



COMPILATION OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS
ON THE JUNE 2024 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK FUND WORK PROGRAM

NOTE: This document is a compilation of comments submitted to the Secretariat by Council members concerning the project proposals presented in the June 2024 GBFF Work Program

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**JUNE 2024 GBFF WORK PROGRAM (REFERENCE: GEF/GBFF.02/03):
COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

PROJECTS

1. Mexico. Mex30x30: Conserving Mexican biodiversity through communities and their protected areas. (GEFID 11510) Agency: CI. GBFF Project Financing \$16,672,477.

✓ **Canada Comments**

- We are pleased to see the significant emphasis on community engagement, particularly with Indigenous communities and their important contributions to Nationally Protected Areas.
- We would welcome greater clarity on the mitigation measures to some of the security risks noted.
 - For example, in some of the protected sites mentioned, (e.g., Papigochic; Chimpalas) Indigenous communities experience conflicts with developers, illegal loggers and organized crime groups, as well invasion of their territory and land privatization, which have led to the displacement of Indigenous communities.
 - In the case of the protected area of Bajos del Norte and Balam Kú in the Yucatán peninsula, ecosystems are at risk of being negatively impacted by mass tourism due to federal government projects and efforts intended to develop this tourism in the region.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany welcomes that the proposal aims to strengthen the inclusion of and collaboration with IP&LCs. This is an important aspect in strengthening a select number of protected areas and ADCVs. We also welcome the aim to improve the long-term financial sustainability of protected areas in all of Mexico.

Germany asks the Agency to address and answer the following comments, questions and suggestions for improvements to the project:

- CONANP has a long-standing and successful track-record of international cooperation, with a focus on improving the effective management of protected areas. The proposed project should be aligned with already established instruments and processes. Any duplication of existing mechanisms should be avoided. Germany welcomes that the project will use the i-effectiveness tool and the existing community of practice (CAAP). CONANP should ensure that the project outcomes are scalable. We advise close coordination with the following projects:
 - Ecosystem restoration and sustainable livelihoods in the Biocultural Corridor of the Central West of Mexico (COBIOCOM; GEF ID 11249);

- “Cumbres Resilientes: Adaptación basada en ecosistemas desde las áreas naturales protegidas para aumentar la resiliencia de la población local de México (GIZ; 2022-2026).
- Germany advises to support the creation of a management mechanism for OECMs because OECMs are an important tool to meet GBF target 3. This should involve institutions of the federal government, subnational governments, IP&LCs, Civil Society Organisations and the private sector via an intersectoral dialogue. This could contribute to other GBF targets other than GBF target 3. Such a process could aid regional knowledge management and Mexico could serve as a role model on OECMs to other Central American countries.
- Germany welcomes that the project will provide an initial USD 1 million to the transition fund via output 2. However, it could have a major effect on long-term financial sustainability whether the transition fund will act as an endowment fund (such as FANP) or a sinking fund. Germany understands that under output 3 USD 12 million will be channelled into FANP to ensure long-term financial sustainability. We advise caution before reappropriating this endowment to the transition fund for short- to medium-term financial viability because this would limit the longer-term financial sustainability of output 3 outcomes.
- Germany wonders whether the target 1.1.3b value of only 100 new members for the Learning Community could be raised higher. While the project works with 5 protected areas and 8 ADVCS, there are 226 protected areas and 579 ADVCS in Mexico.
- Germany notes that no information has been provided regarding the involvement of the private sector. We encourage identifying options for such involvement.

2. Brazil. Caatinga Protected Areas Program – ARCA. (GEFID 11509) Agency: WWF-US. GBFF Project Financing \$8,964,220.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany welcomes that the proposal aims to enhance the conservation of the Caatinga biome through the expansion and improved management effectiveness of Brazil’s National System of Protected Areas, and endangered species conservation.

Germany asks the Agency to address and answer the following comments, questions and suggestions for improvements to the project:

- Germany welcomes that the project explicitly aims to also enhance the engagement of Indigenous People, Traditional Peoples and Local Communities. We notice, however, that according to the Work Program only 8 % of the requested funds are allocated to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity at various stages of the project cycle.
- Germany welcomes the selection of FUNBIO as implementing agency. There is a long-standing cooperation with FUNBIO in the ARPA Program (focus on the Amazon Biome). We

also welcome the focus of this project on the Caatinga Biome. Regarding governance structures and counterpart contributions: Will the ACRA program follow similar principles and structures as ARPA? This would be very much desirable regarding ownership and financial contributions.

- Germany also notices that the project contains no co-financing and no information has been provided regarding the involvement of the private sector. We encourage identifying options for co-financing, especially from the private sector.

✓ **United Kingdom Comments**

- The UK welcomes the focus on the Caatinga biome given its low representation of the National Conversation Units System (SNUC) and recent expansion of agriculture. The project has the potential to build on the successful ARPA.

3. Brazil. Biodiversity Conservation in Indigenous Lands. (GEFID 11508) Agency: Funbio. GBFF Project Financing \$9,064,221.

✓ **United Kingdom Comments**

- The UK welcomes the ambition of the project. FUNBIO has great knowledge in developing and implementing long term territorial projects. IIEB has also good reputation with Indigenous.
- The UK recommends that previous, free, and informed consultations with Indigenous People are progressing smoothly as to guarantee proper engagement and avoid future reputational risks.