



## Request for Proposals (RfP)

### Consultancy Services supporting the development of the GEF Full-sized project, **Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome IP Regional Coordination, Knowledge Sharing and Support Project**

#### Summary

IUCN seeks the services of a consultant or firm to lead the development of a full-sized GEF project, the **Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome IP Regional Coordination, Knowledge Sharing and Support Project** (hereafter the **Regional 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 *Regional child project*, described in more detail in the attached TORs, will support overall achievement of Program goals and benefits, ensuring a well-coordinated and adaptively managed program with harmonized monitoring, reporting and communications, and high-value exchanges and capacity-building events organized at multiple levels throughout implementation of the Program. The Project will also support engagement with key external initiatives, platforms and stakeholders, creating additional opportunities for valuable partnerships including with the private sector and international donor and finance communities, and supporting elevation and advancement of the Mesoamerican Forest conservation agenda at global, regional and national levels.

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 people 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](mailto: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
26/07/2023	Publication of the Request for Proposals
20/08/2023	Deadline for submission of questions
24/08/2023	Deadline for submission of proposals to IUCN (" <b>Submission Deadline</b> ")
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 with schedule with logical dimension of time</i>		15%
2	<i>Experience in the Mesoamerica region</i>	<i>Company Profile / CV / Responsible for the Consultancy</i>	10%
3	<i>Experience with GEF project elaboration</i>	<i>Company Profile / CV / Responsible for the Consultancy</i>	15%
4	<i>Experience in Environmental and Social safeguard and gender sensitive project design</i>		20%
5	<i>Experience with tools and assessments identified in ToR.</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:

<b>Expense type</b>	<b>Maximum amount</b>
Meals	4,000
Surface Transportation	2,000
Accomodation	4,000
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](mailto: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*



**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**

**FOR**

**“Consultancy Services supporting the development of the GEF Full-sized project,  
*Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome IP Regional Coordination, Knowledge Sharing and  
Support Project*”**

<b>Type of Contract:</b>	Professional Consultancy Services
<b>Period:</b>	9 months
<b>Availability:</b>	September 2023
<b>Persons Responsible for Supervision:</b>	Tony Nello, Thematic expert; Josh Schneck, GEF GCF Portfolio Manager for Global Programs

## **1. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION**

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### **Overview**

Programming for the eighth funding cycle of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF-8)<sup>1</sup> 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 Regional child project for approval by GEF and IUCN.

### **Background on Mesoamerican Forest IP and role of the Regional child project**

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.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-04/GEF\\_R.08\\_29\\_Rev.01\\_GEF8\\_Programming\\_Directions.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-04/GEF_R.08_29_Rev.01_GEF8_Programming_Directions.pdf)

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 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 **Regional child project** will play an important role in the Mesoamerica Forest IP, supporting overall achievement of Program goals and benefits, ensuring a well-coordinated and adaptively managed program with harmonized monitoring, reporting and communications, and high-value exchanges and capacity-building events organized at multiple levels throughout implementation of the Program. The Project will also support engagement with key external initiatives, platforms and stakeholders, creating additional opportunities for valuable partnerships including with the private sector and international donor and finance communities, and supporting elevation and advancement of the Mesoamerican Forest conservation agenda at global, regional and national levels.

Specific outputs and services of the Regional child project include:

- Support for **high-level events and communications** to raise the profile of the Mesoamerica forest biome to a level commensurate with the Amazon and Congo basin forests, and increase demand, support and action for conservation of these globally important forest landscapes, as well as demand for products from sustainable managed secondary forests and deforestation-free commodities from Mesoamerica.
- Support for strengthening **regional policy coherence and enabling conditions for Mesoamerica forest conservation** including strengthened protections and connectivity<sup>2</sup>; elimination of perverse incentives; addressing illegal wildlife, timber and narcotics-linked forest degradation and deforestation; support for operationalizing the Rural Youth strategy of the SICA Regions; support for integrating protection and conservation of primary forests into key SICA policies<sup>3</sup>.
- Support for **high-level dialogues to mobilize financial resources** through bilateral, multilateral, private and philanthropy channels to sustain long-term critical forest biomes conservation. Work will include support for **establishment of a regional coalition to mobilize funding** to accelerate the conservation of Mesoamerica primary forests and the development of sustainable forest-linked livelihoods.
- Support for **development of a Project Preparation Facility** to assist local entrepreneurs in preparing bankable business proposals, feasibility analyses, and projects to attract private investment in forest-friendly endeavours. Beneficiaries are expected to include (i) community enterprises in the forestry, agricultural and tourism sectors, (ii) indigenous peoples' groups managing OECMs, (iii) smallholders interested in forest restoration, (iv) women-led businesses and (v) initiatives led by rural young entrepreneurs. One option is to anchor the facility in Development Banks such as the Interamerican Development Bank or the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.
- **Support for a Regional web platform and annual knowledge sharing conferences, as well as yearly Program year in review**, to support knowledge capture and dissemination,

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<sup>2</sup> For instance, through the advancement of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor

<sup>3</sup> Regional Strategic Program for the Management of Forest Ecosystems (PERFOR), the Framework Regional Environmental Strategy (ERAM) and the Regional agro-environmental and health strategy (ERAS)

South-South learning, a dedicated community of practice, and capacity building on a range of high-priority needs and topics

- Support for a **regional assessment of the risk of collapse and extent of the Mesoamerican critical forest biomes**, including the preparation of an up-to-date accurate map of the primary forest areas using information from remote sensors and validated national sources of the participating countries and consolidation of assessments of the conservation status and extent of critical forest biomes to be conducted at national level into a regional assessment.
- Support for developing a **toolbox and provide guidance** to the national child projects for enhanced PA management and primary forest conservation. This toolbox will contribute to filling gaps identified during the management effectiveness assessments of the protected areas but also to improve governance of PAs and OECMs. The toolbox will assemble proven instruments (e.g., FAO's Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox, GEF Management effectiveness tracking tool, SAGE) for improving planning and management capacities and monitoring systems of protected areas, including but not limited to tools such as The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard, Ebio Atlas.
- Support **establishing a regional coordination platform under SICA regional bodies** (i.e., CCAD and CAC) to support joint programming and synergies between the large spectrum of stakeholders and initiatives involved in the conservation of the Mesoamerica forest biome. The formal integration of Mexico into the platform will be done using the pertinent mechanisms and instruments based on the agreement signed in 2004. The platform will integrate regional entities, local and national governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, women organizations, rural youth organizations, private sector, civil society organizations, and donors, among others. Key points of alignment will be: (a) protection and conservation of primary forest, (b) development of viable forests linked livelihoods that reduce pressure on primary forests, and (c) contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## Duties and Responsibilities

The selected International Consultancy firm or individual will support IUCN in developing the GEF-8 Mesoamerica Forest **Coordination Project CEO Endorsement Request**. Specific duties and responsibilities will 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 participating countries, partnering GEF Agencies, GEF Secretariat, and key external partners including those from the private sector, civil society, and academia.
2. **Develop assessments required to adequately screen opportunities** in accordance with the Regional Project specific output and services listed above, including:
  - a) Assessment of best practice design of effective comms campaigns on environment/forests/deforestation-free commodities etc. PPG work might include preliminary work to design and set up communication strategy (e.g, designing TORs for Consultancy to support comms, defining targets audiences and fora; budget, etc.)
  - b) Mobilization of new/additional finance for forest conservation - PPG work can include designing interventions (e.g., private sector roundtables, social-impact investing, deployment of innovative finance, etc.), mapping potential partners and their role.
  - c) Policy influencing at regional level - defining more clearly where opportunities/needs for policy coherence and strengthening are, and means for influencing. Including work to highlight and address links between narcotics, cattle trafficking, infrastructure development and deforestation.

- d) Environmental and Social management System (ESMS)<sup>4</sup>: Given the upstream character of project activities (e.g. no implementation on the ground but “only” influencing policies and frameworks and development of tools), direct social and environmental impacts are expected to be categorized rather as low risk. However, final ESMS Screening carried out during PPG phase will provide further analysis and establish the need for required safeguard tools. Already known at this stage is the need to review potential environmental and social impacts of recommendation for policy and legal frameworks at regional level. This should involve the use of elements of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) in order to understand and minimize down-stream impacts of such recommendations measures.
  - e) Project preparation facility – build the rationale, structure, and functioning for the design of a regional Project Preparation Facility, considering Mesoamerica IP partners and other strategic organizations such as Multilateral Development Banks.
  - f) Web platform and knowledge sharing conferences: conduct an analysis of existing and relevant knowledge management system and platform at regional level, to improve understanding how to link with existing platforms, best use of project funding, even design of the annual workshops.
  - g) Toolbox for PA improved management and primary forest conservation: identify and validate the need and complementarity for developing a toolbox, potential methodologies to be included in it, and the associated provision of services to child project of the Mesoamerica forest IP in a non-duplicative way.
  - h) Regional coordination platform under SICA regional bodies: design a concept for the functioning of the regional coordination platform to be hosted by SICA regional bodies (CAC, CCAD) inclusive of Mexico, listing all potential participatory organizations and their corresponding role and mandate within the regional platform.
3. **Lead the organization and implementation of a regional *Program Development Inception Workshop***, with participation of country representatives, GEF Secretariat, GEF Agency potential partners, and potential executing partners, to better inform CEO endorsement request of Regional and Countries child project which will allow – among others- to orient the countries and GEF Agencies on the next steps and procedures.
  4. **Lead the drafting of the Mesoamerica Forest Coordination Project CEO Endorsement Request**, in accordance with the transformative vision defined by GEF-8 programming and IUCN, and inputs from participating country representatives – through nominated national focal points and 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 participating Mesoamerican countries and selected landscapes. Supporting work may include desk studies and field missions to partnering countries and sites.
  5. **Lead the organization and implementation of a regional *CEO Endorsement Request Regional Child project Validation Workshop***, with participation of country representatives, GEF Secretariat, GEF Agency partners, and potential executing partners, for participants to validate the design of the developed CEO Endorsement Request.
  6. **Revise draft CEO Endorsement Request** to respond to all GEF Secretariat, GEF STAP, Agency partner, and Country comments sufficient to achieve GEF approval of the CEO Endorsement Request.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY

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### 2.1. General:

Support IUCN in developing the GEF-8 Mesoamerica Forest Coordination Project CEO Endorsement Request.

### 2.2. Specific:

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<sup>4</sup> All ESMS system documents are available at: <https://www.iucn.org/about-iucn/accountability-and-reporting/project-accountability/environmental-and-social-management-system>

1. Lead in coordinating a consultative CEO Endorsement Request development process and the organization and implementation of a regional *Program Development Inception Workshop*
2. Develop assessments including ecological and socio-economic studies, required to adequately screen opportunities and inform on activities of the Regional Coordination, Knowledge Sharing and Support Project, building on and complementing studies carried out as part of national PPG.
3. Drafting of the Mesoamerica Forest IP CEO Endorsement Request and Project Document (using IUCN template)
4. Lead the organization and implementation of a regional *CEO Endorsement Request Regional Child project Validation Workshop* and provide a *Revised draft CEO Endorsement Request* and project document.

### 3. 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 of findings.	Stakeholder analysis (early draft) to identify actors relevant for the RCP and decide about involvement in inception workshop. 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 countries for the design of the national Child Project Full proposals as well as gathering input from the multiple type of stakeholders involved in target landscapes. It also includes a summary of findings obtained from the inception workshop. Draft stakeholder mapping and more advanced version of stakeholder analysis to enhance inclusiveness of stakeholder participation in further planning of the RCP, a gender analysis (regional perspective, complementing the gender analysis of national child projects), project risk analysis, analysis and consolidation of existing data set and studies relevant for the PPG considering the Five Great Forest Initiative.
2	Assessments to inform activities of the Mesoamerica GEF-8 Regional Coordination, Knowledge Sharing and Support Project 1/2	Assessments shall include: a) Design of an effective communication campaigns on environment/forests/ deforestation-free commodities to inform the strategy, interventions, target audience and costs to raise the profile and awareness of the Mesoamerica CFB. b) Strategy for mobilization of new/additional finance for forest conservation at regional level, including non-grant instruments, and increased demand for forest-positive

		<p>commodities and sustainably managed secondary forests.</p> <p>c) Opportunity and gap analysis for Policy influencing at regional level and identification potential regional policy instruments, including land-use plans, and regulatory mechanism to be developed and/or enhanced as part of GEF-8 Forest IP</p> <p>d) ESMS: Assess and minimize potential downstream impacts of project activities including of influencing policy and legal frameworks at regional level integrating elements of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA).</p>
3	Assessments to inform activities of the Mesoamerica GEF-8 Regional Coordination, Knowledge Sharing and Support Project 2/2	<p>Assessments shall include:</p> <p>a) Analysis and recommendations for Web platform and knowledge sharing management and conferences.</p> <p>b) Objectives, high-value needs, components and functioning of a Toolbox for improved management and governance of PA and for primary forest conservation for the Mesoamerica Forest IP.</p> <p>e) Development of Stakeholder Engagement Plan at regional level to guide stakeholder engagement during project implementation.</p> <p>f) Governance arrangement of the Regional coordination platform under SICA regional bodies, including engagement partnerships with CSO and other strategic partners. Design of a regional Project preparation facility, including the role and functioning of the facility to respond to the diverse needs and activities of national Child Projects to make bankable forest positive endeavors.</p>
4	Draft Mesoamerican Forest IP CEO Endorsement Request and project Document and ToR for validation workshop	<p>The draft CEO Request must adhere to GEF Template available in GEF portal, including a stakeholder engagement plan, gender analysis and Action Plan, private sector engagement plan, Project Result Framework and Project Budget table. The draft shall be delivered in both English and Spanish and build on the results of National Child Project preparation processes. This product also includes ToR for the validation workshop and a Project Document (using IUCN template) to be delivered in a separate document.</p>
5	Revised draft CEO Endorsement Request with all required annexes sufficient for approval by GEF and updated Project Document.	<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</p>

		from the validation workshop and updated project document (using IUCN template). Final CEO Endorsement Request shall be delivered in both English and Spanish.
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#### 4. 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.

#### 5. SCHEDULING AND TIMETABLE FOR DELIVERING PRODUCTS

##### 5.1. Activities and programming

Specific objectives	Activities	Month								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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"> <li>Document review: Read in detail 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.</li> <li>Review challenges and lessons learnt related to Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome conservation, including existing studies to be shared by organizations including WCS, AECID, GIZ, Expertise France related to the Five Great Forest Initiative, CCAD database on forest monitoring, CAC on climate vulnerability of livelihoods, in coordination with IUCN, to ensure complementarity between the Regional Program and other initiatives.</li> <li>Prepare preliminary project risk analysis identification based of field studies, stakeholders' analysis</li> <li>Conduct stakeholder mapping analysis at regional level, with involvement of relevant government agencies including forest and PA departments, government local communities, CSOs, private sector etc, building on complementary national PPG processes and decide about involvement of stakeholders during project design phase.</li> <li>Prepare a gender analysis (regional perspective, complementing the gender analysis of national child projects)</li> </ul>									



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft ToR of the Program Development Inception Workshop<sup>5</sup> including detailed agenda, potential list of organizations/ speakers involved, logistic needs.</li> <li>• 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);</li> <li>• Address feedback received from IUCN on ToR.</li> <li>• Lead the implementation of the Program Development Inception Workshop.</li> <li>• Write inception workshop report.</li> </ul>								
<p>Develop assessments including ecological and socio-economic studies, required to adequately screen opportunities and inform on activities of the Regional Coordination, Knowledge Sharing and Support Project, building on and complementing studies carried out as part of national PPG.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Assessment of best practice design of effective communication campaigns on environment/forests/ deforestation-free commodities etc.</u> PPG work might include preliminary work to design and set up communication strategy (e.g, designing TORs for Consultancy to support comms, defining targets audiences and fora; budget, etc.). Potential events of interest include the Convention on Biological Diversity and Climate Change Conferences of the Parties.</li> <li>• <u>Mobilization of new/additional finance for forest conservation</u> - PPG work can include designing interventions (e.g., private sector roundtables, social-impact investing, deployment of innovative finance, etc.) and estimating their costs, mapping potential partners (including regional development such as IADB) and their role to facilitate access to resources including loans, capital investment and result-based payments. A strong focus shall be put on private sector engagement (large companies, small and medium enterprises, community-based organizations) through for instance boosting demand for sustainably managed secondary forest and deforestation free commodities from Central America.</li> <li>• <u>Policy influencing at regional level</u> - defining more clearly where opportunities/needs for policy coherence and strengthening are, and means for influencing. Including work to highlight and address links between narcotics, cattle trafficking, infrastructure development and deforestation. through desk-review of legal and financing frameworks and consultation of key political institutions, including SICA relevant bodies (CAC, CCAD,</li> </ul>								

<sup>5</sup> Inception workshop will likely take place in Panama, during the week of October 16<sup>th</sup>, ahead of the Regional Climate Week.

	<p>CICA) and AFOLU roundtables, elaborate on potential policy instruments, including land-use plans, and regulatory mechanism to be developed and/or enhanced as part of GEF-8 Forest IP. Instruments such as the Regional Environmental Framework Strategy and Rural Youth Strategy shall be revised in detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>ESMS</u>: Assess and minimize potential down-stream impacts of project activities including influencing policy and legal frameworks at regional level integrating elements of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). Propose adequate measure for avoiding, minimizing or mitigating such risks, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and taking into consideration the safeguard analysis of the national child projects and respective safeguard plans and tools.</li> <li>• Prepare an Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or any other relevant safeguard tools as required and instructed by the ESMS screening in close coordination with IUCN's ESMS team.</li> <li>• <u>Project preparation facility</u> – build the rationale, structure, and functioning for the design of a regional Project Preparation Facility, considering Mesoamerica IP partners and other strategic organizations such as Multilateral Development Banks as well as the needs and capacities to receive grants and reimbursable funds of businesses and community organizations identified as potential candidates in national project preparation processes.</li> <li>• <u>Web platform and knowledge sharing conferences</u>: conduct an analysis of existing and relevant knowledge management system and platform at regional level, to improve understanding how to link with existing platforms, best use of project funding, even design of the annual workshops.</li> <li>• <u>Toolbox for PA improved management and primary forest conservation</u>: identify and validate the needs and complementarity for developing a toolbox, potential methodologies and instruments<sup>6</sup> to be included in it, and the rationale for the associated provision of services to national child projects of the Mesoamerica forest IP in a non-duplicative way.</li> </ul>									
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<sup>6</sup> See examples in the Programme Framework Document, p48 [https://www.thegef.org/wb\\_work\\_program/06/23/2023/64](https://www.thegef.org/wb_work_program/06/23/2023/64)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>SEP</u>: Development of Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) at regional level to guide stakeholder engagement during project implementation</li> <li>• <u>Regional coordination platform under SICA regional bodies</u>: design a concept for the functioning of the regional coordination platform to be hosted by SICA regional bodies (CAC, CCAD) inclusive of Mexico, listing all potential participatory organizations and their corresponding role and mandate within the regional platform.</li> </ul>								
Draft Mesoamerican Forest IP CEO Endorsement Request, Project Document and ToR for validation workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop linkages and implementation arrangements with host government partners, executing partners and other potential partners on-the-ground.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Evaluate in detail the baseline scenario through research, literature review, experts and stakeholders' consultations, related activities and initiatives, including co-financing options;</li> <li>• Carry out a detailed gap analysis to justify the GEF incremental cost reasoning;</li> <li>• Refine the theory of change and logical framework based on the above;</li> <li>• Design a detailed log frame and accompanying narrative proposal on the project components;</li> <li>• Develop the overall project budget and work plan, including a procurement plan;</li> <li>• Undertake a detailed project risk analysis and mitigation measures;</li> <li>• Draft CEO Request including a gender action plan, private sector engagement plan, Project Result Framework and Project Budget table.</li> <li>• Design and develop indicators mapped to GEF core indicators taking into account gender responsiveness, establish baselines for the indicators and develop Monitoring &amp; valuation plan: <u>Building on assessments of the six Child Projects' PPG, consolidate baseline level and a synthesis report</u> for key performance indicators of the Mesoamerica Forest IP, including all GEF Core Indicators (CI 1, 3 ,4 6 and 11), creation of OECMs, conservation status of Mesoamerican Forest Biomes</li> </ul>								

	<p>using the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, potential contribution of Protected Areas and Indigenous People and Local Communities to reduce human-induced loss of species through rapid calibration of STAR and all outcome indicators validated under the programme structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address IUCN comments to draft CEO Request prior to submission in GEF portal.</li> </ul>									
<p>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"> <li>• Lead the validation workshop organized in coordination with IUCN and all participating partners and relevant organizations.</li> <li>• Address all GEF Secretariat, GEF STAP, Agency partner, and Country comments sufficient to achieve GEF approval of the CEO Endorsement Request.</li> <li>• In addition, this product shall include a summary of feedback received from the validation workshop and list of participants</li> </ul>									

## 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	15%
2. Assessments to inform activities of the Mesoamerica GEF-8 Regional Coordination, Knowledge Sharing and Support Project 1/2.	Twelve (12) weeks after the signing of the contract by both parties	20%
3. Assessments to inform activities of the Mesoamerica GEF-8 Regional Coordination, Knowledge Sharing and Support Project 2/2	Eighteen (18) weeks after the signing of the contract by both parties	20%
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	20%
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, the following profile is required:

- 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
- Experience and expertise in project design and implementation, including monitoring and evaluation, including gender-responsive project design
- Sustainable financing expertise with specific experience relevant to financing of protected area networks and natural resource-based value chains
- Local expertise with extensive knowledge on national conservation efforts, policies and strategies and the ability to position project activities in the local context effectively
- Knowledge of private sector and community-based approaches to natural resource management in Mesoamerica and target landscapes

- Knowledge of environmental issues and complexities as they relate to Mesoamerica and target landscapes.
- Expertise in gender analysis and integrating gender empowerment aspects of gender in forest restoration and conservation.
- Knowledge of social and livelihood systems in Mesoamerica and target landscapes
- Experience in value chain development and identification of business investment opportunities at local level
- Understanding of the natural resources management policy environment
- Expertise in Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and development of safeguard tools
- Financial Management, including procurement related expertise
- Experience in structuring large forest conservation projects and also protected area network management projects and initiatives, including preferably, those financed by the GEF
- Experience in conducting community and stakeholder consultations
- Academic background required: Forest engineer, agronomist, land-use policy experts, economist, GIS expert, biologist
- Fluency in English, and Spanish language is necessary
- The inclusion of local consultants from the participating countries within the team will be highly valued.

## 2. PERIOD AND COORDINATION

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The period of the consultancy will be 9 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 offices in Mesoamerica

### 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.

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<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
<b>Component 1. Enabling conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests.</b>	
<b>Outcome 1.1.</b> 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>
<b>Outcome 1.2.</b> 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>
<b>Outcome 1.3.</b> 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>
<b>Component 2. Accelerated protection and restoration of primary forests.</b>	
<b>Outcome 2.1.</b> 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>
<b>Outcome 2.2.</b> 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>
<b>Outcome 2.3.</b> 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>
<b>Component 3. Innovative finance and investment.</b>	
<b>Outcome 3.1.</b> 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>
<b>Outcome 3.2.</b> 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>
<b>Component 4. Coordinated and improved learning and regional collaboration.</b>	
<b>Outcome 4.1.</b> 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>
<b>Outcome 4.2.</b> Lessons on primary forest protection and conservation models are available worldwide	<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>

The GEF8 Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome Program Framework Document is available at:  
[https://www.thegef.org/wb\\_work\\_program/06/23/2023/64](https://www.thegef.org/wb_work_program/06/23/2023/64)