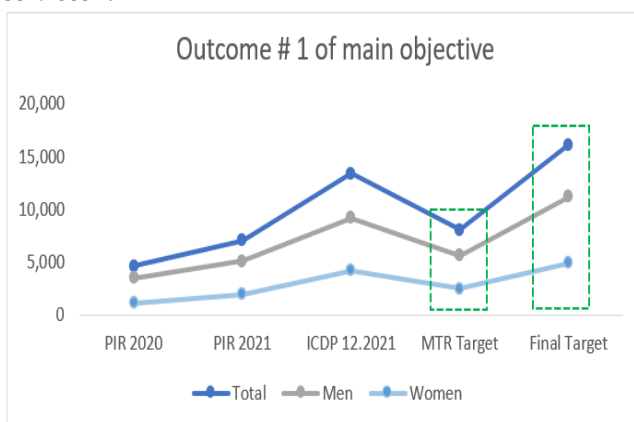
In general terms, the MTR identifies that institutional strengthening is not sufficiently grounded, nor focused on the management committees of protected areas, in relation to governance, while there is a huge gap in compliance with the free and informed consultation with the indigenous territories in the first project meetings.

JC 2.1 The project's results/ outputs were in line with what was planned for the mid-term.

2.2.1 Data and narrative of the achievement of at least 80% of the goals established for the medium term in the framework of expected results of the CONECTA+

Although the PSC Meeting Report of December 2021, shows better progress compared to that presented in the 2021 PIR, the documentary evidence and interviews conducted indicate that the Project still has an execution deficit to what was planned. Based on PIR 2021 analysis, many of these delays are attributed to poor leadership from the GEF government focal point senior management. Regarding the expected results to achieve the main objective (OP), the evaluation identifies that the Project exceeded Indicator OP#1 (number of people who benefit directly from the strengthening of livelihoods through solutions for the management of natural resources and ecosystem services). However, this excellent progress has been partial (Figure 3), since even though the livelihoods of more than seven thousand people have been strengthened, these benefits are not linked to solutions that have demonstrably improved the management of ecosystem services (it is worth mentioning that the production of natural resources is redundant since they are one of the multiple ecosystem services).

Figure 3. # People who benefit directly from the strengthening of livelihoods through solutions for the management of natural resources and ecosystem services³⁸.



The PSC Report also indicates that 495 indigenous farmers directly benefited from the strengthening of livelihoods. However, none of the 15 people interviewed who are categorized by the project as indigenous beneficiaries in the indicator for the result of the first Main Objective (OP-1) could affirm that they belonged to these legally organized indigenous groups. As for Indicator #2 of the OP, no baselines have been established for any of the conservation objectives so far, and no actions have been implemented for its conservation. After more than 2 years from the time that the project started, there has been no follow-up monitoring on the 2016 baseline to measure changes in one of the most important aspects of biological corridors.

Had the project done such follow-up and had a Real-time M&E platform in place, they might have captured illegal hunting of various CITES-listed species, which were denounced by protected area park rangers.³⁹

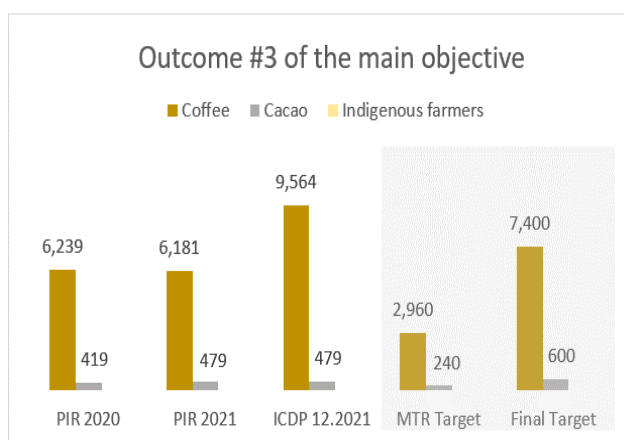
Several Honduran biodiversity experts questioned the rationale for having selected the same indicator species indicated in the ProDoc for all the biological corridors to measure the scope of the OP-2 Result. For example, some of these species are not present in each of the biological corridors (even the jaguar has not been seen for more than six decades), while other species are only found in habitats in specific climate zones. On the other hand, these indicators were proposed by scientists without having consulted the indigenous communities who state that there are important species that make part of their Cosmovision and their Madre Tierra Visions that were never considered for monitoring. Finally, it is important to mention that some co-managers have more than 5 years of monitoring changes in the presence and population density studies of certain key species (e.g., emerald hummingbird, and *Oreopanax lempira*, the emblematic plant of the Celaque National Park) and many on the CITES Red List in different key corridors of the project that were not considered for the OP-2 indicators indicated in the ProDoc. It has also been found that although the populations of the Quetzal have been maintained, there is a critical point between the border of Honduras and Guatemala where the pine-oak forest has been drastically reduced, but this data has not been collected by the project after having surpassed more than half of the CONECTA+ project.

Various biodiversity experts argued that it would be best if CONECTA could adjust its original indicators (which to date are lacking baseline data) to include threatened species that are characteristic of the habitats in each protected area and their corresponding biological corridors that already have baseline and spatial-temporal monitoring data in territories located within the project area. It is difficult to understand why these important data bases (e.g., Meámbar, Celaque) have not been incorporated into the project to replace the missing baselines stipulated in the ProDoc. For example, data are available from the monitoring of quetzals during the mating season in several areas and these could easily be integrated into a more realistic and hands-on monitoring strategy for the project.

The Project has exceeded expectations in terms of the area of farms that have adopted sustainable practices (Figure 4). However, there is no evidence that this has improved the effectiveness of the connectivity between biological corridors, since there is no baseline for conservation objectives, nor is there an analysis of the change in spatial configuration (e.g., change in fragmentation and in fractals) created by these important advances.

This shows a worrying gap between the valuable work with the excellent achievements with the economic dimension thanks to the good guidance by the project partners, while the environmental activities have only been handled by IUCN until now. The absence of a more balanced approach that includes environmental considerations in the economic activities is a concern at mid-term because biodiversity is one of the main focal areas of the GEF. It is worth highlighting what was previously mentioned regarding the concerns about the composition of the indigenous beneficiaries within the data in Figure 4. Also, indigenous communities and their leaders have repeatedly expressed their concern about CONECTA's efforts to introduce improved seeds that could replace native species that indigenous peoples have

Figure 4. The area (ha) of farms that adopt sustainable practices to produce coffee and cocoa under agroforestry increase the connectivity between their farms and nearby PAs²¹



³⁹ Mario Orellana defender of the Montaña de Santa Bárbara National Park denounced high levels of hunting of several critical species that have disappeared (Jabalí, white-tailed deer, red deer, among others. Source: Canal 3 Noticiero 29.03.2022)

been caring for over centuries. This has been strongly criticized by some highly recognized biologists and anthropologists, as native seeds are especially important in the highlands (1800m and above) where some villagers live and have maintained their ancestral genetic seed varieties to combat diseases attacking their wheat, and mushrooms from the forest. It is of utmost importance that these crops that are important to indigenous resilience-building are never lost and the project has a responsibility to protect these traditional genetic crops, rather than replace them with new genetically modified varieties. While the ProDoc states that this result should lead to the *Strengthened local and national governance for the dry-humid biological corridor with emphasis on PAs and production systems to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use*, this must ensure respect for traditional cultural values informing these communities about their rights to self-determination and full acceptance for them to continue with their traditional practices. The introduction of genetically modified or alien species should not be tolerated.

O1: Strengthened local and national governance for the dry humid biological corridor with emphasis on PAs and production systems to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.

Outcome 1: Local governance remains weak and there is a large gap in the participation of indigenous peoples, youth, and women in horizontal governance processes. Regarding national governance, the MTR identifies that government institutions, mainly MiAmbiente, have had a significant impact on hindering progress and the efficiency of the Project, despite the tireless efforts of the Project's coordination. While the evaluation team could not find evidence at the time of this report that the project updated the required METT assessments (Figure 6) that UNEP abandoned when they exited the Project, IUCN and the project team successfully updated METT scores in April 2022 and these should be reviewed by the Terminal Evaluation. This is now even more complicated, which is why the GEF is now promoting version 4.0 of the METT, which has new indicators. Regarding the financial gap to cover basic management costs and investments, according to the 2021 PIR and various interviews with key informants in the framework of this MTR, it will be difficult to overcome this financial gap until the payment for ecosystem services to which those protected areas contribute are understood by the water management authorities and local governments⁴⁰.

Finally, it is noteworthy that 90% of the interviewees⁴¹ stated that while the Project has created several organizational structures to participate in decision-making for the conciliation of biological corridors and PAs, these have not been viable because there has been limited transparency in the governance processes, as well as with the coordination and communication between the partners. This lack of transparency and perceived

Figure 5. Advances with indicator 4⁴²

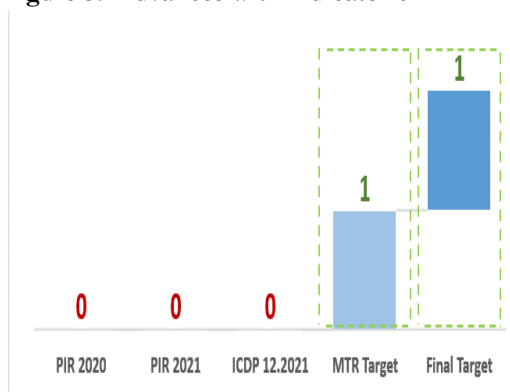
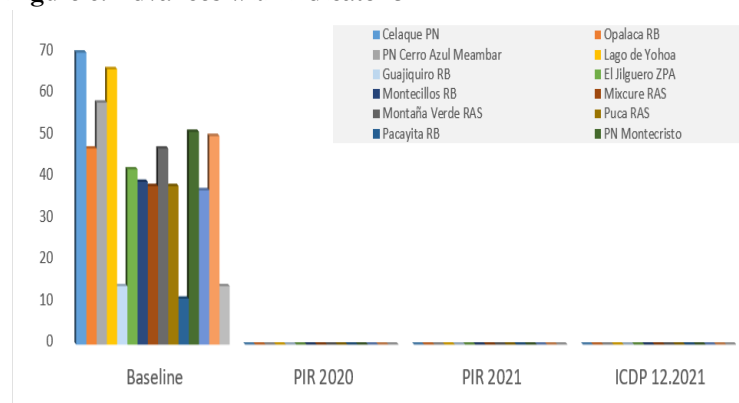


Figure 6. Advances with indicator 5



⁴⁰ If a protected area X had a focus on water provision, this could generate income for the sustainability of conservation actions in that protected area or create ecotourism issues to obtain financial resources again aimed at promoting the sustainability that these areas protected areas and also for the issue of biological corridors, the protected area has an additional value that the biological corridor does not have and that is that it has a defined area. It has a Legislative Decree, and it has as manager and in some way it has financing. Which would be the ideal, but somehow some financing is achieved to attend to some specific things, the biological corridors are not. That is where there is also a little bit of uncertainty around sustainability, which the conservation and management of these biological corridors may have.

⁴¹ See the list of people interviewed in [Annex 7](#)

⁴² *Source:* Consultant-developed from PIR data from June 2020, 2021, and the PSC report from December 2021.

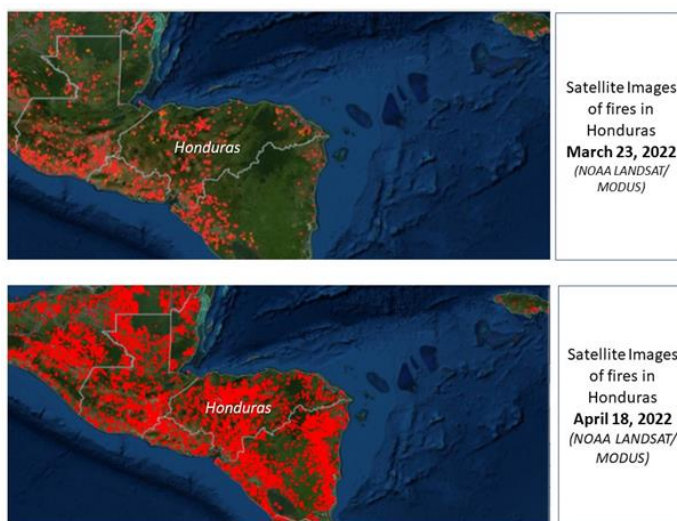
differences with other actors have been observed in other GEF projects managed by MiAmbiente and documented in evaluations (according to informants from this MTR). In general terms, this institutional inconsistency has contributed to the ineffectiveness of the implementation of the actions directed to bio-ecological matters and sustainable landscapes of CONECTA+. This was highlighted by one of the indigenous groups who did not perceive that the responsible consultant took their involvement seriously during the project formulation process and appeared to think of it as a box that could simply be checked off once the indigenous representatives attended the workshop. This lack of active involvement has been observed in other projects managed by MiAmbiente and documented in evaluations (according to informants of this MTR). In general terms, this institutional incongruity between government authorities and indigenous peoples has contributed to the ineffective implementation of CONECTA's interventions targeted by this important sustainable landscape initiative.

O2: Generation of environmental, social, and economic benefits for communities through sustainable landmanagement and rehabilitation of corridors to increase connectivity between PAs and production landscapes.

Outcome 2: Although the 2021 PIR indicates that there has been no progress with Outcome 2.1 (volumes of sequestered carbon, that is, tCO2-eq) through the implementation of LMTs (micro biological corridors, forest enhancement, living fences, and windbreaks), the PSC report December indicates that the Project has effectively achieved this goal. The December Board report indicates that for Outcome 2.2, interconnectivity zones of 9,110.98 ha have been identified, prioritized, and characterized, and 10,042.96 ha have been established that improve biological interconnectivity between 15 PAs. However, the MTR identifies that there are no indicators that demonstrate the extent to which these corridors that were currently identified have been improved and this was verified during the consultant's field visit in January 2022.

Although the available data indicate positive signs in relation to a decrease in the total area affected by fires (2,579 hectares compared to fires at 3,420.67 ha in 2020), there is no evidence to show the decrease in the number of fires can be attributed to Project interventions and it is possible that a combination of factors such as the COVID pandemic and extremely wet 2020 that experience two hurricanes might explain the low number of fires. This is supported by recent data from ICF an NOAA LANDSAT/MODUS satellite images that indicate that fires in the area increased by over 100% in the first quarter of 2022 (Figures 7a & 7b).

Figures 7a & b. Satellite images showing the 100%+ increase in fires in the project area and throughout Honduras in March-April 2022.



Finally, there is no evidence that the Project has reached the goal of Result 2.4 (sustainable management of 100 hectares of forest sustainably in private reserves), mainly due to the weakness in the monitoring system.

Outcome 3: Establishing supply chain initiatives to increase income of farmers derived from coffee, cocoa, sustainable agroforestry, and ecosystem services

Outcome 3: The expected results for Component 3 aim to reduce those barriers identified in the ProDoc related to the lack of incentives for small producers to participate in landscape management and have access to credits to promote these incentives Figure 8). Among the four components of the Project, the achievement of economic

Figure 8. Advances toward indicator 12⁴³

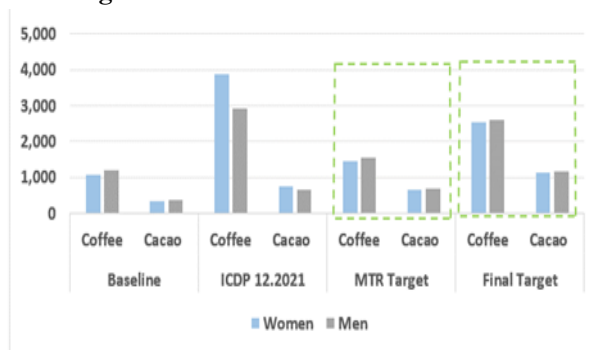
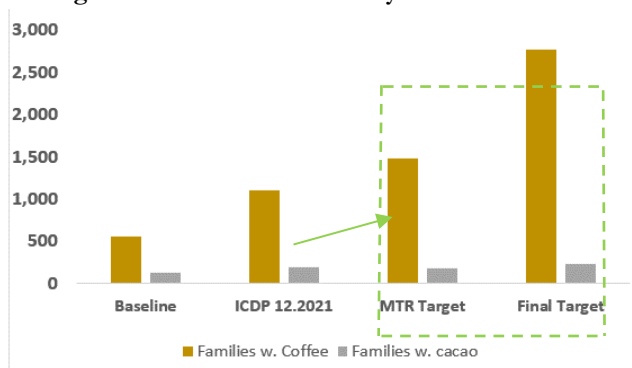


Figure 9. Advances with family access to credit³¹



One of the interesting linkages the project made corresponds to the topic of business development, where Heifer has identified 32 organizations from which they had to follow up on business development, and at the date of the evaluation, almost 46 organizations were identified, with which the resources made it possible to work much more than had been planned. However, there are no data to show the extent to which these credits were used as incentives to improve environmental practices with cocoa, but it is understood that they are in the process of certifying both coffee and cocoa. In addition, there is a lack of data indicating the number of benefited people with access to credit to promote environmentally friendly coffee crops. Finally, there is no evidence that the initiatives related to the creation of supply chains have benefited the target group of the CONECTA+ project, these being the poor and marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, as has been agreed in 80% of the people interviewed in the framework of this MTR. The evidence indicates that a high percentage of credit beneficiaries are people who have worked with Heifer before the CONECTA+ project began.

No benefits were identified to have measurably improved the resilience of ecosystem services in the area of CONECTA's influence. According to interviews with at least 10 key informants, the Project has directed the economic benefits to a select group of beneficiaries, and serious deficiencies are perceived in the scope of the expected social and environmental benefits⁴⁴. This is mainly due to the absolute absence of guidelines to integrate the environmental dimension (mainly the restoration of corridors and ecosystem resilience) in Agreements between the responsible partners and the project.

O4: Knowledge management and M&E

Outcome 4: Result 4.1 (indicator 14) has significant progress (in relation to what was planned) and it is projected to overcome the barrier identified in the ProDoc regarding limited access to information and training on sustainable production systems. At mid-term, the PIR 2021 indicates that more than 10 documents related to the methodology for the spatial distribution of biological corridors and credits have been produced, and the Project was only able to hire a communications expert 2 years after the project began. This has been a big gap so far because, according to the ProDoc, that person will be responsible for editing these documents, to have versions that can be shared and support the socialization of the project and the dissemination of its progress. Despite the advances in this expected result, it is important to highlight that this R3.1. does not correspond to a SMART outcome. Instead, it is an output in the results chain leading to the overall objective. As mentioned in the Project Design section (JC 1.1) of this report, the MTR identifies the lack of formulation of a SMART indicator that measures the effects of these documents in terms of transformations they generate to strengthen the resilience of ecosystem services. In contrast to the above and when approaching the interested parties about the management of knowledge about the current situation of biodiversity, the MTR identified that although some documents have

⁴³ *Source:* Consultants' own elaboration, based on PIR as of June 2020 and Report for the Project Steering Committee presented in December 2021. The links with financial entities are many years old, what is reported in credits is what was executed in the Project period, shared data in the respective reports.

⁴⁴ Abandoned after the withdrawal of UNEP from the Project.

been produced that could be important for the beneficiaries, in general, the management of knowledge for this Component is judged as being unsatisfactory to date, as expressed by more than 70% of the people interviewed in the framework of this evaluation. Therefore, there is no evidence of documentation of successful experiences in incorporating the objectives of biodiversity conservation, neither to reduce land degradation in PAs nor the prioritized productive landscapes. Finally, there is no evidence that any of the agroforestry systems have been replicated to any significant extent. Finally, as of mid-term, there is no evidence that the use of LMTs that are directly strengthening any biological corridor that the project addresses.

According to interviews with key informant IP leaders, this beneficiary group has yet to receive training or advice on solutions to reduce pests that threaten their crops, even though they indicated that the lack of biological controls has seriously affected their agricultural harvests. According to the interviews, the rust plague represents a serious problem and limiting for coffee production and although they have requested support (as stated in the interviews), to date they have not received a response to their requests.

2.2.2 Level of planning based on the results matrix (considering the ToC)

As mentioned previously, the Project has achieved good results in some CONECTA+ Components. However, key informants raised concerns about the way that some of the data were presented in the December 2021 PSC report. In addition, the available evidence indicates that the Project has not adequately planned a strategy to coordinate the actions of the different partners and integrate the environmental dimension into its work. The MTR found that IUCN has been the only partner that has promoted actions that correspond to the environmental dimension, while the other partners have focused entirely on promoting economic activities without considering biological connectivity or other ecosystem services. The interviews are unanimous in concluding that the departure of UNEP seriously affected the planning and implementation of the targeted activities and expected results for the conservation of biodiversity and biological monitoring, and after several months of inactivity, the Project has only now managed to create the conditions for that the IUCN could begin its work to fill large gaps regarding the issue of biodiversity and the areas of interconnection with the PAs, which comprise the fundamental axis of these types of GEF projects.

The main causes of the moderately unsatisfactory level of progress of the Project is due above all to the weak leadership of MiAmbiente perceived by the interested parties, and therefore a high degree of intra- and inter-institutional friction related to the lack of coordination between the partners and in the main target groups that should be the beneficiaries of the Project (indigenous peoples, women, and youth).

JC 2.2 The outcome indicators of results CONECTA+ achieved to date are directly related to the interventions (GEF support) and any unforeseen results.

2.2.3 There is evidence that the GEF contributed to CONECTA's results

The evidence indicates that the results of the Project are mainly focused on matters related to economic development, and it is very clear that the livelihoods of many people have improved, thanks to the support of the GEF and the co-financers. Although there is evidence that the beekeeping promoted by HEIFER and FUNDER have improved both economic benefits and pollination of part of the vegetation cover, there is no empirical evidence (quantitative data) that they have improved the resilience of biodiversity, which represents one of the priorities of GEF financing.

JC 2.3 General quality of CONECTA's application of adaptive management and its implementation have been adequate.

2.3.1 The incipient effects show signs of quality implementation (a. level of participation and involvement of interested parties and beneficiaries (Indicator also related to SP 3); b. Level of integration of Gender, Human Rights, CC and Indigenous Peoples issues; c. Level of transparency in governance mechanisms; e. Level of correspondence with adaptive strategic planning)

As reflected in the narrative of evaluation indicator 2.1.1 in this report, the overall quality of the implementation and execution of the Mid-Term Project has not been adequate. To this narrative, some elements that support this statement are added below:

- Limited, or late consultations with interested parties and weak socialization of the Project. IUCN, which is the partner responsible for carrying out the Free Prior Informed Consultation with the organizational structures of the Indigenous Peoples, mainly the Lenca Chortí, started the process late. The MTR also identified that the project's socialization strategy was weak, especially about communicating with Local Governments, departmental and regional government offices, which led (as perceived by the informants of this evaluation) to poor participation, involvement, and integration of the parties interested in issues of Gender, Human Rights, Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples.
- Late entry or lack of hiring of Project personnel defined in the ProDoc (as of the MTR). The MTR identifies the lack of some positions (for example, a specialist in indigenous peoples) or the timely occupation of positions that would have contributed to a quality implementation from the beginning (for example, the incorporation of the Gender specialist).
- Limited evidence for effective action taken to bridge the gender gap⁴⁵. The quarterly reports of CONECTA+ show that the participation of women in the different activities and benefits of the Project is being monitored, although the strategy for achieving the Gender Action Plan is not specified (also considering that the plan of action is overly generic). Although in reviewing some quarterly reports (which feed each CONECTA quarterly report) presented by the partners, such as the specific case of IUCN, a follow-up of the progress and achievements obtained and evidence of concrete actions on gender is identified, the MTR did not identify, or did not have access to sufficient complementary evidence to affirm that cross-cutting actions took place to promote gender equality, The PIRs do not reflect sufficient information to show substantial changes that are a product of the quality of the action in this, considering that the PIR bases its analysis on what is defined in the Project design, which presented weak gender equality targets.

Remaining barriers for CONECTA to achieve its objectives

JC 2.4 Obstacles for achieving the project's objectives are clearly defined and addressed.

2.4.1 Barriers to achieve the Project results are identified and incorporated in the Project's risk management plan

The MTR verified that the Project has identified most of the remaining barriers (included and not included in the ProDoc) such as: *i) serious limitations in project stakeholder/ beneficiary capacities to execute and manage the project efficiently due to the politicization of the decisions related to the project by senior officials of public institutions; ii) the continuous change of personnel hired by MiAmbiente due to this political interference; iii) Persistent limitations related to the access to information, and; v) The lack of prior free informed consultation with the organizational structures of the Indigenous Peoples (IP).* In addition, the evaluation also identified that at mid-term, the Project has not been able to overcome the main barriers, due to weaknesses (in design and execution) and external factors that have influenced adequate risk management. In the narrative

⁴⁵ In interviews with key informants, it was identified as a limitation, in addition to the lack of a gender expert from the beginning of the Project, the fact that there were many changes in ministerial authorities, which influenced in some way, the prioritization of gender issues with a transversal vision, in addition to the pandemic, which has limited (which is also indicated in the quarterly reports), the achievement of training processes for women, as planned. However, as positive, a high degree of gender sensitivity was identified in the informants of this evaluation.

corresponding to the following evaluation question of this report, the degree of effectiveness of the management of the most important risks of the Project is deepened.

3.3 Project Execution & application of adaptive Management principles (EQ3)

EQ 3: Has the project been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and been able to systematically adapt to changing conditions so far? To what extent do project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, project reporting and communications support project implementation?

The Project has experienced delays in technical and financial execution and limited ability to adapt to changing conditions, which has affected its efficiency and ability to make a profit in the mid-term. Weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms have been two important limitations that have prevented the application of adaptive management. Although the reports that describe the progress and barriers in the implementation of the Project have been adequate, the communication between the different partners and towards the beneficiary groups has been extremely weak, especially in relation to communications with the indigenous peoples of the area of influence of the Project CONNECT+.

A. Narrative and evidence supporting the response to EQ

Management mechanisms

JC 3.1 The Project uses an Adaptive Approach to Management.

3.1.1 a. Degree to which CONECTA applied AM, the management of risks, and developed good practices

The fact that the Project has not changed and adapted its trajectory despite the active risks, indicates serious deficiencies in the application of the principles of adaptive management to improve the effectiveness of its implementation of the activities indicated in the ProDoc. Some of the most important risks, whose management has been limited during the execution of the Project, are specified below. It is worth mentioning that part of these risks and others were clearly addressed in the PSC report of December 2021⁴⁶, and was analyzed in-depth during the verification of data and sources at the Consultant's visit in January 2022.

- **Management capacities and certain politicization within public institutions.** The interviews with key informants show that the authorities continue to have limited management and planning capacities, lack of training, updated equipment (e.g., computers, GPS that are essential for the regional offices of the ICF and those responsible for co-management), that entails limiting the effectiveness in the management of the Project. Some informants consulted also perceive with frustration the (politicized) use or distribution that the Project gives to some benefits acquired with CONECTA+ funds.
- **The continuous change of personnel** (both in the office and that of the OCP) hired by MiAmbiente. Although it was not a risk listed in the ProDoc, it has been a formidable barrier to the efficiency and effectiveness of the project.
- **Limitations of access to information.** Limitations in access to information persist. The relevant information to establish biological corridors and to promote resilience in ecosystem services (biodiversity, sustainable forestry, resilient watersheds, climate change mitigation, and sustainable production at the landscape level) does not exist. Several interviews with small producers and producers reflected that they continue to lack incentives to participate in landscape management and have limited access to information and training on

⁴⁶ See page 47 of the PSC Report for December 2021

sustainable production systems, which has not been adequately mitigated in the Project. Although there has been an improvement in access to markets and credit through the rural banks, according to interviews with FUNDER, the 2021 PIR does not mention the extent to which these have served as incentives for sustainable production and biodiversity conservation in the biological corridors, and that is echoed in the interviews.

- **The lack of free prior informed consultation** with the organizational structures of the Indigenous Peoples (IP) means that the communities present in these territories do not get involved, integrate, and participate in the execution of the Project, which represents a latent social risk and important in the Project, which has lacked, since its inception, proper management. Although the analysis presented in the Project Steering Committee report from December 2021 identified this to be a medium risk, the interviews conducted by the MTR indicate that this risk is actually high. The reason is because it fails to acknowledge that the proposed mitigation measure⁴⁷ is inadequate for addressing the legal rights of Indigenous Peoples established by Honduran law and international agreements. While it is unclear at which level these instructions were issued to the CONECTA team, the fact that the Honduran laws and international agreements for IPs were taken lightly, as well as ignoring the clear guidelines stipulated in the ProDoc guidelines is of serious concern. Interviews with the 2 new MiAmbiente Vice Ministers provided assurances that this will not be repeated by the new government.

3.1.1 b Quality of the execution and support by UNDP

Despite the challenges imposed by a high work overload of the UNDP team and the lack of a complete team, which has been a formidable barrier, UNDP support has been highly satisfactory, according to the opinion of 90% of the people interviewed in the framework of this evaluation. One of the simplest obstacles to overcome challenges is to expedite the hiring of the missing staff whose profiles were clearly described in the ProDoc since the specialists who were key to supporting the Project have not been replaced. According to the interviews, this has created a huge weakness in terms of the technical support required by CONECTA+.

3.1.1.c Gender balance of the CONECTA team and the Project Directorate

At the time of delivery of this report, it has not been possible to assess the gender balance in the team, since the hiring process has not been completed. The information available reflects that the Project board is mainly composed of men, and this information was verified by the Consultant during his visit in January 2022. However, the delay in hiring a gender specialist is an important weakness in the Project, on the other hand, it is an opportunity to ensure a gender balance at this point.

Planning and execution of CONECTA+

JC 3.2 Implementation was carried out as planned

3.2.1 Comparison of what was planned and what was executed

Based on the available evidence, the progress of the Project towards its expected results are moderately unsatisfactory at mid-term (see Table 1 in the Executive Summary).

3.2.3 Degree to which the results framework was used for planning and its adequacy

The MTR found that despite the weaknesses identified in the results framework and planning (also due to weaknesses in some design aspects), the results framework was successfully used for planning CONECTA+

⁴⁷ The Board presented the following risk-mitigating measure: *Some positions of indigenous peoples that have conflicts in the internal structure and their representation in the project have been presented; however, actions are carried out by the project to solve this situation and they can actively participate in the project activities.*

actions. However, some of the advances described in the PIR reports do not coincide with findings during the verification, or with the statements from the triangulated interviews.

3.2.4 Degree to which COVID-19 and other external factors affected the implementation of CONECTA+

Although COVID-19 has been a limitation, especially in face-to-face training workshops and on-site meetings, this barrier has been overcome with virtual meetings. However, the people interviewed in the framework of this MTR state that this has left a big gap in the pace they require to advance in many of their activities stipulated in the ProDoc.

Financing and Co-financing

3.4 Financing and cofinancing implementation

3.3.1- Variations between planned expenditures and real ones

According to the ProDoc, the global budget of the Project is distributed in 5 main budget lines, which correspond to the four results of the Project and the item of the Coordination Unit. According to the ATLAS report, as of November 3 of 2021⁴⁸, The general percentage of executed expenses corresponds to 38% of the planned budget (GEF funds), which is detailed below:

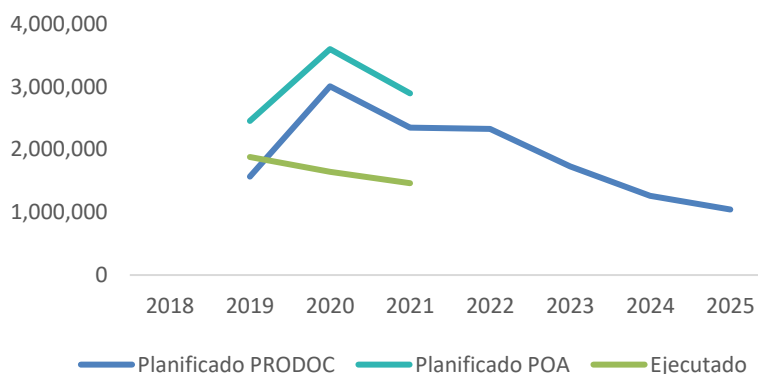
Table 7. Comparison of the Budget (Prodoc) and expenses

Activity	Budget PRODOC	Expenses			Total Expenses	Current Balance	% of implementation 03.11.2021
		2019	2020	2021			
Result 1	3,985,500	502,266	540,643	703,076	1,745,985	2,239,515	44%
Result 2	5,165,187	707,188	362,931	496,655	1,566,774	3,598,413	30%
Result 3	2,807,410	553,825	618,328	135,869	1,308,021	1,499,389	47%
Result 4	695,900	72,025	14,754	46,220	133,000	562,900	19%
Coordination Unit	632,700	44,854	105,490	81,245	231,589	401,111	37%
Total	13,286,697	1,880,157	1,642,146	1,463,066	4,985,369	8,301,328	38%

Source: ATLAS Report up to 03 November 2021.

When comparing the actual execution with the budget and work plan included in the ProDoc, figure 10 shows that the accumulated expenses executed correspond to 72% of the planned expenses according to ProDoc for years 1, 2, and 3 of the work plan. According to documentary review and interviews with key informants, each year the Project team requests a budget review so that each adjustment is incorporated into the POA, which is approved by the Project Board⁴⁹; however, despite this annual review and update, the Project has not been able to

Figure 10. Planned Annual Budget versus real execution



Sources: ProDoc; POAs 2019, 2020, 2021 & Atlas Expense Report.

⁴⁸ The ProDoc establishes that the MTR must be carried out between the second and third PIR, in this sense, UNDP determined that the temporary scope of the MTR would have as a cut-off date 3.12.21, which corresponds to the date of the last Project meeting of 2021. However, this section of the MTR report does not consider the summary of the financial information provided by the Project accountant as of 12.03.2021, because the data was received with inconsistencies (arithmetic errors) that were not corrected despite the fact that the Consultant requested review. Therefore, ATLAS data as of November 3, 2021, which corresponds to official data, has been included.

⁴⁹ In this process, they also review whether there were changes between budget lines or components.

meet the financing execution goal. Figure 10 also reflects this difference between planning (ProDoc and POAs) and actual execution.

Although the Project began in July 2018⁵⁰, there was no budget execution during that year. From January 2019 to November 2021, the information of the Project reflects a budget execution below what was planned with a decreasing trend. In 2020, the greatest difference between planned and actual expenses can be seen, since the highest execution goal was projected for this year, and this was directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as indicated by the PIR and Quarterly Report (from the second quarter of 2020 through the third quarter of 2021).

- Based on the information available and interviews with stakeholders, the following summarizes the main reasons for the delays in technical and financial execution:
- **Delays in disbursements.** According to the PIR as of June 2020, disbursements were received since mid-2019. This was due to political-institutional decisions on the possible change of the implementing entity since it was evaluated to transfer the MiAmbiente + Project Coordination to the newly created Presidential Office of the Green Economy – OPEV. As of the date of this evaluation, this change has not taken place.
- **Changes in the authorities of MiAmbiente,** which generated delays and lack of prioritization of some actions.
- **Limitations of access to information.** There appears to be significant gaps in the information related to the project that is available to the ET and project beneficiaries. These limitations still persist despite requests for information, and in some case perhaps, there might be some evidence that could help the ET improve its analyses of CONECTA’s advances. Nonetheless, the relevant information to establish biological corridors and to promote resilience in ecosystem services (biodiversity, sustainable forestry, resilient watersheds, climate change mitigation and sustainable production at the landscape level) does not exist. Several interviews with small producers and producers reflected that they continue to lack incentives to participate in landscape management and have limited access to information and training on sustainable production systems, which has not been adequately mitigated in the Project. Although there has been an improvement in access to markets and credit through the rural savings banks, according to interviews with FUNDER, the 2021 PIR does not mention the extent to which these have served as incentives for sustainable production and biodiversity conservation in biological corridors, and that is echoed in the interviews. It is important to clarify that financing as such, in the conditions of access, constitute incentives to improve the SAF, organic certifications, species conservation, etc.
- **Delays in signing agreements with some partners.** According to the Report for the second quarter of 2019, there were delays in the implementation of products 1 to 9 of Result 1, due to waiting for the signing of the letters of agreement with IUCN, FAO, and UN Environment. According to the Report for the third quarter of 2019, until that period some actions were initiated in this regard.
- **Limitations caused by COVID-19.** According to the PIR as of June 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic situation has affected, with social distancing measures, the normal course of Project activities and is expected to continue to have an influence. According to the quarterly reports, specifically, COVID-19 has affected the following products:
 - Output 3 under Outcome 1⁵¹ was slightly delayed because it requires participatory processes and the COVID conditions required virtual meetings to address key points.
 - Output 3 under Outcome 2⁵² required a methodological adjustment based on the COVID precautions that were required for social distancing, which required a shift to virtual, versus in-person training.

⁵⁰ July 05, 2018, date of signature of the Project Document (project start date).

⁵¹ Management plans for 62 microwatersheds.

⁵² 3,000 agreements signed for conservation and good social practices with producers of coffee, cocoa and agroforestry products, to adopt HMP for the conservation and sustainable management of forests. According to the Report of the second quarter of 2020.

- Output 4 under Outcome 2⁵³ required a reduced number of small plants for restoration of landscapes and a strategy to guarantee their quality, given that the pandemic forced cutbacks in the technical staff that was able to visit the communal nurseries.
- Output 1 under Outcome 3⁵⁴ The number of producers in face-to-face training decreased and replaced by the virtual training modality.
- Output 11 under Outcome 1⁵⁵ did not advance as expected due to the inability to meet with local actors through virtual encounters.
- **Effects of hurricanes *ETA* and *IOTA*.** Based on the Report for the fourth quarter of 2020, there was also a delay in activities due to tropical storms (*ETA* and *IOTA*) that affected the area of influence of the Project.
- **Lack of *CONECTA+* technical, administrative, and financial personnel.** According to the PIR as of June 2021, the Project was left without a technical team from January 2021 to the date of the PIR and without an administrative team from May 2021. During this period, the work was carried out only by the project coordinator. According to the report for the second quarter of 2021 as of July 2021, the financial team had not yet been hired.
- **Withdrawal of *UNEP* as a responsible party.** *UNEP* left the Project due to its administrative restrictions, so all the activities expected of them had to be assigned to other partners.

Despite the identified financial sub-execution, the Project audits, corresponding to the years 2020 and 2021⁵⁶, reflect that the expenditures executed have been made following the regulations and policies and procedures of UNDP. The MTR identified that the variations between programming and actual execution were within the limits permitted by GEF policies.

3.3.2 Coherence between what was spent and the results to date

Although the Project reflects a financial sub-execution, and on the other hand the results to date point to a moderately unsatisfactory performance, which in some way would point to validating the coherence between what was spent and results, the lack of information on co-financing prevents carrying out a more concrete analysis on this specific point. However, the observations on the weaknesses of the Project and the sustainability analysis warn that at the end of the Project there will be a significant bias between what was spent and the results if the recommendations derived from this evaluation are not implemented.

3.3.3- Adequacy of control mechanisms

Regarding the control mechanisms of the Project, the audits indicate that the Internal Control Structure satisfies the administration's internal control objectives and offers reasonable assurance of preventing or detecting errors and irregularities in the normal course of accounting and administrative operations.

Likewise, although some design weaknesses were identified in the monitoring framework of the Project, the monitoring activities are being carried out, although in 2020, due to the pandemic, the tours and monitoring meetings were not carried out, nor were they carried out. carry out the project meetings with the corresponding periodicity. In 2021 these activities have been carried out with the required frequency.

3.3.4- Implementation of Audits (based on GEF mandate)

⁵³ At least 10 community, family and public nurseries (state institutions such as ICF) that provide more than 100,000 annual seedlings to be used with landscape management tools and for rehabilitation practices, including firewood management and for the restoration of ecosystems for water recharge. According to the Report of the second quarter of 2020.

⁵⁴ Training and technical assistance program for 4,000 small and medium producers linked to field schools implementing best sustainable practices, access to certified genetic material, farm plans under agroforestry systems, environmental certifications that impact productivity and good practices that favor biodiversity and AP connectivity. According to the Report of the second quarter of 2020.

⁵⁵ National and regional coffee and cocoa platform IHCAFE – HEIFER – FUNDER established for governance and ordering throughout the value chain, considering indicators of productivity, environmental sustainability and resolution of social conflicts.

⁵⁶ Section 3.3.4 addresses the results of the audits.

As part of the audit and quality control processes, the project has carried out two independent audits⁵⁷ (following UNDP audit policies), on an annual basis, covering the execution periods of the years 2019 and 2020. The results do provide recommendations that must be addressed by the Project team. However, expenses are well-documented.

3.3.5 Level of strategic use of co-financing to achieve results and degree of adequacy of communication and monitoring mechanisms with co-financing partners

The Cofinancing data were only made available to the Evaluation Team in April 2022 and indicate that of the \$50,092,104.00 total cofinancing pledged by project participants, only \$11,827,691.63 has actually been delivered to date. It is noteworthy that MiAmbiente has yet to provide any of the financial support that it pledge from the outset.

The RTA suggested in the 2021 PIR to assign someone from the project management unit to monitor co-financing funds, along with that person's other responsibilities, given that the timely registration and follow-up of co-financing offers an opportunity to develop mechanisms that guarantee timely accounting and help ensure that counterparts meet their commitments stipulated in the ProDoc. This suggestion was echoed by many of the responsible partners who were interviewed.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems

JC 3.4 The project's M&E system has been well conceived and applied effectively in a way that can lead to adaptive management.

3.4.1 The PIR and other monitoring tools demonstrate the key links in the project's results chain and report in an inclusive and innovative way.

The project has satisfactorily complied with the annual monitoring of the progress of the expected results based on the PIR tool. However, there is a wide gap in monitoring changes in the main objectives of the CONECTA+ project, i.e., the contribution/attribution of the social, environmental, and economic effects observed in the biological corridors due to the project interventions. What is observed is that up to mid-term, what has been measured is largely related to the performance of the partners and the CONECTA+ team, because the project has not established baselines for the conservation targets, has not updated the METT and there are no geospatial data that can demonstrate the extent to which the quality of vegetation cover has changed in these corridors since the project began. Although the ICF APS Management Effectiveness tool and the IUCN Green Protected Areas tool provide useful information on processes, institutional performance, and compliance with POAs or other products, they cannot measure the effects of these products, nor of the other important interventions of the responsible partners.

IHCAFE has funded an M&E platform to track the impacts of climate change in all coffee-growing areas of the country. While this is still in its incipient design phase (work started in December 2021), it could provide an excellent geospatial framework for planning and analyses of the biological corridors, thereby adding considerable value to the METT, ICF, and IUCN monitoring tools. This could be done by adding shapefiles on the social, environmental, and economic data within those biological corridors that are in the coffee-growing regions.

3.4.2 Reporting and follow-up were timely and efficient for all project partners.

The MTR identified that there have been delays in the delivery of several reports, and there are weaknesses in the processes of communication and disclosure of the expectations and results of the Project, according to more than 70% of the people interviewed in the framework of this evaluation. The political polarization of the project by the

⁵⁷ Transactions carried out directly by UNDP and recorded in its information systems are not subject to audit.

high authorities of the government, mainly two former Ministers of MiAmbiente responsible for the CONECTA+ project, is observed in the alternation of the letterheads of several reports, first with that of MiAmbiente, then others with that of the Office Presidential of the Green Economy (OPEV) and in 2021, no letterhead appears.

3.4.3 The Budget for monitoring and evaluation is adequate

Based on the available evidence, the budget for M&E is inadequate to measure the effectiveness and performance of a project of the magnitude of the territorial area and the number of beneficiaries and responsible partners linked to CONECTA+.

3.4.4 M&E tools capture and adequately report issues related to gender equality

The use of any monitoring system for gender issues was not identified for the Project, beyond the disaggregation of data by sex. The Project lacks a transparent mechanism that monitors the actions that stimulate the participation and decision-making of women in CONECTA+ and the benefits it generates. As mentioned, the Gender Action Plan is very general, and this affects the absence of tools that report beyond the disaggregation of data by sex.

3.4.5 Checking the validity of assumptions and risk mitigation measures contribute to systematic adaptive management

As mentioned in other sections of this report, the Project does not have robust assumptions built into the ToC. Although the risks have been well formulated, there are many gaps in their identification, and therefore in the measures to mitigate them.

One serious shortcoming is the failure of the CONECTA+ team to produce key outputs that should have contributed to expected outcomes, particularly for Components 1 and 3.

Implications for the interested parties

JC 3.5 The Project implemented robust, transparent, and effective stakeholder engagement and management agreements.

3.5.1 Degree of effective management of alliances with stakeholders and other actors (co-financers)

Alliances with partners to promote the promotion of better economic benefits have been effective, while IUCN has been a central partner to integrate indigenous peoples. However, these alliances have left the issue of promoting the resilience of ecosystem services. Although, the land purchase program by the association of the Water Management Boards of the Municipality of Talgua (AJAAMT) is a successful and high-value experience that should be replicated since it presents alliances with interested parties and other actors. However, it has certain limitations, because it does not have a legal status that provides it with a legal status that guarantees sustainability.

3.5.2 Degree of participation of national and local government institutions to achieve the objectives

The MTR identified that the participation of State agencies such as the ICF and some local governments does not correspond to what was expected in the ProDoc. While this is in part due to the lack of socialization of the Project with all these agencies (many of the interviewees had no idea about the details of the project, its targets, and implementation mechanisms. The political rivalry between MiAmbiente and ICF continues after nearly a decade and may explain the lack of meaningful involvement of ICF in several key aspects of the project that were stipulated in the ProDoc.

3.5.3 Degree of public awareness achieved for the scope of the objectives

The lack of strategic socialization of the Project, in at least 63 municipalities in which this initiative has coverage, makes the degree of public sensitivity for the achievement of the objectives weak, this is evidenced, since several representatives of the local governments and regional government offices stated that they do not fully understand the components of the Project, and this made it difficult to align with it.

3.5.4 Level of consideration of gender relations, and Level of involvement of girls and women to ensure equal access and control of project benefits

The Project reports present data disaggregated by sex (in the corresponding indicators), but the lack of monitoring mechanisms (tools for following up on gender issues) prevents analyzing the extent to which the Project is considering gender relations and defining specific actions to reduce barriers to gender equality (although a very general gender analysis is included in the ProDoc). There is evidence that women are accessing the benefits of the Project, as the data reflects, but there is no evidence of equal control over said benefits.

3.5.5 Level of consideration given to indigenous communities

The narrative of the previous subsections has revealed the weaknesses identified in the Project in terms of the level of consideration of the indigenous communities, even though the design integrates a plan and that the reports⁵⁸ reflect around more than 400 beneficiaries of indigenous communities in the area of influence of the Project. One issue that deserves additional mention is that until just recently, the project had not hired the expected responsible for Indigenous People and safeguards due to the high-level political polarization of the project. However, thanks to the outgoing Minister and UNDP management, the IP expert is now onboard.

Information

JC 3.6 The Project managed the information in a timely and transparent manner.

3.6.1 Degree of adequacy of information mechanisms to respond to changes in adaptive management

The lack of dissemination and socialization mechanisms was confirmed during the verification mission. Same that is related to the lack of a professional permanently who meets the competencies as expressed in the PRODOC. This is evident since some actions and guides document good practices generated by CONECTA+, which have not been disseminated on a larger scale to other actors or beneficiaries of the project who need it to improve adaptive management.

3.6.2 Level of compliance with the information requirements established by the GEF

The lack of significant progress in linking the excellent economic activities for the beneficiaries with good practices to restore fragmented biological corridors and social and ecosystem resilience after two years of Project implementation is worrying, and this weakness is mainly linked to deficiencies in clear and sustainable guidelines to integrate environmental matters in the agreements. In addition, these deficiencies are also observed in terms of the weak approach that the project has had concerning gender issues and the weaknesses in the integration of indigenous communities are completely in contravention of the GEF requirements.

⁵⁸ The latest SC Report from December 2021.

3.6.3 Level of internalization by stakeholders of the lessons derived from the adaptive management process

As previously mentioned, there are different tools to measure the results of projects that aim to strengthen the resilience of biodiversity. Although the GEF METT, ICF Management Effectiveness Monitoring, and IUCN Green Protected Areas monitoring are important tools for measuring processes, performance, or other outputs in the outcome chain, these are low-level outcomes in the cause chain geared toward a project's impacts. What is missing is a tool that measures the effects of these products or other interventions, such as the platforms that measure SMART consequence indicators and the reliability of the assumptions developed for the project's Theory of Change.

Communication

JC 3.7 The Project's internal and external communication mechanisms contribute to the achievement of results and sustainability.

3.7.1 Level of adequacy of the communication mechanisms with the interested parties that contribute to the appropriation

All those interviewed stated that there is a considerable deficit in the socialization of the project, and likewise, there has been little communication and dissemination of matters related to the objectives and activities of the Project, which has been a great weakness of the Project. Once again, the MTR emphasizes that this has been out of the control of the coordinator and mainly caused by political disputes between high-ranking government officials that have prevented the hiring of the communication specialist. It is surprising that only after more than two years since the beginning of the project has been able to create a map that allows a partial visualization of the biological corridors. However, the maps of the biological micro-corridors are in static maps (i.e., PDF) and marked if georeferenced data. According to some interviews, the lack of communication with representatives of the indigenous peoples also indicates that there have been weaknesses in the level of adequacy of the communication mechanisms.

Regarding communication between the project coordinator and the UNDP, there have been considerable delays in submitting information to the evaluation team (up to 5 months, in the case of the cofinancing data that was requested in November 2022). Repeated delays in submitting comments to both the MTR draft and Final Reports have held up the approval of the report, and additional comments were sent to the evaluation team several weeks after the final request for comments was issued. Nonetheless, the ET responded to those comments from the responsible partners and the Project coordinator.

3.7.2 Level of adequacy of external communication mechanisms that contribute to public awareness

The evaluation identifies a gap in the level of adequacy of the external communication mechanisms, as mentioned and explained in greater detail in previous subsections.

3.7.3 Degree of systematization/aggregation of information on the contribution to sustainable development and the global environment

The MTR identified that during the first years of execution of CONECTA+, the Project has focused mainly on the economic dimension and has fallen far short of the social-cultural and biological-ecological dimensions.

3.7.4 # of knowledge management products developed/ approved that adequately integrate cross-cutting issues (Gender, Human Rights, CC, Indigenous Communities)

The report for the steering committee of the Project (Dec. 2021) establishes that the knowledge management products are under development and will have results in the year 2022. According to the interviews carried out, Result 4.1 has made good progress and until mid-term. More than 10 ready documents have been produced (no evidence was obtained) that have to do with the methodology for the spatial distribution of biological corridors, of credits, and it only remains to hire a communications specialist to have them acceptable so that they can be shared.

3.5 Sustainability

A. Response to EQ 4

EQ 4: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socioeconomic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining the project's results in the long term?

The evaluation identifies that there are risks to the sustainability of CONECTA+ that must be mitigated to ensure the continuity and permanence of the results expected by the Project. The weak participation of local governments and the participation of members of the indigenous peoples that prevail in a wide extension of the territory where CONECTA+ is being implemented puts the institutional sustainability of the Project at high risk. Social sustainability, in general, is affected, on the one hand, by the weaknesses in the integration of indigenous peoples, both in its design and in its implementation, and in the limited focus on gender equality that the results framework presents, accompanied by a very generic Action Plan, which highlights the fragility of social sustainability and limitations to the scaling of the potential effects that CONECTA+ would generate. Although there is evidence that there is capacity to improve livelihoods and obtain credit, this only promotes economic development, without encouraging actions that integrate the other dimensions of sustainable development. If the Project advances without correcting weaknesses in execution, participation, communication, and paying more adequate attention to issues of gender, indigenous communities, and biodiversity, it is unlikely to be sustained.

B. Narrative and evidence supporting EQ4

JC 4.1 Incipient signs of interest groups and beneficiaries with the capacity to give continuity to the results obtained with the GEF contribution and co-financing.

The fact that the co-executors are consolidated actors in their field of action, is at least a positive factor that reflects the ability to give continuity to certain results (for example, credit), and although it is only an economic approach, it is a purpose of CONNECT. The MTR still lacks co-financing information to go deeper into this matter.

Financial risks to overall sustainability

4.1.1 a- Potential financial and economic risks and corresponding mitigation measures

As mentioned above, the design of the project was too ambitious, in terms of its geographical coverage, which leads to economic sustainability risks. In addition, the limitation of appropriation commitments of the co-managers and beneficiaries will put at risk the economic sustainability of the effects. Considering the project's execution period starting in 2019, the pandemic in March 2020, the polarized institutional situation between MiAmbiente and OPEV until Dec 2020, and the decision not to renew technical staff contracts at the beginning of January

2021, it is not surprising that there were serious delays in implementing the 2021 Annual Operational Plan (POA2021). There was change of Ministers in June that led to further delays in high-level decision-making. The implementation of MiAmbiente is more directly affected, but there were also delays with the review and approval of reports from responsible partners. Updating the METTs the responsibility of UNEP and planned for 2020. However, it was not until early 2021 that UNEP indicated that it would no longer be part of the project. All this must be valued because they are many explanations of the situation. However, ultimately, the biggest failures resulted from the poor leadership at the highest levels of MiAmbiente.

Social and cultural risks for sustaining CONECTA+

4.1.1.b Potential environmental risks to sustainability with planned mitigation measures

The MTR identified that, if the Project continues to advance without taking baselines for the key elements of biodiversity or other ecosystem services, there is a risk that it will not advance with the monitoring system and the measurement of the effectiveness of the interventions. Finally, if the project does not promote a participatory monitoring process with the beneficiaries, it runs a high risk of not being sustained.

4.1.1.c Potential environmental risks and measures for mitigating them

The lack of tangible incentives for the conservation of Biodiversity in a coordinated manner with the organizations of IPs, regional authorities, and local governments, so that these are addressed to the producers established in the interconnection zones protected areas. Added to the lack of clear integration and participation mechanisms to mitigate these gaps, it represents one of the highest risks for the Project's sustainability.

Institutional risks for sustaining CONECTA's in relation to the overall institutional framework and adequacy of governance processes

4.1.1.d Potential institutional and governance risks to the sustainability of CONECTA+ and measures for mitigation of those risks

The fact is that many of the biological corridors and upper basins adjacent to the core areas of the PA are located on communal lands of indigenous peoples. If the project does not take immediate action to address this reality and promote incentives to engage them in the management of the corridors passing through their lands, the project will simply continue to support the *status quo* that continues to focus on many of the established agricultural producers with whom HEIFER, IHCAFE and FUNDER have been working before the project began. IUCN was the only responsible partner that applied a *Free Prior Informed Consultation* in a coordinated manner with the representatives of the organizations of the Lenca and Maya Chortí IPs, before initiating the Project's actions. The last straw is that few of these communities know their rights and are unaware that the government and the Ministry responsible for the project have avoided their international commitment to comply with these agreements. Several interviews agreed that the project design process also paid little attention to this key process and in general, there is ample evidence that the project does not recognize that even though the same indigenous people have the same customs, we have the same culture, their needs are very different, depending on the geographical area where they live. In that sense, they mentioned the error that a consultant comes when a project is set up, the project appears without prior consultation, and it turns out that they took the Intibucá watermelon, where it is not produced. Without these prior and informed consultations, the project runs a high risk both in terms of sustaining investments and transparent and inclusive governance processes.

4.1.1.e Potential sociopolitical risks to sustainability and recommended mitigation measures

The PSC report of December 2021 points out several political risks, including the lack of i) inter-institutional coordination and, therefore, duplication and overlapping of responsibilities due to lack of political will of the different institutions involved in the project; and ii) political will due to the electoral year, and changes in authorities at the local and national levels. Additionally, high risk is expected with the new government taking over in terms of the time required to understand the Project, expedite the hiring of the specialists that are still missing, and decisions regarding the continuation of the Project coordinator, since the latter may cause delays in the implementation of the Project.

Environmental risks to sustainability

4.1.1.c Potential environmental risks for sustaining CONECTA+ and mitigation measures

The MTR identified a weakness in activities aimed at biodiversity conservation and the construction of biological corridors. Although some progress has been made to increase and mitigate these gaps in the medium term, it is still considered that this weakness represents one of the most serious risks that the management (PSC, ICF, and Mi Ambiente) of the Project has completely ignored during the implementation of CONECTA+, based on the information available and the verification mission. The failure to mitigate the partners' weak contribution to biodiversity and the involvement of marginalized actors in its project portfolio has placed the Project's sustainability at high risk. Failure to address these weaknesses will result in both a loss of investment from the GEF and co-financiers, as well as the confidence of indigenous communities to participate in future projects of this type. On the other hand, the failure to consider the management of micro-watersheds⁵⁹ and water committees represent another risk to the sustainability of the Project.

Validity of the Risk assessments presented in the ProDoc

There are gaps in the ProDoc regarding the identification of risks that in the mid-term have resulted in low effectiveness in achieving the Project's goals and have put its sustainability in question. Specifically, these risks include the absence of effective measures to mitigate:

- The weak participation of indigenous communities.
- Weaknesses in the partners' letters of agreement, which up to now do not have specific guidelines to integrate indigenous communities and the various aspects of biodiversity conservation in their work plans.
- The high levels of politicization of the Project in all its aspects, has impeded progress at the institutional level, compliance with legal matters related to the participation of indigenous communities in its implementation, and in harmonizing sustainable economic development with conservation of biodiversity and the strengthening of socio-cultural resilience in the scope of the execution of the Project.

4. CONCLUSIONS, LESSONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusions and Lessons from CONECTA+, linked to Findings

This subsection summarizes the mid-term findings, conclusions, and lessons learned from project implementation.

⁵⁹ En consulta a informantes clave en el marco de esta EMT, se identificó que aquí hay una temática en el pueblo chortí en el que hay varias fuentes de agua que se aprovecha la microcuenca Marroquín por más de 7 comunidades y enfrenta problemas de contaminación.

#	FINDINGS	CONCLUSIONS	LESSONS
1.	<p>Design: The Project strategy is relevant and design elements that have been well-conceived are identified. The design failed to link to other ongoing or planned disruptions (at the national-local level) and the design and actions are consistent with national priorities to reverse ecosystem fragmentation, biodiversity loss, and land degradation in the arid biological-humid corridor of southwestern Honduras. However, the design was extremely ambitious in the area to be implemented and this has weaknesses that may limit its effectiveness and affect the future sustainability of its actions. The gender strategy presented in the ProDoc is very weak, both in the goals presented (which contribute to perpetuating gender gaps), and in its budget to contribute to gender equality. The Project lacks an exit strategy, and its ToC does not incorporate robust assumptions and some of the defined consequences indicators correspond to “products” and not “effects” that lead to the principles of adaptive management.</p>	<p>The Project is well formulated, but it has not been effective in practice. The design of the Project was highly ambitious in a complex social, economic, and environmental setting. Although experiences in previous GEF projects indicate that the best approach to face complexity is the application of adaptive management principles, the design of CONECTA+ lacks robust assumptions that would have helped to proactively adjust the direction of the project. However, the Project lacks an exit strategy.</p>	<p>The participation of all the actors of the Project with the watershed management boards (JAs), local governments is crucial for sustaining a project and increasing its effectiveness. Unless an approach is taken to clearly explain the project to all beneficiaries and integrate them through inclusive governance mechanisms and to strengthen the resilience of the biological corridors and the people who depend on them, the project will face serious difficulties during implementation and in sustaining the good practices developed by the project.</p>
2.	<p>Design: Some expected consequences (Effects) are poorly worded, as they are not SMART, and are outputs (indicators #1.1, 2.2, and 4.1). Although the METT is an important product in the results chain, it does not measure the effects caused by the performance of the criteria indicated in it. Structurally, the Theory of Change (ToC) presented in the Project design is logical but not robust (see the reconstructed ToC in Annex 2). The great weakness in the ToC is the lack of robust assumptions since this gap makes it difficult to apply adaptive management and the required actions systematically and in real-time.</p>		<p>Unless a project develops robust assumptions for its Theory of Change, formulates outcome indicators that adhere to SMART criteria, and develops an M&E platform that can incorporate reliable data, experience, and information. <i>If we can't measure outcomes, we can't distinguish success from failure. If we can't measure success, we can't reward it. If we can't reward success, you're probably rewarding failure.</i></p>
3.	<p>Progress towards Results: The Project has a serious deficit in terms of its execution as planned to achieve its main objective. Regarding the expected results to achieve the main objective (OP), the Project is close to reaching its mid-term</p>	<p>Despite multiple impediments (conflicts and serious obstacles in the hiring of the technical team, 2 hurricanes, and the pandemic) to exercise its responsibility for the project, the MTR recognizes</p>	

	<p>goal in terms of improvements in the livelihoods of more than seven thousand people, however, these benefits are not linked to solutions that have demonstrably improved the management of ecosystem services. No progress towards Indicator #2 although the Project has exceeded expectations in terms of the area of farms that have adopted practices, there is no evidence that this has improved the effectiveness of the connectivity between biological corridors.</p>	<p>the excellent work of the project coordinator and his commitment to overcome these barriers. Although the Project has managed to advance in the results and POs, the lack of integration by the government with the participation of the organizations of the Maya Chortí and Lenca Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and complying with the obligation of prior consultation to intervene in these communities, as well as all responsible partners except IUCN, who have been the leaders in the matter of prior consultations with IPs. The effectiveness of connectivity between biological corridors has not been improved. The team of consultants supports this aspect in the absence of evidence that FPIC was practiced with IP organizations, robust socialization with all actors, including local governments, co-managers, and other key actors, promptly by all responsible partners.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Progress towards Results:</u> In the mid-term, no implemented actions have been identified to improve the resilience of the expected global or local environmental benefits, such as the conservation of biodiversity, the reduction of land degradation, and sustainable forest management. Surprisingly at this stage of implementation, there is no baseline for conservation goals or METT scores for the 15 prioritized protected areas.</p>	<p>The lack of an approach strategy for the Project reflects a confused execution and is evidenced by the fact that planning for the 15 PAs, which are a fundamental part of forming the biological corridors and potential connections, which will be based on the flora and fauna, was not prioritized. □ Although there was participation in the design by the different interest groups at the level of creating property in the interested parties and beneficiaries, there is a huge gap in compliance with the Free and Informed Prior Consultation in the indigenous territories and their involvement in matters of the project. Also, the financial gap of the Protected Areas and the lasting implementation of the management plans are evident. Coordination between the partners IHCAFE, HEIFER, and FUNDER with the water boards has have been extremely weak; however, IUCN and FAO have</p>	<p>Without the full technical team stipulated in the ProDoc, there is a high risk of reducing the effectiveness, efficiency, efficacy, and sustainability of the Project.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Progress towards Results:</u> Local governance remains weak and there is a large gap in the participation of indigenous peoples, youth, and women in horizontal governance processes. There is no evidence that legally recognized biological corridors have been established as a result of the application of the Regulation for the establishment of biological corridors, there is no evidence of the preparation of any METT.</p>	<p>Unless the project planning, governance, and implementation are coordinated with responsible government authorities at the highest and lowest practical levels of government and involves all pertinent actors who influence</p>	

		<p>done excellent work on the proposed corridors and protected areas. However, it is important to underscore that due to the nature of the tasks assigned in the Letter of Agreement, neither FUNDER, HEIFER or IHCAFE are committed to coordinate their activities with the Water Boards. This is a serious gap that must be addressed in the updated agreement with all responsible partners.</p>	<p>the project's target areas, there is a high probability that overall efficiency and effectiveness will be weak.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Progress towards Results: Although the Project has identified actions to improve connectivity in 13 biological corridors (Result 2.2), the 2021 PIR indicates that no significant progress has been made to reach the goal established for the medium term. Although the available data indicates positive signs regarding a decrease in the total area affected by fires (2,579 hectares compared to fires at 3,420.67 ha in 2020), there is no evidence showing the decrease in the number of fires can be ascribed to the interventions of the Project. Finally, there is no evidence that the Project has achieved the goal of Outcome 2.4, which intended to manage an area of 100 hectares of forest sustainably in private reserves, mainly due to weaknesses in the monitoring system.</p>	<p>Although the PIRs indicate that there are no baselines for conservation targets, there is actually a baseline for the species that are listed on the CITES Red List that was funded by the project in 2016. However, no follow-up monitoring has taken place during the past six years. Even though the instruments are of high value in a bankable and technical way, they show that they are in process and that they deserve a review to strengthen aspects that encourage the conservation of Biodiversity. The role played by MiAmbiente as the main implementer of the project</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Progress towards Results: The issue of economic benefits is the most effective of the four components, thanks to the positive progress achieved by the strongest partners, such as IHCAFÉ, FUNDER, and HEIFER, and the Project is very close to what has been proposed as the goal for the mid-term, since good progress is being made, especially for men who have benefited quite a bit from the stock market with coffee prices. The advances for women were very low and were far from the goal established for the mid-term. On the other hand, the interviews indicate that the members of the legally organized indigenous peoples have been left out of the scope of Outcome 3.1 in the mid-term. Links were created with FUNDER and HEIFER to create a credit manual and</p>	<p>Continuing to assist male and female producers and implementing the same technical assistance model and the failure to incorporate partners to IP organizations, shows a weak approach towards good environmental practices comprehensively and systematically. CONECTA+ does not have indicators based on metrics that measure the effects of corridors to promote the resilience of biodiversity in protected areas. Said effectiveness of these corridors is not measured with process indicators, performance, or checklist, as measured by the tools of the ICF (Management Effectiveness of PAs), the GEF (METT), and the criteria developed by the</p>	

	<p>seven financial products were developed, which are already being effectively implemented, both by both partners through a financial center that is hosted by FUNDER, according to several interviews. No data is showing the extent to which these credits were used as incentives to improve environmental practices with cocoa, but it is understood that they are in the process of certifying both coffee and cocoa.</p>	<p>IUCN (Green List Indicators), if not, it is essential that it be measured with SMART consequences (effects) indicators that measure whether the interventions promote the expected changes. At mid-term, the project lacks both the presentation of geospatial data to produce maps that explicitly demonstrate the configuration of corridors, the baselines of their fragmentation, loss of key habitats, and fractals of those landscapes, as well as the importance of habitats. in the life cycles of the indicator species to be conserved. After 2.5 years of implementation, a didactic map has been produced that demonstrates the coverage of the project, mainly due to political interference in the hiring of key technicians to support the coordinator.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Progress towards Results: Result 4.1 has good progress and is up to mid-term since more than 10 ready documents have been produced that have to do with the methodology for the spatial distribution of biological corridors, credits, and the only thing left to hire is a communication specialist. to have them acceptable to be able to share them. However, this result is not a consequence of the project interventions, if not, it is a product in the chain of results directed towards the main objective. The formulation of a SMART indicator that measures the Effects of these documents is missing. There is no evidence of documentation of successful experiences in incorporating the objectives of biodiversity conservation or to reducing land degradation in prioritized PAs and sustainable production landscapes. No significant replication of agroforestry systems is found either.</p>	<p>The lack of an approach strategy for the Project reflects a confused execution and as evidenced by the fact that planning for the 15 PAs was not prioritized, which are a fundamental part of forming the biological corridors and potential connections, which will be based on the flora and Existing fauna and conservation targets</p>	<p>Unless co-managers and other key local government experts are involved in the design of baselines and follow-up monitoring, valuable metrics for measuring change will likely compromise the robustness of efforts to measure outcomes and triple bottom line impacts that a project should produce.</p> <p>A project must always establish social, economic, and environmental baselines early in its implementation and never halfway through its implementation. Existing data from other projects are invaluable for establishing context-specific baselines due to the variability of biodiversity and landscape characteristics of different protected areas.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Assessment of overall Project implementation: The available evidence indicates that the Project has not adequately planned well to coordinate the actions of the</p>	<p>The weaknesses in the planning and execution of the Project, in addition to the obstacles imposed by the high authorities of the focal institution of the GEF</p>	

<p>different partners and integrate the environmental dimension in its work. There is also a large gap related to the inclusion of indigenous peoples and the approach to the gender issue. For various reasons (interference by high levels of government authority, lack of robust assumptions in the design, and work overload with UNDP and the Project Coordinator) and adaptive management principles were not applied to correct these errors. IUCN has been the only partner that has promoted actions that correspond to the environmental dimension, while the other partners have focused entirely on promoting economic activities without taking into account biological connectivity or other ecosystem services. The unexpected departure of UNEP stopped the activities and expected results for biodiversity conservation and biological monitoring, and only after several months of inactivity has the project been able to create the conditions for IUCN to begin its work to fill that key gap to put the project on a path to abort one of the most important goals and the fundamental axis of the GEF projects.</p>	<p>MiAmbiente (which is MiAmbiente and the Green Economy Project Office), show the lack of a strategy to apply the principles of adaptive management. Due to the immensity of the Project's coverage area, coordination from Tegucigalpa is not very functional. The absence of the technical support team for the coordinator has impacted the efficiency, efficacy, and effectiveness of the project. The Project lacks systematic dissemination and socialization processes, including prior and free informed consultation.</p>	<p>A lack of data, experience, and information capture undermines any effort to develop an effective M&E Platform.</p> <p>PIRs lacking robust assumptions have certain limitations that prevent the application of adaptive management principles. Although the PIRs are essential to monitoring the extent to which the expected results are met in the mid-term and at the end of the project, this UNDP-GEF tool rarely includes assumptions that can facilitate the systematic application of the principles of adaptive management.</p>
<p>10. Adaptive Management: The application of adaptive management principles has been weak, as the ToC lacks assumptions and a strategy to address the multiple barriers that have appeared, both the unforeseen (e.g. UNEP's departure) and those that were underlined in the ProDoc (e.g., the limited participation of indigenous communities).</p>	<p>There is a lot of information that is not being captured in the PIRs, the reports, and in the context of the project that is making it difficult to capture information and data that scales the Project, which makes it difficult for other actors to replicate (for example, the production of honey). The indicators for Component 3 related to the issue of gender, the goal for the medium term according to the ProDoc is low in the cocoa SAF, which is considered to be related to topographic variability, probably caused by habitats over time. The Project has a deep gap in its systematic application of the principles of adaptive management.</p>	

<p>11.</p>	<p>Sustainability: There is a significant risk that the most important results will not continue after the end of the Project, although some outputs and activities should continue. The weak, and often interference by national leadership and the blocking of many activities by high levels have affected the efficiency and effectiveness of the Project, despite the good efforts of the Project coordinator. If this situation continues with the new authorities, the Project runs a high risk of failing and the loss of millions of dollars of investment from the government, other co-financiers, the UNDP, and the GEF.</p>	<p>There are substantial risks related to leadership and multiple impediments attributed to the management of the Project by the GEF focal institution and if this does not change, it would affect the investment of the GEF and the co-financiers. CONECTA+ does not have indicators based on metrics that measure the effects of corridors to promote the resilience of biodiversity in protected areas. Said effectiveness of these corridors is not measured with process indicators, performance, or checklist, as measured by the tools of the ICF (Management Effectiveness of PAs), the GEF (METT), and the criteria developed by the IUCN (Green List Indicators), if not, it is essential that it be measured with SMART consequences (effects) indicators that measure whether the interventions promote the expected changes. At mid-term, the project lacks both the presentation of geospatial data to produce maps that explicitly demonstrate the configuration of corridors, the baselines of their fragmentation, loss of key habitats, and fractals of those landscapes, as well as the importance of habitats. in the life cycles of the indicator species to be conserved. After 2.5 years of implementation, a didactic map has been produced that demonstrates the coverage of the project, mainly due to political interference in the hiring of key technicians to support the coordinator.</p>	<p>Unless a project invests early in socializing its expected results, the mechanisms for achieving them and the roles of the different actors in that process, there is a high risk that the project will not continue after funding runs out.</p> <p>Without an agile and independent arbitration conflict resolution mechanism for a GEF project that is capable of rapidly resolving internal conflicts (e.g., the politicization of high-level powers in decision-making), there is a high risk of delays, de-motivation of beneficiaries, and the failure of implementing interventions and meeting objectives. The absence of a strategy with clear guidelines that links economic activities with efforts to improve, restore and/or maintain ecosystem resilience threatens the effectiveness and sustainability of projects aiming to strengthen the socio-environmental interconnectivity between protected areas without a strong public policy and the government's willingness to monitor, control and measure the impacts of said policy, there is a high risk that an important project such as CONECTA+ will not be sustained. The Decree PCM Spaces of Ecological Interest proposed by the new government represents a step forward to control the risks to the sustainability of CONECTA+.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Cross-cutting issues: The project has great weaknesses in terms of its attention to the main beneficiaries of ProDoc, that is, the marginalized groups. Although the CONECTA+ design highlighted the importance of prioritizing indigenous peoples or other marginalized groups in the project</p>	<p>Although there was participation in the design by the different interest groups at the level of creating property in the interested parties and beneficiaries, there is a huge gap in compliance with the free and informed consultation with the indigenous territories</p>	<p>Without consulting the co-managers who are responsible for biodiversity M&E, the Project has a large gap, both in the baselines and in M&E. In addition, due to the variability of biodiversity in protected areas, it may be that some of the species in the ProDoc did not exist before,</p>

<p>intervention zone, these groups have not benefited from project interventions, communication with them has been poor, and project coordination has violated has been violated by free and informed consultation with indigenous territories. In the first project meetings, some indigenous organizations, particularly Lencas and Chortí, stated that they had not been considered, and IUCN has been the only partner that has paid attention to them. The budgets and goals attached to the cross-cutting issues such as gender are inadequate for a project of this magnitude and there is still a large gap in ensuring the participation of the legally organized Indigenous organizations, as stipulated in the ProDoc.</p>	<p>and their involvement in the matter of the Draft</p>	<p>or today. Monitoring these indicators is a bad use of the time of everyone involved in the Project.</p>
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4.2 Recommendations

Recommendation 1: *As a matter of urgency*, it is recommended to readjust the Theory of Change to formulate key assumptions to drive an adaptive management process, which is essential to “learn by experimenting”, with context-specific complexities, associated with the challenges of governance or other risks to the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the Project. In addition, it is necessary to formulate SMART consequence indicators, review the risks to the Project's sustainability and formulate mitigation measures as necessary. This could be done in a workshop facilitated by a TOC expert.

WHO: PNUD, MiAmbiente, PSC, Socios responsables y MILPH.

Recommendation 2: It is of the utmost importance that the Project's original priorities be reassessed and reorganized with the broad participation of marginalized groups who have been largely ignored in the implementation process until recently. In a TPC workshop: Review the ToC, formulate SMART outcome indicators, review the risks to the Project's sustainability and formulate risk-reducing mitigation measures, as necessary, and consider using the results to construct a real-time M&E platform to measure outcomes and CONECTA's development impacts. This will require analyzing lessons from CONECTA's implementation to date to address both the strengths and weaknesses identified in this report and developing an action plan to mitigate the gaps identified herein. This reorientation of priorities must be accompanied by a readjusting of the distribution of funds, to ensure that those remaining funds can contribute toward achieving triple-bottom-line impacts. These impacts include building social-cultural, ecosystem, and economic resilience for Indigenous Peoples (IP). In particular, the activities and overall transformations aiming to improve the livelihoods of these marginalized groups should be restructured in a way that they can demonstrate that they have led to measurable bio-ecological, social and economic benefits. These benefits include having access to credit, training on inclusive governance mechanisms, participatory outcome monitoring and evaluation of progress toward achieving triple bottom lines linked to participatory co-management of biological corridors within Indigenous Peoples' Territories.

WHO: UNDP, HEIFER, FUNDER, IUCN, FAO, MiAmbiente, ICF.

Recommendation 3: Prepare a Letter of Agreement for each responsible partner with explicit ToR before February 25 and obtain the signature of the partners before March 1 to guarantee that the readjustment of actions will benefit marginalized groups (women, indigenous peoples, and youth). From an ecological perspective, the agreement should include concrete measures (incentives, actions, management tools) to measurably build more resilient biodiversity in the targeted biological corridors and adjacent protected areas, as well as formulate an exit strategy and compile a systematic list of lessons learned and a toolbox of good practices that can help transfer and sustain an adaptive approach for learning and improving those good practices for other responsible partners. The implementing partners must also include a clause that outlines their commitments and the actions to be carried out with the organized indigenous peoples (they could sign some type of agreement so that at the time the project ends, since that alliance between indigenous peoples), which in the end, the legally organized indigenous people can attest to. All responsible partners should agree to work closely with the Water Boards. The team of implementing partners must also propose a comprehensive intervention and interconnection strategy which will adhere to the principle of joint intervention, currently it is distanced as a result of the dynamics of each one's actions in the territories, but they must be reoriented towards the establishment of an interaction that will accurately reflect the intervention as well as directly influence those activities that will provide direct benefit for the fulfillment of the goals of component 3. Finally, UNDP should have an independent technical support role for the project, which goes well beyond its present limited role for project oversight.

WHO: UNDP, PSC, ICF; DiBio, Co-manejadores, UICN, FAO u otros socios responsables. MUPILH

Recommendation 4: The Project Steering Committee must be restructured under the leadership of the new government authorities, to integrate a gender balance and the participation of the leaders of the indigenous peoples, and representativeness of the youth. The new authorities must consider the lessons learned regarding the

consequences of political interference in a Project as important as CONECTA +, while taking advantage of the great opportunity to demonstrate to the GEF that Honduras would use the GEF funds and of the co-financiers, in the most efficient and effective way, for the benefit of the marginalized groups that are the objective of the CONECTA+ project. The *Management Committee of each Biological Corridor must meet monthly* to socialize and plan joint actions virtually or in person, beginning with the last week of January. Due to the oversize of the Project, it is essential as soon as possible to formulate an exit strategy to sustain the investment.

WHO: UNDP, HEIFER, FUNDER, IUCN, FAO, MiAmbiente, ICF.

Recommendation 5: It is recommended that participatory workshops be convened as quickly as possible with MiAmbiente, ICF, IUCN, FAO and the leadership of the Indigenous Peoples to address the great deficiency in the issue of biodiversity and in the biological corridors and the monitoring, with the following purposes: i) Revisit the validity of the conservation objects & indicators and adjusting them as necessary. This could include i) geospatially references indicators (fractals, configuration, etc.) that provide metrics for the effectiveness of the design and configuration of the corridors to achieve their purpose; ii) Establish a baseline with SMART outcome Indicators for said objectives; iii) Incorporate a participatory approach (youth, indigenous peoples) for data collection for baseline and real-time monitoring, as well as, as well as building resilient biological corridors.; iv) With scientific advice, train non-scientists in a popular and participatory monitoring methodology; v) produce simple methodological guides and acquire key tools (e.g., GPS, computers, phones with APPS to record data) for this process. It is highly important that ToRs (inclusive) and contracts for indigenous safeguards that have not been contracted to date be formulated.

WHO: UNDP, HEIFER, FUNDER, IUCN, FAO, MiAmbiente, ICF.

Recommendation 6: It is recommended that the new authorities of the ICF and MiAmbiente, together with the IUCN, FAO, and the co-managers form a technical working group to update the METT tool that the GEF requires in all its projects focused on PAs, discuss how to link the METT output indicators to outcomes in the results chain leading to the expected outcomes and development impacts and the ambiguity of outcome indicator for Result 2.3, as explained by the FAO. It is important to underline that, despite its importance for the GEF, the METT is an Output, and for this reason, it only represents one of several links in the chain of results towards the main objective and the impacts. expected benefits of a project. Consequently, in no way should it be considered to eliminate the METT, but to strengthen the results chain with indicators of the SMART consequences (Effects) that are expected from the project. This should be addressed with an analysis where the partners or other key actors should: i) review the extent to which the indicators of the results (i.e. the consequences, or effects) of the project are SMART in that they measure changes in the three dimensions of the project (sociocultural, biological-ecological and economic); ii) review the steps and formulate the actions required to link each of the 15 METT ratings to the SMART Consequence indicators. The ICF PA Management Effectiveness tool is also output (not a SMART Consequence), and the same METT analysis can be done for that tool, as both measure effectiveness and are inadequate to measure consequences. This is based on new benchmarking and IUCN comparative studies that question the reliability of these tools in terms of their ability to measure management effectiveness and there are examples of high METT scores, but where there is a serious degradation of biodiversity in several APs. This is essential, because CONECTA+ does not have indicators based on metrics that measure the effects of corridors to promote the resilience of biodiversity in protected areas, if not, it uses tools such as those of the ICF (Effectiveness of PA Management), the GEF (METT) and the criteria developed by the IUCN (Green List Indicators). These are not indicators of SMART outcomes (effects) that measure whether the interventions promote the expected changes, if not, they measure the processes. Although these products and processes that make up a checklist are important, they only represent a lower link in relation to other higher links (e.g., immediate, intermediate consequences, and impacts) in the chain of results towards the final goal. 3. It is recommended that the new authorities of the ICF and MiAmbiente, together with the IUCN, FAO, and the co-managers form a technical working group to update the METT tool that the GEF requires in all its projects focused on PAs, discuss how to link the METT output indicators to outcomes in the results chain leading to the expected outcomes and development impacts and the

ambiguity of outcome indicator for Result 2.3, as explained by the FAO. Also, the FAOs proposed measures for mitigating fires should be discussed and an action plan should be developed.

WHO: UNDP, PSC, ICF; DiBio, Co-manejadores, UICN, FAO u otros socios responsables. MUPILH

Recommendation 7: Considering the weaknesses in the Project's monitoring and evaluation system, for the design of the CONECTA+ monitoring strategy, it is recommended that the new authorities give continuity to the initiative of the technical group (see Recommendation 6) and explore the feasibility to develop an M&E Platform that measures the effects of the Project attributed to the interventions, in real time. In addition to biological-ecological monitoring, said platform should measure the changes in the baselines and indicators of SMART outcomes of the socio-cultural and economic dimensions, and thus evaluate the true effectiveness of the Project's management and interventions. The budget designated for UNEP, and now for IUCN, is suggested to be redirected to cover the costs of i) participatory monitoring and the creation of a comprehensive M&E Platform in real-time; ii) the hiring of a person to be responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the M&E platform in real-time; and iii) allocate funds to support ICF regional offices and co-managers to take an active role in sustaining said platform with new data that corresponds to real-time. Said platform must be based on a theme of landscape ecology and must be directly related to a functional diversity theme to demonstrate the connectivity that CONECTA + intends to develop through the recovery of the areas of influence between the protected areas. In addition, within the next 4 weeks, the contracted M&E technician must capture and systematize all available information on good practices, data, and information in digital form (e.g., Excel SIG, Access) and share them with all committees. of management, In addition, a national and/or municipal team that includes representatives of indigenous communities, co-managers, and local water boards should be trained to establish a baseline and then monitor changes based on SMART effect indicators.

WHO: PSC, ICF; UNDP, DiBio, Co-managers, MUPILH, UICN, FAO and other partners.

Recommendation 8: It is recommended as an immediate action, with the authorization of the new government authorities, the streamlining of available funds for the purchase of equipment for the project, which was never purchased for unexplained reasons. This includes the purchase of computers for the ICF regional offices, GPS, camera traps, or other equipment necessary for good performance and management of the PAs. In addition, it will be necessary for the new authorities of the ICF to also confirm the contribution of the public sector to the financing that corresponds to them to complement what is required for the operation of their regional offices and support to the co-financiers to align in a new trajectory in the effective co-management of the AP at your own risk. Finally, the entire technical team with the relevant skills and following the ProDoc must be hired as soon as possible. Likewise, this team and the Project Coordinator must be strategically located in the geographical area where the Project will be implemented. In addition to hiring the communication specialist, a communication, dissemination, and socialization strategy for the Project must be established before March 2022.

WHO: CDP, Mi Ambiente, UNDP, MUPILH

Recommendation 9: It is recommended that, within 3 months, together with the technical team of the Project and the new authorities, an operational strategy be developed to create a financial structure based on payments for ecosystem services (PES) to address the gap that CONECTA+ has, and the historical failures to fill the financial gaps to sustain the participatory and effective management (based on SMART consequence indicators) of the PAs. These PES must be managed with the water management boards in the basins and micro-basins present in these PAs since they are key to sustaining environmental services for these communities and biodiversity. Also, the co-managers in the planning processes of the protected areas must identify and build financing mechanisms for the PAs (called fee for visitation, the sale of voluntary carbon credits with the private company and others, as raised in the ProDoc). In addition, they should focus on effective solutions (e.g., other GEF projects) to reduce the wastewater from coffee processing, since it is estimated that these have polluted 80% of the rivers.

WHO: Mi Ambiente, UNDP, PSC, UICN

Recommendation 10: In line with recommendation #3, it is recommended that the coordination of the Project make the corresponding arrangements so that as soon as possible the responsible partners proceed to sign agreements to work jointly with the Unity Table of the Lenca Indigenous People of Honduras (MUPILH), likewise, with the Maya Chortí organizations, as described and mandated in the ProDoc.

WHO: Mi Ambiente, UNDP, PSC, UICN, ICF, MUPILH

Recommendation 11: The PSC and the project partners must rethink the target regarding the number of women beneficiaries in the project and land a more specific gender action plan that integrates a transparent monitoring mechanism and increase the number of beneficiaries in all the Results where they are targets of the intervention.

WHO: Mi Ambiente, UNDP, PSC, UICN, ICF, MUPILH

Recommendation 12: As soon as possible, the coordination of the Project, the partners, and the UNDP should review the possibility of adjusting the indicators in the ProDoc based on the realities of the protected areas and biological corridors and: a) ascertain whether these are realistic for all protected areas and corridors; b) examine the feasibility of substituting the indicators in the PRODOC with those that are already being monitored by the co-managers, municipalities, universities or other key actors; c) consult with the territorial actors and especially the indigenous communities if there are other key species that they consider important in their cosmovision of Mother Earth (especially from the perspective of the indigenous communities that know the territory better than anyone). It is extremely important that the possibility of replacing the ProDoc indicators be consulted with the actors in each territory since it is possible that an indicator is not representative for all areas of CONECTA+ intervention.

WHO: Mi Ambiente, UNDP, PSC, UICN, ICF, MUPILH

Recommendation 13: As soon as possible, the coordination of the Project, the IUCN, co-managers, and the National Committee of Biological Corridors must provide all the information required to ensure that the ICF and MiAmbiente recognize and legalize a Biological Corridor before November 2022, and thus overcome the slow and inefficient processes of the previous government. Said legalized corridor must have implementable guidelines whose effectiveness (consequences) are measurable in terms of restoration and actions that promote social, economic, and environmental resilience with them.

WHO: Mi Ambiente, UNDP, PSC, UICN, ICF, MUPILH

Recommendation 14: UNDP should have an independent technical support role for the project, which goes well beyond its present limited role for project oversight, which is seen as one of several root causes of multiple problems identified in the evaluation (*this is based on lessons from CONECTA+ and 4 previous projects that the evaluation team has evaluated*).

WHO: UNDP

Recommendation 15: The Project Board of Directors should request an extension of six months from the UNDP-GEF to strengthen good practices and verify new effective practices to restore biological corridors and promote their socio-cultural, environmental, and economic resilience, and recover part of the time lost for the main reasons that affected the effective implementation of the project.

WHO: Mi Ambiente, UNDP, PSC

5. ANNEXES

- Annex 1: ToR of the MTR (Spanish)
- Annex 2: Theory of Change

- Annex 3: MTR Evaluation Matrix (Pes, JCs, indicators, data sources and methods)
- Annex 4: General Questionnaire model/guide to interviews
- Annex 5a: Results Matrix
- Annex 5b: Range of values for the overall criteria assessments
- Annex 6: Itinerary for the MTR
- Annex 7: List of persons interviewed
- Annex 8: Bibliography
- Annex 9: Cofinancing Table
- Annex 10: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct Format
- Annex 11: Format for approval of the MTR
- Annex 12 Audit trail obtained from comments received on the draft MTR report

Annex 1: ToR for the MTR (*in Spanish*)

Términos de Referencia Evaluación Medio Término

Proceso de Consultoría Individual No. IC/00094908/088-2021: Contratación de experto(a) internacional para la evaluación de medio término del Proyecto Paisajes Agroforestales y Manejo Forestal Sostenible que Generen Beneficios Ambientales y Económicos a Nivel Global y Local – CONECTA+ (PIM 5704).

Nota: Para efectos de estos Términos de Referencia al referirse a “equipo” aplica a esta consultoría diseñada para la contratación de un consultor internacional independiente y líder de la MTR

1. INTRODUCCION

Estos son los Términos de Referencia (ToR) de la evaluación de medio período (MTR por sus siglas en inglés) de PNUD-GEF para el proyecto ordinario o de tamaño mediano denominado Proyecto Paisajes Agroforestales y Manejo Forestal Sostenible que Generen Beneficios Ambientales y Económicos a Nivel Global y Local - CONECTA+ (PIM 5704), implementado por la oficina del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo en Tegucigalpa, Honduras, bajo la modalidad de implementación nacional, la cual se llevará a cabo en el 2021. El proyecto inició en julio 2018 y actualmente se encuentra en su tercer año de ejecución. En los presentes ToR se fijan las expectativas para el actual MTR. El proceso del MTR debe seguir las directrices marcadas en el documento Guía para la Realización del Examen de Mitad de Periodo en Proyectos Apoyados por el PNUD y Financiados por el GEF.

(http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/guidance/GEF/midterm/Guidance_Midterm%20Review%20_EN_2014.pdf).

2. ANTECEDENTES DEL PROYECTO

El objetivo del proyecto es el fortalecimiento de la conectividad entre áreas protegidas (APs) y paisajes productivos, con el fin de obtener beneficios sociales, ambientales y económicos en el corredor biológico árido-húmedo del suroccidente de Honduras. Esto se logrará mediante una estrategia multifocal que incluye cuatro resultados interrelacionados que contribuyan al fortalecimiento del marco de gobernabilidad nacional y local para el establecimiento de corredores biológicos en el área de intervención del proyecto, con énfasis en la interconectividad entre APs y sistemas productivos, para su contribución a la conservación de la biodiversidad y uso sostenible de los recursos naturales; la generación de beneficios ambientales, sociales y económicos a través del manejo sostenible de la tierra y la rehabilitación de corredores para aumentar la conectividad entre las APs y paisajes de producción; el establecimiento de iniciativas de cadenas productivas para aumentar los ingresos y otros beneficios para las comunidades y agricultores relacionados con el café, el cacao en sistemas agroforestal y bajo enfoque a los ecosistemas; y la gestión del conocimiento para la replicación de los resultados del proyecto.

Esta inversión del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM/GEF) revertirá la fragmentación de los ecosistemas forestales (bosques nubosos, bosques húmedos subtropicales, bosques mixtos y montanos inferiores y bosques de pino y encino), la pérdida de biodiversidad y la degradación de la tierra en los corredores.

El proyecto generará beneficios ambientales globales utilizando un enfoque participativo y asegurando la distribución equitativa de los beneficios entre hombres y mujeres, con 16.103 personas que se beneficiándose directamente del proyecto. Esto resultará en la consolidación de 971.752 hectáreas (ha) de corredores biológicos que proporcionan conectividad entre las AP y remanentes de los bosques en paisajes de producción; la conservación mejorada de Áreas Clave de Biodiversidad y 14 AP; la captura de 470.601 tCO₂-eq a través de la rehabilitación de bosques, la reforestación, y sistemas agroforestales mediante el uso de herramientas de manejo del paisaje en 6.000 ha; y la reducción en cerca del 20% de en los incendios forestales y un 70% en el consumo de leña y las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero en los paisajes priorizados, entre otros.

El objetivo del proyecto es el fortalecimiento de la conectividad entre áreas protegidas y paisajes productivos, con el fin de obtener beneficios sociales, ambientales y económicos en el corredor biológico árido-húmedo del suroccidente de Honduras. Esta inversión del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM/GEF) revertirá la fragmentación de los ecosistemas forestales (bosques nubosos, bosques húmedos subtropicales, bosques mixtos y montanos inferiores y bosques de pino y encino), la pérdida de biodiversidad y la degradación de la

tierra en el corredor biológico árido- húmedo del suroccidente de Honduras. Para lograr el objetivo del proyecto, se han formulado cuatro resultados principales, a saber:

- **Resultado 1:** Fortalecimiento del marco de gobernabilidad nacional y local para el establecimiento de corredores biológicos en el área de intervención del proyecto, con énfasis en la interconectividad entre áreas protegidas (APs) y sistemas productivos, para su contribución a la conservación de la biodiversidad y uso sostenible de los recursos naturales.

Producto 1.1. Expedientes completados y presentados ante MiAmbiente conteniendo los requerimientos establecidos en el reglamento (632-2015) para apoyar la legalización de corredores biológicos.

Producto 1.2. Planes de manejo nuevos o actualizados para 15 APs, incluyen arreglos de implementación y estrategia de sostenibilidad financiera.

Producto 1.3. Planes de manejo para 62 microcuencas de los corredores seleccionados.

Producto 1.4. Comités de gestión o co-manejo de las 15 Áreas Protegidas desarrollados y/o fortalecidos (coordinación, equipamiento, capacitación, enfoque de género, participación de organizaciones indígenas).

Producto 1.5. Consejo de Cuenca y consejos de microcuencas (incluye Juntas de Agua) establecidos y/o fortalecidos para el manejo de las 62 microcuencas seleccionadas (1 en cada municipio del área del proyecto) con participación plena de las organizaciones indígenas para la toma de decisiones.

Producto 1.6. Resoluciones municipales para esquemas de incentivos fiscales (exención / deducción de impuestos) a propietarios privados y territorios indígenas que implementan prácticas sostenibles (vinculados a los acuerdos del Componente 2).

Producto 1.7. Instrumento para capitalizar el Fondo para el Manejo de Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre (con énfasis a las 15 AP priorizadas por el proyecto) con recursos derivados del sector privado productivo.

Producto 1.8. Estrategia de sostenibilidad financiera para las 15 APs que conforman el corredor de conservación biológica (incluyendo planes de negocios, beneficios de exención de impuestos para los productores y recursos provenientes del FAPVS).

Producto 1.9. Programa de formación, acceso a los mercados (operadores turísticos, gestores y guías) y distribución de beneficios para las APs derivadas de la observación de aves y el agroturismo (estos se articularán con la Ruta Lenca).

Producto 1.10. Programa de monitoreo y conservación de felinos (Puma, Ocelotes, Yaguarundi, Cauce) y Quetzales para las 15 AP seleccionadas.

Producto 1.11. Plataforma nacional y regional del café y cacao establecidas para la gobernanza y ordenamiento en toda la cadena de valor, consideran indicadores de productividad, sostenibilidad ambiental y resolución de conflictos sociales.

Producto 1.12. Estrategia nacional y local de comunicación (concienciación y sensibilización, participación y retroalimentación) para la aplicación de las prácticas de manejo sostenible de paisajes productivos, corredores biológicos y APs.

- **Resultado 2:** Generación de beneficios ambientales, sociales y económicos a través del manejo sostenible de la tierra y la rehabilitación de corredores para aumentar la conectividad entre las APs y paisajes de producción.

Producto 2.1 HMP conectan sistemas de producción con APs (micro corredores biológicos, enriquecimiento de bosques, cercas vivas, barreras de viento, y manejo de la leña).

Producto 2.2 Programa de certificación de fincas con fines de conservación y aprovechamiento (ICF, Rainforest Alliance, IHCAFE, etc.) en las áreas seleccionadas, específicamente con certificaciones vigentes en Honduras.

Producto 2.3 3.000 acuerdos firmados de conservación y buenas prácticas sociales con los productores de café, cacao y productos agroforestales, para adoptar HMP para la conservación y manejo sostenible de bosque.

Producto 2.4 Al menos 10 viveros comunitarios, familiares y públicos (instituciones estatales como ICF) que proveen más de 100.000 plántulas anuales para ser utilizadas con las HMP y para las prácticas de rehabilitación, incluyendo el manejo de la leña y para la restauración de ecosistemas para recarga hídrica.

Producto 2.5 Programa de captura de carbono para la venta de créditos en mercados nacionales. Producto 2.6 2.500 familias con estufas ecológicas para reducir la demanda de leña y el riesgo de enfermedades respiratorias agudas.

Producto 2.7 Programa de prevención y control de incendios en las áreas del proyecto (bosques nacionales, comunitarios, municipales) con participación comunitaria.

Producto 2.8 Al menos 30 microcuencas declaradas como zonas abastecedoras de agua por el ICF y según la Ley Forestal.

- **Resultado 3:** Establecimiento de iniciativas de cadenas productivas para aumentar los ingresos y otros beneficios para las comunidades y agricultores relacionados con el café, el cacao en sistemas agroforestal y bajo enfoque a los ecosistemas.

Producto 3.1: Programa de capacitación y asistencia técnica para 4.000 pequeños y medianos productores vinculado con escuelas de campo implementando mejores prácticas sostenibles, acceso a material genético certificado, planes de finca bajo sistemas agroforestales, certificaciones ambientales que impacten en la productividad y buenas prácticas que favorezcan la conservación de la biodiversidad y la conectividad de las AP.

Producto 3.2. Familias productoras que participan en al menos una de las 2 cadenas productivas fortalecen sus capacidades en temas organizativos y de desarrollo empresarial para fomenten la asociatividad y cooperativismo bajo un enfoque de encadenamientos aplicado a la sostenibilidad ambiental y articulado al mercado.

Producto 3.3. Programa de apoyo a pequeños y medianos productores de las cadenas productivas para asegurar el acceso con al menos 2 productos financieros e incentivos ambientales que incluyen prácticas e indicadores de sostenibilidad ambiental y salvaguardas sociales, y mecanismos para establecer alianzas con los sectores público, privado y bancario.

- **Resultado 4:** Gestión del conocimiento y monitoreo y evaluación.

Producto 4.1. Las experiencias y lecciones aprendidas identificadas en el monitoreo del corredor biológico árido-húmedo del suroccidente de Honduras son sistematizadas.

Producto 4.2. Programa de cooperación Sur-Sur para el intercambio de conocimientos sobre la producción sostenible de café, cacao y otros productos agroforestales.

El proyecto tendrá una duración de 7 años con una inversión total de \$13.286.697 USD que proporcionada por el GEF.

El proyecto es ejecutado en apego a la modalidad de implementación nacional (NIM por sus siglas en inglés) del PNUD, según el Acuerdo de Asistencia Básico Estándar entre el PNUD y el Gobierno de Honduras el 17 de enero de 1995, y el programa en el país. El Socio Implementador para este proyecto es la Secretaría de Energía, Recursos Naturales, Ambiente y Minas (MiAmbiente+). El Proyecto está ubicado en la Oficina de Coordinación de Proyecto (OCP) de la Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (MiAmbiente+).

Como se establece en el Reglamento Financiero 17.01 del Reglamento Financiero y Reglamentación Financiera del PNUD, un asociado en la ejecución puede concretar acuerdos con otras organizaciones o entidades, conocidas como partes responsables, que pueden proporcionar bienes y servicios al proyecto, llevar a cabo actividades de proyectos y producir productos del proyecto. Las partes responsables son responsables directamente ante el socio implementador.

Las siguientes organizaciones actuarán como parte responsable de este proyecto:

- Instituto Hondureño del Café (IHCAFE): Institución nacional responsable de promover la producción de café en Honduras a través del desarrollo de la competitividad de la Cadena Agroindustrial del Café, de una manera sostenible, utilizando tecnologías amigables con el ambiente, garantizando la producción de café de calidad, implementando programas de promoción eficientes y alternativas de diversificación viables como fuente alterna de ingresos para los productores:

- . Proporcionará asistencia técnica y capacitación en la implementación de las mejores prácticas para la producción sostenible de café.

- Apoyará la coordinación y asociación de los productores de café para lograr acuerdos para la implementación de HMP.

- Identificará nuevas áreas dentro del área del proyecto donde se puede cultivar café de sombra y / o prácticas más sostenibles.

- Apoyará como Cofinanciador del proyecto la articulación de acciones en la cadena de café, por medio de la asistencia técnica productiva, transferencia de tecnología y articulación al mercado.

•HEIFE

- Proporcionará apoyo para cumplir con los componentes, indicadores y actividades asociadas con la cadena de valor del café.

•FUNDER

- Proporcionará apoyo para cumplir con los componentes, indicadores y actividades asociadas con la cadena de valor del cacao

•UICN: Organización internacional dedicada a la conservación de los recursos naturales.

- Brindará asistencia técnica para la ejecución de actividades de los componentes 1 y 2 del proyecto, especialmente en lo relativo al mejoramiento de la gobernanza, la efectividad de manejo las APs, proceso de conformación de los corredores y conformación y reconocimiento legal de los organismos de cuenca.

- Facilitará metodologías y herramientas que contribuyan al impulso del enfoque de derechos en la conservación, la gobernanza justa y equitativa de las APs, corredores y microcuencas, así como en el desarrollo de instrumentos económicos y financieros que potencien la adopción de prácticas sostenibles y conservación de la biodiversidad.

- Facilitará información y acompañamiento técnico en el desarrollo de productos financieros para las cadenas de café y cacao

- Proporcionará asistencia técnica y desarrollará capacidades para mejorar la gobernanza multisectorial y multinivel.

•ICF: Instituto de Conservación Forestal.

- Brindará asistencia técnica y acompañamiento en la temática de gestión de áreas protegidas, corredores biológicos y sistemas agroforestales según sus competencias institucionales gubernamentales que emanan de la Ley Forestal de Honduras.

3. OBJETIVO DE LA MTR

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

4. ENFOQUE Y METODOLOGIA DE LA MTR

Los datos aportados por el MTR deberán estar basados en información creíble, confiable y útil. El consultor/equipo¹ de la MTR examinará todas las fuentes de información relevantes, incluidos los documentos elaborados durante la fase de preparación (p. ej. PIF, Plan de Iniciación del PNUD, Política de Protección Medioambiental y Social del PNUD, Documento del Proyecto, informes de proyecto como el Examen Anual/PIR, revisiones del presupuesto del proyecto, informes de las lecciones aprendidas, documentos legales y de estrategia nacional, y cualquier otro material que el equipo considere útil para este examen basado en datos objetivos). El equipo del MTR analizará la Herramienta de Seguimiento del área de actuación del GEF al inicio del proyecto, enviada a este organismo con la aprobación del CEO, y la Herramienta de Seguimiento a mitad de ciclo, la cual debe ser completada antes de iniciarse la misión de campo del MTR.

Del equipo que lleve a cabo el MTR se espera que siga un enfoque colaborativo y participativo² que garantice una relación estrecha con el Equipo de Proyecto, sus homólogos gubernamentales (la persona o entidad

designada como responsable o Coordinador de Operaciones del GEF (Operational Focal Point), la(s) Oficina(s) de País del PNUD, los Asesores Técnicos Regionales (RTA) del PNUD-GEF y otras partes interesadas clave.

La implicación de las partes interesadas resulta vital para el éxito del MTR³. Dicha implicación debe incluir entrevistas con aquellos agentes que tengan responsabilidades en el proyecto, las agencias implementadoras, los funcionarios de mayor rango y el equipo de tareas/sus jefes, expertos de relieve y consultores en el área que ocupa el proyecto, la Junta del Proyecto, partes interesadas, representantes académicos, gobiernos locales, OSC, etc. (PNUD, Secretaría de Estado en los Despachos de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (MiAmbiente+), UICN, IHCAFE, HEIFER, FUNDER, FAO). Adicionalmente, la MTR debe ajustarse al contexto debido a COVID-19, por lo que el proceso debe prever desarrollarse mediante sesiones virtuales con un mínimo de presencia física y visitas de campo, incluyendo los sitios del proyecto en Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Estas visitas de campo deben incluir un protocolo sanitario para prevenir el contagio del COVID-19.

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

El 11 de marzo de 2020, la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) declaró al COVID-19 una pandemia mundial a medida que el nuevo coronavirus se propagaba rápidamente a todas las regiones del mundo. El gobierno de Honduras ha implementado algunas restricciones para viajar al país dependiendo de la región y el país de donde llega. Estas restricciones deberán considerarse al momento de implementar la MTR.

Debido a que el contexto puede cambiar en cualquier momento, el equipo del MTR debe desarrollar una metodología que tome la realización del MTR total o parcialmente de forma virtual y remota, incluido el uso de métodos de entrevista remota y revisiones documentales extendidas, análisis de datos, encuestas y cuestionarios de evaluación. Esto debe detallarse en el Informe inicial del MTR y acordarse con la Unidad de puesta en servicio.

Si la totalidad o parte del examen de mitad de período se va a realizar virtualmente, se debe considerar la disponibilidad, capacidad o voluntad de las partes interesadas para ser entrevistadas de forma remota. Además, su accesibilidad a Internet / computadora puede ser un problema ya que muchas contrapartes gubernamentales y nacionales pueden estar trabajando desde casa. Estas limitaciones deben reflejarse en el informe final del MTR.

Si no es posible recopilar datos o realizar una misión sobre el terreno, se pueden realizar entrevistas a distancia por teléfono o en línea (Skype, zoom, etc.) Los consultores internacionales pueden trabajar de forma remota con el apoyo de los evaluadores nacionales en el campo si es seguro para ellos operar y viajar. No se debe poner en peligro a ningún interesado, consultor o personal del PNUD y la seguridad es la prioridad clave.

Se puede considerar una misión de validación corta si se confirma que es segura para el personal, los consultores, las partes interesadas y si tal misión es posible dentro del programa de MTR.

5. AMBITO DETALLADO DEL MTR

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

i. Estrategia del Proyecto

Diseño del proyecto:

- Analizar el problema abordado por el proyecto y las hipótesis aplicadas. Examinar el efecto de cualquier hipótesis incorrecta o de cambios en el contexto sobre el logro de los resultados del proyecto recogidos en el Documento del Proyecto.
- Analizar la relevancia de la estrategia del proyecto y determinar si ésta ofrece el camino más eficaz para alcanzar los resultados deseados/buscados. Se incorporaron adecuadamente al diseño del proyecto las lecciones aprendidas en otros proyectos relevantes.

- Analizar cómo quedan recogidas en el proyecto las prioridades del país. Comprobar la propiedad nacional del proyecto. ¿Estuvo el concepto del proyecto alineado con las prioridades de desarrollo del sector nacional y los planes para el país o de los países participantes en el caso de proyectos multi- país?
- Analizar los procesos de toma de decisiones. ¿Se tuvo en cuenta durante los procesos de diseño del proyecto la perspectiva de quienes se verían afectados por las decisiones relacionadas con el proyecto, de quienes podrían influir sobre sus resultados y de quienes podrían aportar información u otros recursos durante los procesos de diseño del proyecto?
- Analizar hasta qué punto se tocaron las cuestiones de género relevantes en el diseño del proyecto. Para un mayor detalle de las directrices seguidas véase Guía para la Realización del Examen de Mitad de Periodo en Proyectos Apoyados por el PNUD y Financiados por el GEF o ¿Se plantearon cuestiones de género relevantes (por ejemplo, el impacto del proyecto en la igualdad de género en el país del programa, la participación de los grupos de mujeres, el involucramiento de las mujeres en las actividades del proyecto) en el documento del proyecto?

• Si existen áreas importantes que requieren atención, recomendar aspectos para su mejora. Marco de Resultados/Marco Lógico:

- Acometer un análisis crítico de los indicadores y metas del marco lógico del proyecto, evaluar hasta qué punto las metas de mitad y final de periodo del proyecto cumplen los criterios "SMART " (abreviatura en inglés de Específicos, Cuantificables, Conseguidos, Relevantes y Sujetos a plazos) y sugerir modificaciones/revisiones específicas de dichas metas e indicadores en la medida que sea necesario.
- ¿Son los objetivos y resultados del proyecto o sus componentes claros, prácticos y factibles de realizar durante el tiempo estipulado para su ejecución?
- Analizar si el progreso hasta el momento ha generado efectos de desarrollo beneficiosos o podría catalizarlos en el futuro (por ejemplo, en términos de generación de ingresos, igualdad de género y empoderamiento de la mujer, mejoras en la gobernabilidad, etc.) de manera que deberían incluirse en el marco de resultados del proyecto y monitorizarse de forma anual.
- Asegurar un seguimiento efectivo de los aspectos más amplios de desarrollo y de género del proyecto. Desarrollar y recomendar los indicadores de 'desarrollo' SMART, que deberán incluir indicadores desagregados en función del género y otros que capturen los beneficios de desarrollo.

ii. Progreso en el logro de Resultados

Análisis del Progreso en el logro de Resultados:

- Revisar los indicadores del marco lógico y compararlos con el progreso realizado en el logro de las metas establecidas para fin de proyecto mediante la Matriz de progreso en el logro de resultados y en función de lo establecido en la Guía para la Realización del Examen de Mitad de Periodo en Proyectos Apoyados por el PNUD y Financiados por el GEF; reflejar los avances siguiendo el sistema de colores "tipo semáforo" basado en el nivel de progreso alcanzado; asignar una valoración del progreso obtenido a cada resultado; efectuar recomendaciones desde las áreas marcadas como "No lleva camino de lograrse" (rojo).

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

Estrategia del Proyecto	Indicador	Nivel inicial de referencia	Nivel en 1er PIR (auto-	Meta a mitad del	Meta al final del proyecto	Nivel y Educación a mitad del	Valoración de los logros conseguidos	Justificación de la valoración
Objetivo:	Indicador (si							
Resultado 1	Indicador							
	Indicador							
	Indicador							

Resultado 2:	Indicador							
	Etc.							
Etc.								

Código para la evaluación de los Indicadores

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

Además del análisis de progreso en la consecución de resultados:

- Comparar y analizar la Herramienta de Seguimiento del GEF al nivel inicial de referencia con la completada inmediatamente antes del Examen de Mitad de Periodo.
- Identificar las restantes barreras al logro de los objetivos del proyecto en lo que resta hasta su Finalización.
- Una vez examinados los aspectos del proyecto que han tenido éxito, identificar fórmulas para que el proyecto pueda ampliar los beneficios conseguidos.

iii. Ejecución del Proyecto y Gestión Adaptativa

Mecanismos de gestión:

- Revisar la efectividad general de la gestión del proyecto como se describe en el Documento del Proyecto. ¿Se han realizado cambios y son efectivos? ¿Están claras las responsabilidades y las líneas jerárquicas? ¿La toma de decisiones es transparente y se lleva a cabo de manera oportuna? Recomendar áreas de mejora.
- Revisar la calidad de la ejecución del organismo ejecutor / socio (s) implementador y recomendar áreas de mejora.
- Revisar la calidad del apoyo brindado por la Agencia Socia del GEF (PNUD) y recomendar áreas de mejora.
- ¿El organismo ejecutor / socio en la implementación y / o el PNUD y otros socios tienen la capacidad de brindar beneficios o involucrar a las mujeres? Si es así, ¿cómo?
- ¿Cuál es el equilibrio de género del personal del proyecto? ¿Qué medidas se han tomado para garantizar el equilibrio de género en el personal del proyecto?
- ¿Cuál es el equilibrio de género de la Junta de Proyecto? ¿Qué medidas se han tomado para garantizar el equilibrio de género en la Junta de Proyecto? Planificación del trabajo:
- Analizar cualquier demora en la puesta en marcha e implementación del proyecto, identificar sus causas y examinar si ya se han resuelto.
- ¿Están los procesos de planificación del trabajo basados en los resultados? Si no es así, ¿se pueden sugerir maneras de reorientar la planificación del trabajo para enfocarse en los resultados?
- Examinar el uso del marco de resultados/marco lógico del proyecto como herramienta de gestión y revisar cualquier cambio producido desde el inicio del proyecto.
- Revisar y analizar cualquier impacto y desafío debido a la pandemia de COVID-19. Financiación y cofinanciación:
- Revisar la gestión financiera del proyecto, con especial referencia a la rentabilidad de las intervenciones.
- Analizar los cambios producidos en las asignaciones de fondos como resultado de revisiones presupuestarias y determinar si dichas revisiones han sido apropiadas y relevantes.
- ¿Cuenta el proyecto con controles financieros adecuados, incluyendo una apropiada información y planificación, que permitan a la Dirección tomar decisiones informadas relativas al presupuesto y que faciliten un flujo de fondos en tiempo y plazos adecuados?

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

Fuentes de Cofinanciamiento	Nombre Cofinanciador	Tipo de Cofinanciamiento	Monto de Cofinanciamiento Confirmado al GEF	Monto Real aprobado en el MTR (US\$)	% Aproximado del monto esperado
		TOTAL			

Sistemas de seguimiento y evaluación a nivel de proyecto:

- Analizar las herramientas de seguimiento usadas actualmente. ¿Ofrecen la información necesaria? ¿Involucran a socios clave? ¿Están alineadas con los sistemas nacionales o incorporadas a ellos? ¿Usan la información existente? ¿Son eficientes? ¿Son rentables? ¿Se requieren herramientas adicionales? ¿Cómo pueden hacerse más participativas e inclusivas?
- Analizar la gestión financiera del presupuesto para el seguimiento y evaluación del proyecto. ¿Se asignan recursos suficientes para el seguimiento y evaluación? ¿Se usan estos recursos con eficacia?
- Revisar en qué medida se incorporaron las cuestiones de género relevantes en los sistemas de seguimiento. *Consulte el Anexo 9 de la Guía para realizar exámenes de mitad de período de proyectos financiados por el GEF y respaldados por el PNUD para obtener más directrices.*

Implicación de las partes interesadas:

- Gestión del proyecto: ¿Ha desarrollado y forjado el proyecto las alianzas adecuadas, tanto con las partes interesadas directas como con otros agentes tangenciales?
- Participación y procesos impulsados desde el país: ¿Apoyan los gobiernos locales y nacionales los objetivos del proyecto? ¿Siguen teniendo un papel activo en la toma de decisiones del proyecto que contribuya a una ejecución eficiente y efectiva del mismo?
- Participación y sensibilización pública: ¿Hasta qué punto ha contribuido la implicación y la sensibilización pública en el progreso realizado hacia el logro de los objetivos del proyecto?
- ¿Cómo involucra el proyecto a mujeres y niñas? ¿Es probable que el proyecto tenga los mismos efectos positivos y / o negativos en mujeres y hombres, niñas y niños? Identifique, si es posible, las limitaciones legales, culturales o religiosas sobre la participación de las mujeres en el proyecto. ¿Qué puede hacer el proyecto para mejorar sus beneficios de género?

Estándares sociales y ambientales (salvaguardas)

- Validar los riesgos identificados en el SESP más reciente del proyecto y las calificaciones de esos riesgos; ¿Se necesitan revisiones?
- Resumir y evaluar las revisiones realizadas desde la aprobación / aprobación del director ejecutivo (si corresponde) para:
 - o La categorización de riesgos de las salvaguardias generales del proyecto. o Los tipos de riesgos identificados (en el SESP).
 - o Las calificaciones de riesgo individuales (en el SESP).
- Describa y evalúe el progreso realizado en la implementación de las medidas de gestión social y ambiental del proyecto, como se describe en el SESP presentado en el Endoso/ Aprobación del CEO (y preparado durante

la implementación, si corresponde), incluida cualquier revisión de esas medidas. Estas medidas de gestión pueden incluir planes de gestión ambiental y social (PGAS) u otros planes de gestión, aunque también pueden incluir aspectos del diseño de un proyecto; consulte la Pregunta 6 de la plantilla del SESP para obtener un resumen de las medidas de gestión identificadas. El proyecto debe evaluarse en función de la versión de la política de salvaguardias del PNUD que estaba en vigor en el momento de la aprobación del proyecto.

Información:

- Analizar los mecanismos empleados por la Dirección del proyecto para informar de los cambios en la gestión adaptativa y comunicarlos a la Junta del Proyecto.
- Evaluar hasta qué punto el Equipo de Proyecto y sus socios llevan a cabo y cumplen con todos los requisitos de información del GEF (p. e: ¿qué medidas se han tomado para abordar los PIR con valoraciones bajas, cuando sea aplicable)?
- Evaluar cómo se han documentado y compartido las lecciones derivadas del proceso de gestión adaptativa con los socios clave y cómo han sido internalizadas por éstos.

Comunicación y gestión del conocimiento:

- Examinar la comunicación interna del proyecto con las partes interesadas: ¿Existe una comunicación regular y efectiva? ¿Hay partes interesadas importantes que se quedan fuera de los canales de comunicación? ¿Existen mecanismos de retroalimentación cuando se recibe la comunicación? ¿Contribuye la comunicación con las partes interesadas a que estas últimas tengan una mayor concienciación respecto a los resultados y actividades del proyecto, y a un mayor compromiso en la sostenibilidad a largo plazo de los resultados de este?
- Examinar la comunicación externa del proyecto: ¿Se han establecido canales de comunicación adecuados —o se están estableciendo— para expresar el progreso del proyecto y el impacto público deseado (por ejemplo, ¿hay presencia en la Web)? ¿Llevó a cabo el proyecto campañas de comunicación y sensibilización pública adecuadas?.
- A efectos informativos, redactar un párrafo de media página que resuma el progreso del proyecto hacia los resultados en términos de su contribución a la generación de beneficios relacionados con el desarrollo sostenible y el medio ambiente global.
- Enumere las actividades / productos de conocimiento desarrollados (con base en el enfoque de gestión del conocimiento aprobado en el Endoso / Aprobación del CEO).

iv. Sostenibilidad

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

financieros para la sostenibilidad:

- ¿Cuál es la probabilidad de que se reduzca o cese la disponibilidad de recursos económicos una vez concluya la ayuda del GEF (teniendo en cuenta que los recursos potenciales pueden provenir Términos de Referencia para la evaluación de mitad de periodo proyecto, como los sectores público y privado, ¿actividades generadoras de ingresos y otros recursos que serán adecuados para sostener los resultados del proyecto)?

Riesgos financieros para la sostenibilidad:

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

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

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

Riesgos medioambientales a la sostenibilidad:

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

Conclusiones y Recomendaciones

El equipo del MTR incluirá una sección en el informe donde se recojan las conclusiones obtenidas a partir de todos los datos recabados y pruebas realizadas. Las recomendaciones deberían ser sugerencias sucintas para intervenciones críticas que deberán ser específicas, cuantificables, conseguibles y relevantes. Se debería incluir una tabla de recomendaciones dentro del informe ejecutivo del informe. Para más información sobre la tabla de recomendaciones, véase la Guía para la Realización del Examen de Mitad de Periodo en Proyectos Apoyados por el PNUD y Financiados por el GEF.

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

Valoración

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

Tabla. Resumen de Valoraciones y logros del MTR (Nombre del Proyecto)

Parámetro	Valoración MTR	Descripción del logro
Estrategia del Proyecto	N/A	
Progreso en el logro de Resultados	Valoración del grado de logro del objetivo. Valoración del logro: (Calificar según escala de 6 pt.)	
	Valoración del grado de logro del resultado 1: (Calificar según escala de 6 pt.)	
	Valoración del grado de logro del resultado 2: (Calificar según escala de 6 pt.)	
	Valoración del grado de logro del resultado 3: (Calificar según escala de 6 pt.)	
	Etc.	
Implementación del Proyecto y Gestión Adaptativa	(calificar según escala 6 pt.)	
Sostenibilidad	(calificar según escala 4 pt.)	

6. CRONOGRAMA DE EJECUCIÓN

La duración total del MTR será 31 días de trabajo, aproximadamente durante 7 semanas, y no superará los 3 meses a partir del momento de la contratación del consultor o consultores. El cronograma provisional del MTR es el siguiente:

Actividad	Número de Días	Fecha de Conclusión de
Revisión de documentos y preparación del informe inicial del MTR (el informe inicial del MTR debe entregarse a más	5 días	12 septiembre 2021
Misión del MTR: reuniones con partes interesadas, entrevistas, visitas de campo	15 días	26 septiembre a 6 octubre
Presentación de hallazgos iniciales - último día de la misión	1 día	6 octubre 2021
Preparación del borrador del informe (debe entregarse dentro de las 3 semanas posteriores a la misión del MTR)	5 días	25 octubre 2021
Finalización del informe de examen de mitad de período / Incorporación de un seguimiento de auditoría a partir de los comentarios sobre el borrador del informe (debe entregarse en el plazo de una semana después de recibir los comentarios del PNUD sobre el borrador)	5 días	8 noviembre 2021

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

7. PRODUCTOS DEL EXAMEN DE MITAD DE PERIODO

No	Producto	Descripción	Plaz	Responsabilidades
1	Informe de Iniciación del MTR	El equipo del MTR clarifica los objetivos y métodos del Examen de Mitad de	Como mínimo 2 semanas antes de iniciarse la misión del	El equipo del MTR lo presenta a la Unidad Adjudicadora y a la
2	Presentación	Conclusiones Iniciales	Final de la misión del MTR	El equipo del MTR las presenta ante la Dirección del proyecto y la Unidad
3	Borrador informe final MTR	Informe completo (usar las directrices sobre su contenido recogidas en el Anexo B) con anexos	Antes de transcurridas 3 semanas desde la misión del	Enviado a la Unidad Adjudicadora, examinado por el RTA, Unidad de Coordinación de Proyectos. OEP del
4	Reporte final*	Informe revisado con prueba de auditoría donde se detalla cómo se han abordado (o no) en el informe final del MTR todos los comentarios recibidos	Antes de transcurrida 1 semana desde la recepción de los comentarios del PNUD sobre el borrador	Enviado a la Unidad Adjudicadora (en español e inglés)

*El informe final del MTR debe presentarse tanto en español como en su versión traducida al idioma inglés, asegurando una excelente calidad en la traducción. Una vez aprobado el producto, deberá ser entregado en forma digital, vía medio electrónico (en versión editable MS Word y/o en un dispositivo electrónico en llave USB o similar). Se exime la presentación del informe en formato impreso e virtud de las limitaciones impuestas por la pandemia y si se determinará por la Oficina de País y equipo MTR que es imposible la presentación impresa. De lo contrario, el reporte final se presentará en y en forma impresa (un original y una copia, empastados por separado y con portada

plástica transparente), con una carta de entrega de parte del consultor. Deberán ser entregados en las oficinas del PNUD.

8. MECANISMOS DEL MTR

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

La Unidad Adjudicadora contratará a la persona consultora y se asegurará del pago puntual de los viáticos o dietas y gastos de viaje dentro del país correspondiente. El Equipo del Proyecto tendrá la responsabilidad de comunicarse con el equipo del MTR para proporcionarle todos los documentos pertinentes, fijar entrevistas con las partes interesadas y organizar visitas de campo.

9. COMPOSICION DEL EQUIPO

Para la MTR se requiere contratar un consultor independiente – una persona líder de la MTR con experiencia internacional en proyectos similares, preferiblemente en la región, y exposición a proyectos y evaluaciones del GEF. El consultor no podrá haber participado en la preparación, formulación y/o ejecución del proyecto (incluyendo la redacción del Documento del Proyecto) y no debería tener un conflicto de intereses con las actividades relacionadas con el mismo.

La persona será responsable de los resultados que genere el proceso del MTR, esto incluye el diseño general del MTR, definición del proceso metodológico y de conducción y redacción del informe final del MTR, etc.), considerando la inclusión de la perspectiva de género en todo el proceso de MTR.

La selección de las personas consultoras irá dirigida a maximizar las cualidades generales del "equipo" en las siguientes áreas:

Educación

Profesional con grado universitario mínimo de licenciatura en gestión o ciencias ambientales, biología, economía, desarrollo, economía ambiental, geografía, gestión de recursos naturales o carreras afines. Deseable con una maestría en el área.

Experiencia

- Experiencia reciente con metodologías de evaluación de la gestión basada en resultados;
- Experiencia en la aplicación de indicadores SMART y la reconstrucción o validación de escenarios iniciales;
- Competencia de gestión adaptativa aplicada en (Biodiversidad, Degradación de la tierra y Manejo Forestal Sostenible);
- Experiencia de trabajo con el GEF o con evaluaciones realizadas con este organismo.
- Experiencia trabajando en la región o proyectos de similar naturaleza;
- Experiencia en áreas técnicas relevantes durante al menos 10 años;
- Comprensión demostrada de las cuestiones relacionadas con el género y (Biodiversidad, Degradación de la tierra, Manejo Forestal Sostenible); experiencia en evaluación y análisis sensibles al género.
- Excelentes habilidades de comunicación;
- Habilidades analíticas demostrables;
- Se valora la experiencia de evaluación / revisión de proyectos dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas se considerarán una ventaja. Lenguaje
- Fluidez en inglés hablado y escrito.

10. ETICA

El equipo de MTR se mantendrá con los más altos estándares éticos y debe firmar un código de conducta al aceptar la asignación. Este MTR se llevará a cabo de acuerdo con los principios descritos en las "Directrices

éticas para la evaluación" del UNEG. El equipo de MTR debe salvaguardar los derechos y la confidencialidad de los proveedores de información, los entrevistados y las partes interesadas a través de medidas para garantizar el cumplimiento de los códigos legales y otros códigos relevantes que rigen la recopilación de datos y la presentación de informes sobre datos. El equipo de MTR también debe garantizar la seguridad de la información recopilada antes y después de la MTR y los protocolos para garantizar el anonimato y la confidencialidad de las fuentes de información cuando se espere. La información, el conocimiento y los datos recopilados en el proceso de MTR también deben usarse únicamente para el MTR y no para otros usos sin la autorización expresa del PNUD y sus socios.

11. MODALIDADES Y ESPECIFICACIONES DE PAGO

- Pago del 20 % tras la entrega satisfactoria del Informe inicial de MTR final y su respectiva aprobación (comité supervisor).
- Pago del 40% tras la entrega satisfactoria del borrador del informe MTR y su respectiva aprobación (comité supervisor).
- Pago del 40% tras la entrega satisfactoria del informe final de MTR y su aprobación (comité supervisor) y RTA (mediante firmas en el Formulario de Autorización del Informe de MTR). Criterios para emitir el pago final del 40%:
 - El informe final del MTR incluye todos los requisitos descritos en los términos de referencia de este MTR y está de acuerdo con la guía del MTR.
 - El informe final del MTR está claramente escrito, organizado de manera lógica y es específico para este proyecto (es decir, el texto no ha sido cortado y pegado de otros informes MTR), en español e inglés.
 - El Audit Trail incluye respuestas y justificación para cada comentario enumerado.

De acuerdo con las regulaciones financieras del PNUD, cuando la Unidad de ejecutora y/ o el consultor determinen que un entregable o servicio no se puede completar satisfactoriamente debido al impacto de COVID-19 y las limitaciones al MTR, ese entregable o servicio no se pagará.

Debido a la situación actual de COVID-19 y sus implicaciones, se puede considerar un pago parcial si el consultor invirtió tiempo en el entregable pero no pudo completarlo por circunstancias fuera de su control.

12. PROCESO DE POSTULACIÓN Presentación recomendada de la propuesta:

- a) Carta de Confirmación de Interés y Disponibilidad mediante la plantilla proporcionada por el PNUD;
- b) CV y formulario P11 de Historia Personal;
- c) **Breve descripción del enfoque del trabajo/propuesta técnica** de por qué el postulante cree que es la persona más adecuada para el proyecto, y una metodología propuesta sobre cómo piensa enfocar y completar el trabajo (máximo 1 página);
- d) **Propuesta financiera** que indique el precio total e inclusivo del contrato y todos los costos relacionados (boleto de avión, viáticos o dietas, etc.), apoyada en un desglose detallado de los gastos, utilizando la plantilla adjunta al modelo de Carta de Confirmación de Interés. Si un postulante es contratado por una organización/compañía/institución y tiene previsto que su empleador cargue una tasa de gestión por su cesión al PNUD en concepto de Acuerdo de Préstamo Reembolsable (RLA), el solicitante debe indicarlo en este momento y asegurarse de que esos costos estén debidamente incluidos en la propuesta financiera que se envíe al PNUD.

Todos los materiales de la solicitud deberían remitirse a la dirección: Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, Edificio Las Naciones Unidas, Colonia San Carlos, Avenida República de México 2816, Tegucigalpa, MDC, Honduras, en un sobre sellado en el que se indicará la referencia siguiente: "Paisajes agroforestales y manejo forestal sostenible que generen beneficios ambientales y económicos a nivel global y local (PIM 5704) o por email a la siguiente dirección EXCLUSIVAMENTE: adquisicionespnudhn@undp.org antes xxx 2021 a las 10:00 a.m. Las solicitudes incompletas quedarán excluidas del proceso.

Criterios para la evaluación de la propuesta: Sólo se evaluarán aquellas solicitudes que cumplan con todos los requisitos. Las ofertas se evaluarán conforme al método de Puntuación Combinada (Combined Scoring)

según el cual la formación académica y la experiencia en proyectos similares tendrán un peso del 70%, mientras que la propuesta económica representará el 30% de la valoración. El postulante que reciba la Puntuación Combinada más Alta y que acepte los Términos y Condiciones Generales del PNUD será el que reciba el contrato.

Esta consultoría será adjudicada a la persona que obtenga el puntaje total más alto, sumando de las dos etapas.

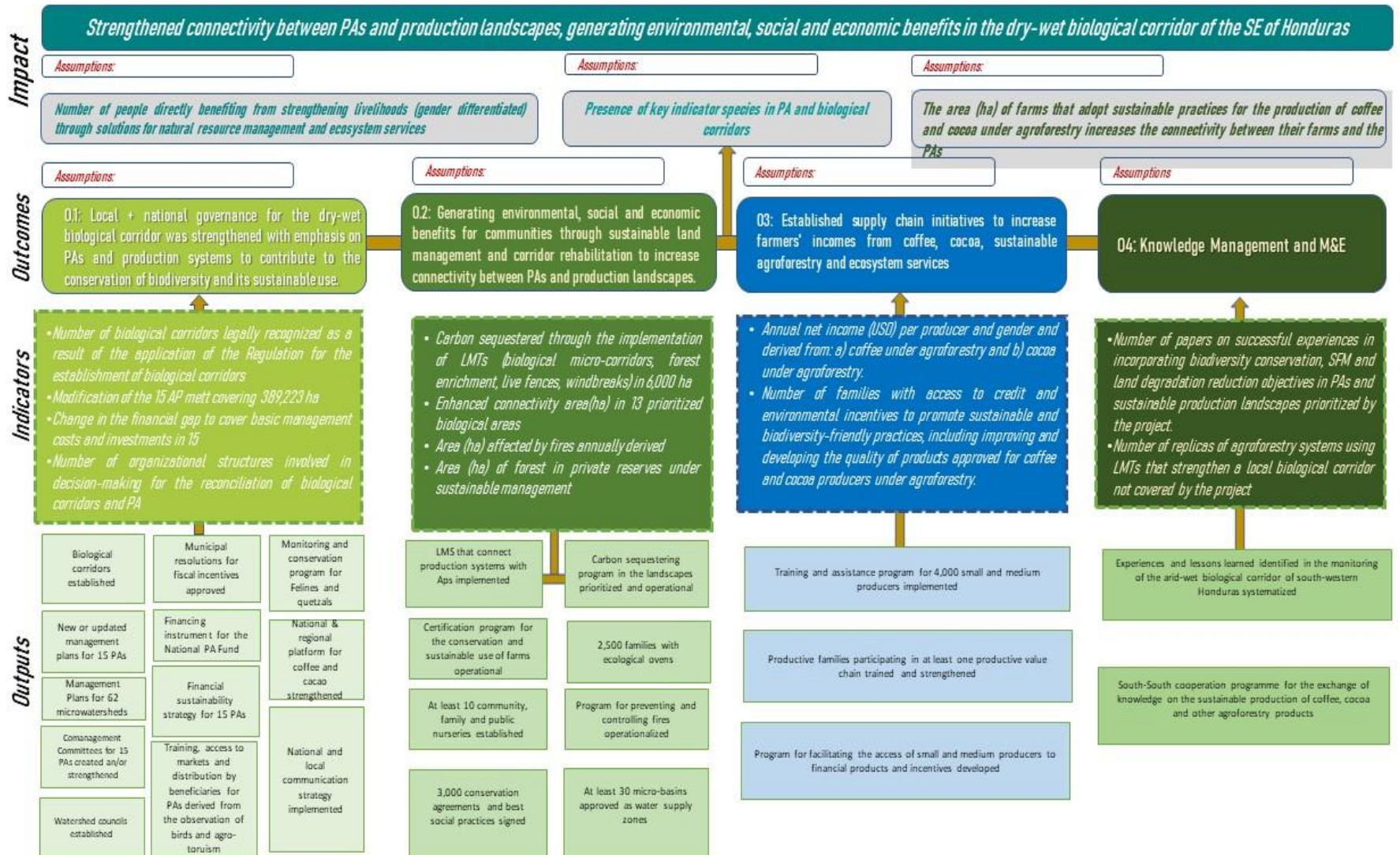
Solamente se contactarán las personas seleccionadas

Se invita a las mujeres y personas con discapacidad a presentar sus ofertas

Cri		Puntuación Máxima
Evaluación Curricular (máx. 50 puntos)		
a	Profesional con grado universitario mínimo de licenciatura en gestión o ciencias ambientales, biología, economía, desarrollo, economía ambiental, geografía, gestión de recursos naturales o	Cumple / No Cumple
b	Excelentes destrezas en redacción en inglés (presentan en oferta técnica referencias de al menos 2 documentos de su preparación en inglés)	Cumple / No Cumple
c	Deseable, Grado de Máster en cambio climático u otro campo estrechamente relacionado	3
d	Experiencia con metodologías de evaluación de la gestión	5
	De 5 años a 7 años	3
	Más de 7 años	5
e	Experiencia en la aplicación de indicadores SMART y la reconstrucción o validación de escenarios iniciales.	5
	Dos experiencias	3
	Mas de 2 experiencias	5
Cri		Puntuación Máxima
f	Competencia en gestión adaptativa aplicadas en Biodiversidad, Degradación de la Tierra y Manejo Forestal Sostenible	5
	De 3 años a 5 años	3
	Mas de 5 años	5
g	Experiencia de trabajo con el GEF o con evaluaciones realizadas con estos organismos	7
	De 1 - 2 experiencias	3
	De 2 – 5 experiencias	5
	Mas de 5 experiencias	7
h	Experiencia profesional en las áreas técnicas relevantes;	7
	De 6 – 8 años	4
	Mas de 8 años	7
i	Experiencia previa de trabajo en Biodiversidad, Degradación de la Tierra y Manejo	5
	Al menos cumple 1 de ellas	2
	Cumple 2 - 3 de ellas	5
j	Conocimientos demostrados de las cuestiones relacionadas con el género, Biodiversidad, Degradación de la Tierra y Manejo Forestal Sostenible; experiencia en evaluación y	5
	De 1 - 2 experiencias	3
	Mas de 2 experiencias	5
k	Excelentes capacidades de comunicación y analíticas;	5
	De 2 a 3 documentos técnicos y/o publicaciones vinculadas a las temáticas de	3

	Más de 3 documentos técnicos y/o publicaciones vinculadas a las temáticas de	5
l	Experiencia de evaluación / revisión de proyectos dentro del Sistema de las Naciones	3
Sub-Total Evaluación Curricular (Máx.50 puntos)		50
Evaluación Propuesta Técnica (máx. 20 puntos)		
m	Grado en que la propuesta responde a los Términos de Excelente 8 / Bueno 6 / Regular 4 / Deficiente 0	8
n	Calidad de la metodología en cuanto a Excelente 8 / Bueno 6 / Regular 4 / Deficiente 0	8
o	Incluye un cronograma de trabajo de las actividades indicadas en los TDR y en la Excelente 4 / Bueno 3 / Regular 2 / Deficiente 0	4
Sub-Total Evaluación Propuesta Técnica (Máx. 20 puntos)		20
Sub-Total Evaluación Curricular + Propuesta Técnica (Máx. 30		70
p	Propuesta financiera	30
q	Total	100

Annex 2: Reconstructed Theory of Change



Annex 3: MTR evaluation matrix (evaluation criteria with questions, indicators, data sources and key methodology)

Evaluation Criteria- Categories of Progress	Evaluation Questions (EQ)	Judgment Criteria	Indicators	Interview Questions	Sources/Methodology
Project Strategy & Design	<i>EQ 1: To what extent is the project strategy relevant to the country's priorities, country ownership and to what extent does it correspond to the best route to expected results?</i>	<p>1.1- The objective of the CONECTA+ project is achievable, the activities are logical and SMART result indicators and solid assumptions are used, and risks identified / adequately mitigated.</p> <p>1.2 - The Project adequately incorporated the lessons learned from other relevant Projects and is projected in a theory of change.</p> <p>1.3 -The design of the project was the result of the participation of the different interest groups at the level of creating ownership in the interested parties and beneficiaries</p> <p>1.4 -The design of the project considered links with other ongoing or planned interventions (at the national-local level).</p> <p>1.5 The project design and actions are consistent with national priorities to reverse ecosystem fragmentation, biodiversity loss, and land degradation in the arid-humid biological corridor of southwestern Honduras.</p> <p>1.6 The results (consequences) monitoring and evaluation system was adequately designed and easily applied to contribute to the adaptive management process.</p>	<p>1.1.1 A- Definition of SMART indicators and coherence of the logical framework</p> <p>1.1.1 B- Constructed and robust Theory of Change</p> <p>1.1.1 C- Risks and their appropriate mitigation measures have been identified</p> <p>1.1.1 D- Issues of Gender, Human Rights, CC and indigenous peoples incorporated in the design of the project.</p> <p>1.2.1- Lessons learned from other projects incorporated in the project design</p> <p>1.3.1- Level of participation of the different actors in the definition of the activities of the CONECTA+ project</p> <p>1.4.1- Level of complementarity with other initiatives related to the project activities and the geographical areas of intervention</p> <p>1.5.1.1 Level of coherence of the Project Strategy (and its activities and products integrated in the results chain) with the national priorities (public policy, plans) from the environmental, social and economic perspective.</p> <p>1.6.1 Both the PIRs and other instruments contribute to the systematic application of adaptive management (changes resulting from internal and exogenous factors (COVID-19).</p>	<p>1.1</p> <p>A. Are the objectives and components of the project clear, practical and feasible to carry out during the time stipulated for its execution?</p> <p>B. How were the results and outputs consistent with the Theory of Change?</p> <p>C. Does the results matrix include SMART indicators? Have the assumptions and risks (prediction of potential risks) and their appropriate mitigation measures been clearly established?</p> <p>D. Were relevant gender issues (e.g. project impact on gender equality in the project country, participation of women's groups, women's involvement in project activities) raised in the document? of the project?</p> <p>E. Have other issues such as human rights, CC and indigenous peoples been adequately integrated into the project design following UNDP-GEF policies? If so, how? (Activities? Output and outcome indicators?)</p> <p>1.2 How were experiences and lessons from other relevant projects adequately incorporated into the project design?</p> <p>1.3 Has the design of the Project taken into account all the key actors to the point of creating ownership? Explain...</p> <p>How were the perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions taken into account?</p> <p>How were responsible party agreements properly identified and roles and responsibilities negotiated prior to project approval?</p> <p>1.4 Was there planned coordination with other relevant complementary GEF-funded intervention projects and/or other non-GEF supported initiatives?</p> <p>1.5 Was the project concept aligned with national sector development priorities and plans for the country related to the project object?</p> <p>1.6 Do the instruments and the mechanism designed for monitoring and evaluation contribute to the adaptive management process?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder interviews • Analysis of data <input type="checkbox"/> Pro Doc <input type="checkbox"/> PIRs <input type="checkbox"/> Other monitoring doc <input type="checkbox"/> National Plan for Sustainable Development <input type="checkbox"/> Doc of public policies and national strategies <input type="checkbox"/> Doc of initiatives and other programs <input type="checkbox"/> Agreements
Progress toward Expected Results	<i>EQ 2: What is the degree of achievement of the expected results and objectives at Mid-term?</i>	<p>2.1 The results / products of the project were proportional to what was planned to date;</p> <p>2.2 The effects (indicators of results achieved) to date are directly related to the interventions (GEF support); and any unforeseen results.</p> <p>2.3 The general quality of application and execution has been adequate</p> <p>2.4 Obstacles to achieving objectives clearly identified and managed</p>	<p>2.2.1 The contribution of the GEF to the observed results is evidenced</p> <p>2.3.1 Incipient effects signal quality implementation</p> <p>a. level of participation and involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries (Indicator also related to PE 3)</p> <p>b. Level of integration of gender, human rights, CC and indigenous peoples issues</p> <p>c. Level of transparency in governance mechanisms</p> <p>E. Correspondence level with adaptive strategic planning.</p> <p>2.4.1 Barriers to the achievement of the expected results and incorporated in the Project's risk management</p>	<p>2.1 A. To what extent have the goals of the indicators of expected results been achieved to date? (requires parsing the result matrix by comparing the initial values with the current values); B. To what extent have project activities facilitated progress towards these outcomes to date?</p> <p>2.2 Is it possible that the observed changes derive from the contribution that CONECTA has made? Are unforeseen changes identified?</p> <p>2.3 A. Has the quality of the execution been adequate, in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • level of participation and involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries; • level of integration of gender issues, human rights, CC and indigenous peoples; • level of transparency in governance mechanisms; • level of correspondence with adaptive strategic planning; <p>B. Are alternatives identified that would have led to higher quality of execution?</p> <p>2.4 What have been the factors/barriers that have hindered the achievement of the objectives? (Including external and contextual factors) And how have they been handled?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder interviews • Field visits • Analysis of data <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly reports <input type="checkbox"/> PIRs <input type="checkbox"/> Minutes of boards of directors and steering committee <input type="checkbox"/> Agreements
Project Implementation and applicaiton of Adaptive Management	<i>EQ 3: Has the project been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively and has it been able to systematically adapt to changing conditions so</i>	<p>3.1- The project incorporated an Adaptive Management Approach</p> <p>3.2 Project Implementation was carried out according</p>	<p>3.1.1 a. Degree of effectiveness of adaptive management, risk management and good practices</p> <p>3.1.1 b Quality of execution and support provided by GEF</p> <p>3.1.1.c Gender Balance in the Project team and board</p> <p>3.2.1 Comparison between planned and executed (causes and</p>	<p>3.1 A. What significant changes has the project experienced as a result of other risk identification or review procedures?</p> <p>B. Has the support provided by GEF in the execution of the project and the Project Team been adequate?</p> <p>C. What is the gender distribution of the Project team and board?</p> <p>3.2 A. Have there been changes between what was planned and executed to date? What</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder interviews • Field visits • Analysis of data <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly reports <input type="checkbox"/> PIRs <input type="checkbox"/> Minutes of boards of

Evaluation Criteria- Categories of Progress	Evaluation Quesitons (EQ)	Judgment Criteria	Indicators	Interview Questions	Sources/Methodology
	<p><i>far? To what extent do project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, project reporting and communications support project implementation?</i></p>	<p>to Plan</p> <p>3.3- Financing and co-financing have been implemented appropriately and transparently</p> <p>3.4- The project's M&E system has been well conceived and applied effectively in a way that can lead to adaptive management.</p> <p>3.5- The project implemented solid, transparent and effective agreements for the participation and management of the interested parties.</p>	<p>measures adopted)</p> <p>3.2.2 Planning level based on results (and considering the ToC)</p> <p>3.2.3 Level of use and suitability of the results framework as a planning tool</p> <p>3.2.4 Level of incidence of COVID-19 and other external factors in the implementation of CONECTA+</p> <p>3.3.1- Variations between planned and real expenses</p> <p>3.3.2 Coherence between what was spent and the results to date</p> <p>3.3.3- Adequacy of the control mechanism</p> <p>3.3.4- Audits implemented (according to GEF mandate)</p> <p>3.3.5 Level of strategic use of co-financing to achieve results and degree of adequacy of communication and monitoring mechanisms with co-financing partners</p> <p>3.4.1 The PIR and other monitoring tools demonstrate the key links in the project results chain and report in an inclusive and innovative way.</p> <p>3.4.2 reporting and follow-up were timely and efficient for all project partners.</p> <p>3.4.3 The budget for monitoring and evaluation is logical</p> <p>3.4.4 M&E tools adequately collect and report on gender issues</p> <p>3.4.5 Checking the validity of assumptions and risk mitigation measures contribute to systematic adaptive management</p> <p>3.5.1 Degree of effective management of partnerships with stakeholders and other actors (co-financers)</p> <p>3.5.2 Degree of participation of national and local government institutions to achieve the objectives</p> <p>3.5.3 Degree of public awareness achieved for the scope of the objectives</p> <p>3.5.4 Level of consideration of gender relations, and Level of involvement of girls and women to ensure equal access and control of project benefits</p> <p>3.5.5 Level of consideration of indigenous communities</p> <p>3.6.1 Degree of adequacy of information mechanisms on changes in</p>	<p>have been the causes? What measures have been taken?</p> <p>B. Do the results to date correspond to what was planned according to the ToC?</p> <p>C. Have there been adjustments to the results framework? Which? Please provide evidence.</p> <p>D. Have there been external factors that have affected the implementation of the project? Which ones and how?</p> <p>3.3 A. Have there been variations between planned and actually executed expenses? Why? Have these changes been important and have they required UNDP-GEF approval?</p> <p>B. Have there been changes in funding allocations (between components/outputs and outputs) as a result of budget revisions? Have these reviews been appropriate and relevant? Are these changes within UNDP-GEF policies?</p> <p>C. Does what has been spent to date correspond to the progress of the results to date?</p> <p>D. Are the control mechanisms that are implemented adequate? Do they allow project management to make informed budget decisions at any time? Please provide evidence.</p> <p>E. How many audits have been implemented to date? Do they correspond to the GEF mandate? Is there any comment / audit recommendation pending resolution? Please provide evidence.</p> <p>F. To what extent have the co-financing funds been adequately integrated in the execution of the Project? Have these funds effectively contributed to the expected results? Has there been any change in the Co-financing fund reflected in the ProDoc? Why did these changes originate and how do they affect the execution of the project?</p> <p>G. How often does the Project Team meet with all its financial partners in order to agree on economic priorities and agree on annual work plans?</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>A. Was the M&E articulated enough to monitor results and track progress towards achieving objectives?</p> <p>B. Do the monitoring tools provide enough information? Do they involve key stakeholders? Are they efficient? Are they profitable? Are new tools required? How can they be made more participatory and inclusive?</p> <p>C. Have the follow-up reports been submitted within the established periods?</p> <p>D. Are sufficient resources allocated for monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources used effectively?</p> <p>E. How are the perspectives of women and men involved and affected by the project being monitored and evaluated?</p> <p>3.5 A. Has the project developed and forged the right partnerships, both with direct stakeholders and other indirect actors?</p> <p>B. Do local and national governments support the project objectives? Do they maintain an active role in project decision-making that contributes to its efficient and effective execution?</p> <p>C. To what extent has public involvement and awareness contributed to progress in achieving the project objectives? Are the stakeholders truly committed to the long-term success and sustainability of the project?</p> <p>D. Provide information on gender equality in participation and decision-making (at all different levels of stakeholder participation in project components) Is there equal access to project benefits for both women and men? mens? How is the involvement of girls and women promoted? Is the project likely to have the same positive and/or negative effects on women and men, girls and boys?</p> <p>E. Do agreements with stakeholders take into account the participation of indigenous communities?</p> <p>3.6 How has the flow of project information been, especially regarding changes in adaptive management? Have the GEF reporting requirements been met? Have the lessons from the adaptive management process been documented and shared with stakeholders? Please share evidence.</p> <p>3.7 A. Is there regular and effective communication? Are important stakeholders left out of communication channels? Are there feedback mechanisms?</p>	<p>directors and steering committee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agreements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Audits</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Financial information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pro Doc</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of communication</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Publications, systematizations</p>

Evaluation Criteria- Categories of Progress	of Evaluation Quesitons (EQ)	Judgment Criteria	Indicators	Interview Questions	Sources/Methodology
		<p>3.6 The Project managed the information in a timely and transparent manner</p> <p>3.7 The Project's internal and external communication mechanisms contribute to the achievement of results and sustainability</p>	<p>adaptive management</p> <p>3.6.2 Level of compliance with the information requirements established by the GEF</p> <p>3.6.3 Level of internalization by stakeholders of the lessons derived from the adaptive management process</p> <p>3.7.1 Level of adequacy of communication mechanisms with stakeholders that contribute to ownership</p> <p>3.7.2 Level of adequacy of external communication mechanisms and contribute to public awareness</p> <p>3.7.3 Degree of systematization/aggregation of information on the contribution to sustainable development and the global environment</p> <p>3.7.4 # of knowledge management products developed/approved (that adequately integrate cross-cutting aspects (Gender, Human Rights, CC, Indigenous Communities</p>	<p>Does communication with stakeholders contribute to increased stakeholder awareness of project results and activities, and greater commitment to long-term sustainability of project results?</p> <p>B. Have adequate communication channels been established to express the progress of the project and the desired public impact? Did the project carry out adequate communication and public awareness campaigns?</p> <p>C. What activities or products have been developed within the framework of the project adequately integrating aspects of Gender, Human Rights, CC, Indigenous Communities?</p>	
Sustainability	<p><i>EQ 4: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socioeconomic and/or environmental risks to sustain the project results in the long term?</i></p>	<p>4.1 Incipient signs that interest groups and beneficiaries have the capacity to sustain the results obtained with the GEF contribution and co-financing</p>	<p>4.1.1 a-potential economic risks to sustainability with defined mitigation measures</p> <p>4.1.1.b -Potential social and environmental risks to sustainability with planned mitigation measures</p> <p>4.1.1.c Potential environmental risks to sustainability with planned mitigation measures</p> <p>4.1.1.d Potential institutional and governance risks to sustainability identified and with mitigation measures</p> <p>4.1.1.e- Potential socio-political risks to sustainability identified and with mitigation measures defined</p> <p>4.1.1.f Degree of validity of the risks defined in the ProDoc</p>	<p>4.1 A. How is the sustainability of the results obtained from CONECTA+ ensured?</p> <p>B. Are risks to economic, socio-environmental, socio-political and institutional and governance sustainability identified?</p> <p>C. If so, what possible measures have been discussed or raised with the different stakeholders?</p> <p>D. To what extent are the risks defined in the ProDoc still valid? (Note. The risks of the ProDoc must be identified and find out which is valid, which is not and which remain once the CONECTA concludes)</p> <p>E. Lessons learned about sustainability at this stage of the EMT</p>	<p>Stakeholder interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of data <input type="checkbox"/> PIRs <input type="checkbox"/> Minutes of boards of directors and steering committee <input type="checkbox"/> Agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Audits <input type="checkbox"/> Financial information <input type="checkbox"/> Pro Doc <input type="checkbox"/> Other information that is identified during the interviews

Annex 4: Model questionnaire or interview guide used in data collection.

Note. The questions have been classified depending on the informant, therefore, not all the questions have been addressed to all the informants (see evaluation matrix)

I. General Aspects

Interview Date _____

Name of person/participants/ position and function:

Name	Position	Function	Institution

II. Introduction

The Agroforestry Landscapes and Sustainable Forest Management Project that Generate Environmental and Economic Benefits at the Global and Local Levels - CONECTA+, aims to strengthen the connectivity between protected areas (APs) and productive landscapes, in order to obtain social, environmental and in the arid-humid biological corridor of southwestern Honduras.

Within the framework of the above, UNDP has contracted a Consultant to carry out the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Project, whose main objective is to evaluate progress in achieving the objectives and results described in the Project Document, analyze the first signs of success or failure in order to identify any changes that are necessary to get the project back on track and achieve the desired results. Also, the EMT will review the project strategy and its risks to sustainability.

Questionnaire Guide

PROJECT STRATEGY AND DESIGN

1.1 A. Are the objectives and components of the project clear, practical and feasible to carry out during the time stipulated for its execution?

B. How were the results and outputs consistent with the Theory of Change?

C. Does the results matrix include SMART indicators? Have the assumptions and risks (prediction of potential risks) and their appropriate mitigation measures been clearly established?

D. Were relevant gender issues (e.g. project impact on gender equality in the project country, participation of women's groups, women's involvement in project activities) raised in the document? of the project?

E. Have other issues such as human rights, CC and indigenous peoples been adequately integrated into the project design following UNDP-GEF policies? If so, how? (Activities? Output and outcome indicators?)

1.2 How were experiences and lessons from other relevant projects adequately incorporated into the project design?

1.3 Has the design of the Project taken into account all the key actors to the point of creating ownership? Explain... How were the perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions taken into account?

How were responsible party agreements properly identified and roles and responsibilities negotiated prior to project approval?

1.4 Was coordination planned together with other relevant complementary GEF-funded intervention projects and/or other non-GEF supported initiatives?

1.5 Was the project concept aligned with national sector development priorities and country plans related to the project object?

1.6 Do the instruments and the mechanism designed for monitoring and evaluation contribute to the adaptive management process?

PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING THE EXPECTED RESULTS

2.1 A. To what extent have the goals of the indicators of expected results been achieved to date? (requires parsing the result matrix by comparing the initial values with the current values)

B. To what extent have project activities facilitated progress towards these outcomes to date?

2.2 Is it possible that the observed changes AT MID TERM resulted from CONECTA's contribution? Have any unforeseen changes been identified?

2.3 A. Has the quality of the execution been adequate, in terms of:

- level of participation and involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries.
- level of integration of gender issues, human rights, CC and indigenous peoples;
- level of transparency in governance mechanisms;
- level of correspondence with adaptive strategic planning;

B. Are alternatives identified that would have led to higher quality of execution?

2.4 What have been the factors/barriers that have hindered the achievement of the objectives? (Including external and contextual factors) And how have they been handled?

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT AND APPLICATION OF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

3.1 A. What significant changes has the project experienced as a result of other risk identification or review procedures?

B. Has the support provided by GEF in the execution of the project and the Project Team been adequate?

C. What is the gender distribution of the Project team and board?

3.2 A. Have there been changes between what was planned and executed to date? What have been the causes? What measures have been taken?

B. Do the results to date correspond to what was planned according to the ToC?

C. Have there been adjustments to the results framework? Which? Please provide evidence.

D. Have there been external factors that have affected the implementation of the project? Which ones and how?

3.3 A. Have there been variations between planned and actually executed expenses? Why? Have these changes been important and have they required UNDP-GEF approval?

B. Have there been changes in funding allocations (between components/outputs and outputs) as a result of budget revisions? Have these reviews been appropriate and relevant? Are these changes within UNDP-GEF policies?

C. Does what has been spent to date correspond to the progress of the results to date?

D. Are the control mechanisms that are implemented adequate? Do they allow project management to make informed budget decisions at any time? Please provide evidence.

E. How many audits have been implemented to date? Do they correspond to the GEF mandate? Is there any comment / audit recommendation pending resolution? Please provide evidence.

F. To what extent have the co-financing funds been adequately integrated in the execution of the Project? Have these funds effectively contributed to the expected results? Has there been any change in the Co-financing fund reflected in the ProDoc? Why did these changes originate and how do they affect the execution of the project?

G. How often does the Project Team meet with all its financial partners in order to agree on economic priorities and agree on annual work plans?

3.4 A. Was the M&E articulated enough to monitor results and track progress towards achieving objectives?

B. Do the monitoring tools provide enough information? Do they involve key stakeholders? Are they efficient? Are they profitable? Are new tools required? How can they be made more participatory and inclusive?

C. Have the follow-up reports been submitted within the established periods?

- D. Are sufficient resources allocated for monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources used effectively?
- E. How are the perspectives of women and men involved and affected by the project being monitored and evaluated?

3.5

- A. Has the project developed and forged the right partnerships, both with direct stakeholders and other indirect actors?
- B. Do local and national governments support the project objectives? Do they maintain an active role in project decision-making that contributes to its efficient and effective execution?
- C. To what extent has public involvement and awareness contributed to progress in achieving the project objectives? Are the stakeholders truly committed to the long-term success and sustainability of the project?
- D. Provide information on gender equality in participation and decision-making (at all different levels of stakeholder participation in project components) Is there equal access to project benefits for both women and men? How is the involvement of girls and women promoted? Is the project likely to have the same positive and/or negative effects on women and men, girls and boys?
- E. Do agreements with stakeholders take into account the participation of indigenous communities?

3.6 How has the flow of project information been, especially regarding changes in adaptive management? Have the GEF reporting requirements been met? Have the lessons from the adaptive management process been documented and shared with stakeholders? Please share evidence.

3.7 A. Is there regular and effective communication? Are important stakeholders left out of communication channels? Are there feedback mechanisms?

Does communication with stakeholders contribute to increased stakeholder awareness of project results and activities, and greater commitment to long-term sustainability of project results?

B. Have adequate communication channels been established to express the progress of the project and the desired public impact? Did the project carry out adequate communication and public awareness campaigns?

C. What activities or products have been developed within the framework of the project adequately integrating aspects of Gender, Human Rights, CC, Indigenous Communities?

SUSTAINABILITY

4.1 How has the flow of project information been, especially regarding changes in adaptive management? Have the GEF reporting requirements been met? Have the lessons from the adaptive management process been documented and shared with stakeholders? Please share evidence.

4.2 A. Is there regular and effective communication? Are important stakeholders left out of communication channels? Are there feedback mechanisms?

Does communication with stakeholders contribute to increased stakeholder awareness of project results and activities, and greater commitment to long-term sustainability of project results?

B. Have adequate communication channels been established to express the progress of the project and the desired public impact? Did the project carry out adequate communication and public awareness campaigns?

C. What activities or products have been developed within the framework of the project adequately integrating aspects of Gender, Human Rights, CC, Indigenous Communities?

ANNEX 5a: Results Matrix

Overall Objective: Strengthen the connectivity between protected areas (PAs) and production landscapes to generate environmental, social, and economic benefits in the dry-humid biological corridor of southwestern Honduras.						
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	First PIR Report	Mid-Term Achievement	Final targets	Cumulative progress (December 2021)	Justification of the Rating
1. Number of people directly benefiting from strengthened livelihoods (differentiated by gender) through solutions for management of natural resources and ecosystems services	-Direct: 0 -Indirect: 0	4,596 total 3,458 men 1,138 women	Direct: 8,052 (5,592 men, 2,460 women)	Direct: 16,103 (11,184 men, 4,919 women)	Total 13,366 9162 men 4202 women	While the number of people who directly benefitted from the project, there is no evidence that these economic benefits have improved biodiversity in the corridors.
2. Presence of key indicator species in PAs and biological corridors	- Quetzal (<i>Pharomachrus macinnii</i>) - Golden-cheeked warbler (<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>) - Cougar (<i>Puma concolor</i>) - Ocelot (<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>) - Margay (<i>Leopardus wiedii</i>) - Jaguarundi (<i>Puma yagouaroundi</i>)	The areas of the biological corridors of the project have been spatially referenced. The project is currently defining the priority areas for species monitoring. The first survey will be carried out prior to the mid-term evaluation.	No Change, because no follow-up studies were ever done to track changes in the baselines for the target species.	All target species should be present	No Change, because no follow-up studies were ever done to track changes in the baselines for the target species.	Despite this being a biodiversity project, no studies have been carried out for measuring the presence/ absence of the target species after three years of implementing the project and <i>9 years since the baselines were established</i> for these species in a separate consultancy.. Despite the Project coordinator stating that this activity is conditional on hiring a specialist in biodiversity at the end of 2021. as of March 2022, no action has been taken, and the clock keeps ticking. Mario Orellana defender of PN Montaña de Santa Bárbara denounced the high levels of hunting of several CITES species that have disappeared.. Jabalí, venado cola blanca venado rojo y otros (Canal 3 noticiero 29.03.2022)
3. Area (ha) of farms that adopt sustainable practices for production of coffee and cocoa under agroforestry increase	-Coffee: 1,110 (15% IHCAFE) -Cocoa: 120 (20% PROCACAO)	Actions have been initiated in 6,238.71 ha of coffee and 419.17 ha of cocoa. By late 2020 the project aims to sign	-Coffee: 2,960 -Cocoa: 240	-Coffee: 7,400 -Cocoa: 600	Actions have been initiated in 6,659.54 ha in sustainable practices for production. Coffee: 9564 ha and Cocoa:	While the project has exceeded its targets related to coffee and cacao areal coverage, there is no evidence that the connectivity between protected areas has been

connectivity between their farms and PAs		1,752 agreements on sustainable practices with farmers.			479.04 ha of cocoa. Agreements on sustainable practices with farmers: 2,208.	improved. The lack of follow-up monitoring on target species and the METT for the past 9 years supports this finding, as does interviews with numerous stakeholders and site visits.
Outcome 1: Strengthened local and national governance for the dry-humid biological corridor with emphasis on PAs and production systems to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.						
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	First PIR Report	Mid-Term Achievement	Final Targets	Cumulative progress (December 2021)	Justification of the Rating
1.1 Number of biological corridors legally recognized as a result of the implementation of the regulation for establishing biological corridors	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiated the digital mapping of 5 biological corridors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reserva de Biosfera Cacique Lempira Señor de la Montañas. ▪ Joya de los Lagos ▪ Reserva del Hombre y Biosfera Trifinio Fraternidad ▪ Guajiquiro-Jilguero ▪ Maya-Chortí - The project is reviewing the methodology for establishing biological corridors which should be completed and adopted by mid-2021. - The project is planning to have the first biological corridor (Reserva de Biosfera Cacique Lempira) approved with a certificate issued by MiAmbiente and ICF by 2022. 	At least one (1) in process	At least one (1) approved	Four action plans for four biological corridors were presented to the National Committee of Biological Corridors of Honduras. These corridors include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joya de los Lagos (CBJDLL). 2. Reserva de Biosfera Trifinio Fraternidad Joya de las Américas (CBRBTJDLA). 3. Guajiquiro El Jilguero (CBGEJ). 4. La Reserva de Biosfera Cacique Lempira Señor de las Montañas (CBRBCLSM). 	This is a complex process requiring good inter-institutional coordination, which at mid-term has been lacking. These advances notwithstanding, local governance remains weak and there is a large gap in the participation of indigenous peoples, youth and women in horizontal governance processes. Regarding national governance, the MTR identifies that government institutions, mainly MiAmbiente, have had a significant impact on hindering progress and the efficiency of the Project, despite the tireless efforts of the Project's coordination.

<p>1.2 Change in the management effectiveness (as measured through the METT) of 15 PAs covering 389,223 ha</p>	<p>-Celaque National Park (NP): 70 -Opalaca Biological Reserve (BR): 47 -Cerro Azul Meambar NP: 58 -Lago de Yojoa Multiple Use Area (MUA): 66 -Guajiquiro BR: 14 -El Jilguero Water Production Zone (WPZ): 42 -Montecillos (BR): 39 -Mixcure Wildlife Refuge (WR): 38 -Montaña Verde WR: 47 -Puca WR: 38 -Pacayita BR: 11 -Montecristo NP: 51 -Erapuca WR: 37 -Guisayote BR: 50 -Santa Bárbara Mountain NP: 14</p>	<p>To date, 12 PAs are carrying out management plans with co-financing resources that will contribute to improvements in capacity of these areas. The METT will be calculated for these protected areas for the mid-term review.</p>	<p>-Celaque NP: 74 -Opalaca BR: 51 -Cerro Azul Meambar NP: 61 -Lago de Yojoa MUA: 70 -Guajiquiro BR: 18 -El Jilguero WPZ: 46 -Montecillos BR: 43 -Mixcure WR: 42 -Montaña Verde WR: 51 -Puca WR: 42 -Pacayita BR: 15 -Montecristo NP: 55 -Erapuca WR: 41 -Guisayote BR: 54 -Santa Bárbara Mountain NP: 18</p>	<p>-Celaque NP: 80 -Opalaca BR: 57 -Cerro Azul Meambar NP: 68 -Lago de Yojoa MUA: 76 -Guajiquiro BR: 24 -El Jilguero WPZ: 52 -Montecillos BR: 49 -Mixcure WR: 48 -Montaña Verde WR: 57 -Puca WR: 48 -Pacayita BR: 21 -Montecristo NP: 61 -Erapuca WR: 47 -Guisayote BR: 60 -Santa Bárbara Mountain NP: 24</p>	<p>None of the Protected areas has had its METT updated three years into the project. METT To date, 15 PAs are carrying out management plans with co-financing resources that will contribute to improvements in capacity of these areas.</p>	<p>Three years into the project, none of the PAs has measured management effectiveness using the METT output/process tracking tool. There is no platform available for measuring outcomes resulting from the METT and ICF's output-monitoring monitoring tools ... UNEP was a responsible party in charge of completing the METT. However, they left the project and IUCN is in the process of updating the METTs in 2022, well after the MTR was conducted. Mario Orellana defender of PN Montaña de Santa Bárbara denounced the high levels of hunting of several CITES species that have disappeared.. Jabalí, venado cola blanca venado rojo y otros (Canal 3 noticiero 29.03.2022)</p>
<p>1.3 Change in the financial gap for covering basic management costs and investments in 15 prioritized PAs</p>	<p>USD 3,628,867/year</p>	<p>To date only initial meetings have been carried out, with protected area managers on selected biological corridors and key stakeholders, government institutions (ICF, MiAmbiente+) y FAPVS. The project still needs to complete the following outputs: a) Business plans for the 15 PAs need to be completed; b) Instrument to fund the National Protected Area and Wildlife Trust Fund (PA Fund; with emphasis on the 15 PAs prioritized</p>	<p>USD 3,447,424/year (5% reduction)</p>	<p>USD 3,265,980/year (10% reduction)</p>	<p>While this activity planned to start in Q4 2021, noting has been achieved. UNEP was initially tasked with the implementation of activities leading to a change in the financial gap but it withdrew from the project. Therefore, IUCN and Solidaridad Network will assume this responsibility. Results should be delivered by the second quarter of 2022.</p>	<p>Nothing has been achieved at the three-year mark of CONECTA's implementation. No financial scorecard was available at mid-term.</p>

		by the project) with resources derived from the private production sector; c) Financial sustainability strategy for 15 PAs that articulates the biological conservation corridor (including business plans, tax exemption benefits for producers, and resources from the PA Fund).				
1.4 Number of organizational structures* that participate in decision making for the conciliation of biological corridors and PAs	0	44 organizations ⁶⁰ are participating in project processes.	98	177	112 organizations are participating in project processes ⁶¹	While the Project surpassed the mid-term target, interviews with a subset of these organizations stated that while they are part of the decision-making stakeholders, they have either not been contacted by the project, or infrequently contacted. They manifested that they do not feel that they are being taken into consideration when it comes to decision-making and the project has largely been built on top-down communication from MiAmbiente, who has blocked efforts to joining workshops and other events that could help integrate them into the decision-making process. Local governance remains weak and there is a large gap in the participation of

⁶⁰ 3 Watershed Councils, 6 comangers of APs (MAPANCE-PROCELAQUE, Fundación PUCA, ASDMAINCUPACO, AESMO, Aldea Global; 3 IP organizations Lenca (MUPILH); 2 Maya Chorti (CONIMCHH y CONADIMCHH), and Mancomunidad Guisayote

⁶¹ Visión Mundial, PROCBGICA, DO Marcala, ASUMAICUPACO, FUNDER, HEIFER, COMSA, PACAYAL COFFE, RAOS, IHCAFE, ICF, MIAMBIENTE, CRASVIDMIL, CAFEL, AMUCALAY, APAGRISAC, CRAC LA FE, CRAC LOS BUENOS AMIGOS, CRAC EMANUEL, CRAC NUEVO HORIZONTE, CRAC MUJERES PROSPERAS, CRAC TERRERITOS, CRAC SAN ANTONIO, Universidad Evangélica Nuevo Milenio (UCENM), Swisscontact Proyecto PROJOVEN, COMIXSAL, CRAC BUENOS AIRES, FUENTE DE VIDA, APROCASAM, COCCAL, CAFEL, LA PALCA, LA CIDRA, LOS LAURELES, MAYA PAQUIN, EL LIMON, INVERSIONES HERRERA, COCATECAL, CAMACUL, HORCONCITOS, LOS ANDES, CDE Santa Bárbara, CDE Zacapa, CDE Copan, CDE Lempira, Fundación Jicatuyo y Asociación Aroma y Cultura, CRAC Nuevo Amanecer, CRAC Nueva Esperanza, CRAC Amigos del Medio Ambiente, ESM Mucho Café, CRAC Horconcos, ESM La Palca, CRAC La Palca, CRAC El Aguaje, CRAC Uniendo Esfuerzos, AP Personas con Visión, AP Unión y Esfuerzos, Asociación de productores nueva visión, Asociación de productores de café MANCAFE, CRAC NUEVO AMANECER/ GOTAS DE SANGRE N.I, ARDMA Y CULTURA, AP PERSONAS CON VISION, AP MANCAFE, AMUPROLAGO, CODEMUSSBA, Asociación de Juntas de Agua del PANACAM, Reservas Naturales Privadas Luna del Puente, Regal Springs, CANATURH, HONDULAGO, Árbol de Misericordia, Proyecto Aldea Global, MUPILH, Municipalidad de San Marcos, Mancomunidad Güisayote, Centro de Acción Social Menonita (CASM), Mancomunidad Erapuca Norte, AESMO, MANCORSARIC, ASMAR, AMVAS y MANVASÉN, CONICHH, Unidad Municipal Desconcentrada Aguas de Tutule, Municipalidad Guajiquiro, Municipalidad Cabañas, Municipalidad San Pedro Tutule, ASDMAINCUPACO, AJAAPS Sector Las Crucitas, MAMCEPAZ, Secretaría del Consejo de Paniaguara (Santa Ana), Consejo de pueblos indígenas de Chinacla, Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazán, MAPANCE, Jóvenes para la Conservación (JPCH), COLOSUCA, Fundación PUCA, Mancomunidad CAFEG, Hermandad de Honduras (HDH-OPDF), Cooperativa CAPUCAS, ONILH, DNACOBH, MOCAPH, PAG, Fundación Puca, AESMO, CONICHH, CONADIMCHH, MUPILH (ONILH, FHONDIL, MILPAH), JAAPS La Encarnación, JAAPS El Chimis, JAAPS El Barreal, JAAPS El Azufrado, JAAPS Montepaque.

						indigenous peoples, youth and women in horizontal governance processes.
Outcome 2: Generation of environmental, social, and economic benefits for communities through sustainable land management and rehabilitation of corridors to increase connectivity between PAs and production landscapes.						
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	First PIR Report	Mid-Term Achievement	Final Targets	Cumulative progress (December 2021)	Justification of the Rating
2.1 Sequestered carbon (tCO2-eq) through the implementation of landscape management tools [LMTs] (biological micro-corridors, forest enrichment, live fences, windbreaks) in 6,000 ha by project's end	0	Estimated carbon sequestered (tCO2-eq) through the implementation of landscape management tools covering 6,657 ha. will be calculated prior to the mid-term evaluation.	235,301 tCO2-eq	470,601 tCO2-eq	<p>Estimated sequestered carbon is 264,611 tCO2eq in relation to the implementation of landscape management tools covering 6,659.54 ha.</p> <p>This activity is conditional on hiring a specialist in coffee and cocoa value chains. Terms of reference have been prepared and results are expected by fourth quarter of 2021.</p>	Although the 2021 PIR indicates that there has been no progress with Outcome 2.1 (volumes of sequestered carbon, that is, tCO2-eq) as reported in December 2021. This has been achieved through the implementation of LMTs (micro biological corridors, forest enhancement, living fences and windbreaks), the PSC report December indicates that the Project has effectively achieved this goal. The December Board report indicates that for Outcome 2.2, interconnectivity zones of 9,110.98 ha have been identified, prioritized and characterized, and 10,042.96 ha have been established that improve biological interconnectivity between 15 PAs. However, the MTR identifies that there are no indicators that demonstrate the extent to which these corridors that were currently identified have been improved, therefore, the Consultant's verification in January 2022 would be timely to explore this gap. Although the available data indicates positive signs in relation to a decrease in the total area affected by fires (2,579 hectares compared to fires at 3,420.67 ha in 2020), there is no evidence to show that the

						decrease in the number of fires can be attributed to Project interventions. Finally, there is no evidence that the Project has reached the goal of Result 2.4 (sustainable management of 100 hectares of forest sustainably in private reserves, mainly due to the weakness in the monitoring system.
2.2 Area (ha) of improved connectivity in 13 prioritized biological areas by project's end	0	The Project has identified and initiated actions in a total of 6,657.88 ha through landscape management tools.	1000	3000	The Project has identified and initiated actions in a total of 6,659.54 ha through landscape management tools (coffee and cocoa agroforestry systems).	The December Board report indicates that for Outcome 2.2, interconnectivity zones of 9,110.98 ha have been identified, prioritized and characterized, and 10,042.96 ha have been established that improve biological interconnectivity between 15 PAs. However, the MTR identifies that there are <i>no indicators that demonstrate the extent to which these corridors that were currently identified have been improved</i> , and the Consultant's verification in January 2022 confirmed this gap.
2.3 Area (ha) affected by fires annually	6000	During the first year of the project, a spatial analysis was made of the incidence of fires that occurred in a 6-year period (2014-2019), the results indicated an occurrence of 1,181 fires, affecting a total of 31,432.3 ha; with an annual average of 5,238.71 ha. Thus, the baseline data has been confirmed. The project has a first draft of a fire prevention and control	5580	4800	This year there was a reduction of 2,579.33 ha and the area affected by fires this year was 3,420.67. Based on ICF fire reports for area of influence of CONECTA + in period 2020 - 2021 (until July 2021), the report is 3,420.67 ha of fires, that represent a reduction of 43% (2,579.33 ha) in relation to the baseline.	Although the available data and accomplishments ⁶² indicate positive signs in relation to a decrease in the total area affected by fires (2,579 hectares compared to fires at 3,420.67 ha in 2020), there is no evidence to show that the decrease in the number of fires can be attributed to Project interventions. Although the available data indicate positive signs in relation to a decrease in the total area affected by fires (2,579 hectares compared to fires at 3,420.67 ha in 2020), there is no evidence showing that the decrease in the number of fires can be attributed to

⁶² The Strategy for Integrated Fire Management and ICF National Forest Fire Protection Plan was reviewed and analyzed. The "Intelligent Forest Fires Monitoring and Evaluation System" (SMART-FIRE) was developed. Provides data on scars and fire alerts; the data is used to provide robust and complete system estimates of the degree of ecological change caused by fires, which are processed automatically. The data are obtained from satellite images, using classification algorithms and use of spectral ranges. Alliances were created between associations, projects, government and civil society to deal with prevention and control of forest fires. A document called "Forest fire program for the Biological Corridor of Celaque (2020 - 2022)" was prepared based on National Strategies on official forest fires, which aim at establishing lines of action to reduce vulnerability of forest against occurrence of forest fires in the biological corridor of Celaque.

		<p>program in the project areas (national, community, and municipal forests) with community participation.</p> <p>Due to the mobility restrictions imposed by Covid-19, the training program was not implemented and had to be reprogrammed.</p>				<p>Project interventions and it is possible that a combination of factors such as the COVID pandemic and extremely wet 2020 that experience two hurricanes might explain the low number of fires. This is supported by recent data from ICF an NOAA LANDSAT/MODUS satellite images that indicate that fires in the area increased by over 100% in the first quarter of 2022 (see Figure in the main report). The FAO has suggested (and the ET agrees completely) revising this indicator because any change in fires difficult to measure or estimate based on a percent change, because there is no direct factor that determines the behavior of this. There are many factors outside the control of the institutions and / or organization and this creates considerable ambiguity when measuring this kind of indicator.</p>
2.4 Area (ha) of forest in private reserves under sustainable management	0		100	800	<p>The project is working with Honduras Network of Natural Reserves (Red Hondureña de Reservas Naturales, RENAPH) in the creation of Green Belt Biological Corridor, La Esperanza, Intibucá, Honduras. The project will report the number of hectares under sustainable management within this corridor.</p>	<p>There is no evidence that the Project has reached the goal of Result 2.4 (sustainable management of 100 hectares of forest sustainably in private reserves, mainly due to the weakness in the monitoring system. During a March 2022 visit, numerous fires were observed in Santa Barbara.</p>
Outcome 3: Establishing supply chain initiatives to increase income of farmers derived from coffee, cocoa, sustainable agroforestry, and ecosystem services						
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	First PIR Report	Mid-Term Achievement	Final Targets	Cumulative progress (December 2021)	Justification of the Rating

<p>3.1 Annual net income (USD) per producer and gender and derived from: a) coffee under agroforestry and b) cocoa under agroforestry.</p>	<p>-Men (2ha/family) a. 1197 b.383 Women (2ha/family) a. 1078 b. 344</p>	<p>The Project has identified and initiated actions in a total of 6,657.88 ha through landscape management tools.</p>	<p>-Men (2ha/family) a. 1557 b.696 Women (2ha/family) a. 1464 b. 655</p>	<p>-Men (2ha/family) a. 2595 b.1161 -Women (2ha/family) a. 2543 b. 1138</p>	<p>To date the project has supported over 2000 families (2911 men and 3883 women) with coffee. For cacao, 648 men have benefitted and 748 women. The analysis of income of each family needs to be estimated. The project is in process of hiring a value chain specialist to support this analysis. Results are expected by the fourth quarter of 2021.</p>	
<p>3.2 Number of families with access to credit and environmental incentives to promote sustainable and biodiversity-friendly practices, including product quality improvement and development approved for producers of coffee and cocoa under agroforestry.</p>	<p>-Coffee: 555 -Cocoa: 120</p>	<p>149 families that cultivate cocoa have been supported through access to credit with FUNDER.</p> <p>The project developed a program to facilitate access by small- and medium-scale producers to at least two financial products and incentives to promote sustainable practices and mechanisms to establish partnerships with the public, private, and banking sectors.</p> <p>The project still needs to provide options for the support of farmers that cultivate coffee.</p>	<p>-Coffee: 1,480 -Cocoa: 180</p>	<p>-Coffee: 2,775 -Cocoa: 225</p>	<p>-Coffee: 1,106 -Cocoa: 196</p> <p>Access to FUNDER financial services has been facilitated to three cocoa business through five loans for an amount of HNL 9,461,350, US\$ 389,221 (US\$1.00 = L. 23.759).</p> <p>Access to HEIFER AND FUNDER financial services has been facilitated to 16 coffee businesses, for an amount of HNL 10,363,372 US\$ 436,187, US\$1.00 = L. 23.759).</p> <p>A more detail information is still being gathered of the families corresponding to the businesses benefiting from financial services.</p>	<p>One of the interesting linkages the project made corresponds to the topic of business development, where Heifer has identified 32 organizations from which they had to follow up on business development, and at the date of evaluation, almost 46 organizations are identified, with which the resources made it possible to work much more than had been planned. However, there are no data to show the extent to which these credits were used as incentives to improve environmental practices with cocoa, but it is understood that they are in the process of certifying both coffee and cocoa. In addition, there is a lack of data indicating the number of benefitted people with access to credit to promote environmentally friendly coffee crops. Finally, there is no evidence that the initiatives related to the creation of supply chains have benefitted the target group of the CONECTA+ project, these being the poor and marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, as has been agreed in 80% of the people interviewed in the framework of this MTR. The evidence indicates that a high percentage of credit beneficiaries are</p>

						<p>people who have worked with Heifer before the CONECTA+ project began.</p> <p>No benefits were identified to have measurably improved the resilience of ecosystem services in the area of CONECTA's influence. According to interviews with at least 10 key informants, the Project has directed the economic benefits to a select group of beneficiaries, and serious deficiencies are perceived in the scope of the expected social and environmental benefits, and this is mainly due to the absolute absence of guidelines to integrate the environmental dimension (mainly the restoration of corridors and ecosystem resilience) in Agreements between the responsible partners and the project.</p>
Outcome 4: Knowledge management and M&E						
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	First PIR Report	Mid-Term Achievement	Final Targets	Cumulative progress (December 2021)	Justification of the Rating
4.1. Number of documents on successful experiences in the incorporation of conservation of biodiversity, SFM, and reduction of land degradation objectives in PAs and sustainable production landscapes prioritized by the project.	0	The preparation of documents on successful experiences such as fire control manual, guide on sustainable practices for coffee and cocoa producers, financial instruments for farmers, etc is planned to start in 2021.	4	10	<p>3 preliminary documents have been drafted. They still need to be edited for publication and this will be done as soon as the communication specialist is hired in September 2021.</p> <p>These documents are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manual on Financial Services 2. Fire Strategy 3. Methodology for establishing biological corridors. 	Result 4.1 has significant progress (in relation to what was planned) and it is projected to overcome the barrier identified in the ProDoc regarding limited access to information and training on sustainable production systems. At mid-term, the PIR 2021 indicates that more than 10 documents related to the methodology for the spatial distribution of biological corridors and credits have been produced, and the Project was only able to hire a communications expert 2 years after the project began. This has been a big gap so far because, according to the ProDoc, that person will be responsible for editing these documents, in

						<p>order to have versions that can be shared and support the socialization of the project and the dissemination of its progress. Despite the advances in this expected result, it is important to highlight that this R4.1 does not correspond to a "consequence" of the Project interventions, but rather to a "product" in the chain of results directed towards the main objective. As mentioned in the Project Design section (JC 1.1) of this report, the MTR identifies the lack of formulation of a SMART indicator that measures the Effects of these documents in terms of transformations they generate to strengthen the resilience of ecosystem services. In contrast to the above and when approaching with the interested parties about the management of knowledge about the current situation of biodiversity, the MTR identified that although some documents have been produced that could be important for the beneficiaries, in general, the management of knowledge for this Component is judged as being unsatisfactory to date, as expressed by more than 70% of the people interviewed in the framework of this evaluation. Therefore, there is no evidence of documentation of successful experiences in incorporating the objectives of biodiversity conservation, neither to reduce land degradation in PAs nor in the prioritized productive landscapes. Finally, there is no evidence that any of the agroforestry systems have been replicated to any significant extent. Finally, as of mid-term, there is no evidence that the use of LMTs that are directly</p>
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						strengthening any biological corridor that the project addresses.
4.2 Number of replications of agroforestry systems using LMTs that strengthen one local biological corridor not covered by the project	0	This activity is planned to start in 2021.	4	10	This activity is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2022 and be supported by the project team and responsible parties, including the communications specialist.	The MTR could not find documented evidence of replications of agroforestry systems using LMTs to strengthen a biological corridor.

Annex 5b: Scoring Values

Ratings of progress in achieving outcomes: (one rating for each outcome and objective)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	It is expected to achieve or exceed the objectives/results established by the end of the project without major shortcomings. Progress towards achievement of objectives/results can be presented as 'good practice'.
5	Satisfactory (S)	It is expected to achieve most of the objectives/results established by the end of the project with only minimal shortcomings.
4	Moderately satisfactory (MS)	It is expected to achieve most of the objectives/results established for the final project, but with significant shortcomings.
3	Moderately unsatisfactory (MU)	It is expected to achieve most of the objectives/results established for the final project with significant shortcomings.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	Unlikely to achieve the expected objectives/results by the end of the project
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objectives/results for the mid-term have not been achieved and it is not expected that any of those established will be achieved by the end of the project.

Assessment of the execution of the project and adaptive management: (an overall assessment)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of the seven components – management mechanisms, work planning, financing and co-financing, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, information and communication – is leading to effective and efficient implementation and management. adaptive. The project can be presented as a "good practice".
5	Satisfactory (S)	The implementation of most of the components is leading to effective and efficient execution and adaptive management, except for a few that require corrective action.
4	Moderately satisfactory (MS)	The implementation of some of the components is leading to effective and efficient execution and adaptive management, although some of the components require corrective action.
3	Moderately unsatisfactory (MU)	The implementation of some of the components is not leading to effective and efficient execution and adaptive management of the project; most components require corrective action.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	The implementation of most of the components is not leading to effective and efficient execution and adaptive project management.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	None of the components is implemented in a way that is conducive to effective and efficient execution and adaptive project management.

Assessment of sustainability		
4	Likely (L)	Minimal risk to sustainability; the most important results are on track to be achieved at the end of the project and are expected to continue in the near future.
3	Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but it is expected that at least some results will be sustainable due to the progress observed in the achievement of the goals during the mid-term review.
2	Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that the most important results will not continue after the end of the project, although some products and activities should continue.
1	Unlikely (U)	Serious risk that project results and key deliverables may not be sustained.

Annex 6: MTR Mission Itinerary

Dates	MTR CONECTA+. Chronogram of Activities (2021-2022)
November to December 2021	PHASE 1: Inception Phase
1-7 Nov.	1.1. Finalize and sign the contract
1-14 Nov.	1.2. Delivery of available documentation
1 Nov- 5 Dec.	1.3. Documentation Review
1-7 Nov.	1.4. Finalize work plan based on feedback
1-7 Nov.	1.5. Design the EMT criteria; final logistics for the field trip to Tegucigalpa; Preliminary list of people to interview.
1-7 Nov.	1.6. Presentation of the EMT initiation report
November to December 2021	PHASE 2: Interviews, Field Mission and Systematization of findings
15 Nov.	2.1. Meeting with the UNDP CO and Project Coordination
15-21 Nov.	2.2. Interview with key actors (IHCAFE, HEIFER, FUNDER, IUCN, ICF)
15-28 Nov.	2.3. Visit to the projects of the humid arid biological corridor of the south-west and interviews with co-managers, local governments, community leaders.
22 Nov- 5 Dec.	2.4. Systematize the results of the triangulation and transcribe
5 Dec.	2.5. Presentation of the initial findings - last day of the EMT mission
December-January	PHASE 3: Preparation of Draft MTR Report
6-12 Dec.	3.1. Finalize the systematization, triangulation and analysis of the results of the interviews and the field trip.
13 Dec. 2021- 5 de Jan. 2022	3.2. Preparation of the draft report
6-15 Jan. 2022	3.3. Validation mission to Honduras
26 January 2022	3.3. Presentation of the draft of the final EMT report
January - February	FASE 4: Finalización del informe de EMT
<p>Note: While the Evaluation Team (ET) submitted the draft report and final reports on the agreed upon dates, significant delays were experienced by UNDP in providing requested information and feedback. It is also noteworthy that after the ET responded to all comments by the project Coordinator and the UNDP manager, new comments were sent by both.. Once these were addressed, additional comments were sent to the ET from the responsible partners one month after the final audit matrix was submitted.. The English version was submitted on the requested date. However, it was submitted by UNDP 2 weeks after it had been received from the ET. Consequently, significant delays on the part of UNDP and the project coordinator (up to 4 ½ months) in receiving requested information and feedback.</p>	
-	4.1. Incorporate audit comments (4 separate audit reports were submitted in Spanish, even though the ET understood that in the name of efficiency that only one audit was required to address all comments); and one audit trail was submitted to the Regional Office in English
-	4.2. Preparation of the Final Report (despite having submitted the final

	report in Spanish, adianta comments were sent to the ET' one month later by the Responsible partners)
-	4.3. Presentation of the Final Report of the EMT

Annex 7: List of Persons Interviewed

No.	Name	Institution	Position	Location
1	Aldo Flores	CONECTA	Project coordinator	Tegucigalpa
2	Astrid Mejía	PNUD	Program officer of the country office of UNDP Honduras	Tegucigalpa
3	Alejandra Reyes	ICF	Head of Protected Areas	Tegucigalpa
4	Ángela Sánchez	ICF La Esperanza, Intibucá	Regional Head of Public Administration	La Esperanza
5	Adalberto Padilla	UICN	Honduran Director	Tegucigalpa
6	Marco Carias	UICN	Connect+ Coordinator	Santa Rosa de Copán
7	Francisco Aceituno	DiBio MiAmbiente	Environmental Analyst, Biological Corridors Focal Point	Tegucigalpa
8	Skarlet Pineda	DiBio MiAmbiente	Environmental Analyst, Biological Corridors Focal Point	Tegucigalpa
9	Francis Tejada	MAPANCE	Manager	Gracias, Lempira
10	Hermes Vega	MAPANCE	CB Cacique Lempira	Gracias Lempira
11	Ludwin Argeñal	MAPANCE	Natural Resources Program	Gracias, Lempira
12	Rommel Sarmiento	FAO	Connect+ Component	Tegucigalpa
13	Alexis Irías	PNUD Retirado	NRM Specialist	Tegucigalpa
14	Antonio Ramírez	Coordinadora Nacional Ancestral de Derechos indígenas Maya Chortí de Honduras (CNADIMCHH)	President	Copán Ruinas
15	José Ernesto Suchite	Coordinadora Nacional Ancestral de Derechos indígenas Maya Chortí de Honduras (CNADIMCHH)	Regional Coordinator	San Antonio, Copán
16	Vicente Agustín	Coordinadora Nacional Ancestral de Derechos indígenas Maya Chortí de Honduras (CNADIMCHH)	President	Copán Ruinas
17	Claudia Oliva	CAFEL	President	Copán Ruinas
18	Roberto Lemus	CAFEL	President	Copán Ruinas
19	Rosario García	Organización Nacional Indígena Lenca de Honduras, ONILH	President	Comayagua
20	Víctor Saravia	AESMO	President	San Marcos de Ocotepeque
21	Rigoberto Rosa	AJAAM Talgua Lempira	President	San Ramón,
22	Marnie Portillo	MiAmbiente	Assistant to the Vice Minister	Tegucigalpa
23	Ricardo Villeda	EACP Fuente de Vida	Partner	Monte La Virgen, Talgua, Lempira
24	Karla Argentina	EACP Fuente de Vida	Partner	Monte La Virgen,

	Mejía			Talgua, Lempira
25	Marlon Berríos	EACP Fuente de Vida	President	Monte La Virgen, Talgua, Lempira
26	Ebert Mayorga	HEIFER	Local Technical Expert	Gracias, Lempira
27	Carlos Serrano	EACP El Limón	President	Limón, Talgua, Lempira
28	José Mercedes Serrano	EACP El Limón	Partner	Limón, Talgua, Lempira
29	Juana Benítez	Grupo Unidos por el Esfuerzo	President	San Juan, Lempira
30	Jeaneth Gómez	Grupo Unidos por el Esfuerzo	Partner	San Juan, Lempira
31	María Aguilar	Grupo Unidos por el Esfuerzo	Partner	San Juan, Lempira
32	Francisco Velásquez	Productor de Cacao	Cacao Producer	Varsovia, Taulabe
33	Rosa Sánchez	CDIL	President	Gracias, Lempira
34	Julio Chinchilla	HEIFER	Special advisor	Santa Rosa de Copán
35	Roberto Rodríguez	OCP/MiAmbiente	Assistant	Tegucigalpa
36	Angélica Ramírez	CNADIMCHH	Secretary	Copán Ruinas
37	Marco Peña	CNADIMCHH	Partner	Sinuapa, Ocotepeque
38	Nelson Pineda	CNADIMCHH	Partner	Ocotepeque
39	Ángel Peña	CNADIMCHH	Partner	Ocotepeque
40	Vicente Ramírez	CNADIMCHH	Coordinator	Copán Ruinas
41	Maximino Herrera	CNADIMCHH	Partner	Ocotepeque
42	Ivis Rodríguez	IHCAFE	Technical Expert	Santa Bárbara
43	Sonia López	UICN	Administrator	Santa Rosa de Copán
44	Ferrel Rivas	IUCN	Technical Expert	Santa Rosa de Copán
45	Karla Barillas	MAKAEN	Proprietor	Santa Rosa de Copán
46	Victoriano Pérez	CNADIMCHH	Regional Coordinator	Santa Rosa de Copán
47	Lidia Martínez	CNADIMCHH	Secretary of Finances	Santa Rosa de Copán
48	Mery Hernández	CONNECTA	Gender specialist	Tegucigalpa
49	Jorge Salaverri	MiAmbiente	Actual Vice Minister	Tegucigalpa
50	Malcolm Stufkens	MiAmbiente	Actual Vice Minister	Tegucigalpa

Annex 8: Bibliography

Scientific Literature:

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Documents related to CONECTA+:

No.	Reference #	Name of document
1	00080923 - ACTA JdP CONECTA + Octubre 2018	Acta de Reunión Junta de Proyecto-Proyecto Paisajes Agroforestales y Manejo Forestal Sostenible que Generen Beneficios Ambientales y Económicos a Nivel Global y Local
2	00088099 Acta junta proyec2021	Acta de Reunión Junta de Proyecto-Proyecto Paisajes Agroforestales y Manejo Forestal Sostenible que Generen Beneficios Ambientales y Económicos a Nivel Global y Local- CONECTA
3	00088099-Acuerdo UN-UN entre PNUD y FAO	Acuerdo de Contribución entre el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) y la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)
4	Anexo 2 _PropuestaTécnica_UICN	Formato para Anexo 2 “Propuesta Técnica y Financiera” para Acuerdo con Partes Responsables bajo modalidad de implementación nacional . Título del proyecto: Paisajes agroforestales y manejo forestal sostenible que generen beneficios ambientales y económicos a nivel global y local
5	Carta Acuerdo FUNDER-MIAMBIENTE	Acuerdo Estándar de Responsabilidad Entre un socio implementador (SI) y una organización de sociedad civil (OSC). FUNDER-MIAMBIENTE
6	Carta Acuerdo HEIFER-MIAMBIENTE	Acuerdo Estándar de Responsabilidad Entre un socio implementador (SI) y una organización de sociedad civil (OSC). HEIFER-MIAMBIENTE

7	Carta Acuerdo IHCAFE-MIAMBIENTE	Acuerdo Estándar de Responsabilidad Entre un socio implementador (SI) y una organización de sociedad civil (OSC). IHCAFE-MIAMBIENTE
8	FUNDER Anexo 2 OSC final (1)	Anexo 2: Propuesta Técnica y Financiera para Acuerdo con Partes Responsables bajo Modalidad NIM
9	HEIFER Q2 2021	MEMORANDO DMA-0501-2021- Remisión de Liquidaciones Q2 2021 de Socios HEIFER e IHCADE. Proyecto CONECTA+
10	IHCAFE C+ Q3 2021_revisado	INFORME III TRIMESTRE PROYECTO CONECTA+/IHCAFE PROYECTO PAISAJES AGROFORESTALES Y MANEJO FORESTAL SOSTENIBLE QUE GENERAN BENEFICIOS AMBIENTALES Y ECONOMICOS A NIVEL GLOBAL Y LOCAL
11	PROPUE~1	Formato para Anexo 2 “Propuesta Técnica y Financiera” para Acuerdo con Partes Responsables bajo modalidad NIM
12	00088099 Auditoria 2020	AUDITORÍA DEL PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL DESARROLLO. PROYECTO No.00088099-00094908 “PAISAJES AGROFORESTALES Y MANEJO FORESTAL SOSTENIBLE QUE GENEREN BENEFICIOS AMBIENTALES Y ECONÓMICOS A NIVEL GLOBAL Y LOCAL (CONNECTA+)”, IMPLEMENTADO POR LA SECRETARIA DE RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENTE POR EL PERÍODO DEL 01 DE ENERO AL 31 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2020
13	00088099-auditoria 2019	INFORME DE AUDITORÍA FINANCIERA PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL DESARROLLO PROYECTO No.00088099-00094908 “PAISAJES AGROFORESTALES Y MANEJO FORESTAL SOSTENIBLE QUE GENEREN BENEFICIOS AMBIENTALES Y ECONOMICOS A NIVEL GLOBAL Y LOCAL”, IMPLEMENTADO POR LA SECRETARIA DE RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENT EL PERIODO DEL 01 DE ENERO AL 31 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2019 JUNTO CON EL INFORME DE LOS AUDITORES INDEPENDIENTES
14	AUDITORIA A PROYECTO CONECTA	AUDITORÍA DEL PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL DESARROLLO. PROYECTO No.00088099-00094908 “PAISAJES AGROFORESTALES Y MANEJO FORESTAL SOSTENIBLE QUE GENEREN BENEFICIOS AMBIENTALES Y ECONÓMICOS A NIVEL GLOBAL Y LOCAL (CONNECTA+)”, IMPLEMENTADO POR LA SECRETARÍA DE RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENTE POR EL PERÍODO DEL 01 DE ENERO AL 31 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2020
15	00088099- Reporte_visita_CONECTA+_Septiembre 2019	FORMATO DE INFORME PARA VISITAS DE CAMPO
16	PIMS 5704 GEF-6 Honduras 17December2015 Resubmission (MPN)	PIMS 5704 GEF-6 Honduras 17December2015 Resubmission (MPN)
17	POA 2020	POA 2020
18	Análisis histórico de la ejecución financiera del proyecto	
19	00088099Informe JdP dic2021	Informe para el Comité Directivo de Proyecto (CDP) 3.12.21
20	MEMOSOP-PROGRAMAS	CIRCULAR- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

21	00088099 Informe Junta de Proyecto_CONECTA+ Enero 2020	Informe para el Comité Directivo de Proyecto (CDP) 31.01.20
22	ACTA DE JUNTA CONECTA+ 012020	ACTA DE JUNTA CONECTA+ 012020
23	Informe CONECTA+ Q3 2021	Informe CONECTA+ Q3 2021
24	POA 2020 C+_Aldo Flores Marin	POA 2020 C+_Aldo Flores Marin
25	00088099 Informe CONECTA+ Tercer trimestre 2019	INFORME TRIMESTRAL 2019. Proyecto CONECTA+. Tercer Trimestre
26	00088099 Informe CONECTA+Primer trimestre 2019	INFORME TRIMESTRAL 2019. Proyecto CONECTA+. Primer Trimestre
27	00088099 Informe CONECTA+Segundo Trimestre 2019	INFORME TRIMESTRAL 2019. Proyecto CONECTA+. Segundo Trimestre
28	00088099-Informe Q1 2020	INFORME TRIMESTRAL 2020. Proyecto CONECTA+. Primer Trimestre
29	IHCAFE C+ Q3 2021_revisado	INFORME III TRIMESTRE PROYECTO CONECTA+/IHCAFE
30	Informe CONECTA+ Q1 2021	INFORME TRIMESTRAL 2021. Proyecto CONECTA+. Primer Trimestre
31	Informe CONECTA+ Q2 2021 (002)	INFORME TRIMESTRAL 2021. Proyecto CONECTA+. Segundo Trimestre
32	Informe CONECTA+ Q3 2020	INFORME TRIMESTRAL 2021. Proyecto CONECTA+. Tercer Trimestre
33	INFORME II TRIMESTRE 2021	INFORME TECNICO Y FINANCIERO II TRIMESTRE 2021
34	Informe trimestral C+ Q4 2020	INFORME TRIMESTRAL 2021. Proyecto CONECTA+. Informe trimestral de octubre, noviembre y diciembre del 2020
35	Informe Trimestral CONECTA+ Q2 2020	INFORME DE AVANCE TRIMESTRAL. Proyecto CONECTA+. Abril-Junio 2020
36	UICN_InformeTécnico_Trimestral_Conecta+_Julio-Septiembre_2021	Informe Trimestral presentado por la UICN. (Julio a septiembre 2021)
37	000880~Informe del Comité Directivo 2019	Informe para el Comité Directivo de Proyecto (CDP). 2019
38	00088099 Informe JdP C2021	Informe para el Comité Directivo de Proyecto (CDP) Nombre del Proyecto: Paisajes agroforestales y manejo forestal sostenible que generen beneficios ambientales y económicos a nivel global y local
39	Acta Reunion Junta del Proyecto 2019	Acta de Reunión jJunta de Proyecto.
40	Informe para el Comité Directivo de Proyecto 2021	Informe para el Comité Directivo de Proyecto (CDP). 2021
41	2020-GEF-PIR-PIMS5704-GEFID9262 (5)	2020- Project Implementation Review (PIR) GEF 6: Agroforestry and SFM
42	2021-GEF-PIR-PIMS5704-GEFID9262	2021- Project Implementation Review (PIR) GEF 6: Agroforestry and SFM

43	00088099 Informe de Arranque Proyecto CONECTA	Proyecto : Paisajes agroforestales y Manejo Forestal sostenible que generen beneficios ambientales y económicos a nivel global y local (CONECTA+). Informe de Arranque del Proyecto
44	PRODOC GEF6 (6)Comp_para leer	Documento de Proyecto: Proyecto Paisajes Agroforestales y Manejo Forestal Sostenible que Generen Beneficios Ambientales y Económicos a Nivel Global y Local- CONECTA
45	Vertical-Fund-COVID-Survey-April-2020-PIMS5704	Vertical Fund COVID Survey April 2020. GEF 6: Agroforestry and SFM
46	Guidance_Midterm Review _SP_2014	GUÍA PARA LA REALIZACIÓN DEL EXAMEN DE MITAD DE PERIODO EN PROYECTOS APOYADOS POR EL PNUD Y FINANCIADOS POR EL GEF

Annex 9: Cofinancing Table

The ET finally received the following cofinancing data from UNDP on March, 2022. *This delay has been completely outside the control of the evaluation team and has significantly held up the finalization of the MTR Report.*

Advances reported with Cofinancing (as of March 2022)				
Institution/organization	Cofinancing in ProDoc (\$)	Contribution by Institution/organization (\$)	Contribution by key actors (\$)	Total Contribution (\$)
IHCAFE	12,000,000	6,904,466.20	1,146,147.87	8,050,614.07
Fundación para el Desarrollo Empresarial Rural	2,000,000	410,897.56	1,267,920.00	1,678,817.56
BANRURAL	14,000,000			
MiAmbiente	4,000,000			
SAG	2,000,000			
ICF	3,592,104			
Plataforma Global del Café	500,000			
HEIFER	3,000,000			
IUCN	4,000,000	924,260.00	1,174,000.00	2,098,260.00
The Sectoral Cabinet for Economic Development	5,000,000			
Total	\$ 50,092,104	\$8,239,623.76	\$3,588,067.87	\$11,827,691.63

NOTE: The NGO *Solidaridad* sent a letter pledging \$100,000 as its cofinancing contribution.

Anexo 10: Formulario del Código de Conducta del UNEG firmado

Los evaluadores/consultores:

Deben presentar una información completa y justa en su evaluación de las fortalezas y debilidades, de tal manera que las decisiones o acciones llevadas a cabo se encuentren bien fundadas.

Deben revelar el conjunto completo de conclusiones junto con la información de sus limitaciones y tenerlo a disposición de todos aquellos afectados por la evaluación que posean el derecho expreso para recibir los resultados.

Deberán proteger el anonimato y la confidencialidad de los informantes individuales. Deberán ofrecer el máximo tiempo de notificación, limitar las demandas de tiempo y respetar el derecho de las personas a no involucrarse. Los evaluadores deberán respetar el derecho de las personas a otorgar información de manera confidencial, y deben asegurarse de que la información sensible no pueda ser rastreada hasta su origen. Los evaluadores no están obligados a evaluar a personas individuales, pero están deben mantener el equilibrio entre la evaluación de las funciones de gestión y este principio general.

En ocasiones, al realizar las evaluaciones destaparán pruebas de delitos. Se debe informar de manera discreta sobre tales casos al órgano de investigación apropiado. Los evaluadores deberán consultar con otras entidades de supervisión relevantes cuando exista la mínima duda sobre si estos temas deberían ser comunicados y de cómo deberían comunicarse.

Deberán ser sensibles hacia las creencias, usos y costumbres y actuar con integridad y honestidad en sus relaciones con todas las partes interesadas. En la línea de la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas, los evaluadores deben ser sensibles hacia los temas de discriminación e igualdad de género. Deberán evitar ofender la dignidad y autoestima de aquellas personas con las que establezcan un contacto durante la evaluación. Sabiendo que existe la posibilidad de que la evaluación afecte negativamente a los intereses de algunas partes interesadas, los evaluadores deberán conducir la evaluación y comunicar el objetivo de ésta y sus resultados de una manera que respete claramente la dignidad y la autoestima de los implicados. Son responsables de su actuación y (los) producto(s) que generen. Son responsables de una presentación escrita u oral clara, precisa y equilibrada, así como de las limitaciones, conclusiones y recomendaciones del estudio. Deberán aplicar procedimientos contables sólidos y ser prudentes a la hora de utilizar los recursos de la evaluación.

Formulario de Acuerdo del Consultor del MTR

Acuerdo para acatar el Código de Conducta para Evaluadores del sistema de la ONU:

Nombre del Consultor: Joseph Ryan

Nombre de la Organización Consultora (cuando sea necesario): Consultor Independiente

Afirmo que he recibido y entendido y que acataré el Código de Conducta para Evaluadores de las Naciones

Unidas.

Firmado en Bornholm, Dinamarca el 26 de noviembre de 2021

Firma:



Joseph Ryan

Annex 11: Signed MTR Final Report Approval Form

(to be completed by CO and UNDP GEF Technical Adviser based in the region and included in the final document)

Evaluation Report Reviewed and Cleared by

UNDP County Office

Name: Jenny Berganza

Signature: _____

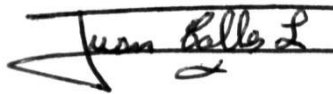


Date: April 28, 2022

UNDP GEF RTA

Name: Juan Calles López

Signature: _____



Date: July 6, 2022