



Request for Proposals (RfP)

Consultancy Services supporting the development of the GEF-8 Full-sized Mesoamerica Forest IP child project for El Salvador, “Trifinio: a natural water fabric”

Summary

IUCN seeks the services of a consultant or firm to lead the development of a full-sized GEF project, the **“Trifinio, a natural water fabric” project** (hereafter the **El Salvador Mesoamerica Forest child project**), including development and finalization of all reports and documentation including the finalized IUCN Project Document (ProDoc) and GEF CEO Endorsement Request with all required supporting annexes and documentation. The project is one of seven “child projects” that comprise the GEF-8 Mesoamerica Forest Integrated Program and that together seek to slow and reverse loss and degradation of critical remaining primary forest in the region.

The *El Salvador Mesoamerica Forest child project*, described in more detail in the attached TORs will target the Trifinio Fraternidad Biosphere Reserve located in the northwest corner of El Salvador and that extends into Guatemala and Honduras. This UNESCO Reserve total some 119,514 hectares, 59,056 ha of which are in El Salvador, and includes the Montecristo cloud forest that contains a number of endemic and threatened flora and fauna. The reserve faces a number of threats including expansion of the agricultural frontier for cattle ranching, illegal wildlife trafficking and logging, mining and extraction of stone in the bordering areas, forest fires and invasive species, and climate change among others. The Project area totals 49,712 ha of the wider Trifinio region, and includes the municipalities of Metapán, La Palma, San Ignacio and Citalá. The Rio Lempa watershed where the project is located provides water to some 37% of the metropolitan area of San Salvador and for hydroelectric energy and agriculture production. The project goals are to enhance management effectiveness of 2,348 ha of Protected Areas, restore 7,500 ha of land and support improved landscape management practices in 3,000 ha. Through the programmatic approach outlined in Mesoamerica PFD, the Project will engage in high-level and multisectoral dialogues, including those supporting regional policy coherence, finance mobilization, awareness raising, knowledge sharing and other linkages to ensure achievement of programmatic goals.

Interested Firms/Applicants are hereby invited to submit a technical and financial proposal for the aforementioned Consultancy Services. Please read the information and instructions carefully because non-compliance with the instructions may result in disqualification of your Proposal from this Procurement.

1. ABOUT IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,400 Member organisations and some 18,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people’s well-being.

2. REQUIREMENTS

2.1. A detailed description of the services to be provided can be found in Annex 1 (Terms of Reference)

3. CONTACT DETAILS

3.1. During the course of this RfP, from its publication to the award of a contract, you may not contact or discuss this procurement with any IUCN employee or representative other than the following contact. You must address all correspondence and questions to the contact, including your proposal.

IUCN Contact: Procurement Officer E-mail: procurement.Ormacc@iucn.org

4. PROCUREMENT TIMETABLE

4.1. This timetable is indicative and may be changed by IUCN at any time. If IUCN decides that changes to any of the deadlines are necessary, that will be informed.

DATE	ACTIVITY
24/07/2023	Publication of the Request for Proposals
20/08/2023	Deadline for submission of questions
24/08/2023	Deadline for submission of proposals to IUCN (" Submission Deadline ")
29/08/2023	Clarification and evaluation of proposals
05/09/2023	Planned date for contract award
15/09/2023	Expected contract start date

4.2. Send an email to the IUCN contact to register an email address to receive notifications or clarifications of this bidding process, bidders in turn will be able to confirm if they intend to submit a Proposal before the deadline indicated above.

4.3. IUCN reserves the right to issue responses to any question to all Bidders, unless the Bidder making the inquiry expressly requests, at the time of inquiry, that it be kept confidential. If IUCN considers the content of the question and/or the answer to be non-confidential, it will inform the Bidder, who will have the opportunity to withdraw the question.

4.4. At any time before the deadline for submitting Proposals, IUCN may amend the RFP and will send all Bidders who have notified their interest or, failing that, registered an email to receive notifications, and it will be disclosed in the media used. For this end.

4.5. If the amendment is substantial, IUCN may extend the deadline for submission of Proposals in order to allow Bidders a reasonable time to take the amendment into consideration in their proposals.

5. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS

5.1. The Bidder interested in submitting a Proposal must submit the following documents, in the order listed, placing:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- a. Copy of identification document or passport (in case of being a foreigner)
- b. Copy of legal invoice for fees collection.
- c. Copy of resume
- d. Letter of interest signed, indicating that the Consultant have read, understood and accept the content of these Terms of Reference. (Annex 2)
- e. Signed Declaration of Undertaking (Annex 3a)
- f. Human Resources Questionnaire filled and signed (Annex 4)

FOR CONSULTANCY COMPANIES:

- a. Copy of Certification of Incorporation
- b. Copy of identification document of the Legal Representative
- c. Copy of legal invoice for fees collection.
- d. Copy of resumes of the Consulting Team
- e. Letter of interest signed, indicating that the Consultant have read, understood and accept the content of these Terms of Reference. (Annex 2)
- f. Signed Declaration of Undertaking signed by the Representative of the Consulting Company or, in the case of a Consortium or group of Consultants, signed by each member indicating that they have read and understood the content of the Declaration (Annex 3b)
- g. Human Resources Questionnaire filled and signed (Annex 4)

B. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL:

- i. The technical proposal must address each of the criteria listed below explicitly and separately, citing the reference number of the relevant criterion (Description column).

	Description	Information to be presented	Relative importance (%)
1	<i>Methodology to be implemented and schedule with logical dimension of time</i>		15%
2	<i>Experience in El Salvador</i>	<i>Company Profile / CV / Responsible for the Consultancy</i>	10%
3	<i>Experience in GEF Project document elaboration (minimum 10 years)</i>	<i>Company Profile / CV / Responsible for the Consultancy</i>	15%
4	<i>Experience in Environmental and Social safeguard and gender-sensitive project design (minimum 10 years)</i>	<i>Company Profile / CV / Responsible for the Consultancy</i>	20%
5	<i>Experience with tools and assessments identified in ToR.</i>	<i>Company Profile / CV / Responsible for the Consultancy</i>	30%
6	<i>Familiarity with project areas</i>		10%
TOTAL			100%

- i. IUCN will evaluate the technical proposals with respect to each of the criteria indicated in point i) and their relative importance.

- ii. Proposals in any other format will significantly increase the evaluation time and therefore such proposals may be rejected at the discretion of IUCN.
- iii. When resumes (CVs) are requested, these should be from the people who will perform the specified job. Persons submitted as part of the Proposal may only be replaced with the approval of IUCN.
- iv. In the event that a company or group of consultants applies, in addition to the above information, the following must be specified:
 - Responsible for consulting
 - Composition of the consulting team, specialty of each member.
 - Role and responsibility in the activities/products of each member in accordance with the TOR

C. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL:

Signed by the Proposer, indicating the value of professional services (USD) in numbers and letters.

- i. It will be considered that the prices presented include all the costs of fees, insurance, taxes, obligations and risks that must be considered for compliance with the Terms of Reference. IUCN will not accept charges beyond those clearly indicated in the Financial Proposal and that are eligible for the execution of the Contract.
- ii. The Bidder will have to assume the payments corresponding to taxes according to regulations in force in its country; You will have to have health and life insurance up to date; and will assume the bank charges by transfer.
- iii. If local or international trips must be made for the execution of this Contract, the costs will be paid by IUCN through reimbursement and will be governed by the IUCN per diem scale for food and lodging.
- iv. Travel expenses related to the execution of this Contract will not exceed the total amount of 10,000 USD broken down as follows:

Expense type	Maximum amount
Meals	6,000
Surface Transportation	3,000
Accomodation	6,000
Other expenses (detailed)	

- v. For reimbursement of travel expenses, the Proposer must submit a financial report with original invoices/receipts (e.g., transportation, lodging, food and incidentals) to the IUCN Contact Person, in the currency of the Contract, so that the corresponding reimbursement can be processed.

- vi. Expenses related to vehicle maintenance, purchase of electronic equipment, cell phone expenses, consumption expenses or purchase of alcoholic beverages will be considered ineligible expenses.
- vii. Breakdown of the Financial Proposal.

For information purposes, it is recommended that the details of the financial proposal be broken down as follows:

	Description	Quantity	Unit price*	Total price*
1				
2				
3				

*USD currency

5.2. Additional information not requested by IUCN should not be included in the proposal and will not be subject to evaluation.

6. SENDING

6.1. The Proposal must be submitted by email to the IUCN Contact (see Section 2). The subject heading of the email shall be [RfP Reference – Proposer name]. The Proposer name is the name of the company/organisation on whose behalf the proposal is being submitted, or the surname of the Proposer in case is bidding as a self-employed consultant. The proposal must be submitted in PDF format. The Proposer may submit multiple emails suitably annotated, e.g., Email 1 of 3, if attached files are too large to suit a single email transmission. You may not submit your Proposal by uploading it to a file-sharing tool (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive, etc)

7. ELIGIBILITY

7.1. Not applicable

8. VALIDITY

8.1. The proposal must remain valid and capable of acceptance by IUCN for a period of 60 calendar days following the submission deadline.

9. WITHDRAWALS AND CHANGES

9.1. Proposers may freely withdraw or change their proposal at any time prior to the submission deadline by written notice to the IUCN Contact. However, in order to reduce the risk of fraud, no changes or withdrawals will be accepted after the submission deadline.

10. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

10.1. Completeness

IUCN will firstly check your proposal for completeness. Incomplete proposals will not be considered further.

10.2. Technical Evaluation

IUCN will evaluate technical proposals with regards to each of the following criteria and their relative importance:

10.2.1. *Scoring Method*

Proposals will be assigned a score from 0 to 10 for each of the technical evaluation criteria, such that '0' is low and '10' is high. Proposals that receive a score of '0' for any of the criteria will not be considered further.

10.2.2. *Technical Score*

The score for each technical evaluation criterion will be multiplied with the respective relative weight and these weighted scores added together to give the proposal's overall technical score.

10.3. Financial Evaluation and Financial Scores

The financial evaluation will be based upon the full total price submitted. Financial proposals will receive a score calculated by dividing the lowest financial proposal that has passed the minimum quality thresholds by the total price of your financial proposal.

The proposals total score will be calculated as the weighted sum of the technical score and financial score.

The relative weights will be:

Technical: 70%
Financial: 30%

Subject to the requirements in Sections 4 and 7, IUCN will award the contract to the Proposer whose proposal achieves the highest total score.

11. **EXPLANATION OF PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE**

11.1. IUCN is using the Invitation Procedure for this procurement. This means that only invited bidders may submit a proposal. IUCN typically invites from four to six bidders to submit a proposal.

11.2. You are welcome to ask questions or seek clarification regarding this procurement. Please email the IUCN Contact (see Section 2), taking note of the deadline for submission of questions in Section 3.1. Late proposals will not be considered. All proposals received by the submission deadline will be evaluated by a team of three or more evaluators in accordance with the evaluation criteria stated in in this RfP. No other criteria will be used to evaluate proposals. The contract will be awarded to the Proposer whose proposal received the highest Total Score. IUCN does, however, reserve the right to cancel the procurement and not award a contract at all.

11.3. IUCN will contact all Proposers who submitted their proposal to inform them of the outcome of the evaluation. The timeline in Section 3.1 gives an estimate of when the contract award is expected to be completed, however this date may change depending on how long the evaluation of the proposals takes.

12. **CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROCUREMENT**

12.1. To participate in this procurement, the Proposers are required to submit a proposal, which fully complies with the instructions in this RfP and the Attachments.

12.1.1. It is responsibility of each Proposer to ensure the submission of a complete and fully compliant proposal.

12.1.2. Any incomplete or incorrectly completed proposal submission may be deemed non-compliant, and as a result will not be consider to proceed further in the procurement process.

12.1.3. IUCN will query any obvious clerical errors in a proposal and may, at IUCN's sole discretion, allow a Proposer to correct these, but only if doing so could not be perceived as giving an unfair advantage.

12.2. In order to participate in this procurement, the Proposer must meet the following conditions:

- Free of conflicts of interest
- Registered on the relevant professional or trade register of the country in which is established (or resident, if self-employed)
- In full compliance with its obligations relating to payment of social security contributions and of all applicable taxes
- Not been convicted of failing to comply with environmental regulatory requirements or other legal requirements relating to sustainability and environmental protection
- Not bankrupt or being wound up
- Never been guilty of an offence concerning professional conduct
- Not involved in fraud, corruption, a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism, or any other illegal activity.

12.3. Each Proposer shall submit only one proposal, either individually or as a partner in a joint venture. In case of joint venture, one company shall not be allowed to participate in two different joint ventures in the same procurement nor shall a company be allowed to submit a proposal both on its behalf and as part of a joint venture for the same procurement. A Proposer who submits or participates in more than one proposal (other than as a subcontractor or in cases of alternatives that have been permitted or requested) shall cause all the proposals with the Proposer's participation to be disqualified.

12.4. By taking part in this procurement, the Proposer accept the conditions set out in this RfP, including the following:

- It is unacceptable to give or offer any gift or consideration to an employee or other representative of IUCN as a reward or inducement in relation to the awarding of a contract. Such action will give IUCN the right to exclude you from this and any future procurements, and to terminate any contract that may have been signed with you.
- Any attempt to obtain information from an employee or other representative of IUCN concerning another bidder will result in disqualification.
- Any price fixing or collusion with other Proposers in relation to this procurement shall give IUCN the right to exclude you and any other involved bidder(s) from this and any future procurements and may constitute a criminal offence.

13. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

13.1. IUCN follows the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The information a Proposer submits to IUCN as part of this procurement will be treated as confidential and shared only as required to evaluate the proposal in line with the procedure explained in this RfP, and for the maintenance of a clear audit trail. For audit purposes, IUCN is required to retain the proposals in its entirety for 10 years after the end of the resulting contract and make this available to internal and external auditors and donors as and when requested.

13.2. In the Declaration of Undertaking (Attachment 3) the Proposer needs to give IUCN express permission to use the information submitted in this way, including personal data that forms part of the proposal. Where a Proposer include personal data of employees (e.g. CVs) in the proposal, the Proposer needs to have written permission from those individuals to share this information with IUCN, and for IUCN to use this information as

indicated in 8.1. Without these permissions, IUCN will not be able to consider the proposal.

14. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

14.1. If a Proposer has a complaint or concern regarding the propriety of how a competitive process is or has been executed, then please contact sofiamariela.madrigal@iucn.org. Such complaints or concerns will be treated as confidential and are not considered in breach of the above restrictions on communication (Section 2.1).

15. CONTRACT

15.1. The contract will be based on IUCN's template which terms of which are not negotiable.

16. ANNEXES

Annex 1 *Specification of Requirements / Terms of Reference*

Annex 2 *Letter of Interest*

Annex 3 *Declaration of Undertaking (select 2a for companies or 2b for self-employed)*

Annex 4 *Results Framework, Mesoamerica Forest IP*

Annex 5 *El Salvador Child Project Concept*

**ATTACHMENT 1
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**The Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean of the
International Union for the Conservation of Nature**

(IUCN-ORMACC)

REQUIRES

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

**supporting the development of the
GEF-8 Full-sized Mesoamerica Forest IP child project for El Salvador, “Trifinio: a natural
water fabric”**

Type of Contract:	Professional Consultancy Services
Period:	7 months
Availability:	September 2023
Persons Responsible for Supervision:	Tony Nello, Thematic expert; Josh Schneck, GEF GCF Portfolio Manager for Global Programs

1. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

Overview

Programming for the eighth funding cycle of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF-8)¹ includes resources and programming for a so-called *Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program* that seeks “conservation of the last and globally important primary tropical forests”. This GEF Integrated Program (IP) is operationally divided into 5 separate regional IPs focused on the Amazon basin, Guinean forests, Indo-Malaya forests, Congo basin forests, and Mesoamerican forests.

IUCN has been selected to serve as the Lead GEF Agency for **the GEF-8 Mesoamerican Forest IP**. The program will be comprised of seven “child projects,” including national projects in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, and a *Regional Coordination, Knowledge Sharing and Support Project* (hereafter called *the Regional child project*). These terms of reference describe the objectives, responsibilities and key deliverables for an International Consultancy supporting IUCN in developing the El Salvador child project, “Trifinio: a natural water fabric” (hereafter the El Salvador Mesoamerica Forest child project) for approval by GEF and IUCN.

Background on Mesoamerican Forest IP

Stretching from Central Mexico to the eastern Panamanian frontier, the forests of Mesoamerica are vital and irreplaceable. They are also among the world’s most threatened – nearly half of the region’s natural habitats have been converted to agriculture or urban areas, and out of the 5 remaining intact forests, 3 have lost nearly 25% of their area in just the past 15 years.

The GEF-8 **Mesoamerican Forest IP** seeks to slow and reverse loss and degradation of critical remaining primary forests in the region. In Mesoamerica, principle proximate threats to primary forests are deforestation and degradation from agriculture expansion largely for cattle ranching, logging (both legal and illegal), and fire, along with infrastructure development and wildlife trafficking. To address these drivers the program will apply a

¹ https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-04/GEF_R.08_29_Rev.01_GEF8_Programming_Directions.pdf

strategy of supporting strengthening and enhancement of national and regional enabling conditions for primary forest conservation through coordinated interventions supporting strengthened capacities, governance, protection, mobilization of funding, exchange and awareness raising.

The ***El Salvador Mesoamerica Forest child project*** is designed to support transformational change towards the conservation and sustainable management of the Trifinio Fraternidad Biosphere Reserve. The Biosphere Reserve, formally declared as such in 2011, is located in northwestern El Salvador and extends into Guatemala and Honduras. The reserve is 148,500 ha in total, of which 106,920 ha are in El Salvador. Some 1643 species have been assessed (IUCN Red List), of which 9 are listed as critically endangered, 44 as endangered and 53 as vulnerable. This UNESCO biosphere reserve includes the Montecristo cloud forest, which contains several endemic and threatened flora and fauna species, including the *Monotropha coccinea*, *Sobralia lepida* and *Isochilus major* tree species.

The reserve faces a number of threats, including the expansion of the agricultural frontier, livestock cattle ranching, illegal wildlife trafficking and logging, mining and stone quarrying on the border and stone quarrying in bordering areas, forest fires and invasive species, and climate change, among others. The project area covers 49,712 ha of the Trifinio region and includes the municipalities of Metapán, La Palma, San Ignacio and Citalá (see Map 1). The Lempa River watershed, where the project is located, supplies water to 37% of the San Salvador metropolitan area through its water recharge areas (surface and subway aquifer), as well as for hydroelectric power production and agriculture.

Among other concerns, there is a need to better integrate forests and forest management into land use planning and zoning at the national-local level, and to improve intersectoral coordination between national and local authorities to promote coherent regulations and financing for sustainable forest and protected area management.

Specific outputs and services under the El Salvador Mesoamerica Forest Child Project, by component include:

- 1. Adoption/integration of enabling policies, reforms and planning.**
 - Establishment of inter-ministerial platforms and processes that support integrated land-use planning and policies conducive to Critical Forest Biome (CFB) conservation, as well as activities necessary to translate strategies into enforceable national policies.
 - Strengthening of the current national environmental incentive program through policy, regulatory and legal reforms.
 - Biodiversity assessments that support the integration of biodiversity conservation into national, provincial and local land use plans.
- 2. Accelerated protection and restoration of the Trifinio Fraternity Biosphere Reserve (RBTF).**
 - Strengthened management and enforcement of Natural Protected Areas (NPA) for endangered species conservation, including integration of trained community patrol teams and approaches to control and monitor illegal logging and poaching inside and outside NPAs.
 - Assessments and selective productive restoration in buffer zones and areas where needed to restore ecosystem connectivity.
 - At least 5 Nature+ projects (including agroforestry, animal husbandry, sustainable timber, etc.) supported under local community management with active participation of women and private sector partners.
 - Improving the capacity of CSOs, the local community and the private sector for sustainable land management and conservation.
- 3. Increased investments in forest positive landscapes.**
 - Develop National Environmental Incentive Program funding strategy to link forest, biodiversity and water management and facilitate investment in IFL conservation, potentially utilizing innovative finance including blended finance, green bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, biodiversity offsets, REDD+.
 - Web-based, Blockchain-enabled conservation crowdfunding that links social and environmental impact investors to community-led conservation work, using existing and partnered platforms and marketplaces
- 4. Monitoring and knowledge sharing:**
 - South-South learning and exchange, including IP workshops and events, dialogues and community of practice.

- High-level events and communications targeting forestry and non-forestry government and civil society audiences to raise awareness of CFB and resources.
- Compilation and sharing of experiences through high quality communication materials.
- Landscape-level monitoring to generate evidence and baseline of global environmental benefits associated with conservation and restoration of the RBTF.
- Apply the Sustainable EI Salvador Index - to demonstrate the global benefits of conservation and restoration of the RBT - with support from the World Bank.
- Strengthen the local species conservation program, especially the local monitoring system to track presence and threats to species at risk of extinction, leveraging existing dataset, citizen science and technologies.

Duties and Responsibilities

The selected International Consultancy firm or individual will support IUCN in developing the GEF-8 EI Salvador Mesoamerica Forest IP Project **CEO Endorsement Request**. Specific duties and responsibilities include the following:

1. Under the direction of the IUCN GEF/GCF Portfolio Manager for Global Programs and senior staff in IUCN regional and country offices in Mesoamerica, **lead in coordinating a consultative CEO Endorsement Request development process** with all relevant public agencies and local governments, GEF Secretariat, and key external partners including those from the private sector, civil society, and academia.
2. **Assessments and engagement work to identify highest-value opportunities** for improved protected areas management, community-led conservation, businesses and value chain investment in deforestation-free ventures, enabling policy and regulatory enhancement, and financing mechanisms to mobilize new and additional finance for forest conservation as part of the Project's supported interventions.
3. **Lead the organization and implementation of the EI Salvador Forest IP Project *Development Inception Workshop***, with participation of country representatives, GEF Secretariat, GEF Agency, potential partners, and potential executing partners, to support design of the Project and ensure full support and ownership from project stakeholders.
4. **Lead the drafting of the EI Salvador Forest IP Project CEO Endorsement Request, IUCN Project Document, and all required annexes**, in accordance with the transformative vision defined by GEF-8 programming and IUCN, and with inputs from participating country representatives in close coordination with the NDA, participating GEF Agencies, and other stakeholders. The CEO Endorsement Request shall meet all requirements for approval by the GEF Secretariat, GEF Science and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), and GEF Council, and be informed by the best and latest science and best practices on conservation and sustainable management of forests, and tailored to the context and drivers of degradation specific to EI Salvador and the selected landscapes.
5. **Lead the organization and implementation of a EI Salvador Forest IP Project *Validation Workshop***, with participation of relevant public agencies and local governments, GEF Secretariat, and potential executing partners, for participants to validate the design of the fully developed Project document and annexes.
6. **Revise draft CEO Endorsement Request, IUCN Project document, and all Annexes** to respond to all GEF Secretariat, GEF STAP, and Country comments sufficient to achieve GEF approval of the CEO Endorsement Request.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY

2.1. General:

Support IUCN in developing the GEF-8 EI Salvador Mesoamerica Forest IP Project CEO Endorsement Request, Project document, and all required annexes.

2.2. Specific:

1. Lead in coordinating a consultative CEO Endorsement Request development process and the organization and implementation of a *Project Development Inception Workshop*
2. Develop assessments including ecological and socio-economic studies, required to identify highest-value opportunities and inform on activities and priority sites for intervention.

3. Carry out relevant assessments and consultations for identifying and assessing safeguard risks and prepare respective reports and tools to manage the identified safeguard risks;
4. Drafting of the EI Salvador Forest IP CEO Endorsement Request, IUCN Project Document (using IUCN template), and all required Annexes.
5. Lead the organization and implementation of EI Salvador Forest IP *Project Validation Workshop* and provide a Revised draft CEO Endorsement Request and project document, and all required Annexes.

6. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Key deliverables to be developed by the International Consultancy and provided to IUCN:

No.	Deliverable	Description
1	Program Development Inception Workshop Terms of Reference (TORs) and summary report.	ToR of the inception workshop must include a detailed agenda, potential list of organizations/speakers involved, logistic needs and allow the dissemination of key information and orientation guidelines to the country and project stakeholder for the design of the project as well as gathering input from the stakeholders involved in target landscapes. A summary report should capture participants, events and findings obtained from the inception workshop.
2	Engagement work and assessments to identify and develop high value and priority interventions under Component 1 , Adoption of Enabling Policies, Reforms and Planning, Component 2 , Accelerated protection and restoration of the RTBF forest, Component 3 , Scaled up Investment in Forest-Positive Landscapes and Component 4 , Enhanced Regional Cooperation and Coordination.	<p>Deliverables per component must include:</p> <p>Component 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of minimum five national/subnational policies and regulations important for primary forest conservation and protection and where opportunities for strengthening through project-supported interventions exist, in line with regional policy framework (e.g. AFOLU 2040 strategy) 2. Design of an effective policy-influencing plan together with country partners considering synergies with dialogues to be supported at regional level. 3. Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of local or national governance structures to be strengthened/created through the Project intervention. 4. Plan for design and establishment/strengthening of a national multi-sectoral platform for the coordination of primary forest conservation. <p>Component 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Analysis of the management effectiveness of NPAs using the GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool, identification of priority PAs to be supported by the project intervention, and a plan for strengthening NPAs. 6. Identification of the baseline and potential sites for intervention for land restoration and improved landscape management (including through OECMs) based on a prioritization of the deforested/degraded forest landscape. Assessment will include a plan detailing investment and needs for restoration and improved landscape management considering the highest priority sites as agreed with project partners. 7. Design of high-value capacity building interventions for community-led conservation initiatives including OECMs to address priority needs. <p>Component 3:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. An assessment of investment opportunities and needs for deforestation free, Nature-positive value chains in

		<p>the Project landscapes, including a list of possible ventures, businesses or community initiatives that could be strengthened to attract financing for forest conservation, detailing if there is a business plan, amounts and type of financial resources required and possible to leverage.</p> <p>9. An effective finance mobilization strategy to provide new/additional funding for forest conservation including potential use of innovative finance instruments such as PES, Green Bonds, Biodiversity Credits, and more at national level, in synergy with the regional finance mobilization strategy.</p> <p>Component 4:</p> <p>10. A report on the role of women and local communities in forest conservation and identification of key project activities to be co-implemented with women and/or local community through their relevant social organizations to promote inclusive governance in PAs and OECMs and enhance their access to funding.</p> <p>11. Design of an effective knowledge capture and dissemination strategy, including collaboration with the Program and key external partners and initiatives.</p> <p>12. Design of an effective Project monitoring system, building on existing platforms and tools</p> <p>Input for the ESMS Screening decision: A report on the socio-economic and -cultural context at landscape level and, most importantly, relevant features of the (potential) intervention sites: legal framework for land tenure and actual ownership and rights situation in each site, identification of main ethnic and social groups present in the sites (incl marginalized or vulnerable groups) and analysing their main features (language, livelihood, dependency on nature, territory, culture and spiritual traditions, social organization and customary institutions); gender-disaggregation of the above themes highlighting differences in roles, practices and knowledge, on rights and power (including influence on decision making) as well as access to and control over resources; security situation (organized crime) and framework for environmental law enforcement and actors involved;</p>
3	<p>Relevant assessments and consultations for identifying and assessing safeguard risks and prepare respective reports and tools to manage the identified safeguard risks</p>	<p>Deliverables must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Component 1: Strategic Environmental and Social assessment (SESA) report on social and environmental risks potentially triggered by a strengthening of national/ subnational policies and regulations important for primary forest conservation and protection; 2. Component 2: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Report carried out in the sites supported under component 2. b. Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and any other relevant safeguard tools (e.g., Process Framework etc.), as appropriate and as instructed by ESMS Screening. 3. Component 3: procedures to guide the screening of the business and value chain investments to be

		<p>identified during project implementation on environmental and social risks (before being selected and validated by the project)</p> <p>4. Project-level Grievance mechanism</p>
4	<p>Draft Mesoamerican Forest IP CEO Endorsement Request and IUCN Project Document and all required annexes and ToR for validation workshop</p>	<p>The draft GEF CEO Request, prepared using the GEF8 template, must include all required annexes and sections including a stakeholder engagement plan, gender analysis and Action Plan, private sector engagement plan, Project Result Framework and Project Budget table.</p> <p>This product also includes ToR for the validation workshop and a Project Document (using IUCN template), the evaluation of the suitability of potential executing partners, and of co-financing opportunities according to the GEF leverage requirement (1:7) to be delivered in a separate document. The CEO endorsement request should be generated in Spanish and English to facilitate the feedback process in El Salvador and with the GEF. An annex will be included for the calculation of emission reduction potential using EX ACT, according to GEF guidelines.</p>
5	<p>Revised draft CEO Endorsement Request with all required annexes sufficient for approval by GEF and updated IUCN Project Document.</p>	<p>The revised draft CEO Endorsement Request shall respond to all GEF Secretariat, GEF STAP, Agency partner, and Country comments sufficient to achieve GEF approval of the CEO Endorsement Request. In addition, this product shall include a summary of feedback received from the validation workshop and updated project document (using IUCN template). The final endorsement request should be generated in Spanish and English to facilitate the socialization process in El Salvador and consideration by the GEF. In addition, this product will include input on the need for activities to be supported at the regional level, including: high-level events and communication, development of a project preparation service, regional web platform for regional knowledge sharing, need for a toolbox and associated services offered at the regional level.</p>

7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All Intellectual Property rights conceived or made by the Consultant / Consulting Firm in the course of providing the Services will belong to IUCN.

8. SCHEDULING AND TIMETABLE FOR DELIVERING PRODUCTS

5.1. Activities and programming

Specific objectives	Activities	Month						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Lead in coordinating a consultative CEO Endorsement Request development process and the organization and implementation of a regional <i>Program Development Inception Workshop</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review including the approved Mesoamerica Forest IP PFD and the child project concept note, associated documents, e.g., STAP and GEF Secretariat and GEF Council review comments, IUCN GEF Policy and guidance documents, GEF-8 Programming Directions, etc. Review challenges and lessons learnt related to Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome conservation. Prepare preliminary project risk analysis identification based on field studies, Conduct a stakeholder analysis at the national, departmental, municipal, territorial and site levels, with the participation of relevant government agencies related to the protection of natural resources and protected areas, local communities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and plan engagement of stakeholders for designing the project; Draft ToR of the Program Development Inception Workshop including detailed agenda, potential list of organizations/ speakers involved, logistic needs. Draft logical framework with expected disaggregated gender indicators, the theory of change and the baseline for the GEF Core indicators of the project (ref. IUCN Gender equality and women's empowerment policy); Prepare the communication plan for the launch and development of the Project Document, including required materials such as brochures, PowerPoint presentations. Address feedback received from IUCN and MARN on ToR. Lead the implementation of the Program Development Inception Workshop. Write inception workshop report. 							

<p>2. Develop assessments required to identify highest-value opportunities and inform on activities and priority sites for intervention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the studies listed below, interviews, consultations, workshops when necessary, and field tours should be conducted to gather perspectives from multiple stakeholders (national, sub-national, private, civil society as defined by the stakeholder analysis)) on the activities to be implemented as part of the Project. Consultant will need to review and as needed, contribute to the spatial analysis and assessment of threats to the tropical and subtropical lowland rainforests and tropical montane rainforest carried out by IUCN in parallel of this work. • Baseline study on improved protected areas management should include a review and comparison of management plans and effectiveness evaluations of all Protected Areas present in project areas of interest², interview of PA managers in order to set the baseline for selected PA using GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool³. • Based on ongoing restoration and conservation initiatives, including Payment for Environmental Services programs, national restoration and forest monitoring information, identify • community-led forest conservation initiatives with potential for recognition as Other Effective Conservation Measures and describe potential strategies and activities to strengthen management effectiveness of selected initiatives. • Baseline and priority sites for land restoration (GEF Core Indicator 3) • Baseline and priority sites for landscapes under improved practices (GEF CI 4) For the three indicators mentioned above, priority sites shall be selected considering areas with the highest potential for restoration or improved management and validated based on consultation with local stakeholders and the partner country. • Develop a portfolio of potential businesses and value chain investments in deforestation-free ventures for the Project by screening and exchanging with companies and other relevant organizations from multiple sectors such as agricultural, forestry, tourism, protected areas to identify financing needs, potential business plans and/or opportunities, considering local development plans. Listing of potential investments shall include corresponding multi-stakeholder engagement, potential for public-private 						
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² Monte Cristo National Park, El Pital.

³ <https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-7-and-gef-8-biodiversity-protected-area-tracking-tool>

	<p>partnerships, size and type of funding required⁴ (equity, credit, grant...etc), type of support required from GEF-8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an analysis of the role of women and local communities in CFB conservation and identify key activities of GEF-8 El Salvador Forest IP with potential to be co-implemented with women and/or local community through community, smallholder or women-led organizations as well to promote inclusive governance in PA / OECMs and enhance their access to funding . When applicable, assess local organizations capacities to receive and manage funds from the Project based on their financial and administrative capacities. • Policy and regulatory instruments: through desk-review of legal and policy frameworks and consultation of key political institutions, including ministries of environment, agriculture and finance, and subnational governments, elaborate on potential policy instruments, including land-use plans, to be developed or enhanced as part of GEF-8 Forest IP. This analysis shall take into consideration regional policies to be supported by the program (see output 1.1.4 and 1.2.3 in annex 5) • Design an effective policy influencing plan, considering efforts to be deployed at regional level (see output 1.3.2. in annex 5) • Considering existing and potential/emerging financing mechanisms for forest conservation at national level, design interventions (e.g., private sector roundtables, social-impact investing, deployment of innovative finance, etc.) to mobilize new and additional funding for forest conservation at scale, mapping potential partners and their role as part of an effective finance mobilization strategy. These mechanisms should respond to the needs of different stakeholders, including local communities, Protected Area management agencies, OECMs and identify synergies with regional efforts to mobilize finance (see output 3.1.4. and 3.2.4 in annex 5). • Additional studies shall inform the activities and resources needed for the establishment or strengthening of national multisectoral platforms and strengthening local and national governance structures to improve the effectiveness of primary forests protection and conservation. • Carry out review of literature and legal framework and conduct field visits to analyse the socio-economic and -cultural context at landscape level and, most importantly, relevant features of the (potential) intervention sites 							
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⁴ Funding size per investment may range from 200,000 USD to 20,000,000 USD.

<p>3. Carry out relevant assessments and consultations for identifying and assessing safeguard risks and prepare respective reports and tools to manage the identified safeguard risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a Strategic Environmental and Social assessment (SESA) to identify social and environmental risks potentially triggered strengthening national/ subnational policies and regulations on primary forest conservation and protection (component 1); • Carry out an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in the sites supported under component 2. • Develop mitigation measures together with relevant stakeholders, in particular project affected peoples/ local communities, and consolidate them in form of safeguard tools (ESMP, Process Framework etc.) as appropriate and as instructed by ESMS Screening. • Develop procedures to guide the screening of the business and value chain investments to be identified during project implementation on environmental and social risks (component 3) • Develop a project-level Grievance Mechanism 						
<p>4. Draft Mesoamerican Forest IP CEO Endorsement Request, Project Document and ToR for validation workshop</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on stakeholder mapping and consultation, identify and assess capacities of implementing partners and other partners in the field using the IUCN Implementing Partner Suitability Assessment Format. • Develop linkages and implementation arrangements with host government partners, executing partners and other potential partners on-the-ground. • Review the current system for training/capacity building of framework adopted by protected areas system, Protected areas located in the area of intervention, forest management governing bodies and other relevant organizations. • Update and further deepen stakeholder analysis at national, provincial, territorial and site level, including natural resource-based value chains, and financing institutions; • Evaluate in detail the baseline scenario through research, literature review, experts and stakeholders' consultations, related activities and initiatives, including co-financing options; • Carry out a detailed gap analysis to justify the GEF incremental cost reasoning; • Refine the theory of change and logical framework based on the above; • Based on stakeholder analysis and consultations carried out throughout the design phase, develop the stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) establishing how to continue to engage stakeholders during the implementation phase • Design a detailed log frame and accompanying narrative proposal on the project components; • Develop the overall project budget and work plan, including a procurement plan; 						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a detailed project risk analysis and mitigation measures; • Draft CEO Request, including a gender analysis and action plan, private sector engagement plan, Project Result Framework and Project Budget table. • Design and develop indicators mapped to GEF core indicators taking into account gender responsiveness, establish baselines for the indicators and develop Monitoring & valuation plan • Address IUCN comments to draft CEO Request prior to submission in GEF portal. 							
<p>5. Lead the organization and implementation of a regional <i>CEO Endorsement Request Regional Child project Validation Workshop</i> and provide a Revised draft CEO Endorsement Request and project document.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the validation workshop organized in coordination with IUCN and all participating partners and relevant organizations. • Address all GEF Secretariat, GEF STAP, IUCN and Country comments sufficient to achieve GEF approval of the CEO Endorsement Request. • In addition, this product shall include a summary of feedback received from the validation workshop and list of participants • Provide input for activities to be supported at regional level including: High-level events and communication, development of a project preparation facility, regional web platform for regional knowledge exchange, need for a toolbox and associated services offered at regional level. 							

5.2. Timetable for delivery of products:

Products	Expected date of delivery	Percentage of pay
1. Program Development Inception Workshop Terms of Reference (TORs) and summary of findings.	Eight (8) weeks after the signing of the contract by both parties	20%
2. Engagement work and assessments to identify and develop high value and priority interventions under Component 1, Adoption of Enabling Policies, Reforms and Planning, Component 2, Accelerated protection and restoration of the RTBF forest, Component 3, Scaled up Investment in Forest-Positive Landscapes and Component 4, Enhanced Regional Cooperation and Coordination	Eighteen (16) weeks after the signing of the contract by both parties	30%
3. Relevant assessments and consultations for identifying and assessing safeguard risks and prepare respective reports and tools to manage the identified safeguard risks	Twenty (20) weeks after the signing of the contract by both parties	10%
4. Draft Mesoamerican Forest IP CEO Endorsement Request and ToR for validation workshop	Twenty (20) weeks after the signing of the contract by both parties	15%
5. Revised draft CEO Endorsement Request with all required annexes sufficient for approval by GEF	Twenty-eight (28) weeks after the signing of the contract by both parties	25%

- All products will be paid once delivered to IUCN's complete satisfaction.

-Disbursements will depend on the availability of funds from the donor.

-The consultant / consulting firm must consider in the technical proposal the modification of some deliverables during the execution of the contract, if it is necessary, to adapt some results, without affecting the amount of the original contract.

1. TECHNICAL PROFILE

For the development of this consultancy, a team should be proposed that meets the following profile requirements::

1. Experience in developing GEF or other international funds' ProDocs and related project documents, along with a good grasp on GEF guidelines and standards to be met for these

2. Experience and expertise in project design and implementation, including monitoring and evaluation, including gender-responsive project design
3. Sustainable financing expertise with specific experience relevant to financing of protected area networks and natural resource-based value chains
4. Local expertise with extensive knowledge on national conservation efforts, policies and strategies and the ability to position project activities in the local context effectively
5. Knowledge of private sector and community-based approaches to natural resource management in El Salvador
6. Knowledge of environmental issues and complexities as they relate to El Salvador
7. Expertise in gender analysis and integrating gender empowerment aspects of gender in forest restoration and conservation.
8. Experience in dialogue and work with local communities , including obtaining FPIC.
9. Knowledge of social and livelihood systems in El Salvador
10. Experience in value chain development and identification of business investment opportunities at local level
11. Understanding of the natural resources management and land use policy environment and the system to administer land rights (statutory and customary) as well as conditions and challenges specific to the selected landscape
12. Expertise in Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and development of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) and other safeguard tools
13. Financial Management, including procurement related expertise
14. Experience in structuring large forest conservation projects and also protected area network management projects and initiatives, including preferably, those financed by the GEF
15. Experience in conducting community and stakeholder consultations
16. Fluency in English, and Spanish language is necessary
17. Academic background required by the different members of the team: Forest engineer, agronomist, land-use policy experts, economist, GIS expert, biologist, anthropologist/sociologist or related careers.

It is reiterated that the selected international consulting firm must have personnel based in El Salvador; it is considered a competitive advantage if at least one member of the team is a national consultant.

2. PERIOD AND COORDINATION

The period of the consultancy will be **7** months.

Form of work (with Unit/Project): in order to achieve the products, all activities will be closely coordinated under the direction of the IUCN GEF/GCF Portfolio Manager for Global Programs and senior staff in IUCN regional and country office in El Salvador and maintain close communication with MARN authorities and strategic partners (FAO)

ANNEX 2: LETTER OF INTEREST

Fill in the information in blue

[Place and date]

TO: [IUCN]

The undersigned, [name of the professional], after having examined the Terms of Reference for the Contracting of the Professional Consulting Services for (name of the consultancy) and offers to perform these services in accordance with the call for date _____.

The attached Financial Proposal is for the total sum of [amount in letters and figures], which includes all taxes required by law.

The period of time in which the signatory of this document agrees to provide the services is from the date of signing the contract, until the date of termination thereof, without price variation, unless modifications are made resulting from contract negotiations.

The undersigned declares that all the information and statements made in the submitted proposals are true and that any misinterpretation contained in them may lead to disqualification.

Cordially,

Signature _____

Full name of the proposer or legal representative _____

ATTACHMENT 3a – SELF-EMPLOYED PROPOSER

DECLARATION in relation to RfP < Consultancy Service >

I, the undersigned, hereby confirm that I am self-employed and able to provide the service independent of any organisation or other legal entity.

Full name (as in passport):

Home or Office (please delete as appropriate) Address (incl. country):

I hereby authorise IUCN to store and use the information included in the attached Proposal for the purpose of evaluating Proposals and selecting the Proposal IUCN deems the most favourable. I acknowledge that IUCN is required to retain my Proposal in its entirety for 10 years after then end of the resulting contract and make this available to internal and external auditors and donors as and when requested.

I further confirm that the following statements are correct:

1. I am legally registered as self-employed in accordance with all applicable laws.
2. I am fully compliant with all my tax and social security obligations.
3. I am free of any real or perceived conflicts of interest with regards to IUCN and its Mission.
4. I agree to declare to IUCN any real or perceived emerging conflicts of interests I may have concerning IUCN. I acknowledge that IUCN may terminate any contracts with me that would, in IUCN sole discretion, be negatively affected by such conflicts of interests.
5. I have never been convicted of grave professional misconduct or any other offence concerning my professional conduct.
6. I have never been convicted of fraud, corruption, money laundering, supporting terrorism or involvement in a criminal organisation.
7. I acknowledge that engagement in fraud, corruption, money laundering, supporting terrorism or involvement in a criminal organisation will entitle IUCN to terminate any and all contracts with me with immediate effect.
8. I am not included in the UN Security Council Sanctions List, EU Sanctions Map, US Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions List, or the World Bank listing of ineligible firms and individuals. I agree that I will not provide direct or indirect support to firms and individuals included in these lists.
9. I have not been, am not, and will not be involved or implicated in any violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights, or injustice or abuse of human rights related to other groups or individuals, including forced evictions, violation of fundamental rights of workers as defined by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, child labour, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment.

<Date and Signature>

ATTACHMENT 3b - For Consulting Companies

DECLARATION in relation to RfP <name of the Consultancy Service>

I, the undersigned, hereby confirm that I am an authorised representative of the following organisation:

Registered Name of Organisation (the "Organisation"): _____

Registered Address (incl. country): _____

Year of Registration: _____

I hereby authorise IUCN to store and use the information included in the attached Proposal for the purpose of evaluating Proposals and selecting the Proposal IUCN deems the most favourable. I acknowledge that IUCN is required to retain the Proposal in its entirety for 10 years after then end of the resulting contract and make this available to internal and external auditors and donors as and when requested.

Where the Proposal includes Personal Data as defined by the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), I confirm that the Organisation has been authorised by each Data Subject to share this Data with IUCN for the purposes stated above.

I further confirm that the following statements are correct:

1. The Organisation is duly registered in accordance with all applicable laws.
2. The Organisation is fully compliant with all its tax and social security obligations.
3. The Organisation and its staff and representatives are free of any real or perceived conflicts of interest with regards to IUCN and its Mission.
4. The Organisation agrees to declare to IUCN any real or perceived emerging conflicts of interests it or any of its staff and representatives may have concerning IUCN. The Organisation acknowledges that IUCN may terminate any contracts with the Organisation that would, in IUCN sole discretion, be negatively affected by such conflicts of interests.
5. None of the Organisation's staff has ever been convicted of grave professional misconduct or any other offence concerning their professional conduct.
6. Neither the Organisation nor any of its staff and representatives have ever been convicted of fraud, corruption, money laundering, supporting terrorism or involvement in a criminal organisation.
7. The Organisation acknowledges that engagement by itself or any of its staff in fraud, corruption, money laundering, supporting terrorism or involvement in a criminal organisation will entitle IUCN to terminate any and all contracts with the Organisation with immediate effect.
8. The Organisation is a going concern and is not bankrupt or being wound up, is not having its affairs administered by the courts, has not suspended business activities, is not the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.
9. The Organisation complies with all applicable environmental regulatory requirements or other legal requirements relating to sustainability and environmental protection.
10. The Organisation is not included in the UN Security Council Sanctions List, EU Sanctions Map, US Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions List, or the World Bank listing of ineligible firms and individuals. The Organisation agrees that it will not provide direct or indirect support to firms and individuals included in these lists.
11. The Organisation has not been, is not, and will not be involved or implicated in any violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights, or injustice or abuse of human rights related to other groups or individuals, including forced evictions, violation of fundamental rights of workers as defined by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, child labour, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment.

<Date and Signature of authorised representative of the Proposer>

< Name and position of authorised representative of the Proposer >

Annex 4:

Proposed Results Framework for the Mesoamerica Forest Regional IP in the Program Framework Document:

Outcomes	Outputs
Component 1. Enabling conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests.	
Outcome 1.1. Strengthened local, national, and regional governance mechanisms in support of primary forests conservation.	<p>1.1.1. Awareness-raising and advocacy plan on primary forest protection and conservation targeted at policymakers, sectoral entities, and private sector.</p> <p>1.1.2. Local and national governance structures strengthened to improve the effectiveness of primary forests protection and conservation.</p> <p>1.1.3. Strengthened agreements for cross-border protected areas collaboration.</p> <p>1.1.4. A regional agreement to operationalize the Rural youth strategy of the SICA region 2022 – 2030 into the primary forest landscapes.</p>
Outcome 1.2. Key national and regional policy and regulatory instruments prioritize primary forest conservation.	<p>1.2.1. National and subnational Intersectoral updated policies, regulations and instruments that support primary forest protection and conservation.</p> <p>1.2.2. Information to support fact-based decision making on forest conservation interventions.</p> <p>1.2.3. Three key regional instruments integrate strategic actions for primary forest protection and conservation (PERFOR, ERAM and ERAS).</p>
Outcome 1.3. Improved multisectoral platforms for forest conservation and management.	<p>1.3.1. National multisectoral platforms established or strengthened.</p> <p>1.3.2. Regional multisectoral meetings of stakeholder groups and sectors to agree actions and goals for primary forest conservation.</p> <p>1.3.3. Affirmative actions to integrate IPLCs, women and rural youth into decision-making processes.</p>
Component 2. Accelerated protection and restoration of primary forests.	
Outcome 2.1. Improved protection of primary forests in protected areas.	<p>2.1.1. Strengthened protected area management instruments and tools.</p> <p>2.1.2. Regional assessment of the risk of collapse and extent of the Mesoamerican critical forest biomes.</p> <p>2.1.3. Information about the contribution of protected areas and indigenous peoples to conserve primary forests and advance the global biodiversity framework to support fact-based decision making.</p>
Outcome 2.2. Increased area of OECMs that protect primary forests integrity and expand functional connectivity.	<p>2.2.1. National frameworks or protocols for the implementation of OECMs.</p> <p>2.2.2. Established national networks of OECMs that support the conservation of primary forests.</p> <p>2.2.3. Collaboration agreements for transboundary OECMs within the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.</p>
Outcome 2.3. Ongoing restoration of 65,000 ha to increase primary forest connectivity.	<p>2.3.1. Updated evaluation of priority areas for Mesoamerican forests landscape restoration.</p> <p>2.3.2. Key priority areas under community-based restoration.</p>
Component 3. Innovative finance and investment.	
Outcome 3.1. Increased financial resources for primary forest conservation.	<p>3.1.1. National analyses of funding gaps and barriers to invest in primary forest landscapes and forest linked livelihoods.</p> <p>3.1.2. Innovative financing instruments and tools to increase investments in primary forest protection, protected areas, OECMs, and forest linked livelihoods.</p> <p>3.1.3. High-level dialogue meetings to mobilise financial resources through bilateral, multilateral, private and philanthropy channels to sustain long-term critical forest biomes conservation.</p> <p>3.1.4. Regional coalition to mobilise funding to accelerate the conservation of primary forests and the development of viable forests linked livelihoods.</p>
Outcome 3.2. Increased number of forest-friendly endeavours.	<p>3.2.1. Innovative mechanisms to incentivise forest-friendly endeavours.</p> <p>3.2.2. Innovative business models to develop forest-friendly goods and services.</p> <p>3.2.3. Project preparation facility to enable access to private and development financing.</p> <p>3.2.4. High impact events and advocacy to accelerate the demand for products from sustainably managed secondary forests and deforestation-free commodities from Mesoamerica.</p>
Component 4. Coordinated and improved learning and regional collaboration.	
Outcome 4.1. Improved national and regional coordination for primary forest protection and conservation	<p>4.1.1. Regional coordination platform for primary forest protection and conservation.</p> <p>4.1.2. Regional long-term communication plan to mobilize support for the conservation of primary forests and critical forest biomes.</p>

<p>Outcome 4.2. Lessons on primary forest protection and conservation models are available worldwide</p>	<p>4.2.1. Mesoamerican knowledge platform on critical forest biomes (e.g., biodiversity and social information, models of forest management, regulations).</p> <p>4.2.2. Program lessons, forest management and governance models, and integration of IPLCs, women and rural youth into decision-making processes documented and disseminated at regional and global levels.</p> <p>4.2.3. South-south cooperation / knowledge exchange with the other critical forests biomes.</p> <p>4.2.4. Annual regional knowledge exchange workshops.</p> <p>4.2.5. Harmonized program annual planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.</p>
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Annex 5 El Salvador Child Project Concept Note under Mesoamerica Forest IP

GEF-8 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

GENERAL CHILD PROJECT INFORMATION

Child Project Title:	El Salvador Mesoamerican Forest IP Project: Trifinio: a natural water fabric		
Country(ies):	El Salvador	GEF Child Project ID:	
		Type of Child Project	Full-sized project
GEF Agency(ies):	IUCN	GEF Agency Child Project ID:	
Anticipated Executing Entity(s) and Type:	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (El Salvador)	GOVERNMENT	
	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	GEF AGENCY	
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biological Diversity Land Degradation Climate Change International Water	Submission Date:	12/04/2023
Type of Trust Fund:	GEF trust fund	Child Project Duration (Months)	60
GEF Child Project Grant: (a)	3,146,943	GEF Child Project Non-Grant (b)	
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	283,224	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant: (d)	
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	3,430,167	Total Co-financing:	22,000,000
PPG Amount (e):	150,000	PPG Agency Fee(s) (f):	13,499
Total GEF Resources (a+b+c+d+e+f)	3,593,666		
Project Sector (CCM only)			
Program	Meso America program		

CHILD PROJECT FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Total GEF Financing
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	BD	BD STAR IP	1,453,035	130,773	1,583,808
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	LD	LD STAR IP	204,934	18,444	223,378

IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	CC	CC STAR IP	93,414	8,407	101,821
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	BD	BD IP Matching Incentives	484,345	43,591	527,936
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	LD	LD IP Matching Incentives	68,311	6,148	74,459
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	CC	CC IP Matching Incentives	31,138	2,802	33,940
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	International Water	IW STAR IP	811,766	73,059	884,825
Total GEF Resources					3,146,943	283,224	3,430,167

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No

If yes⁵: fill in PPG table (incl. PPG fee)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG	Agency Fee	Total PPG Funding
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	BD	BD STAR IP	69,259	6,233	75,492
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	LD	LD STAR IP	9,768	879	10,647
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	CC	CC STAR IP	4,453	401	4,854
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	BD	BD IP Matching Incentives	23,087	2,077	25,164
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	LD	LD IP Matching Incentives	3,256	293	3,549
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	CC	CC IP Matching Incentives	1,484	134	1,618
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	International Water	IW STAR IP	38,693	3,482	42,175
Total PPG Amount					150,000	13,499	163,499

Sources of Funds for Country STAR Allocation

GFEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Source of Funds	Total
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	BD	BD STAR	1,659,300
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	LD	LD STAR	234,025
IUCN	GEFTF	El Salvador	CC	CC STAR	106,675
Total GEF Resources					2,000,000

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
IP Mesoamerica		3,146,943	22,000,000

⁵ Note: Make this into a "pop-up" which appears only if PPG was selected, and if amount requested is above limits, they have to justify it

Total Project Cost		3,146,943	22,000,000
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Indicative Co-financing

***POP-UP material start

Please provide indicative information regarding the expected amounts, sources and types of Co-Financing, and the sub-set of such Co-Financing that meets the definition of Investment Mobilized.

***POP-UP material end

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
GEF agency	FAO Mountain Partnership (Italy)	Grant - mobilized investment	1,000,000
Foundation	FIAES	Grant - mobilized investment	1,000,000
National Government	MARN – National park montecristo	In Kind - Recurrent expenditures	500,000
Local government	Municipality of Metapán,	In Kind - Recurrent expenditures	125,000
Local government	Municipality of San Ignacio	In Kind - Recurrent expenditures	125,000
Local government	Municipality of La Palma	In Kind - Recurrent expenditures	125,000
Local government	Municipality of Citalá	In Kind - Recurrent expenditures	125,000
Multi-lateral agencies	World Bank-BID/National Coffee Council	Grant - mobilized investment	1,000,000
Bilateral aid agency	WCS-UK Defra	Grant - mobilized investment	1,000,000
Multi-lateral agencies, National government	National Environmental Incentive system – Payment for environmental services	Grant – investment to be mobilized	5,000,000
Multi-lateral agencies	Adaptation Fund	Grant – investment to be mobilized	2,000,000
Multi-lateral agencies	Subnational climate finance – Green climate Fund	Capital investment – Investment to be mobilized	5,000,000
Multi-lateral agencies	Green Climate Fund – REDD+ credits	Grant – investment to be mobilized	2,000,000
Bilateral aid agency	Protection of the Trifinio Transboundary Biosphere Reserve – KfW Tri-national Trifinio Plan Commission	Grant - mobilized investment	3,000,000
Total Co-financing			22,000,000

TABLE ON CORE INDICATORS

Core Indicators

Project Core Indicators		Expected at PFD
1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	2,342.8
2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	
3	Area of land restored (Hectares)	7,500
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)(Hectares)	3,000
5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO ₂ e)	2,069,545
7	Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management	1
8	Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons)	
9	Reduction , disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)	
10	Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	
11	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	2,368 (female:1,231 Male: 1137)

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (*max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page*)

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Number of beneficiaries: based on number of forest owners in the Chalatenango and Santa Ana departments and estimated number of farmers.

Target for protected areas created or under improved management refers to the enhancement of management effectiveness in both Protected Areas included in the Area of Interest (El Pital, IUCN management category: VI and Monte Cristo National Park – IUCN management category II). Expansion of conserved areas to achieve further forest integrity beyond protected areas will be pursued through innovative models of OECMs (Indicator 4 – area of landscape under improved practices) supported through activities of component 1 and 3. Area of land restored were set in line with the national plan for ecosystem restoration, including both agricultural and forest restoration practices.

Estimates of GHG emissions mitigation potential were made using EX-ACT, considering areas restored and under improved practices, including terrestrial protected areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Country Context (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

El Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated country in Central America. Forests have been under significant pressure – deforestation, degradation and fragmentation- for many years due mainly to commercial and small-scale agriculture activity and associated forest fires and agricultural burns. However, progress was made in restoration of forest cover. According to the [National Forest Inventory](#), (2018), 37,9% (799,209 ha) of

the country has forest cover. This corresponds to 624,376 ha of forest and 174,834 ha of shade coffee plantations. The largest vegetation stratum corresponds to secondary forests (22% of the total national territory), followed by shade coffee plantations, mature evergreen forests, wetlands / mangrove forests, mature deciduous / semi-deciduous forest and coniferous forest. Remaining patches of primary forest are critical for the conservation of threatened biodiversity, for local communities and livelihoods, and for provision of water for economic activities. Notable endemic and threatened species found in El Salvador's forests include the Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*), Guatemalan Fir (*Abies guatemalensis*), Torogoz bird (*Eumomota superciliosa*) Jaguar, and Pygmy Rattlesnake (*Crotalus simus salvini*).

The shared Trifinio area was formalized in 1998 between EL Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The Trifinio Aquifer System is crucial in providing water to the region. Within the shared area, the Trifinio Biosphere Reserve includes the National Park of Montecristo which is a [key biodiversity area](#) including primary forest and habitat for biodiversity.

Aware of the importance of forests for water and biodiversity conservation and other ecosystem services, El Salvador has enacted national laws and policies supporting conservation and sustainable use of its forests as well as significant international commitments; and has a number of ongoing investments and initiatives supporting national and international goals. These include the *Environment Act* providing a legal framework for environmental protection in El Salvador; the *Forestry Law* that seeks to promote conservation, protection and sustainable management of forests; the *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*; and the national *Climate Change Law*. El Salvador is a signatory country of the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It has ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016, and supported adoption of the new Global Biodiversity Framework. El Salvador is also engaged in the UN REDD+ program

Key ongoing initiatives and investments supporting conservation of El Salvador's forests and that are aligned with the overall objectives of the Mesoamerican Forest IP include the *National Reforestation Plan* that seeks to restore forest cover and improve the health of standing forests; a national *Payments for Environmental Services (PES) Program* providing financial incentives to landowners and communities who commit to preserving or restoring forested areas; establishment of a system of Protected Areas; and support community-based forest management through a number of programs.

At the regional level, El Salvador is working with neighboring countries on a number of regional initiatives and projects aimed at conserving and sustainably managing Mesoamerican forests. These include the *Regional REDD+ Program*; the *5 Great Forests of Mesoamerica initiative*; and the *Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests* that supports IPLC rights and community-led forest conservation. El Salvador is also engaged in the main regional coordinating body for environment and development: the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and supportive of the regional [AFOLU 2040 strategy](#).

In all, these actions, initiatives, investments, and political will are well aligned with the goals of this IP to support a transformational change supporting conservation and sustainable management of El Salvador's forests, and the broader Mesoamerican Forest biome. Many of the underlying threats affecting El Salvador's forests, as well as potential solutions, are relevant to all Mesoamerican countries and potentially for countries in other regions of the world participating in the CFB IP - Critical Forest Biome – Integrated Program-, offering strong potential for exchange, partnership, and scaling up.

Project Overview and Approach (maximum 1250 words)

a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;

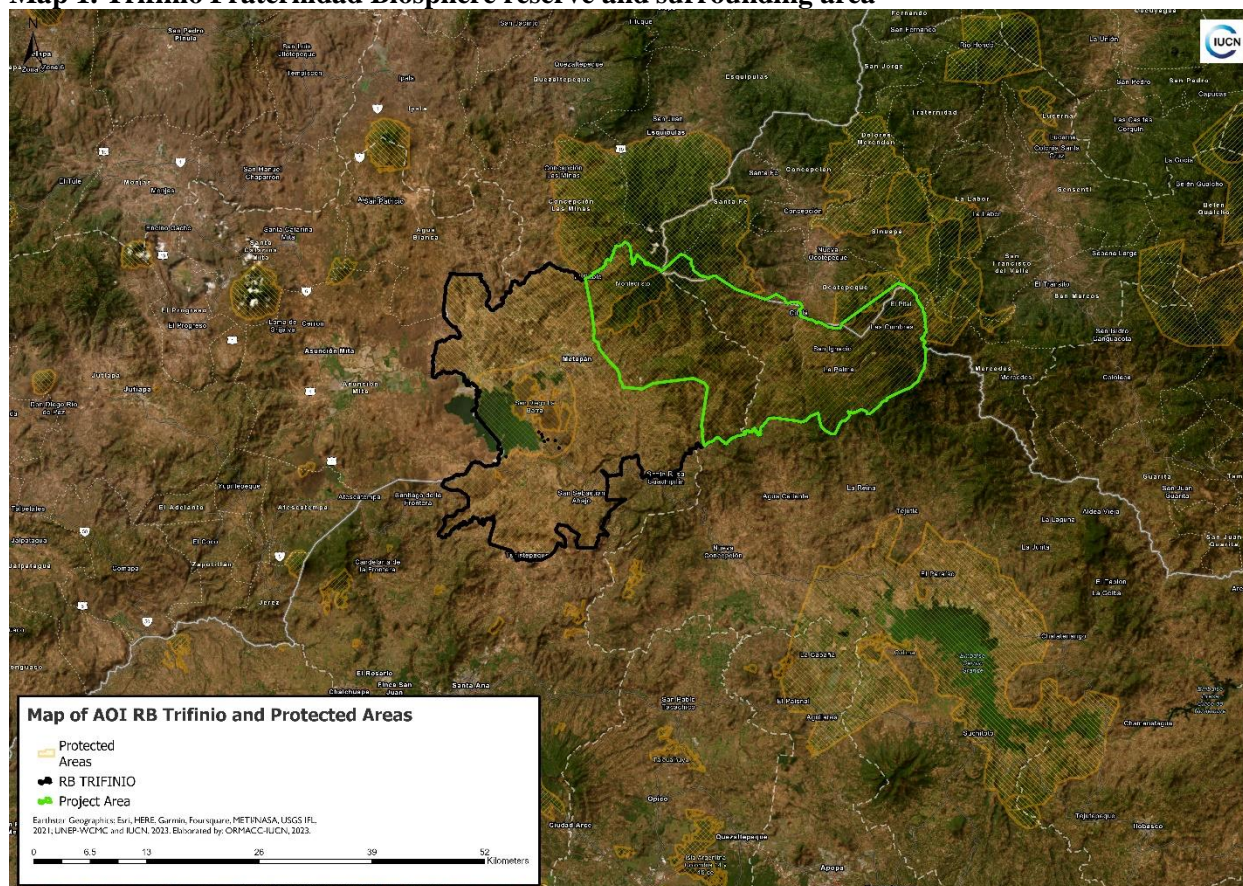
The proposed project is designed to support a transformational shift towards conservation and sustainable management of the **Trifinio Fraternidad Biosphere Reserve** – formally declared as such in 2011- is located in the northwest side of El Salvador and extends into Guatemala and Honduras. Out of its 148,500ha 72%

corresponds to El Salvador. About 1643 species have been assessed (IUCN Red List), of which 9, 44 and 53 species are listed as critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable respectively. This UNESCO biosphere reserve includes the **Montecristo cloud forest** that contains a number of endemic and threatened flora and fauna including tree species such as *Monotropha coccinea*, *Sobralia lepida* and *Isochilus major*.

The reserve faces a number of threats including expansion of the agricultural frontier for cattle ranching, illegal wildlife trafficking and logging, mining and extraction of stone in the bordering areas, forest fires and invasive species, and climate change among others. The Project area totals 49,712 ha of the wider Trifinio region, and includes the municipalities of Metapán, La Palma, San Ignacio and Citalá (see Map 1). The Rio Lempa watershed where the project is located provides water to 37% of the metropolitan area of San Salvador due to its water recharge areas (superficial and underground aquifer) as well as for hydroelectric energy and agriculture production.

Despite efforts made in strengthening incentives, policies and regulatory framework, there is a need to integrate forest and forest management into land use planning and zoning at the national – local level; intersectoral coordination, with a landscape approach, among local and national authorities to boost coherent regulations and financing for the sustainable management of forests and protected areas.

Map 1. Trifinio Fraternidad Biosphere reserve and surrounding area



b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration

In 2005, the three governments established a trinational cooperation framework to better manage the reserve including through joint planning, monitoring, and implementation of conservation and sustainable development initiatives.

EL Salvador’s Ministry of the Environment has initiated a planning process to support effective management and conservation of natural resources in the Trifinio Area, promoting different protection models including

protected areas, natural resource governance, the Biosphere Reserve approach, and community-based management.

Key ongoing initiatives and investment are being implemented for the conservation of the Trifinio reserve and forests including support to sustainable agriculture practices by local communities; community-based forest management initiatives; and investments to strengthen institutional capacity - park infrastructure.- In addition, a number of projects and programs are being implemented to promote integrated watershed management within the Reserve, including reforestation and protection of water resources. These efforts are directed toward local communities, Municipalities; but significant gaps exist in the coordination of the different sectors (protected areas staff, the private sector linked to the “touristic routes”) and regulation of aquifers management.

With regards to stakeholder engagement and gender integration, community development associations and protected areas staff and decision makers will be key to actively engage with communities, support liaison with farmers and forest owners to implement deforestation-free, sustainable business models and proactively address gender inequality by, for instance, working directly with women groups and leaders. The Trifinio Association of Municipalities and the Trinational Commission will be engaged to ensure synergies with existing project and initiatives. For instance, the project P10108 currently implemented by UNEP “Fostering Water Security in the Trifinio Region” provides an ideal setting to position shared forest as a key Nature Based Solution to deliver water security at scale.

The proposed project will contribute to another initiative linked to the GEF multi-country collaboration through the International Water mechanism in the Trifinio area, to scale up solutions and evidences on the contribution of forests to the water management of the upper and middle area of the Lempa River transboundary watershed – Guatemala/El Salvador-. The transboundary water model to manage the Trifinio hydrological system will provide specific tools, adapted governance, regulation and communication mechanisms and optimized water management practices considering key water recharge area and forests in the Trifinio aquifer for investment toward water security (quality and quantity). Differentiated integrated strategies that consider conservation of transboundary ecosystem services, social equity, and economic development will be set, with a specific focus on the importance of forest, PA and OECMs to mitigate water stress accrued by climate change.

c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program’s Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits; and

The project is an opportunity to generate innovative models of conservation and finance for the Central American Region through its regional integration system. Trifinio is a well-recognized unique governance effort in which El Salvador can provide innovative mechanisms linking forest and water management to the Central American Region. Also, at national level, the project will leverage and adapt existing pioneering mechanisms based on evidences to boost intersectoral regulation and policies beyond the Trifinio area.

In line with the Regional IP Theory of Change, the levers of transformation targeted are:

Governance and policy coherence: through inter-institutional coordination with various public and private sectors, strengthening capacity for integrated land use planning conserving CFBs thus enabling the establishment of biological corridors, expansion of forest areas beyond PA boundaries through OECMs, training and equipping of community forest fire brigades, the formation and vocational workshops for target groups

Financial leverage: Mobilize new and additional funding for conservation of CFBs through innovative finance including blended finance, PES, carbon and biodiversity offsets

Innovation and learning: Incorporate the perception of target groups and technical indicators in the conservation of critical ecosystems in the RBTF into strategic planning.

Multi-Stakeholder dialogues: Support high-level dialogues to both align and enhance existing programs and develop new initiatives and partnerships to enable and incentivize forest conservation; Facilitate high-level roundtables with private sector leaders to support and enable conservation and deforestation free commitments and action to boost market access and recognition of nature positive activities such as coffee and tourism.

d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

In the baseline scenario, local governments have limited capacities and knowledge on how to integrate conservation and natural resource management priorities within their land-use zoning plan. Protected Areas remains "islands" of biodiversity with little connectivity at landscape level. GEF financing will allow to provide evidence of the benefits of ecosystem services from forest conservation and restoration, considering climate change adaptation evidences and economic development, thus increasing political capital to incentivize forest conservation as part of land-use zoning plans for decision making. To achieve improved conservation and connectivity at scale, GEF financing will catalyze new and additional funding for conservation of forests in El Salvador, including through development of PES schemes, innovative finance including blended finance approaches working with private sector actors, and through engagement and outreach to international providers of climate and conservation finance.

Transformational change supporting conservation of the project landscapes, CFBs and beyond will occur through the following linked components and activities which are detailed below:

1. Adoption/integration of enabling policies, reforms, and planning

- Establishment of cross-ministerial platform(s) and processes supporting integrated land-use planning and enabling policies for conservation of CFBs, and activities needed to translate strategies into enforceable domestic policies
- Strengthening of existing National Environmental incentive program through policy, regulatory framework and legal reforms
- Biodiversity assessments supporting integration of biodiversity conservation within national, provincial and local land use plans

2. Accelerated protection and restoration of RBTF

- Strengthened management and enforcement of PAs for conservation of threatened species including integration of empowered community-based patrol teams and approaches to control and monitor illegal logging and poaching inside and outside of PAs
- Assessments and targeted productive restoration in buffer zones and areas where needed to restore ecosystem connectivity and recognizing the interconnection between wildlife and people (one health).
- At least 5 Nature+ projects (including agroforestry, animal husbandry, sustainable timber, and more) supported under local community management with active participation of women and private sector partners
- Enhanced CSO, local community and private sector capacity for SLM and conservation

3. Scaled-up investments in forest positive landscapes

- Develop the financing strategy of the National Environmental incentive program to link forest-biodiversity and water management, through for instance including blended finance, green bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, biodiversity offsets, REDD+, and more to facilitate investment in IFL conservation –
- Blockchain-enabled web-based crowdfunding of conservation linking social and environmental impact investors with community-led conservation work, utilizing existing and partner platforms and markets

4. Monitoring and knowledge Exchange:

- South-South learning and exchange including IP workshops and events, dialogues, and community of practice
- High-level events and communications to forestry and non-forest governmental audience and the civil society to build awareness on the CFB and resources
- Capture and sharing of experiences through high-quality comms materials
- Landscape-level monitoring to generate evidence and baseline of global environmental benefits associated with RBTF conservation and restoration. Apply El Salvador Sustainable index – to demonstrate global benefits of CFB conservation and restoration – with support of World Bank
- Strengthen local Conservation species program, especially local monitoring system to track presence and threats to species at risk of extinction, building on existing data-set, citizen science and technologies.

Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?

The proposed Project will be designed from the ground up to align with the regional framework of the Program to support knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences – both as a contributor and as a recipient of information and knowledge products and experiences – and to support scaling up to maximize impact and sustainability. Key elements of this aligned approach include the following:

- **Active participation of Project team and stakeholders in programmatic knowledge exchange workshops, trainings and exchanges** – The Project will include resources for the participation of project team and key relevant stakeholders in all program-supported knowledge exchange workshops, trainings and exchanges designed for El Salvador. A cost-sharing approach between the Regional IP Coordination and Support project and national child projects including this one will be agreed to during PPG-stage development of the Regional and national child projects.
- **Contribution to Programmatic communications** – The Project will include budgeted resources, dedicated activities and related targets under Component 4 for contribution to programmatic communication and knowledge products including annual Mesoamerica Forest IP Year in Review, web stories, and high-priority knowledge products capturing evidences and contributing to the development and wider use of best practices and approaches for conservation of primary forests. This support also includes coordinated efforts to raise awareness at global, regional and national levels, on the importance of the Mesoamerica Forest biome, to a level commensurate with that of the Amazon and Congo forest basins.
- **Support for harmonized monitoring approaches** – Project results framework and monitoring approaches will align with and utilize the key program-level indicators and MRV approaches defined in the Program Framework Document, to ensure apples-to-apples comparisons of national-level project performance and support development of consolidated Program-level reporting and adaptive management. Project-level progress across all results framework indicators will be shared with the Regional coordination project team on an annual basis, in advance of the July reporting schedule, to facilitate consolidated reporting at the Program-level by the Regional coordination team through an annual Program Report submitted to GEF.
- **Support for high-level participation in finance mobilization roundtables and other coordinated efforts to raise new and additional funding for Mesoamerica’ forest conservation** – The Project will include budgeted resources and activities under Component 3 supporting coordinated work (with IP partners) to secure new and additional funding for conservation of primary forests. A wide range of approaches and tools will be considered including innovative finance (tax incentives, blended finance, debt-for-nature swaps, offsets, more) and support for high-level engagement and dialogues with country finance ministers, national development agencies, multilateral development banks and other key providers of development finance, as well as with private sector leaders, to both align and enhance

existing programs of support and develop new initiatives and partnerships that enable and incentivize ambitious targets, investments, reforms and action for conserving and restoring Mesoamerica's forests.