



Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Costa Rica

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10124

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Title

Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Costa Rica

Countries

Costa Rica,

Agency(ies)

UNDP,

Other Executing Partner(s)	Executing Partner Type
UNOPS	Others

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Sustainable Land Management, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Financial and Accounting, Mainstreaming, Species, Biomes, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Communications, Type of Engagement, Civil Society, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender results areas, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Rivers, Tropical Rain Forests, Mangroves, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Productive Landscapes, Threatened Species, Tourism, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Sustainable Fire Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Pasture Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Demonstrate innovative approach, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Beneficiaries, Behavior change, Education, Awareness Raising, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Indigenous Peoples, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

48 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

197,785

Submission Date

1/29/2019

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	885,192	2,356,810
CCM-1-1	GET	311,561	878,880
LD-1-1	GET	885,192	2,239,310
	Total Project Cost (\$)	2,081,945	5,475,000

B. Indicative Project description summary**Project Objective**

To build the socio-ecological and economic resilience of the Jesus Maria and Barranca watersheds, the lower and middle watershed of the Grande de Tarcoles river and the Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor in Costa Rica through community-based initiatives for global environmental benefits and sustainable development.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
--------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------

Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Ecosystem services within targeted landscapes are enhanced through multi-functional land-use systems.</p> <p>1.2 The sustainability of production systems in the target landscapes is strengthened through integrated agro-ecological practices.</p> <p>1.3 Community livelihoods in the target landscapes become more resilient by developing eco-friendly small-scale community enterprises and improving market access.</p> <p>1.4 Increased adoption (development, demonstration and financing) of renewable and energy efficient technologies at community level.</p>	<p>1.1.1: Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes that restore degraded landscapes, improve connectivity, support innovation regarding biodiversity conservation and optimization of ecosystem services (including reforestation of riparian gallery forests, forest fire control, enhanced connectivity for wetlands and priority conservation areas; water catchment protection; participatory monitoring of species).</p> <p>1.2.1 Targeted community projects enhancing the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including soil and water conservation practices, silvopastoral and agroforestry systems, increased on-farm arboreal coverage; agro-ecological practices and cropping systems.</p> <p>1.3.1. Targeted community projects promoting sustainable livelihoods, green businesses and market access, including ecotourism; solid waste management and conversion; beekeeping; green value-added agribusinesses integrated into value chains, micro-processing</p> <p>1.4.1. Targeted community projects implementing renewable and energy efficient technologies in each landscape, including solar energy applications, biogas digestors, solar dryers.</p>	GET	1,675,635	4,406,505
--	----------------------	---	---	-----	-----------	-----------

Landscape governance and adaptive management for upscaling and replication	Technical Assistance	2.1 Multistakeholder governance platforms strengthened/in place for improved governance of target landscapes for effective participatory decision making to enhance socio-ecological resilience	<p>2.1.1 A multistakeholder governance platform in each target landscape develops and executes multistakeholder landscape agreements; value-chain development strategies for coffee and ecotourism; and enhanced community participation in Tarcoles River sub-commission; Tulin River commission and JMRB and BRB sub-commissions.</p> <p>2.1.2 A landscape strategy developed by the corresponding multistakeholder platform for the target landscape to enhance socio-ecological resilience through community grant projects.</p> <p>2.1.3 Knowledge from project innovations is shared for replication and upscaling across landscapes and country through SGP platforms and institutional outreach programmes and an environmental education programme supported in x schools/communities.</p>	GET	307,170	807,781
--	----------------------	---	---	-----	---------	---------

Sub Total (\$) 1,982,805 5,214,286

Project Management Cost (PMC) ⓘ

GET 99,140 260,714

Sub Total(\$) 99,140 260,714

Total Project Cost(\$) 2,081,945 5,475,000

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
CSO	Community Organizations	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,300,000
CSO	Community Organizations	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000
Government	MINAE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	800,000
Government	MAG	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,125,000
Government	CADETI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	110,000
Government	AyA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000
Government	ICE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000
Government	UNA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	75,000
Government	INA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000
Government	UCR	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	75,000
Others	German Technical Cooperation	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,040,000
			Total Project Cost(\$)	5,475,000

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investment mobilized was identified through discussions with Ministerial staff, program management and NGO coordinators. The Investment Mobilized figure from the German Technical Cooperation is based on discussions with them and will be provided as a cash contribution to the objectives and outcomes of the Country Programme. This figure will be formally confirmed through a formal co-financing letter defining the contribution in cash. SGP global policy requests grant recipient CSOs to contribute to their projects in cash to the best of their abilities. The National Steering Committee will foster compliance with this policy as

appropriate. These contributions will only be confirmed during project implementation as grant projects are approved. The SGP National Coordinators were instructed to differentiate cofinancing commitments between those corresponding to recurrent costs e.g. salaries of NGO or government staff, costs of premises, etc., and Investment Mobilized, corresponding to new and additional funding either directly contributed to SGP to apply to project grants, as grantee contributions in kind and in cash, or mobilized to support project objectives but not managed by SGP

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Costa Rica	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	885,192	84,093	969,285
UNDP	GET	Costa Rica	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	311,561	29,599	341,160
UNDP	GET	Costa Rica	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	885,192	84,093	969,285
Total GEF Resources(\$)					2,081,945	197,785	2,279,730

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**PPG Amount (\$)**

66,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

6,270

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNDP	GET	Costa Rica	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	28,050	2,665
UNDP	GET	Costa Rica	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	9,900	940
UNDP	GET	Costa Rica	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	28,050	2,665
Total Project Costs(\$)					66,000	6,270

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
7390.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,629.00			

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
130.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored **i**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5,611.00			

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored **i**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
20.00			

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas) **i**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
8250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified) ⓘ

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6,704.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares) ⓘ

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00			

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems ⓘ

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

1,546.00

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided ⓘ

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Submitted

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas) ⓘ

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 5.1 Number of fisheries that meet national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations ⓘ

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
---------------------------------	---	---------------------------------	--------------------------------

--	--	--	--

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia i

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
---------------------------------	---	---------------------------------	--------------------------------

0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE
-------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------	------------------

--	--	--	--

Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided i

Metric Tons (expected at PIF)

Metric Tons (expected at CEO Endorsement)

Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)

Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

--	--	--	--	--

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated **i**

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	2308.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector **i**

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2038			
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector ⓘ

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	2,308.00			
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2038			
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable) ⓘ

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable) ⓘ

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment 

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	1,500			
Male	1,500			
Total	3000	0	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Please note that the following footnotes can be found in the PIF Word document and refer to the targets for the indicators listed in the PIF (the first footnote) and the expected beneficiaries (the second one): !) Please note that while the indicators for this project are not expected to change, the targets will be carefully calculated during the PPG-financed Project Preparation Stage using the corresponding GEF-7 methodology. Any changes to GEF-7 indicators will be noted and subject to revision at CEO Endorsement. 2) To be confirmed during Project Preparation.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

The Seventh Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Costa Rica, to be financed through this project, aims to enable communities and organizations in the Jesus Maria, Barranca and the lower Grande de Tarcoles river basins, as well as, the Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor of Costa Rica (Path of the Scarlet Macaw) to take collective action, through a participatory landscape planning and management approach, to enhance socio-ecological resilience by producing local and global environmental and sustainable development benefits. SGP will support specific community-based actions in each landscape by financing small-scale projects run by local community organizations and coordinating them within the priority landscapes to achieve landscape-scale impacts.

1. Project Description.

- a) Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;

The project will be implemented in five landscapes: The i) Jesus Maria and ii) Barranca river basins; iii) the Montes de Aguacate Biological Corridor (MACB), iv) lower Grande de Tarcoles river basin and the v) Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor. The total area covered by these landscapes is approximately 181,000 hectares, sub-divided as follows: Jesus Maria river basin - 37,775 ha; Barranca river basin - 48,162 ha; Montes de Aguacate Biological Corridor – 69,051 ha; the Grande de Tarcoles lower basin – 52,400 ha; and the Las Lapas Biological Corridor – 56,200 ha. It is important to note that Montes de Aguacate Biological Corridor transverses all three watersheds and that approximately 45% of the Grande de Tarcoles lower basin is covered by the Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor.

The two above-mentioned biological corridors also connect an important network of protected areas which provide conservation and protection to endemic and vulnerable species, as well as, ecosystem services.

The Jesus María River Basin (JMRB) and the Barranca River Basin (BRB) are located in the central–northern area of the country with differences in altitude ranging from 1,540 meters in the JMRB and 2,000 m.a.s.l. in the BRB, to sea level. In total, both river basins represent nearly 1.68% of the national territory and 2.15% of the total national population. Human settlements are combined with substantial forest patches and varied ecosystems, grazing pastures, protected areas (PA) and other land uses. These two river basins are classified as the most degraded in the country. Vegetative cover provided by mature forests, deciduous and secondary forests, according to the 2014 National Forest Inventory, covers 47% of the BRB and 36% of the JMRB, whereas pastures cover 31% and 39% respectively (Agathos Natura 2015). The total population of these basins is 100,342, of which 83,467 are in the BRB and 16,875 in the JMRB.

The Jesus Maria River Basin (JMRB)

The Jesús María River Basin consists of several sub-basins, including the Paires, Jesús María, Surubres, Machuca, and Cuarros Rivers, whose headwaters are located between 1,000 and 1,440 m above sea level in the Constancia, Pelón, Berlin and Aguacate hills. These rivers converge in the Labrador flat lands in the lower part of the watershed between 80 and 120 m above sea level. The entire basin drains into the Pacific Ocean through the Tivives wetland (a Wildlife Protected Area, WPA), with its mangrove and estuarine system. Tivives is a wetland of great importance because it retains a variety of mangrove species, including the Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*); helps trap sediment transported by the rivers from the highlands; and regulates the seawater intrusion. Moreover, it is a critical breeding ground for marine life and is the basis for the livelihoods of artisanal fishers in the Gulf of Nicoya.

Although originally a productive landscape rich in biodiversity, the Jesús María River Basin has lost the majority of its forest cover due to clearance of riparian forest by agrarian producers so that they are able to farm up to the river banks - a practice prohibited by national law. This deforestation, exacerbated by poor road design and insufficient vegetative cover, is leading to greater erosion. It is also causing acceleration of river currents and flooding, where river levels rise rapidly during heavy rains, and water flow is neither slowed nor controlled by the riparian forest. The watershed is also experiencing declines in biodiversity, agricultural productivity, and water availability. Fresh water scarcity during the dry season and unsustainable agricultural practices are putting increasing pressure on both the environment and local communities.

Within the JMRB there are two protected areas: the Protected Zone of Cerro Chompipe (25.5 ha) and the Protected Zone of Tivives (2,368.75 ha), which is shared with the Barranca River Basin. In the BRB there are five Protected Areas (PA) totaling 2,953 ha: the Chayote Protected Zone (which originates in this basin), the Protected Zone of Tivives, Protected Zone of Montes de Oro, the Peñas Blancas Wildlife Refuge and the Alberto Manuel Brenes Biological Reserve (in the upper part of the basin).

In the lower basin, in Salinas and Tivives, wetlands and mangroves have dried up and the remaining forest cover left in the estuaries and inlets has been removed. The mangrove remnant area is probably less than 50 ha. Saline intrusion of the ocean is possible with the highest tides in October, and rains in that month cause a rise in interstitial waters, overflowing onto crop fields and salinizing them. With climate change there may be more hydrologic phenomena of this kind, and soil salinization is likely to increase. In this area there are also active processes of soil erosion on the river banks, mangrove sedimentation, sediment clogging river mouths, flooding, and changes in river structure and dynamics and soil salinization. The most prominent ecosystems are estuaries and mangroves at the mouth of the Jesús María River. It is important to note that despite their ecological importance, neither the Tivives wetlands (1) nor the previously mentioned Guacalillo (2) were attended to by the SGP in GEF-6.

Barranca River Basin (BRB)

The Barranca River Basin covers 48,162 ha with elevations from 0 a 2,000 masl. It is composed of eighteen sub basins, and comprises many communities from the Esparza, and San Ramón districts, that belong to both Alajuela and Puntarenas Provinces. Most of the population is concentrated in the mid and lower parts of the basin, where there is land available for intensive crops such as coffee and sugar cane. According to the BRB Management Plan, in the upper part of the basin coffee cultivation is dominant, together with ornamental plants and vegetable production. Naranjo, a village partially located in the BRB, is 95% comprised of small coffee producers, representing 12% of all cultivated hectares of coffee in the country.

In the mid part of the basin the cultivation of coffee, bananas and plantains, fruit trees, timber species, ornamental plants, and livestock production predominate. Other small-scale crops are corn, beans, root crops such as cassava and cocoyam, and sugarcane. The main problems in this part of the river basin include the low profitability of agricultural activities, the high deforestation rate, and environmental offenses like invasion of riparian zones that are protected by law.

In the lower part of the basin the main productive activities are export crops and fruit trees of different varieties, sugar cane, corn, beans and livestock. The unsustainable use of the soil, weak environmental awareness and industrial and commercial waste mismanagement are the main problems.

Its forest cover is more intact than in the JMRB with 47% of the basin covered by mostly secondary forest and 31% of land in pastures.

Montes de Aguacate Biological Corridor

The MABC was created in 2001 and reactivated in 2006 with the creation of its Local Committee. The justification for the creation of this BC was the protection of water resources in a region with limited availability, water resource scarcity and degradation, coupled with increased demand for human consumption. It covers the hills of the Montes del Aguacate and extends from the southern boundaries of the Alberto Manuel Brenes Biological Reserve to the administrative boundaries of the city of Atenas, with a total area of 69,051 ha. It is located west of the Central Valley, in several cantons of the provinces of Alajuela and Puntarenas. This BC is the responsibility of two Conservation Area Offices of SINAC: ACOPAC and ACC. SGP in GEF-5 supported the participatory processes for the elaboration of the Technical Profile Document and the Strategic Plan of the MABC in 2013. The MABC fosters connectivity between different PA, beginning at the Alberto Manuel Brenes Biological Reserve and including the Peñas Blancas National Wildlife Refuge and the Montes de Oro, Atenas Hills, Rio Grande de Atenas and El Chompipe Protective Zones.

During GEF-6, SGP worked closely with the MABC management council to support the implementation of the Corridor's Management Plan focused on enhancing conservation and protection efforts and ecological connectivity, through the implementation of several local initiatives, such as: the training and formation of two voluntary fire brigades (one in Palmares and one in San Mateo/Orotina) and the formulation of vegetative cover maps in public and private reserves to identify fire risks and prevention and mitigation; enhancing beekeeping capacities; strengthening technical and management capacities of ASADAS, and the creation of a public-private network of protected areas within the Biological Corridor.

Lower Grande Tarcoles River basin (LGTRB)

The Grande de Tarcoles river system originates on the southern slopes of the central volcanic range (cordillera) and flows in a south-westerly direction towards the Gulf of Nicoya. The total length of the river is 111km and the entire river basin covers an area of 2,121 km², into which most of the Greater Metropolitan Area (GMA) drains. In this river basin, 60% of the country's inhabitants reside, around 2.3 million people. The area is also the major economic motor of Costa Rica, with 80% of its industries (medical supplies and equipment, information technologies, pharmaceuticals, food and beverages, agroindustries, construction, commerce and services).

The Grande de Tarcoles river basin is divided into three main sub-basins: the Río Grande, Río Virilla sub-basins in the upper river basin (within which the GMA is located) and the Rio Grande de Tarcoles middle and lower basin, where the Grande de Tarcoles river meets the Virilla river, contiguous to the south of the JMRB.

SGP in OP7 will concentrate its resources in the middle and lower river basin given the scale of the GMA and its issues, including contamination of the river, the existence of other projects and national investments at the GMA level, and the limited financial resources available to SGP.

Due to the concentration of population and economic activity, a lack of regulatory urban planning leading to rapid growth and invasion of the city's river banks, deficient solid and liquid waste management and infrastructure and cultural practices which tend to see the waterways as conduits for this waste, the Grande de Tarcoles river is reported to be the most contaminated river in Central America, which impacts negatively on communities and ecosystems down river as well as, coastal tourism attractions such as Playa Azul, Guacalillo and Tarcoles. Studies undertaken by the National Water Laboratory demonstrate that 40% of this contamination is caused by untreated liquid domestic waste (black waters), 27% by industrial waste, 16% by agrochemical run-off, 14% of solid waste and 5% from coffee production effluents.

Due to the significant levels of contamination being experienced in the lower basin, the country's Constitutional Court in 2007 upheld a "protection order" presented by the Garabito Ecological Party which ordered several public institutions (MINAE, AyA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Presidency, and the 34 municipalities within the river basin) to "immediately adopt integral measures to eliminate the focal points of contamination which exist along the length of the Grande de Tarcoles River system...". As a result, an interinstitutional body, the Grande de Tarcoles River Commission was formed in 2010 and formally constituted via Executive decree in 2014. The Commission, coordinated by SINAC, is divided into four sub-commissions; Alajuela, Heredia, San Jose and ACOPAC. The latter of these corresponds to the middle and lower basin, covering the cantons of Santa Ana, Mora, Puriscal, Atenas, Turrubares and Garabito, intervention area being proposed under the GEF-7 SGP. For the moment, there is no Management Plan for the Grande de Tarcoles River basin, although this is planned. Each sub-commission works on the basis of Action Plans covering four main components – Land-use planning; Water Quality; Management of Solid Waste, and Risk management, with environmental education and community participation as cross-cutting issues.

The Tarcoles "issue" is clearly of national interest and actions towards its solution have been included in the last two National Development Plans (2011-2014; 2014-2018). In terms of local actions, based on accumulated experience from previous phases, there is a clear scope for SGP to integrate and articulate some of its actions in the field of, for example, reforestation and regeneration of gallery forests; solid waste management and environmental education, and other identifiable actions. Therefore, the SGP would look to coordinate closely with the ACOPAC Sub-commission.

The lower Grande de Tarcoles River basin runs from east to west, starting at the meeting point of the Virilla river with the Grande de Tarcoles River to the west of the Garita Hydroelectric plant (average height at this point 300 masl); and discharging in Guacalillo, near the fishing village of Tarcoles. Its principle elevations are along its southern flank - Cerro Turrubares 1,739 metres, in Carara 640 m; 1,100m at Puriscal; and on its northern flank to 1,300 m.a.s.l in the Atenas Hills. The sub basin covers an estimated 48,336 ha.

The area includes the cantons of Garabito (District of Tarcoles on the northern part on the coast); Orotina (Districts of Orotina, part of Coyolar and part of Hacienda Vieja contiguous to the JMRB), Turrubares (Districts of San Pablo, San Pedro, San Juan de Mata, San Luis and part of Carara), the northern part of Puriscal (Santiago, Mercedes Sur, Barbacoas, Grifo Alto, San Rafael and Desamparaditos Districts); the cantons of Atenas and Mora and the upper rural districts of Santa Ana. The target population in the lower and river basin is approximately 101,400 inhabitants (3) based on the population per district.

Population density tends to be low in rural districts; 35 persons/km² in Tarcoles district of Garabito canton (on the coast); 221.02 (atenas); 15.73 Turrubares.

Human Development Indicators: Of the 81 cantons in Costa Rica, the 2016 HDI present the following results:

Canton	Ranking nationally	HDI 2016
Santa Ana	1	0.944
Atenas	6	0.856
Mora	13	0.826
Turrubares	20	0.805
Orotina	29	0.788
Puriscal	40	0,767
Garabito	53	0,747

It is worth noting that while cantons such as Santa Ana, Atenas and Mora show a high rating due to the presence of an affluent urban middle class, there are significant inequalities between urban and rural areas in terms of human development indicators which reflect a general tendency at a national level in terms of the urban-rural development gap.

Biodiversity aspects: The Grande de Tarcoles river basin in its lower reaches forms the northern limit of the Carara National Park. It is a prime habitat for the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*). Reptiles such as iguanas and the Jesu Cristo lizards can also be seen here as well as anteaters, monkeys and bats to name a few, while along its banks and mouth numerous ducks and shorebirds such as the Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) and Tiger Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*), the Double-striped Thick-knee (*Burhinus bistriatus*), the Mangrove Canary (*Dendroica petechial*), Panama Flycatcher, Mangrove Vireo, Mangrove Warbler, and American Pygmy Kingfisher are to be found. The Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) can also be found here and hawks, parrots, toucans, herons, egrets and other waterfowl settle in the area. The river mouth feeds the Guacalillo mangrove reserve (1,076 ha), home to a number of species of fauna as well as, four of the five species of mangrove observed in Costa Rica.

The principle protected areas within the lower Grande de Tarcoles watershed are: Carara National Park (with an extension of 5,242 distributed between the Tusubres and Grande de Tárcoles river basins); Fernando Castro Cervantes National Wildlife Refuge - (FCCNWR), with 1,383 ha neighbouring the Carara NP, the Cerros de Turrubares Protected Zone (2,867 h), also adjacent to Carara; the Quitirrisi Hills Protected Zone (35 ha of protected forest in the Quitirrisí indigenous community) and the Rodeo Protected Zone (2,256 ha) which protects the last remnant of tropical humid forest in the Central valley. To the north of the lower and middle river basin the Atenas Hills, and Rio Grande de Atenas Protected Zones are located. Of these protected areas, some are also found within the Las Lapas Biological Corridor (see description below).

There are several threats to the biodiversity of the region amongst which; habitat loss driven by unplanned land-use change, especially urban expansion on the edges of urban centres, as well as in coastal areas, which also threatens unprotected water sources on private lands; pressures placed on protected areas through illegal hunting, logging and species extraction, the use of fire as a means of clearing agricultural land; solid waste, especially plastics found in coastal and marine areas, which have recently led the Garabito Municipality to declare itself a “plastic-free zone”; inappropriate extensive cattle-farming techniques especially on upper slopes, leading to overgrazing on exposed lands, without sufficient arboreal cover, leading to widespread erosion and soil loss, especially in the Puriscal area; agrochemical run-off from farms which further exacerbate the contamination problem in the Grande de Tarcoles river, and drainage of wetlands around the Tivives mangrove protected area for agricultural production.

Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor (PLLBC)

The Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor (Path of the Scarlet Macaw), was established by Executive Decree N° 33494 – MINAE in 2007. It is located in the central pacific region of the country, covering 56,200 hectares, located 426.300-446.800 East longitude and 1.069.800 - 1.096.000 North latitude. Financed by a GIZ-SINAC Project “Implementing the National Biocorridor Programme”, a strong participatory process has been carried out elaborating the new five-year Management Plan and a Base Line Survey “Management Effectiveness” in June 2018. Actual “Management Effectiveness” is 46% out of 100% (based on 20 key ecological, socioeconomic and governance indicators).

According to the administrative territorial division of Costa Rica, the PLLBC is located within three provinces, six municipalities and twelve municipal districts: For the Province of Alajuela, the canton of Orotina (Coyolar and Orotina districts); for the Puntarenas Province, the Garabito Municipality (Tarcoles district) and the Parrita Municipality (Parrita); and the San Jose Province with the municipalities of Acosta (Sabanillas), Puriscal (Chire, Mercedes Sur) and Turrubares (Carara, San Juan de Mata, San Luis, San Pablo and San Pedro districts).

The PLLBC and Grande de Tarcoles middle and lower river basin overlap: 45% of the PLLBC is found within the Grande de Tarcoles lower river basin. In terms of jurisdiction, according to the new boundaries defined by SINAC with regards to its Conservation Areas, it is shared between the Central Conservation Area (ACC) and the Central Pacific Conservation Area (ACOPAC). Both Conservation Areas have expressed a strong interest to work with SGP in these areas.

During GEF-5, SGP supported the implementation of seven projects in the PLLBC; one related to renewable energy in educational centres (with the Fundación Ecotrópica), four in Biodiversity, one in Rural Tourism, one in organic production.

Socio-economic data: The estimated population of the PLLBC is 53,975 for the 12 Districts involved in the BC (4) ; 51% of the inhabitants are found in two districts – Mercedes Sur and Chires in the Puriscal municipality; whilst Garabito Municipality has 17.4% and Turrubares 10.3%. Population density is relatively low; 31.5 persons/km² in Tarcoles district, Garabito; 33 in Parrita district; in San Juan de Mata, San Luis, San Pedro districts of Turrubares with 14, 11 and 16 respectively, and higher in San Pablo with 52 persons/km². Like the Grande de Tarcoles middle and lower river basin, the PLLBC is an ostensibly rural territory; population centres are rural communities that are concentrated along the principal roads.

The main source of employment (principally, in Sabailas, Chires, San Luis and Carara Districts) is in the primary sector (agriculture, cattle, fishing, beekeeping, forestry and hunting). Melon and Watermelon production is important in the Guacalillo beach area, adjacent to mangrove forests. Fishing is important to families in Playa Azul, Tarcoles and Guacalillo, although shell-fish harvesting has diminished in importance in recent years. Extraction of gravel from rivers has grown in recent years, posing a threat to riverine ecosystems.

Payment for Environmental Services (PES) has become an important mechanism in recent years as a financing mechanism to protect forests and water catchment areas on private lands (5). New PES mechanisms are coming online through the support provided by GIZ-CRUSA-FUNBAM (green economy projects) and the introduction of a water tariff, through support provided by ARESEP-GIZ which will provide financial resources to ASADAS to protect and conserve water sources.

The tertiary sector is more important in Orotina, Coyolar, Tarcoles, San Pablo and Mercedes Sur. Tourism in recent years has grown as an important income generating activity, especially around Carara and La Cangreja National Parks.

There are two Indigenous Territories within the PLLBC, both of the Huetar indigenous people: Zapaton (Chires district) in the eastern part of the Biological Corridor with 452 inhabitants (6) and Quitirrisí. Of the population, 338 persons above 15 years old, 29% reported being in work, and almost 70% unemployed.

In terms of community organisations, there is a wide variety of CSO with which the SGP may work. The PLLBC (7) management plan identified five second-tier Tourism Boards within and around the PLLBC ; 27 Community Water Authorities (ASADAS) (8) which cover an estimated 80% of the provision of water services in the PLLBC and who might potentially access the Tariff for Water Protection currently being tested by ARESEP-AyA-FUNDECOOPERACION-GIZ-UNDP in other parts of the country (Heredia and northern Guanacaste), 27 Integrated Development Associations (ADI) (9) ; and 13 Cooperatives (10) .

Several women's organizations have been identified in the intervention landscape: Women's Association of Bijagual - ASOMUGA; Association of Women's Entrepreneurs of Corrolar - AMEC; AMEP; Group of Women Producers of San Rafael of Turrubares; Group of Women's Producers of Mercedes Norte.

In terms of NGOs, ECOTROPICA, based in Puriscal is present within the BC and working in support of research and studies in the protected areas. Also present are the Association for Ecological Conservation of Hermosa Beach and the Association for the Conservation of the Spider Monkey which promotes reforestation and connectivity.

There are a further nine private organisations that work in the agricultural, artistic and tourism fields identified . A Committee for the Vigilance of Natural Resources (COVIRENA) was also identified in San Antonio. The integrated Foundation for Rural Development in the Central Pacific – FIDERPARC is a microfinance institution, based in Puriscal. that has worked with SGP in GEF6 in successfully setting up ten Community Credit Committees and has undertaken a project to establish 18 in the PLLBC promoting the use of credit for both productive and environmental investments. CCT and FUNBAM, both financed by GIZ-CRUSA, support the consolidation of the local Biocorridor Committee and the conversion of traditional into "green production value chains".

Several thesis studies have been carried out by students of the National University for Distance Education - UNED, which should be of relevance, especially with regard to rural tourism potential. Furthermore, the Ministry of Planning (MIDEPLAN) is currently contracting a study to develop a strategy for agrotourism development in nine cantons, of which Puriscal, Turrubares, and Mora are within the scope of the present proposal.

In terms of stakeholder platforms for decision-making, the following have been identified: oversight for management and decision-making within the Biological Corridor is provided by the Local Council (COLAC). Other COLACs exist for the Carara and Cangreja National Parks. There is a Cantonal Interinstitutional Coordination Advisory Board - CCCI; and at the community level, apart from the ADI, Education and schools boards, health committees.

In regard to Human Development Indicators at the District Level, several of these present low to very low levels, these being: Low – Tarcoles, San Pedro, Parrita, Carara, Coyolar, San Luis and Very Low – San Juan de Mata and Chires.

Biodiversity aspects: The PLLBC connects and includes eight protected areas, including two National Parks: Carara National Park and the Cangreja National Park (2,541 ha). The Fernando Castro Cervantes National Wildlife Refuge and the Turrubares Protected Zone and four private reserves, categorized as National Wildlife Refuges - Sutubal (516 ha), Cacyra (40 ha), Rancho Mastatal (80ha) and Finca Hacienda La Avellana (516 ha). In total, 12,951 hectares of protected areas are found within the biological corridor. Also, within the Corridor is Zapatón Indigenous Territory with an extension of 3,558 hectares.

According to the National Forest Inventory, undertaken 2012-2014 by SINAC and the National Fund for Forestry Financing (FONAFIFO), seven types of coverage were classified, of which five (mature forest, secondary forest, deciduous forest, mangrove and plantations) were forests, whilst pasture land and others (urban and agricultural use) were classified under non-forestry.

Classification	Area (ha)	% of PLLBC
Mature Forest	24,876	44.3%
Secondary Forest	10,328	18.4%
Deciduos Forest	2,624	4.6%
Mangroves	955	1.7%
Plantations	710	1.3%
Pastures	14,925	26.5%
Non-Forestry	1,782	3.2%

Mangroves are found in the Guacalillo area (together with the Tivives reserve in the JMRE) representing an important area for potential support by SGP.

45% of the mature forest is found within protected areas; there is an important patch of continuous mature forest found within the Carara National Park, the Fernando Castro Cervantes National Wildlife Refuge and the Turrubares Protected Zone, representing 15,447 hectares, or 62% of the mature forest of the Biological Corridor which represents an important area in terms of structural connectivity. This same area has been targeted by the current Government to create a single national park and therefore,

working with local communities is considered a key element of this strategy.

Within the PLLBC, forests (mature, secondary and deciduous) cover 37,828 ha (67%). Of these, there are an estimated 664 patches of mature forest, of which 58% are under 2 ha and represent less than 1% of the total mature forest area. Meanwhile, 86% of the total area of mature forests found within the PLLBC are found in patches of over 100ha (21,328 ha out of 24,876 ha of total mature forest). Conversely, 30% of secondary forest is found in patches of over 100 hectares. However, coverage maps and analysis show a significant level of fragmentation of forests, especially secondary ones. Structural connectivity is mainly provided by fluvial routes, due to the protection provided by the Forestry Law (12). Other important connectivity routes, especially for the emblematic Scarlet Macaw are provided between the main forests blocks: Carara, Turrubares, Fernando Castro Cervantes National Wildlife Refuge, to the north, and the Cangreja National Park and Rancho Mastatal Wildlife Refuge, to the south.

Flora: According to scientific inventories (13) and the SINAC's protected area Management Plans for Carara and the Fernando Castro Cervantes National Wildlife Refuge (FCCNWR), 1,166 species of flora were found in the Carara National Park. 29 of these have been classified as endemic or rare, including several found on the IUCN Red List: Alcanfor (*Protium panamense* from the Burseraceae family or Torchwood family); Cirricillo (*Guatteria tonduzii*); Cafecillo (*Erythrochiton gymnanthus*); Monkey Cocoa (*Herrania purpurea*); Chimarrón (*Hirtella triandra*); Pubescent Sorocea (*Sorocea pubivena*);

Fauna: 112 mammal species have been reported in the Carara NP and the FCCNWR (48% of the country's total number), including: the Howler Monkey (*Alouatta palliata*); the Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*); Lowland paca (*Cuniculus paca*); armadillo (*Dasyus novemcinctus*); the common opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*); fruit bats (*Carollia perspicillata*), Puma (*Puma concolor*); ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*); ant-eaters (*Tamandua mexicana*); white-nosed coati (*Nasua narica*) and colored peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*).

Also registered are 430 bird species, of which 16 are endemic and three in danger of extinction: the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), the Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) and the Yellow-necked parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*).

Of the reptile family, 124 species have been identified, including the commonly spotted crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) in the Tarcoles river; several snakes – Boa constrictor; Common mussarana (*Clelia Clelia*); the false coral snake (*Lampropeltis Triangulum*); fer-de-lance (*Bothrops asper*) and lizards, such as the common basilisk (*Basiliscus basiliscus*) or Jesu Cristo lizard and the Anole lizard (*Norops intermedius*).

Of the 62 amphibian species, six are endemic and several are on the CITES endangered list: Painted Frog (*Atelopus varius*); *Gymnopsis multiplicata*; Green and Black Poison Dart Frog (*Dendrobates auratus*); granular poison frogs (*Oophaga granuliferus*) and the Red-eyed tree frog (*Agalychnis callidryas*).

Threats:

Forests are threatened by deforestation and degradation of their functionalities, and two prioritized sectors for improving connectivity were chosen: i) Between Salitrales and La Potenciana (based on GRUAS II (14) conservation gaps) and, ii) the Potenciana Hills rainforest.

The Tulín River, being the main river that flows through the PLLBC, into the Hermosa Beach National Wildlife Refuge and is threatened by deforestation and contamination.

The Scarlet Macaw threatened by deforestation and stealing of chicks which have a high value on the illegal market. The Guacalillo reserve is under threat due to the illegal harvesting of turtle eggs, as well as, Scarlet Macaw nests.

Water resources are threatened due to encroachment on sources and catchment areas through deforestation and urban coastal development. Therefore, working with ASADAS is a priority. AyA for the Central Pacific region (Water and Sewerage) recently identified the ASADAS of Quebrada Ganado, Playa Azul, Herradura and La Pita as priority intervention points due to rapid coastal development.

The problem to be addressed

There are five main drivers causing the rapid deterioration of socio-ecological resilience in the target landscapes: changes in land use and progressive degradation of natural resources (biodiversity, habitat, soil, water, etc.) from over-exploitation, pollution, introduction of exotic invasive species and climate change (15). Habitat loss, caused by land use changes in production landscapes, threatens biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity. Traditional activities, such as cattle ranching and coffee farming, historically, have heavily impacted forest cover in these landscapes, causing the fragmentation of continuous forest blocks. The Fifth National Report to the CBD notes that apart from the threats to dry forests in northern Costa Rica, rivers and aquifers, mangroves and wetlands are also categorized as particularly vulnerable ecosystems.

The growth in the protected area system of Costa Rica, together with more stringent and restrictive environmental legislation under the Forest Law and the Payment for Environmental Services have, in fact, led to an increase in forest cover at a national level from 25% in the early 1980s to 52.2% in 2017. However, this apparent success story masks underlying trends in terms of secondary forest loss on private lands and along river banks and the intensification of agricultural production, leading to increased degradation and contamination of soils and water, through run-off and soil erosion.

In the case of the PLLBC, mature forests, although largely protected and well conserved within protected areas, have suffered fragmentation, especially on private lands, leading to the need for greater reforestation, regeneration and protection efforts. The area between Salitrales and Potenciana was earmarked by GRUAS II as an area that holds unique endemic species under threat. Another area delineated in the PLLBC Management Plan is the Potenciana cloud forest. Likewise, the Tulín river basin, negatively

impacted by deforestation and habitat loss, is an important connectivity route between the BC's protected areas, requiring greater effort toward its protection and conservation.

Although monitoring capacities are generally deficient and scientific studies few and far between, a number of species are known to be on the IUCN red list or under threat. The emblematic Scarlet Macaw is one of these, found mainly within Carara NP but also in the Guacalillo mangrove reserve, where it is threatened by deforestation, agricultural development (melons and watermelons) and construction, as well as the theft of chicks from nests. Guacalillo, as well as Tivives wetlands, are important support areas for migratory and nesting sea birds.

Water resources are particularly vulnerable to deforestation, urban encroachment, contamination through agrochemicals and animal waste. It is common for micro-catchments and water sources to be found on farmland, where certain practices endanger the quantity and quality of a community's water supply. The Community Water Authorities often lack the tools, human and financial resources or knowledge to better protect these areas, and services provided are often deficient, leading to inefficiencies in the supply of water to local residents, and water loss through deficient distribution systems. Climate change scenarios are affecting rainfall patterns leading to deficits in some areas and flooding in others.

Climate change will exacerbate ecosystem degradation in these areas where soil erosion and other land degradation processes are already present due to variable and more intensive rainfalls leading to greater run-off and impact on exposed and already degraded soils. According to vulnerability studies, communities whose livelihoods depend on natural resources/ecological goods and services are most likely to be less resilient.

Open burning of forests is a very destructive practice widely used in agricultural activities. When these fires get out of control they can reduce forest cover, putting biodiversity and natural water supply areas at risk. According to the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), in 2017, forest fires affected 25,459 hectares, of which 1,172 were within protected areas and 24,286 outside these PAs. The data for the Central Pacific region shows that 1,002 ha were affected, of which 758 were outside protected areas. In this case, the PA mostly affected was the Tivives wetlands, around which SGP in GEF-5 supported the creation of a voluntary fire brigade. The threat of uncontrolled fire becomes greater given the limited capacity of environmental authorities to monitor the practice and the lack of knowledge or awareness by authorities of fire management, prevention, and control. Between 2000 and 2017, the forest fire-affected area has increased outside protected areas, but decreased within the protected areas. Additionally, forest fire incidents have increased in the Central and North Pacific regions on the Pacific slope, as temperatures and drought periods have increased due to ENSO conditions. Countrywide, the trend of forest fire incidence has increased over the past decade outside PAs, but the trend is the reverse within PAs, which may reflect the effectiveness of forest fire prevention efforts. SGP GEF-5 supported formation of three voluntary fire brigades and vegetation studies in protected areas and the classification of the combustion characteristics of the vegetation present in the region (16) .

Land degradation is a further driver of biodiversity loss in most biological corridors. The Jesus Maria watershed located in the biological corridor of "Montes de Aguacate" is the most degraded watershed in the country, followed by the Barranca river basin, which also originates in the mentioned biological corridor. The Tarcoles river basin has been classified as the third most degraded watershed mainly due to contamination. However, soil erosion and soil loss has been exacerbated by farming practices, especially

on steep slopes. Although SGP during GEF-5 and GEF-6 worked extensively in the JMBR on introducing soil conservation techniques, as well as silvopastoral practices on cattle ranches, attention still needs to be directed toward this problem, especially in the coffee farming areas in the upper Barranca basin in the Naranjo area.

In Costa Rica, and particularly the target area, most rural communities, their livelihoods and landscapes are vulnerable to socio-economic and climatic risks. Community organizations often lack crucial administrative, planning, financial, technical, marketing, innovation and experimentation capacities and the organizational abilities to become effective agents for the coordinated, long term development and/or maintenance of landscape resilience built on global environmental and local sustainable development outcomes. Landscape level platforms often exist, but civil society participation in them is often scant.

Overall landscape resilience is a product of multiple individual activities, and the success of individual activities is influenced strongly by the overall status of landscape resilience. In other words, collective action is required by landscape communities to build ecological, social and economic resilience. This means that the essential problem to be addressed by this project is the organizational weaknesses of the communities to act strategically and collectively in favor of local sustainable development and the global environment as the basis for landscape resilience.

Human Development Indicators for many target communities are low and despite advances and opportunities provided by a growing economy, and a wider integration into the tertiary sector, the rural population is typified by marginalization, especially of small producers, whose weak economies of scale, reduced access to the means of production and a deficient insertion into value chains, ensures that some are left behind in social developmental terms.

The preferred solution is:

Land degradation, soil loss and erosion, unsustainable farming practices, habitat loss through deforestation and land-use changes, threats to the quality and quantity of water resources, forest fires, biodiversity loss and climate change, are all impacting negatively on the resources underpinning the socio-ecological resilience of the target landscapes. However, for this situation to be addressed, community organisations need to develop and implement adaptive landscape management strategies that build social, economic and ecological resilience maintained through the production of global environmental and local sustainable development benefits. This will be achieved by empowering CSOs through capacity development, grant resources, knowledge and motivation to implement and coordinate concrete projects aimed at achieving and maintaining landscape level outcomes affecting biodiversity, ecosystem services, agroecosystem productivity and sustainability, alternative livelihoods, and climate change mitigation.

These capacities include technical, planning, experimentation and organizational capacities of community organizations through learning-by-doing (community-driven projects) framed within a landscape level strategy and plan. This process also yields a typology of potentially eligible projects in each landscape corresponding to the landscape outcomes, and community organizations identify and develop SGP proposals for funding as part of this process. Community organizations design projects in the

pursuit of landscape level outcomes identified by them and other stakeholders in the participatory planning and strategy development process. Community organizations implement projects and evaluate them, then revise them based on knowledge generated from reflection on implementation in a continuous process of adaptive management.

Barriers to achieving the solution include:

Without doubt under GEF-5 and GEF-6, significant steps were taken to enhance landscape socio-ecological resilience. Although the barriers below refer mainly to the new intervention landscapes, the solutions to overcome the original identified problems and barriers in the JMRB and BRB have yet to be fully achieved, and through SGP's partners community initiatives will be further supported.

Community organizations have limited or weak representation and participation mechanisms within formal inter-institutional landscape governance structures:

Several inter-institutional planning platforms exist in the target areas, whereby public institutions such as MIDEPLAN, INDER, MAG, MINAE, the Health Ministry, Municipalities and others, regularly meet to discuss and coordinate public investment on behalf of communities. Experience has shown that civil society participation in these is, at best, nominal, and in many cases, absent. In the case of the JMRB and BRB, attempts to form watershed commissions have been slower than planned, due to their legal formalization. It is felt that, in keeping with the principle of subsidiarity, sub-commissions pertaining to the different geographical spaces – upper, middle and lower watersheds – will be more relevant to attend to local needs and solutions. In the case of the LGTRB, a sub-commission (ACOPAC) exists, although civil participation on a planning level appears to be scarce. A recently formed Tulín River Commission within the PLLBC, has yet to actively engage communities in landscape planning and the identification of concrete actions. Furthermore, community organizations rarely coordinate with other community organizations to pursue collective action for global environmental and landscape management outcomes due to a lack of awareness of wider landscape issues and their perceived role in tackling them, tending to focus more on local community issues with regards to landscape planning.

Community organizations lack the knowledge, the long-term vision and strategy for ecosystem and resource management at scale and suffer from weak adaptive management capacities i.e. to innovate, test alternatives, monitor and evaluate results, and adjust practices and techniques to meet challenges and generate lessons learned:

Local communities lack knowledge, technical know-how and the capacities to plan strategic interventions that may enhance or restore ecosystem services. Additionally, the resources to actually implement landscape resilience strategies are limited amongst community organizations.

Community organisations often suffer from deficient governance structures, lack strategic management and planning tools, and have weak leadership:

Community organizations do not always guarantee wider, inclusive community participation due to a lack of understanding of governance procedures and planning tools (action plans, strategies, M&E tools), thus weakening their representativeness within their own community and furthermore, in other planning spheres (i.e. insertion in municipal plans). Power can tend to be concentrated in certain local leaders, further weakening wider participation and legitimacy of community organs. Women and youth, in particular, are often under-represented in these organizations. Capacities for conflict resolution are often absent. All this impedes the ability of well-intentioned community organizations to be effective.

Lack of access to financial and technical resources associated with innovating land and resource management practices:

Local communities lack knowledge, planning and technical know-how on strategic interventions that may enhance or restore ecosystem services. Additionally, the resources to actually implement strategies to strengthen landscape resilience are limited amongst community organizations. Certain intervention priorities and zonification of land restoration practices have been identified in the PLLBC and the LGTRB, such as the reforestation or natural regeneration of river banks to improve structural and functional connectivity and to improve water quality and quantity, restoration of degraded lands especially on cattle farms, fire management, the monitoring of endangered species and the protection of water sources by ASADAS. However, these organizations often lack the technical, organizational and financial wherewithal to effectively implement projects and are either unaware of other similar projects or lack access to systemized information on other similar projects.

Community organizations lack adaptive management capacities to innovate, diversify and commercialize goods and services as part of value chains that improve landscape resilience:

Unemployment and under-employment is also affecting rural landscapes, from whence young family members migrate to urban centres because they are unable to generate sufficient income on their family farms. Instead of abandoning their farms and eventually selling them to cultivators of expansive monoculture crops, alternative livelihoods may be developed to generate income and more job opportunities within the landscape. Innovation, scaling-up of previous experiences, accessing financial resources and market opportunities for raw products that may have an added value in niche markets are other alternatives that are not being sufficiently promoted for rural communities. The same might be said for tourism services despite a growing market for them. Local communities often lack the strategic orientation, business skills capital, and marketing skills to meet demand.

Knowledge from project experience with innovation/experimentation is not systematically recorded, analyzed or disseminated to policy makers or other communities, organizations and programmes:

Projects, past and present, frequently generate successful project results, best practices and lessons learned. SGP allows for a certain degree of innovation and risk-taking as well as the possibility of scaling-up best practices within or to other landscapes. However, this know-how and practical on-the-ground experience is not always systemized and widely shared amongst stakeholders. Communities, even when they are relatively close to each other, often do not know about similar experiences or initiatives, or do not have possibilities to visit these experiences and see them firsthand. Likewise, policy makers and stakeholder platforms, such as river basin commissions, and interinstitutional territorial planning bodies, are often unaware of these experiences as they have not been sufficiently informed of these.

b) Baseline scenario or associated baseline projects,

The GEF SGP Country Programme

The GEF Small Grants Programme in Costa Rica has contributed significantly to on-the-ground implementation of the UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD and other multilateral agreements for sustainable development. For 25 years, the GEF SGP Country Programme has strengthened capacities of approximately 530 communities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for local conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, use of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency applications, and degraded land restoration with special attention to linking these to sustainable production and livelihoods. The Programme has invested approximately USD 13.7 million in grants through 640 projects, in coordination with middle and full sized GEF financed projects, such as the Territorial Land Planning Proposal for biodiversity conservation in Costa Rica better known as GRUAS I and II (through the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project), and the GEF “Ecomarket Projects” that have supported the national Payments for Environmental Services (PES) mechanism, providing community level experiences of implementation of nationally designed instruments, which allow policy feedback from the “bottom-up”.

SGP Country Programme initiatives in Costa Rica under the biodiversity focal area from GEF1-GEF4 (1992-2010) had a territorial focus on fragile ecosystems of biological corridors and buffer zones of Protected Areas across the country, in articulation with the National Biological Corridor Programme (defined through the GRUAS studies and process). In particular, the programme focused on providing support for the protection of community-managed forests, promoting access to national PES schemes (supported by the Ecomarket Project), enhancing sustainable livelihood practices, including rural tourism, promoting sustainable production such as organically produced vegetables, bananas, coffee and cacao agroforestry systems, medicinal plants, and organic beekeeping, as well as sustainable harvesting of plant species for crafts. Local climate change mitigation initiatives, which contribute to the Country’s Carbon Neutrality Policy, have also been supported by SGP through the promotion of new technologies for renewable energy generation such as solar, biogas, hydropower and measures to improve energy efficiency, as well as promoting the active participation of communities in forest fire control programmes (COVIRENAS) that have also contributed to community resilience.

During GEF-5 (2011-2015), the SGP Country Programme in Costa Rica developed 120 of initiatives in 12 Biological Corridors and 8 Protected Areas; 21 of these were targeting the same geographic area, addressing goals of the three multilateral environmental agreements (UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD), with special emphasis on implementing the national programme on land degradation.. The main objective was to create synergies between the three Conventions’ goals with initiatives funded by the Programme, through a landscape approach within the Jesús María River Basin, one of the nine most degraded watersheds

in the country. The landscape is identified by the National Advisory Commission on Land Degradation (CADETI) as a priority in the National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation in Costa Rica (NAP). Thus, SGP became an implementation mechanism of the NAP in support of CADETI, through the implementation of community-based projects aimed at reversing land degradation processes and improving the resilience of the socio-ecological production landscape through conscious management, conservation of biodiversity and promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

SGP has supported community organizations in the JMRB since 2011 (during the GEF-5) and since 2016 also in the BRB (GEF-6). During GEF-5, 21 projects were implemented with GEF funding and 5 projects were executed under the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) programme supporting community organizations. CACs (Cantonal-Community Agricultural Centers), ASADAS (Community-based Associations for Water Administration), ADIs (Community Development Associations), cooperatives and agricultural and livestock producers as well as others within the Jesus Maria river basin worked to improve the resilience of the socio-ecological production landscape through adaptive management, conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, strengthening the sustainability of production systems, promotion of sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening institutions and governance systems at the landscape level. During GEF6, the results, gaps and lessons learned in the implementation of the GEF-5 programme were scaled up and applied to the BRB under the watershed management methodology developed by CADETI and implemented by MAG and MINAE with SGP support. In total, during GEF-6, 31 projects are underway in both river basins.

Due to the land degradation problem, several projects are focused on soil conservation practices and improved farming methods in the upper reaches of the basins; extensive cattle farming and pasture degradation exacerbated by climate change leads to a decline of the natural resource base (e.g. decreased biodiversity, soil and water quality); more rapid runoff and hence higher peak flows and sedimentation of rivers; and lower productivity, increased rural poverty and vulnerability and further land-use pressure. To offset these trends, especially in the mid-basin, SGP in partnership with CADETI, has emphasised the introduction of improved silvopastoral practices (improved grass and legume pastures; forage banks, agroforestry techniques, set-aside areas for natural regeneration, pasture divisions using live fences and electric fences, and water management, among other techniques).

Thanks to these projects, there is a proven and demonstrative case for scaling up these practices to other geographical areas, including the new proposed intervention areas. Several of these projects have reached sufficient maturity to be able to measure their impact and demonstrate their effectiveness to other producers through farmer-to-farmer exchanges, a key strategy for transferring and scaling up practical know-how. Methodologies in support of community groups and producers developed by MAG and MINAE have been key to successful on-the-ground implementation, and this strategy will continue to be pursued under GEF-7.

Through the support provided by SGP and the mobilization of resources to community groups engaged in the implementation of projects, both MAG and MINAE, through their network of regional agencies, are able to provide long-term and concrete technical support to these local actors, by developing tailored strategies at a farm level, continual training and technical assistance, including training manuals and methodologies, and by facilitating exchanges, and elevating the effectiveness, impact and sustainability of individual projects. This accumulated experience, know-how and dissemination, has contributed to the

enabling conditions for change in a mass of previously disengaged communities, across both watersheds, leading to accumulative global environmental benefits and greater socio-ecological landscape resilience. However, the target group has not been fully reached and other communities currently aware of the practices and successes being generated are petitioning project partners for support.

SGP, together with CADETI has also looked to strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms, and strengthen strategic community participation and representation within these governance structures in the JMRB and BRB through the formalization of Sub-basin Committees (three Committees in each basin). GEF-7 will allow for the continual participation and monitoring of these, extracting lessons learned to be applied in the lower Tarcoles river commission.

In addition to mobilizing joint funding for BD, LD and CC with a landscape approach and providing an effective mechanism that reaches community organizations and CSOs, the SGP Country Programme in Costa Rica has gathered knowledge and experiences from previous Operational phases and other community-based experiences worldwide. The Country Programme has worked with strategic partners including academic institutions (such as the UNA - National University), and NGOs, also leveraging private (for example, to build micro-hydropower) and public funding to enhance the scientific, technical quality and sustainability and added value of SGP interventions in Costa Rica. In pursuance of a long-term strategy for organizational support and development, SGP Costa Rica has monitored the capacity building process of specific organizations, enhancing and tailoring its support in line with specific needs and limitations during different phases. The continuous monitoring of community-based projects implemented through SGP and its Country Programme Strategy, has allowed modifications to the design and implementation of each Programme phase as well as sharing lessons learned and best practices amongst grantees. This adaptive management approach has allowed the evolution of the SGP Country Programme, to become more strategic and effective throughout each period.

Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection

The interventions under component 1 are built upon the following baseline projects:

The primary baseline investments and activities in the five selected regions of Costa Rica relevant to this GEF 7 phase are those linked with the Policies, Strategies and Action Plans of the three multilateral environmental conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD); the Ministry of Environment and National System of Conservation Areas' National Programme for Biological Corridors (17), the National Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (Costa Rica-planned activities for REDD+, including Carbon monitoring), and the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) for the livestock and coffee sectors (GIZ-MINAE-ICAFE-FUNBAM).

National Programme of Biological Corridors in Costa Rica – GIZ is currently supporting SINAC in the implementation of the CBD and local governments and communities in updating and implementing Management Plans for 15 prioritized Biological Corridors, of which the Paso Las Lapas BC is a beneficiary. It provides technical and financial assistance and oversight to the Corridor's local Committee through strengthening of participatory planning processes, looking to improve their management effectiveness. Amongst its components is the establishment of financial tools and mechanisms with a view to improving the

financial sustainability of biological corridors, including improvements to the current PES under FONAFIFO to cover other ecosystem services. SGP will contribute significantly to the implementation of the recently updated Management Plan for the PLLBC, which is the basis for the identification of actions within this target area under SGP GEF-7, by providing potential grantee communities with access to funds.

The PLLBC Strategic Management Plan 2015-2021 prioritised the implementation of projects and investments, based on threats to biodiversity and the ecosystemic services provided, these being on a landscape scale (forests), a reduced landscape scale (Túlin river), a threatened species (Scarlet Macaw) and an ecosystemic service (water). To attend to these prioritized focal areas, the PLLBC Strategic Management Plan identifies the following Objectives: i) Consolidation of the Local Council (COLAC); ii) Identification of spaces for interinstitutional coordination and land-use planning; iii) promote biodiversity conservation and ecosystemic connectivity; iv) environmental education.

In the case of the PLLBC, during GEF-5 SGP supported the implementation of seven projects. In the case of GEF-6, SGP has supported 31 projects, a summary of which is provided as follows:

- Improved soil and water conservation techniques on coffee and horticultural farms (11 projects);
- The introduction of sustainable cattle ranching through the application of sylvopastoral practices benefitting 185 farmers;
- A microfinance lending scheme which has witnessed the formation of 10 Community Credit Committees which will continue to be supported by FIDERPAC, the micro-finance service provider;
- Fire prevention and management through the training and formation of three voluntary fire brigades, coordinated by SINAC as part of the National Programme of Fire Management;
- Integrated water management with local community water management authorities, benefitting 23 ASADAS - (water catchment protection and conservation, improving connectivity within the MABC, effective management training, infrastructure improvement to reduce water loss, community awareness programmes).
- Organic horticultural production in controlled environments (mini greenhouses) with four women's groups for food security and income generation;
- Improved beekeeping capacities through technical training; inputs and equipment provision, planting of melliferous trees and the construction of two mobile honey extraction units.
- A network of public and private reserves to improve connectivity and management of the MABC.

The REDD+ Landscape CCAD-GIZ-MINAE Programme supports landscape restoration processes in the Central Pacific Conservation Area (ACOPAC), specifically in Puriscal County. The districts included in this initiative are Barbacoas, Candelarita, Mercedes Sur, and Chires. The intervention area covers very moist and pre-montane rainforest, including part of the Paso de Las Lapas Biological Corridor. This project is supporting the restoration and conservation of natural springs for human consumption, through payments for environmental services and municipal regulations; soil and water conservation in extensive livestock-production areas through the application of Nationally-Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in the livestock sector and the maintenance and

expansion of ecosystem goods and services, promoting payment for environmental protection services, natural regeneration, establishment of agro-forestry systems, and sustainable management of secondary forests. Due to the high level of compatibility with SGP's objectives and the coincidence of the intervention area, synergies and complementary actions will be forged between both projects in terms of landscape restoration, enhancing improved cattle-ranching practices and the protection and conservation of water resources.

Costa Rica's NAMA Support Project "Low Carbon Coffee" is a sector-specific approach aiming for a climate-friendly transformation of the entire value chain of one of the most important economic sectors in the country. The NAMA Support Project offers technical and policy advice to change production and processing practices in the sector, which is the source of nine percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the project incentivises private sector investments by providing grants, loans and guarantees for coffee farmers and millers to acquire greenhouse gas-efficient fertiliser and milling technologies. The NAMA coffee project coincides with the SGP GEF-7 intervention in the San ramon, Palmares, Naranjo, Atenas and Turubares cantons.

The Forever Costa Rica Association is administrator of the Second Debt-for-Nature Swap between Costa Rica and the United States, a bilateral agreement for funding the consolidation of SINAC's protected wild areas prioritized in the Forever Costa Rica Programme. This association has financed several complementary actions in the PLLBC and Tivives wetlands protected zone, including a delimitation plan and signage for the Carara NP; a waste management plan for Carara and updating the La Cangreja NP and Tivives Protected Zone management plans.

The Forest Law provides the basis for the Payment for Ecosystem Services Programme (PPSA) and establishes the National Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) to finance the activities of small and medium producers related to forestation and reforestation, restoration of degraded land, agroforestry systems, technological changes, and sustainable use of forest resources, especially within Biological Corridors (18). FONAFIFO raises funds for the payment of environmental services that contribute to the development of the natural resources sector. SGP has supported CSOs to access funding of the PES Programme.

These are important sectoral efforts that will contribute to the enhancement and revitalization of the target production landscapes selected for SGP in GEF-7. SGP grant projects, supporting local communities, will add value and build on these government led initiatives. Under the current baseline scenario, without GEF SGP support, vulnerable community organizations in degraded landscapes would remain in the same conditions, as the above-mentioned initiatives do not have the capability to reach out and work so directly with remote and poor communities in the landscapes where SGP will be focusing to address global environmental and development issues in an integrated and sustainable manner.

During GEF-5 and GEF-6, SGP supported the capacity development of the NGO/CSOs in the JMRB (GEF-5 and GEF-6) and the BRB (GEF-6), through their implementation of and support to grant projects and has strong, established partnerships with stakeholders there, including local governments. Each of these organizations works with existing targeted locations and communities and networks.

Component 2: Landscape governance and adaptive management for upscaling and replication

The interventions under component 2 are built upon the following baseline projects:

Under GEF-6, SGP supported CADETI in identifying and negotiating options for the conformation of six river basin sub-commissions (three in each watershed) with institutional and public participation in the JMRB and BRB, and will continue to support these commissions for territorial planning under GEF-7. These governance platforms whose operation is being legalized through Law 7779 (regulating Soil Use and Conservation, and Land Management) are currently under formation.

In the case of the Rio Grande de Tarcoles landscape, the lower Grande de Tarcoles river Commission, known as ACOPAC, covering the cantons of Santa Ana, Mora, Puriscal, Atenas, Turrubares and Garabito, counties is implementing its action plan which contains four main components: Land-use planning; Water Quality; Management of Solid Waste and Risk management, with environmental education and community participation as cross-cutting issues. A wider Grande de Tarcoles river Management Plan has been approved to be developed with funding from MIDEPLAN for 303 million Costa Rican colones (approximately \$540,000).

- c) Proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area (19) strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project,

Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection

Under this component, ecosystem services will be enhanced across the target landscapes through community level small grant projects that restore degraded soils and habitat, improve connectivity, and support innovation regarding biodiversity conservation and the optimization of ecosystem services.

In the case of the JMRB, BRB and MABC, efforts will be directed at consolidating previously successful and innovative projects, building on the synergies generated with stakeholders in these landscapes in GEF-6. Possible actions might include the restoration, reforestation and community involvement in the management of the Tivives wetlands, a critical habitat not included in GEF-6. Building on the positive relationships forged with the SINAC office in San Ramon, the Local Committee of the MABC and the Municipality of San Ramon in the BRB, and in order to pilot an innovative approach to urban landscape restoration, SGP funds will be channeled to support landscape restoration in the Estero river and wetlands in the heart of the town of San Ramon for landscape and biodiversity restoration and public access, in liaison with the Municipality, UCR and neighbours, through cleaning, reforestation and awareness campaigns. Other actions in support of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services will be identified at the PPG stage, considering further action on land degradation.

Considering the geographical overlap of the lower Grande de Tarcoles river basin and the PLLBC, the existing multistakeholder landscape platforms (LGTRB sub-commission; the Local Committee of the PLLBC) have identified a series of critical threats and areas of action intended to improve the management capacities of these bodies and local communities to enhance social, economic and ecological resilience through specific actions and projects. Considering the critical state of contamination of the Grande de Tarcoles river system and other sub-basins, the target landscapes' river systems have been identified as key to both assuring the quantity and quality of water resources and ecological connectivity. Therefore, involving local communities, partnered with public institutions, in identifying, mapping and prioritizing key zones for restoring, conserving and protecting riparian gallery forests via planned reforestation or natural regeneration will provide for improved ecosystem services and positive environmental effects throughout the river basin system. Likewise, the target landscape is home to an important network of protected areas, both public and private, which further provide biodiversity services and important water resource protection, elements that are also critically challenged by land-use change, urban encroachment and climate change. Amongst these is the Guacalillo Mangrove Reserve, which faces threats from contamination, unsustainable agricultural use, and actions which negatively affect the emblematic Scarlet Macaw; therefore, SGP will look to support work with local community organisations to improve the management of these wetlands, including highly publicized solid waste collection campaigns, the monitoring and protection of wildlife and ecological connectivity between Guacalillo and Carara National Park through reforestation. These reforestation and restoration efforts could be supported through improving the capacities of community and public tree nurseries for native species production and linkages with public institutions that provide saplings, including INDER and the Costa Rican Institute of Electricity – ICE. Such actions will be identified through the existing stakeholder platforms, including the recently formed Tulin river basin commission.

With regard to the integrated management of water resources, SGP will look to build upon the positive experiences and results from GEF-6 in the JMRB and the BRB, and the synergies forged with MINAE, the national water authority - Water and Sewerage (AyA); the Public Services Regulatory Authority – ARESEP-GIZ-FUNDECOOPERACION, and the full-size GEF project “Strengthening Capacities of Rural Aqueduct Associations' (ASADAS) to Address Climate Change Risks in Water Stressed Communities of Northern Costa Rica”. Water resources have been identified as a critical ecosystem service in all the target landscapes, intimately tied to conservation and protection efforts, with the ASADAS at the forefront of efforts to mitigate threats to water catchment protection areas. The SGP will plan to consolidate the technical, administrative and financial capacities of these community organisations, to enhance their resilience in the face of threats, and by looking to constantly improve their catchment and distribution services to their communities. This will be done through specific projects, fostering greater engagement between these and public authorities, providing training opportunities, upgrading and administrative and planning procedures to increase their effectiveness and reduce water loss, as well as providing specific tools for improving the protection of water catchment areas, such as hydrogeological mapping. These projects will aim to formalize a network of ASADAS in the BRB, as well as ASADAS in critical coastal zones, the Turrubares catchment area and others identified by local stakeholder platforms.

Other actions, in support of improving biodiversity conservation and the optimization of ecosystem services, and building upon previous SGP phases, might be oriented to support the strengthening of Natural Resources Community Vigilance Committees (COVIRENAS), community voluntary environmental inspection groups. The Payment for Environmental Services is also proven to be a key and highly successful financial mechanism in support of landscape restoration efforts, especially in biological corridors.

SGP will look to engage local rural populations, especially in the LGTRB and the PLLBC, in transforming their farming systems to more sustainable production practices, through the scaling up and transfer of best practices and know-how from the JMRB and BRB. The rural landscapes, especially in the upper reaches of the cantons of Santa Ana, Mora and Puriscal and within the PLLBC, are a mix of mainly coffee production agro-ecosystems, cattle farms and fragmented secondary forests. Therefore, SGP's agro-ecological strategies will focus on enhancing soil conservation work and increasing arboreal coverage, which may also generate economic diversification such as fruit and timber. Conservation and water management through rainwater harvesting systems, gully plugs, gabions and small dams will be also supported to aid in groundwater recharge. Windbreaks, live fences, and permaculture will also be supported through community projects for sustainable farming. In the PLLBC, extensive cattle ranches constitute the principal production system, often found on steep slopes vulnerable to erosion; the transformation of these in prioritized pilot areas, into sustainable and high resilience farms will be achieved through agro-ecological principles and practices such as live fences, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, integrated crop-livestock systems, improved grazing and pasture management, fruit trees in agroforestry systems and mixed cropping amongst others. These practices will be supervised by agents from the Ministry of Agriculture and SINAC and training provided, through agreements reached with the Direction of Extension of MAG. Given the scale of the potential intervention area, specific zones and community organizations for piloting these practices will be prioritized during the PPG phase, with the MAG and the PLLBC.

Livelihoods will be enhanced through the identification and development of innovative products and services with special attention to the needs of women and youth groups. Some of these initiatives will be selected from previous SGP Country Programme grantees that require additional market commercialization or production capacities for their entrepreneurship for scaling up. The target landscape, especially the PLLBC has developed some community-driven tourism services, which tap into the area's scenic beauty, protected areas services and coastal attractions; amongst the potential grantees are community-managed rural lodges, guide services and trails whose services would need to be improved and better linked to market demand. Other potential alternative livelihood products are bee-keeping, organic production, micro-processing and solid waste management and recycling plants. These services would look for greater linkage and access to markets. These initiatives will be further supported in five coastal communities in the Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor area through the development of Community Credit Committees, building upon the results and lessons learned in GEF-7 with FIDERPAC, looking to capitalize local economies through a system of locally managed loans and capacity development. FIDERPAC has already developed 18 CCC in the Biological Corridor, opening up specific credit channels (with lower interest rates) for environmentally friendly investments at the farm-level.

The scope for introducing renewable energy and fuel efficient technologies to be adopted by communities is to be identified more precisely at the PPG phase and feasibility studies would need to be carried out. However, given the prevalence of forest fires, SGP will look to continually support Costa Rica's efforts to prevent and manage wildfires through the conformation, training and equipping of voluntary fire brigades in the PLLBC area.

The experience and know-how generated under the GEF-5 and GEF-6 landscape approach has not only promoted interventions centred on soil conservation but has also allowed the introduction of other innovative methodological approaches, that will be built upon in GEF-7.

Component 2: Landscape governance and adaptive management for upscaling and replication

Under this Component, SGP Costa Rica will seek to increase community participation and representation within the existing formal inter-institutional governance structures at the landscape level: these include the sub-commissions of the JMRB, BRB and the LGTRB, the recently formed Tulin river basin commission. This last one looks to offset the high level of land degradation caused by unsustainable cattle farming in the upper watershed; this will require the development of diagnostics, spatial mapping and participatory planning and decision-making involving local communities and farmers, in order to guarantee a high level of participation in land restoration actions.

Formal multistakeholder groups will be consolidated in each selected landscape that will incorporate CBOs, local government, national agencies and Ministries, NGOs, the private sector and other relevant actors. These partnerships will provide technical assistance, strategic guidance and financial support, where possible, to community organizations for individual community initiatives, as well as landscape level projects and strategic upscaling projects. Formal partnership agreements will be agreed and signed with communities as projects are identified and aligned with landscape level outcomes. In Costa Rica, formal multi-stakeholder groups exist under different legal modalities and topics countrywide. For example, the Biodiversity Law establishes participation mechanisms at different levels: Regional Conservation Area Council (11 in total), and Local Conservation Council (CORAC and COLAC, respectively in Spanish).

During GEF-5 and GEF-6, project interventions supported the introduction of innovative practices such as soil and water conservation techniques on coffee plantations and horticultural production systems, in cattle farms through enhanced sylvopastoral practices, organic horticultural production techniques under controlled environments and bee-keeping. This technical know-how and the methodologies generated in the JMRB and BRB have been tried and tested and systemized in manuals, training programmes and farmer-to-farmer exchanges and will be transferred and scaled-up to the other target river basin and biological corridors for the purpose of replication, development and integration of initiatives. Likewise, new initiatives, innovations and best practices will be collected and analyzed from community projects and other sources for dissemination to other communities, programmes, organizations and institutions. This exchange of information and knowledge will be a valuable contribution to policy formulation at national and regional level.

With these local and regional initiatives, the Costa Rica SGP Country Program will contribute in GEF 7 to thirteen Aichi Targets of the CBD, specifically: 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 20.

Also, the project will be contributing to 12 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and their targets, as follows:

- SDG 1 by developing strategies to eradicate poverty,
- SDG 2 protecting seeds and seed banks, endemic species and enhancing food security,
- SDG 4 improving access to education and involving education centers in environmental awareness efforts,
- SDG 5 taking the necessary measures to ensure women's empowerment and participation in all development efforts,
- SDG 6 improving access to water and sanitation,

- SDG 7 facilitating access to energy services and renewable energy technologies,
- SDG 9 facilitating access to credit and helping small scale producers to add value to commodities,
- SDG 10 promoting social inclusion and income generating activities,
- SDG 12 promoting waste management,
- SDG 13 strengthen community resilience and improve awareness raising on climate change issues,
- SDG 14 designing and implementing conservation measures on coastal zones, and
- SDG 15 restoring ecosystems, reforestation, combating desertification and biodiversity loss.

d) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Programme strategies:

The SGP Costa Rica Upgrading Country Programme (UCP) will focus in GEF-7 on support to community-driven planning and management of critical selected landscapes aimed at achieving global environmental and local sustainable development benefits. Community organizations will enhance their adaptive management capacities, cultivate resilience by strengthening their capacities for innovation across the landscape and throughout the local economy, and privilege no-regrets actions and initiatives. The SGP UCP will support community organizations in some of the most vulnerable and least developed areas of Costa Rica to take collective action through a participatory landscape planning and management approach aimed at enhancing socio-ecological resilience from innovative livelihoods producing local and global environmental benefits.

The SGP UCP aims to address challenges to biodiversity loss, land degradation and climate change through strengthened community organizations that lead to enhanced landscape governance for resilience and global environmental benefits. The programme focuses on food and livelihood security of the local community by promoting agro-ecological practices and cropping systems, participatory land use planning, and forest conservation-based livelihoods of local communities. The UCP will also promote innovative technologies and processes to reduce GHG emissions. By promoting low cost energy efficient cooking fuels and renewable energy measures, local communities will be able to contribute to pathways to low carbon local economy both directly and through channelling of evidence-based lessons to policy and decision makers.

The Costa Rica SGP UCP in GEF-7 is aligned with the Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy as it engages communities in landscape strategies that “mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes” and also addresses the “direct drivers to protect habitats and species”. The SGP Country Programme will also work with community organizations to “enhance on-the-ground Implementation of SLM” as well as provide policy makers with on-the-ground evidence from renewable energy and energy efficiency applications that can be used to “promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs.”

The strategy for the Costa Rica SGP UCP in GEF-7 is fully aligned with the strategy and spirit of the GEF Impact Programme on Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration in that its core approach promotes “a sustainably integrated landscape that simultaneously meets a full range of local needs, including water availability, nutritious and profitable crops for families and local markets, and enhanced human health; while also contributing to national economic development and policy commitments (e.g. NDCs, LDN, Aichi targets for biodiversity conservation, Bonn Challenge); and delivering globally to the maintenance of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and provision of food, fiber, and commercial commodities to international supply chains.”

During project preparation, SGP will liaise closely with the GEF Secretariat and GEF agencies on alignment with relevant programs and projects, including its Impact Programmes and Programmatic Approaches, as well as Full-sized and Medium-sized projects, particularly in relation to local community-driven land and resource management.

e) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and co-financing:

GEF incremental funding and cofinancing will be applied to overcome the barriers mentioned above and to add value, where appropriate and possible, to existing initiatives by the government, the private sector or CSOs in the target landscapes: the river basins of Jesus María, Barranca, lower Grande de Tarcoles and the Montes de Aguacate and Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridors. It will contribute to consolidate the long-term solution of collective action and adaptive management by community organizations for social, economic and ecological resilience of the three most degraded river basins in the country and two biological corridors that provide vital ecosystemic services and ecological connectivity between a network of public and private protected areas. GEF funding will provide small grants to NGOs and community organizations to assist in and consolidate landscape management strategies and implement community projects in pursuit of strategic landscape level outcomes related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, landscape restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and integrated water resources management.

Funding will be available for initiatives to build the organizational capacities of specific community groups (ADI, ASADAS, farmers' organizations, women's groups and local NGOs), as well as, in supporting landscape outcomes and actions identified by multistakeholder platforms – river basin commissions and Local Committees of Biological Corridors, in order to plan and manage strategic initiatives and test, evaluate and disseminate community level innovations. It will look to increase effective community participation in these platforms, allowing for greater engagement of civil society in decision-making and planning, whilst fostering partnerships between public, private and academic entities. Resources will also be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality to upscale proven technologies, systems or practices based on knowledge gained from analysis of community innovations from previous phases of the SGP Costa Rica Country Programme, specifically, in this case, from the GEF-5 and GEF-6, with regards to actions and lessons learned from the JMRB and the BRB. Potential strategic initiatives may include upscaling of landscape restoration and land management practices, involving improved farming and production methods, soil conservation practices, agroforestry and sustainable cattle farming; enhanced management of water resources and services by community water authorities; and fire prevention and management. However, the specific actions to be supported will be identified in the PPG phase, considering alignment with management and action plans, both for the lower Grande de Tarcoles river basin sub-commission and the PLLBC, municipalities, MAG, and INDER, amongst other public institutions and inter/national donors (GIZ, CRUSA, etc.).

The Country Programme will look to consolidate community experiences and lessons learned from the on-going and previously supported projects in GEF-5 and 6 for forthcoming replication, upscaling and mainstreaming. Project experiences and best practices will be systematized and knowledge generated for discussion and dissemination to local policy makers and national/subnational advisors, as well as landscape level organizations, NGOs and other networks.

f) Global environmental benefits

The global environmental benefits generated by the SGP Costa Rica Upgraded Country Programme through community-based landscape management initiatives and actions in selected priority sites in Costa Rica, can be estimated simplistically over the short term, as a result of potential aggregated impacts from hypothetical future individual grant projects. However, overall benefits over the longer term will be a function of the synergies created between projects through programmatic approaches, such as the landscape/seascape management approach proposed here, which is based on SGP experience in GEF-5 and GEF-6.

Under this approach, community groups, local authorities, and NGOs form multistakeholder partnerships and develop and implement landscape resilience strategies based on outcomes linked to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, sustainable land management, and climate change mitigation, all of which are shaped and defined by their relation to local priorities for food security, income generation and the development of social capital for the global environment and socio-ecological resilience. These strategies will define the types and numbers of community projects required to meet the selected outcomes; at that point, once the strategies have been developed by the communities in each landscape, a more credible, detailed accounting of potential global environmental benefits will be potentially possible. At the same time, the project's multistakeholder partnerships will explicitly develop strategic projects (financed by SGP at up to USD 150,000) to upscale successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems identified from previous phases of the SGP Costa Rica Country Programme. Prospective Global Environment Benefits from these initiatives will be more precisely defined and estimated during project preparation and implementation.

On biodiversity, the project will seek to promote the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity. Community organizations will build their capacities to plan and manage resources adaptively and in synergy with each other, thus contributing to the sustainability of biodiversity conservation, land management and climate mitigation.

Project interventions will promote:

- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in productive landscapes (endangered flora and fauna and species) and water sources.
- Reforestation and natural regeneration of riparian gallery forests.

- Participatory monitoring of threatened species and the identification and implementation of action plans to mitigate this threat.

On climate change, the project will seek the sustainable mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Project interventions will promote:

- Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in agriculture, forests and other land uses (reforestation, re-vegetation and rehabilitation of degraded soils)
- Mitigation of GHG emissions (through energy efficient technologies introduced, adapted, piloted and disseminated related to housing and lighting)
- Increased adoption of innovative technologies and management practices for GHG emission reduction and carbon sequestration.

On land degradation, the project will address erosion and deforestation through:

- Improved provision of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem goods and services (through reforestation, dissemination of knowledge on improved grazing/livestock maintenance, planting of mangroves, indigenous resilient trees and nurseries)

- g) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovativeness

This project proposes to carry out participatory, multistakeholder landscape management in five prioritized landscapes, namely the Jesus María and Barranca watersheds, including the Montes de Aguacate Biological Corridor, and the lower Grande de Tarcoles river basin and the Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor, aimed at enhancing social and ecological resilience through community-based, community-driven projects to conserve biodiversity, optimize ecosystem services, manage land – particularly agro-ecosystems – and water sustainably, enhance soil conservation and landscape restoration in degraded slopes and mitigate climate change.

Using the knowledge and experience gained from global and national landscape level initiatives delivered by SGP – through its COMDEKS initiatives and others – this project will strengthen community organizations' participation within existing interinstitutional governance mechanisms to enhance community participation in landscape planning and management processes in the three most degraded watersheds in Costa Rica and two Biological Corridors that connect key protected areas, building on experience and lessons learned from previous SGP operational phases, and assist community organizations to carry out and coordinate projects in pursuit of outcomes they have identified in landscape plans and strategies. This will build community ownership of individual initiatives as well as landscape management overall. Coordinated community projects in the landscape will generate ecological, economic and social

synergies that will produce greater and potentially longer-lasting global environmental benefits, as well as increased social capital and local sustainable development benefits. The capacities of community organizations will be strengthened through a learning-by-doing approach in which the project itself is a vehicle for acquiring practical knowledge and organizational skills in a longer term adaptive management process. The project will also take prior years' experience and identify and implement a number of potential upscaling opportunities during this project's lifetime.

Sustainability

To ensure sustainability of community-based landscape management initiatives, the SGP Costa Rica Country Programme will actively develop and maintain broad-based relationships/partnerships that promote collaboration. The sustainability of landscape management processes and community initiatives is predicated on the principle – based on SGP experience - that global environmental benefits can be produced and maintained through community-based sustainable development projects. GEF SGP Costa Rica has been working extensively for the past 25 years to provide technical support and facilitate funding to communities for the sustainable use of soil and water resources, biodiversity conservation and mitigation of climate change.

Previous phases of the SGP Costa Rica Country Programme have identified and promoted clear win-win opportunities with community initiatives and clusters of initiatives in areas such as sustainable use of biodiversity (medicinal plants, apiaries, ecotourism) and crop genetic resources, agro-ecological production practices and systems (sustainable silvopastoral systems, permaculture, and integrated crop-livestock systems), sustainable land and water management (bunds, sediment traps, rainwater harvesting systems, small dams), renewable energy (mini-hydro power and solar), aquaculture/pisciculture, sustainable forest management and value addition to crops through sustainable practices (organic, sustainable certification schemes).

SGP will also provide access to financial, technical and implementation support to local communities/indigenous groups. Importantly, to ensure sustainability, the project implementation schemes will respond more to the strengths rather than the weaknesses of local communities – for example, their capacity to innovate and their potential to create value. Engagement with the private sector will be key. Since the individual proposals are written/developed by local community organizations based on what they want to achieve, communities are more likely to exhibit ownership over the outcomes of the projects. Community ownership is a critical factor contributing to the sustainability of project benefits. SGP Costa Rica will involve all community members (men, women, youth and elders) in all stages of the grant project cycle: design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Sustainability of landscape planning and management processes will be enhanced through the formation of multistakeholder partnerships, involving local government, national agencies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector, universities, research institutions and others at the landscape level and the adoption of multistakeholder partnership agreements to pursue specific landscape level outcomes. NGO networks will be called upon for their support to community projects and landscape planning processes, and technical assistance will be engaged through government, NGOs, universities, academic institutes and other institutions. Sustainability will be maintained further by aligning the programme with government policies, building the capacities of community and indigenous peoples groups, and engaging the private sector, universities, and research institutes in providing services (including financial services, if available).

Financial sustainability will also be achieved at a national level by strengthening FUNBAM in its mandate to generate and administer funds, and thus provide access to local stakeholders to financing mechanisms and incentive schemes to implement the landscape management actions as well as the two existing Biocorridor Management Plans. Close cooperation and coordination with GIZ and CRUSA supported projects are envisaged.

Potential for scaling up

Scaling up of successful initiatives is an essential output of this project. Scaling up has been done successfully during previous projects and programmes of the SGP Costa Rica Country Programme. The principle of scaling up is that the communities adopt or replicate lessons learned in their own initiatives from other, successful experiences. Therefore, as is mentioned in the grant project preparation guidelines, it is necessary to include a set of standard “guiding questions”, which will help individual community groups to explore scaling-up pathways and related monitoring and evaluation practices.

An essential outcome is to replicate and enhance previous experience of community based “on the ground” implementation of the UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD in the Jesus Maria and Barranca river basins, including the MABC, that started during GEF-5 and continued during GEF-6. The next priority river basin is the lower Grande de Tarcoles and the Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor, where project implementation will allow replication of best practices, knowledge exchange and application of lessons learned. Another output of this project is the upscaling of initiatives that have been piloted successfully during previous phases of the SGP Costa Rica Country Programme. The premise of upscaling in this context is that the aggregate of community adopters of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices and systems from previous SGP phases have been slowly acquiring critical mass to reach a tipping point of adoption more broadly by rural constituencies of adaptive practice and innovation.

SGP Costa Rica will work closely with its partners to ensure that promising innovations, successful pilots, and best practices are replicated and scaled up through joint or coordinated planning, financing, and implementation, including other full-sized projects. More detailed analysis of potential scaling up will take place during the project preparation phase, leading to the development of a strategy for the use of SGP strategic project financing. Resources will be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality (grants up to USD 150,000) to finance key elements of upscaling initiatives to reduce the risk to other donors and investors. Multi-stakeholder partnerships will identify potential upscaling opportunities, analyze and plan upscaling processes, engage established microcredit and revolving fund mechanisms to finance upscaling components, design and implement the upscaling programmes, and evaluate their performance and impacts for lessons learned for adaptive management, policy discussion and potential extension of the models to other areas of the country. Identification of specific potential upscaling initiatives will take place during project preparation.

FOOTNOTES:

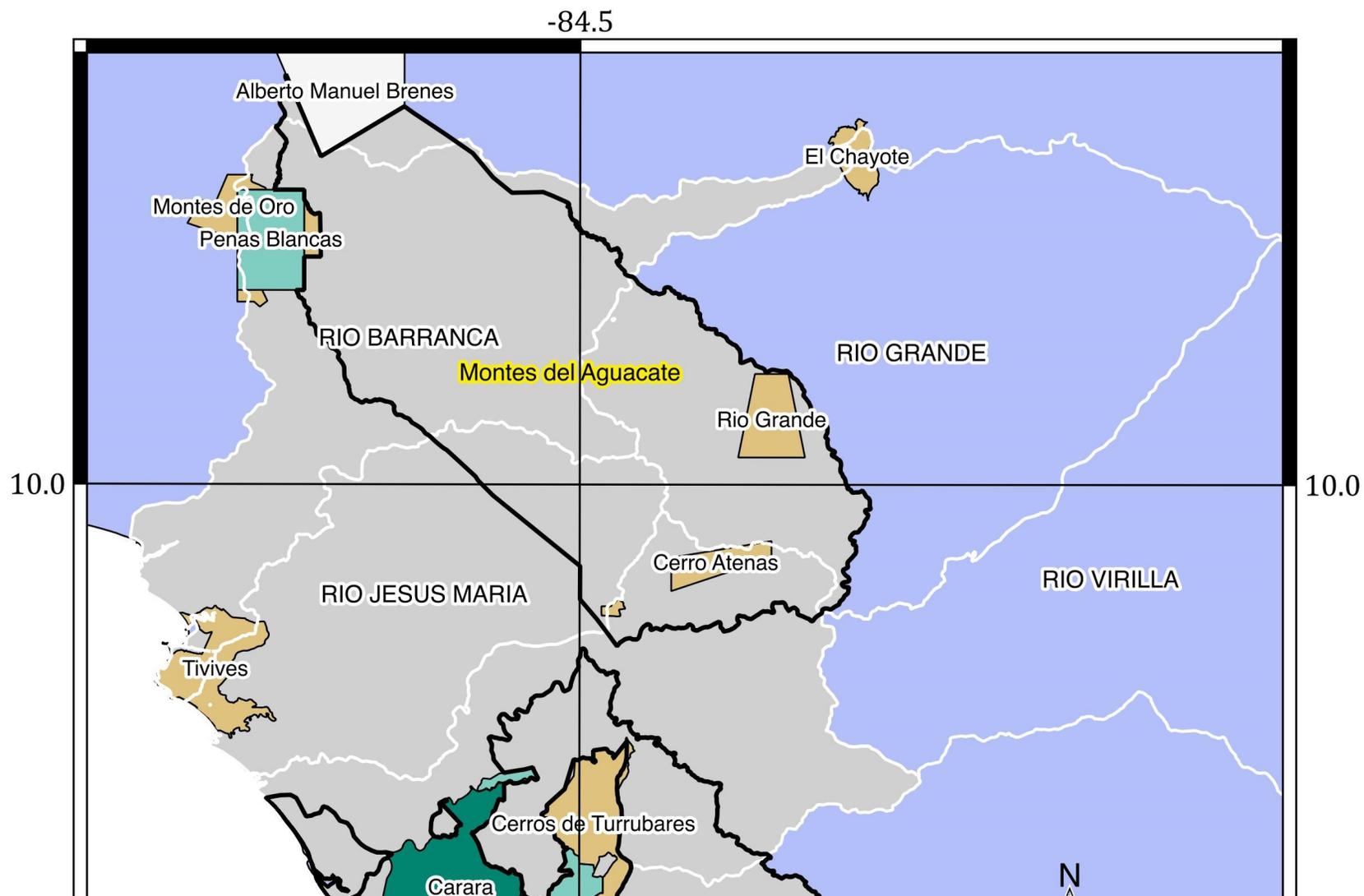
- (1) The Tivives Protected Zone, since its creation in 1986, has been the subject of conflict between local producers who found themselves within its limits, and SINAC. The recently presented Management Plan provides for a clearer delimitation and zonification of the protected area, potentially providing for an improved environment amongst stakeholders on which to build actions with local communities.
- (2) Guacalillo is found at the Grande de Tarcoles river mouth, outside the GEF-6 intervention area but is to be covered under GEF-7.

- (3) Based on population/district within the sub-basin.
- (4) PLLBC Management Plan, based on the National Institute for Census 2011 census data.
- (5) 129 contracts were awarded by FONAFIFO to farmers within the BC 2013-2017 (FONAFIFO), protecting 4,039 hectares.
- (6) 2011 National census
- (7) In Garabito canton: Camara of Commerce of the Central Pacific; Camara of Rural Community Tourism (CATARUCO); Camara of Tourism Garabito (CATUGA); In Orotina – Camara of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (CITAORO); Acosta – Camara of Rural Community Tourism of Palmichal.
- (8) San Antonio (Garabito), Playa Azul, Guacalillo, Zapatón, Mastatal, San Miguel, San Vicente, Guarumal y Naranjal. Pueblo Nuevo, Tulín, Pavona, Delicias, El Sur, Bijagual, La Esperanza y Salitrales. Jilgueral, Tufares, San Martín, San Luis, San Rafael, Potenciana, San Francisco y Lagunas.
- (9) Arenal, Bijagual, Delicias, El Sur, Galán y Guarumai. Jilgueral, La Esperanza, La Gloria, Lagunas y Lanas. Mastatal, Naranjal, Pavona, Playa Azul y Potenciana. Salitrales, San Antonio, San Antonio Garabito (Tárcoles), San Francisco, San Gabriel, San Luis, San Martín, San Rafael, Tufares y Zapatón.
- (10) Cooperatives: Puriscal - COOPEGAMALOTILLO; COOPECHIRES (Oil Palm and multiservices); Turrubares – COOPETOUR RUBARES (Rural tourism); COOPETULIN (agrotourism and others - San Antonio de Tulin); Orotina - COOPECEBADILLA (agroindustry women); Garabito – COOPETARCOLES (fishing); COOPEARROZ (rice); COOPESUMUACA (production and multiple services); Parrita - COOMCUPA (Parrita watershed management and multiple services); COOPEPARRITA TROPICAL (tropical fruit production); COOPELOMAS (women’s multiservices); COOPECALIFORNIA (Multiservices).
- (11) ASOPROA, Asociación Piñera La Gloria, APROCETU, ASOBIPAS, ECOSUR, Association of small producers of Turrubares, ASOPROARTE, ASOMOBI, ASOMUGA (Women’s Association of Bijagual).
- (12) The Forestry Law 7575 mandates protection of a forested riverine strip of 20 metres for rural rivers.
- (13) Jimenez and Grayum, 2002
- (14) Territorial Management Proposal for Biodiversity Conservation (GRUAS II)
- (15) SINAC 2009.
- (16) Vegetation cover studies in SGP GEF-6: Carara NP, Tivives, Rio Grande, Atenas Hills; Chompipe Hills Protected Zones; Andromeda farm.
- (17) This is being supported by GIZ in 15 priority biological corridors, including Paso Las Lapas.
- (18) Also, including indigenous territories, conservation gaps, areas with low HDI (less than 40%). Its main source of funding is state contributions from the fuel tax, fees for water use and international carbon sales. In addition, Costa Rica has received external funding through international agreements with countries like Norway and Germany and loans from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through Ecomarkets I (2001-2006) and II (2009 to July 2012), for more than US\$140 million (Sánchez, 2012; MINAE-FONAFIFO, 2012).
- (19) For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project’s consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates 

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

The Project's geographic location





Legend

- Ubicación geográfica
- Biological Corridor
 - Watershed (White Line)
 - The project limits
 - Costa Rica
- Protected Area
- National Park
 - National Wildlife Refuge
 - Biological Reserve
 - Protected Zona

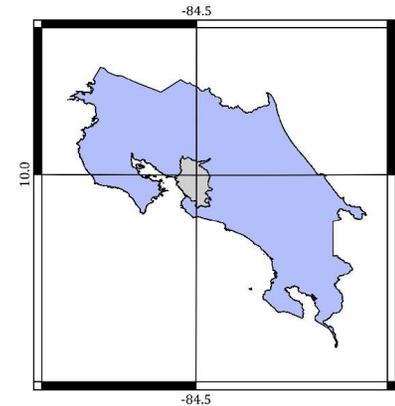
CREDITS:
PROGRAMA NACIONAL DE
CORREDORES BIOLÓGICOS
SINAC, 2016

SISTEMA NACIONAL DE
INFORMACIÓN TERRITORIAL
SNIT, 2018 - SERVICIO OGC

CENTRO NACIONAL DE
INFORMACIÓN GEOAMBIENTAL

PREPARED BY:
Heiner Acevedo Mairena
Agathos Natura SRL

LOCATION



The proposed intervention area is found on the central Pacific slopes of Costa Rica: its central area coordinates are Longitude 84o30'; Latitude 10o0' North.

The above map marks the main intervention landscapes proposed under this Project: The Barranca river basin (north-west); The JMRB, to the South of BRB, and the Grande de Tarcoles river basin, contiguous to the South of the JMRB.

The Montes de Aguacate Biological Corridor is marked, running North-West to South-East crossing through the BRB and the JMRB. The Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor and its protected areas are also shown.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The primary stakeholders of the Costa Rica GEF-SGP Upgraded Country Programme are the community-based organizations and local communities themselves who will receive grants to produce benefits to local sustainable development and the global environment. Women, indigenous peoples from the Zapatón Indigenous Reserve and youth will be especially invited to participate in the landscape planning and management processes as well as to submit project proposals for specific initiatives. Primary stakeholders are located in the rural and village areas of the Jesus María, Barranca, lower Grande de Tarcoles river basins and two Biological Corridors; Montes de Aguacate and Paso Las Lapas. Stakeholder organizations will be identified first based on the experience of SGP of 25 years, and with more precision through a participatory process of planning and consultation to take place during the process of project preparation – financed with a Project Preparation Grant - and during implementation of the project itself.

CSO and NGOs, whose work has been to support CBOs and communities in pursuing local sustainable development in the target landscapes, are also important stakeholders. These will include those NGOs who have the interest and capacities to provide key support services to community-based projects, including technical assistance and capacity development. These NGOs will be identified during the process of project formulation and implementation to initiate their collaboration upon approval of this proposal.

Key supporting actors in this SGP Upgraded Country Programme project will include relevant agencies of the Ministry of Environment, as well, as the Ministry of Agriculture, the UNDP Country Office, as well as GIZ-supported programmes in the intervention area: National Programme for Biological Corridors, NAMA coffee, REDD+ Landscapes.

Key stakeholders and their indicative responsibilities for the implementation of the proposed project are outlined, as follows:

Community Based Organizations: Principal participants in landscape planning exercises; first-order partners in the multistakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements; implementing agents of community and landscape level projects. The Project will continue supporting a selected

group of CBOs from the JMRR, BRB and the MABC based on an assessment of results and further needs, as well as other groups which were unable to benefit during this operational phase. In the Lower Tarcoles and PLLBC landscapes, the Project will give further support to CBO participants from previous operational phases, as well as others to be targeted. Amongst potential grantees in the five prioritized landscapes are agricultural and livestock producers, CBOs, silviculture managers, medicinal and ornamental plant producers, beekeepers, sustainable tourism entrepreneurs, community waste management organisations, micro-mill owners-associations, community fire-fighters and fruit processing and collection associations. The project will favour organizations run by and for women and youth.

CSOs: Lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multistakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements; provide technical assistance to community organizations for implementation of their projects; potential participant on policy platforms. These include CACs (Cantonal-Community Agricultural Centers), ASADAS (Aqueduct Administration Associations), ADIs (Integral Development Associations), cooperatives (coffee, fruit trees, livestock) and second-tier tourism boards.

Local governments: including the municipalities of San Ramón, San Mateo, Esparza, Orotina, Garabito, Turrubares, Puriscal, Mora, Santa Ana and Atenas: Participate in baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multistakeholder agreements for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements; primary participant on policy platforms.

Government Agencies: including the Ministries of Environment (MINAE), Agriculture (MAG), National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), Rural Development Institute (INDER), National Women's Institute (INAMU), Water and Sewerage (AyA), ARESEP, Tourism, and others: Partners in multistakeholder partnerships for each landscape; act as selected members of the National Steering Committee; as relevant or appropriate, provide technical assistance to community organizations for implementation of their projects; primary participant on policy platforms.

River Basin Commissions and other local participatory stakeholder platforms: The six sub-commissions for the JMRR and the BRB (three in each), currently in process of being established; the Lower Grande de Tarcoles sub-Commission (ACOPAC), the recently formed River Tulin river Commission and the Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor Local Committee will participate in baseline assessments and landscape planning processes prioritizing landscape investments; partners in multistakeholder agreements for each landscape; support community level partnership agreements; and are primary participants on policy platforms.

CADETI- Advisory Commission on Land Degradation: This organization is the national focal point for Land Degradation and is the organization that will continue to partner with SGP in coordinating actions on sustainable land management, especially with regards to soil conservation and sylvopastoral practices for selected projects within the Land Degradation focal area. SGP has liaised closely with CADETI throughout GEF-5 and GEF-6 and will continue to do so, in order to scale up best practices to the new intervention areas under GEF-7, in particular the Grande de Tarcoles river basin, which has been identified in the NAP (National Action Plan on Land Degradation) as the third prioritized watershed for specific attention at a national level. It is also the coordination mechanism between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, it ensures participation of government entities at the regional and national levels in the planning process as well as in the multistakeholder partnerships.

SGP National Steering Committee: Functions as Project Steering Committee; reviews and approves landscape strategies; advises regarding multistakeholder partnership composition and TORs; approves criteria for project eligibility for each landscape based on proposal by multistakeholder partnership and SGP Operational Guidelines; reviews and approves projects submitted by the SGP National Coordinator; reviews annual project progress reports and recommends revisions and course corrections, as appropriate, representative participant on policy platforms.

SGP Country Programme Manager (formerly, National Coordinator), and team: Responsible for the overall implementation and operations of the SGP Costa Rica Country Programme, acting as secretary to the National Steering Committee, mobilizing cofinancing, organizing strategic partnerships with government and non-governmental organizations, and in general for managing the successful achievement of Country Programme Objectives as described in the Project Document.

Academic institutions: Assist in participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multistakeholder partnerships for each landscape; research on SGP-related subjects such as pre-feasibility studies for renewable energy (RE) and energy efficient technologies; signatories to community level partnership agreements, as appropriate; provide technical assistance to community organizations for implementation of their projects; potential participant on policy platforms. SGP has established partnerships with the National University (UNA), and University of Costa Rica (UCR), national public universities and Distance Learning University UNED.

Other cooperation programmes / projects / initiatives: GIZ-CRUSA and FUNDECOOPERACION supported projects in NAMA and the National Programme for Biological Corridors.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

Gender will be considered throughout this project's design and implementation. SGP is a pioneer and highly recognized for mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in every step of the programme cycle. During GEF-6 seven gender specific projects were prioritized by SGP Costa Rica working with women's groups on grants in support of sustainable agricultural production, stingless-bee honey production, integrated waste management, and organizational, administrative and technical capacity development.. To this end, 20% of the grant portfolio was aimed at women's organisations. Thanks to the support provided by SGP and project partners, these women's groups have made significant progress in improving their involvement in local planning and decision-making bodies, increased their knowledge and application of organizational and technical processes, including environmental and rural development and have initiated income-generation schemes. Based on this positive experience, SGP and key project partners, in particular MAG, MINAE and local governments and academia, will further look to support these same groups for their continued strengthening and enhanced articulation with value chains and women's and girls' empowerment. In the two new landscapes (LGTRB and the PLLBC) to be intervened, the best practices and lessons learned will be scaled up to women's organisations that will be identified more precisely at the PPG phase, and their potential for implementing projects to enhance socio-ecological resilience, will be assessed. Activities such as community rural tourism, organic agriculture and apiculture, medicinal plants, handcraft activities are expected to generate income and to provide other tangible social benefits such as increased food availability. Access to clean energy sources will benefit women and children by reducing firewood collection work and indoor pollution. Small-scale renewable energy sources will provide communities with electricity for lighting, communication, health and communal services, and other important services in off-grid areas. A target of at least 20% of the grant portfolio assigned to women's organisations for all five landscapes will be set. To this end, a gender focal point is designated within the SGP National Steering Committee to ensure review of gender considerations in project selection. The Country Programme team, as part of project preparation, will undertake a Gender Analysis, prepare a Gender Action Plan, and formulate a specific strategy to engage women/girls groups as primary actors in landscape management.

During project preparation, consultations with community groups and NGOs during landscape strategy formulation will take place in ways that ensure women's comfortable participation, depending on their preference for mixed or separate groups.

The Country Programme team will work with the gender focal point on the National Steering Committee to identify potential project ideas for initial discussions with women's and girls' groups. CSOs that have relevant experience will be engaged to support women's/girls' groups in defining grant project objectives and designing grant project activities. Women's/girls' groups will evaluate their projects' performance to identify lessons and knowledge for adaptive management as well as gender specific policy recommendations.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The project will look to engage the private sector as an integral part in the multistakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements, as appropriate; potential participant on policy platforms, namely, hotels and tourism service providers to be involved in landscape tourism development strategies especially in the PLLBC; manufacturing companies involved in waste management and processing as well as, pledging support for clean-up campaigns aimed at sensitizing the wider population on waste management issues, waste management operators ACOPALA en Las Delicias and ADAFARCES of Puriscal and service providers to the agricultural sector in support of local green initiatives and their integration into value chains.

5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

Table 2. Initial identified risks; ratings and proposed mitigation measures.

Identified risks	Potential consequence	Risk rating L: Likelihood I: Impact	Mitigation measures	Risk category
Civil society organizations that have a low level of technical and man	Low capacity and awareness of local NGOs and CBOs may decrease demand for community driven projects as well as influence the pace a	L: m e d i u	In light of SGP's Costa Rica past performance rating of 95% achievement, there is a very low risk that interventions will not be implemented effectively. Nevertheless, risk mitigation systems in place will be strengthened to maintain or improve this rate of achievement. The Costa Rica SGP Country Programme works with all grantees to help build capacities by identifying appropriate rates of disbursement, linking grantee partners to learn from each other (peer-to-peer), and working in a flexible manner that responds to the strengths and comparative advantages of grantees. The SGP Country Programme also reduces risk by supporting replication	P r o g r a

agement capacity implementation grant projects	and implementation of grant projects once approved.	m l: m e d i u m	of good practices that have proven to deliver on GEF strategic priorities at the community level. The National Steering Committee (NSC), with representation from civil society leaders, government institutions, and donors further provides support for effective design and implementation of SGP-financed projects.	m m a t i c
Low capacities of the different community organizations to coordinate with each other and with different government levels.	Lack of coordination among the essential actors in the landscape will affect landscape planning and management processes negatively and result in low government support and recognition of integrated landscape strategies.	L: L o w l: m e d i u m	The implementation of GEF-5 (including additional COMDEKS financing) and GEF-6 projects has enhanced group cohesion and collaboration amongst communities in the JMRB and the BRB target area through the strengthening of community organisations. These experiences will be built on in GEF-7 through enhanced coordination with the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment to ensure participation of government entities at the regional and national level in the planning process, as well as in the multistakeholder partnerships.	P r o g r a m m a t i c
Difficulty for communities in accessing markets for goods and services produced with SGP support	Productive projects will not succeed in accessing markets for their goods and services.	L: L o w l: m e d i u m	The NSC will appraise projects with sustainable livelihood components to assess their business feasibility. The NSC will call upon relevant experts from the SGP technical committees to provide technical support to proposal elaboration. SGP will support communities to access expertise in business development and marketing from the project design stage to reduce the risk of failure of projects which will produce goods and services. SGP will also encourage partnerships between the grantees and the private sector. Based on prior SGP experience, markets for bio-products and eco-tourism are growing in Costa Rica and elsewhere.	P r o g r a m m a t i c
Adverse im	Women's groups do not	L:	The project design will include the active participation of women and will include considerations to address	P

<p>pacts to gender equality and limited access to opportunities and benefits by women</p>	<p>participate in planning and decision-making processes and are excluded from reaping the economic and social benefits of income-generating projects</p>	<p>L o w I: m e d i u m</p>	<p>their different needs and the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change on women in the target landscapes. In addition, the project will promote the equitable distribution of project benefits for women and men (e.g., incentives, capacity building, and technical assistance). The project design will include a Gender Action Plan in which activities and specific indicators will be outlined to ensure gender participation and gender equality.</p>	<p>r o g r a m m a t i c.</p>
---	---	--	---	---

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The proposed project will collaborate with and build on the lessons of a range of related initiatives. The National Steering Committee of the SGP Costa Rica Country Programme has consistently promoted the collaboration of the Country Programme with GEF and government-financed projects and programmes for many years. SGP Costa Rica has provided technical assistance to community components of selected GEF FSPs to increase the efficiency of uptake by community stakeholders of project-promoted technologies and practices. Members of the National Steering Committee endorse collaborative arrangements and partnerships to maximize the efficiency of the GEF SGP investment as well as to ensure that SGP-sponsored technologies, experience and lessons learned are disseminated and absorbed by government programmes and institutions. As part of project preparation, SGP Costa Rica will analyze and confirm potential and/or continued cooperation with the following initiatives, programmes or institutions:

Conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and maintenance of the ecosystem services of protected wetlands of international importance - #PIMS 4966 ID 00088054: This GEF FSP developed several outputs including the National Policy for Wetlands, a National Inventory of Wetlands, management plans for RAMSAR wetlands, financial strategies for wetland conservation, restoration practices in prioritised RAMSAR sites and methodologies for working with communities and environmental education materials. It finished in August 2018. The materials and experiences generated will be assessed for their applicability in the Guacalillo and Tivives wetlands in the SGP GEF-7 target area.

Strengthening capacities of Rural Aqueduct Associations (ASADAS) to address climate change risks in water stressed communities of Northern Costa Rica (SCCF) UNDP, A&A, ASADAS, MINAE, MAG, Minsistry of Health, IMN. Experiences and work with ASADAS organizations along the various GEF phases have contributed significantly to the implementation of this project, especially in the afore-mentioned target area. Conversely, the above project has collaborated closely with SGP Costa Rica during GEF-6, jointly conducting training workshops with ASADAS in the BRB on recently-developed methodologies on reducing water loss and enhancing the technical and administrative management efficiency of ASADAS. Other experiences, technical outputs and lessons learned from the above project will be taken into account in the next phase; close liaison and coordination will be maintained with the project and its partners.

Conserving biodiversity through sustainable management in production landscapes in Costa Rica - # PIMS 5842 ID 9416: This recently initiated GEF FSP's objective is to mainstream biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and carbon sequestration objectives into two production landscapes: the buffer zone of the protected areas of the Amistad Pacific Conservation Area (ACLA-P) and the María Aguilar Inter-urban Biological Corridor (MAIBC). Through this strategy, the project will contribute to reducing the accelerated loss of natural habitat caused by rapid and uncontrolled land use change, primarily due to the expansion of agricultural activities in the ACLA-P and urban growth in the MAIBC. This FSP plans to implement an estimated 60 small grants projects in the ACLA-P principally with producers' associations. SGP's experience both in small grants methodology as well as technical know-how developed (such as agricultural management best practices and landscape restoration) will be of significant value to this project. Likewise, the MAIBC is a critical landscape within the Grande de Tarcoles upper watershed which will complement SGP's intervention in the lower Grande de Tarcoles watershed. Therefore close liaison and coordination between both projects is key to a wider strategy generating Global Environmentak Benefits. The project will span five years with a total investment of \$6,699,315 USD, which is to be provided by the GEF.

Rethinking economy: Transitioning to a green economy to deliver on global environmental benefits - This is a GEF FSP in pipeline for funding under GEF-7 which will look to deliver multiple global environmental benefits through the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and carbon mitigation objectives into landscapes of five urban centers of high growth in Costa Rica while supporting a transition towards a green economy. Amongst the urban landscapes proposed is the Greater Metropolitan Area of San Jose and the Central valley wherein this project, amongst other actions with the GMA's municipalities, will look to tackle the root causes of the contamination of the Grande de Tarcoles river system, complementing SGP's proposed efforts down river in the Lower Grande de Tarcoles river basin.

Other relevant initiatives financed through other sources are:

Payment for Environmental Services Programme (PES)- FONAFIFO (previously GEF financed through the Ecomarkets Project). SGP has supported CSOs to access funding from the PES program, which will continue during GEF-7. SGP has also supported community-based proposal discussions to integrate PES for reforestation with fruit trees with FONAFIFO; communities and other national institution representatives argue that arboreal coverage remains when reforestation is delivered with fruit trees and this also enhances livelihoods. During GEF-6, through the promotion of these services by CADETI, MAG and MINAE, 376 ha have been registered under the Payment for Environmental Services scheme.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

This project is fully consistent with and supportive of the national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions listed below:

National Policy on Biodiversity – 2015-2030 and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan: NBSAP (2016-2025)

This project is consistent with the National Biodiversity Policy 2015-2030 for Costa Rica, which highlights the need to improve biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity; increasing the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services for the population; integrating biodiversity in productive seascapes and landscapes. The National Biodiversity Strategy (2016-2025) has prioritized the following themes which directly relate to the proposed project: a) the need to increase biodiversity resilience through connectivity, restoration of riparian forests, and other threatened ecosystems that provide essential services (in strategic production landscapes and seascapes as well as urban development); b) integrate biodiversity in landscapes and seascapes and under priority sectors, including agriculture and water management). Furthermore, the SGP GEF-7 project will contribute to specific national targets set by the NBSAP including increasing forest coverage, natural regeneration and off-setting land degradation (9); improving management indicators in the Jesus Maria, Barranca and Tarcoles watersheds (11); reduction in forest fires (34); increased organic agriculture (58) and reduction in the use of agrochemicals (34)

Furthermore, it is coherent with the Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly in relation to the integration of biodiversity strategies, plans, and sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes, which includes the full scope of environmental issues (environmental pollution management, biodiversity conservation, and water management).

The proposed project is aligned with the actions set forth in the National Development Plan for Costa Rica 2018-2022 and the strategies and plans related to the implementation of the National Biodiversity Law, which highlights the environmental and land management theme (particularly in the case of biodiversity management) and the importance of an economic efficiency with environmental responsibility.

Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets: The project will contribute to achieving the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets, specifically Targets 5, 7, 11 and 14, which relate to halving by 2020 the rate of loss of all natural habitats; managing sustainably areas under agriculture; fostering connectivity of protected areas; and the restoration of ecosystems.

National Climate Change Strategy (ENCC) and Action Plan

The project is in line with Costa Rica's National Climate Change Strategy (ENCC) and its Action Plan, which has as its main objective to achieve carbon neutrality by 2021. More specifically, the project is in line with the strategic lines of action of the ENCC regarding the mitigation of GHG, capacity development and technology transfer, and public awareness and the creation of a culture to change consumption habits. To mitigate GHG emissions, the ENCC targets the agricultural sector, which is responsible for 52% of the country's GHG emissions, as well as tourism, transport, energy, water resources and solid waste management as key sectors for intervention. SGP will contribute to the ENCC by working with the agricultural sector and ASADAS to improve degraded landscapes, increase forest coverage and improve connectivity, formation of forest fire brigades and solid waste management.

National Action Plan to Combat Land Degradation and National Advisory Commission on Land Degradation (CADETI)

The three watershed target landscapes (Jesus Maria, Barranca and Tarcoles, in that order) have been classified as the most degraded in the country under the NAP. This national plan is implemented on the principle that local communities play participating and implementing roles to combat land degradation and/or mitigate the effects of drought. The plan is to develop real actions at community level throughout the country. Without doubt SGP with GEF funding has been the single most important instrument towards implementing this NAP. During GEF-5 and GEF-6 actions were directed at the most affected areas, improving soil quality, rehabilitating degraded areas, and managing soil and water resources in a sustainable way. These actions will continue under GEF-7, consolidating areas that were not attended to under the previous phases and scaling up to apply best practices to the upper slopes of the Lower Grande de Tarcoles watershed and the Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor.

Sustainable Development Goals: The project is part of UNDP's efforts to support Costa Rica's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Accordingly, the project will contribute towards achievement of the following SDGs: Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all; Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; and Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

Each SGP grant project is designed to produce three things: global environmental and local sustainable development benefits (impacts); organizational capacities (technical, analytical, etc.) from learning by doing; and knowledge from evaluation of the innovation experience.

At the broader landscape level, the SGP Costa Rica Country Programme will produce a case study of the landscape planning and management experience in each of the selected landscapes. These case studies will highlight the processes of stakeholder participation, as well as the progress toward the targets selected during landscape planning, using the Satoyama Resilience Indicators (20). A detailed analysis will be produced of the successes and failures in each landscape in regard to the generation of synergies between individual community projects around landscape level outcomes, lessons learned, and future efforts to strengthen the landscape planning and management processes. The results of these studies will be published and disseminated throughout the country through print and digital media and SGP's institutional partners, NGOs, SGP-supported CSO networks, universities and others.

Project funding will be set aside for potential "strategic projects", in line with SGP's global guidelines. Strategic projects aim to bring broader adoption of specific successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems to a tipping point in each landscape through engagement of potential financial partners, policy makers and their national/subnational advisors and institutions, as well as the private sector. Each of these strategic projects will produce a case study highlighting the process, obstacles to and opportunities for upscaling. Each case study will be produced at the end of implementation of the strategic project, with the costs of external experts and participatory analysis workshops incorporated into each strategic project's budget.

Each small grant project will have as a primary product a case study, with a summary of lessons learned based on evaluation of implementation results and their contributions to GEB, local development objectives and landscape level outcomes, including the development of social capital. This knowledge will be further systematized and codified for dissemination at the landscape level through policy dialogue platforms, community landscape management networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and knowledge fairs and other exchanges; at the national level through the National Steering Committee, strategic partnerships and their networks, and national knowledge fairs where appropriate; and globally through the SGP global network of SGP Country Programmes and UNDP's knowledge management system. The individual grant project case studies will be anticipated at project design and based on a participatory methodology, so that the production of the case studies strengthen the community organization's capacities for reflection and action through learning-by-doing.

The project will create a knowledge management platform to facilitate links among communities, promote information sharing, and provide access to knowledge resources that are relevant to their individual projects. The knowledge obtained from project experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through SGP's well-established national network of stakeholders and SGP's global platform, and it will be used in upscaling successful initiatives. The increased capacity of community-level stakeholders to generate, access and use information and knowledge is expected to increase the sustainability of project activities beyond the life of the grant funding. Knowledge sharing and replication will help ensure that the impacts of the project are sustained and expanded, generating additional environmental benefits over the longer-term.

At the global level, knowledge platforms including the SGP website and Communities Connect (a platform to share knowledge from civil society organizations around the world) will continue to be updated.

Footnote:

(20) UNU-IAS, Bioversity International, IGES and UNDP. 2014. Toolkit for the Indicators of Resilience in Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS).

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

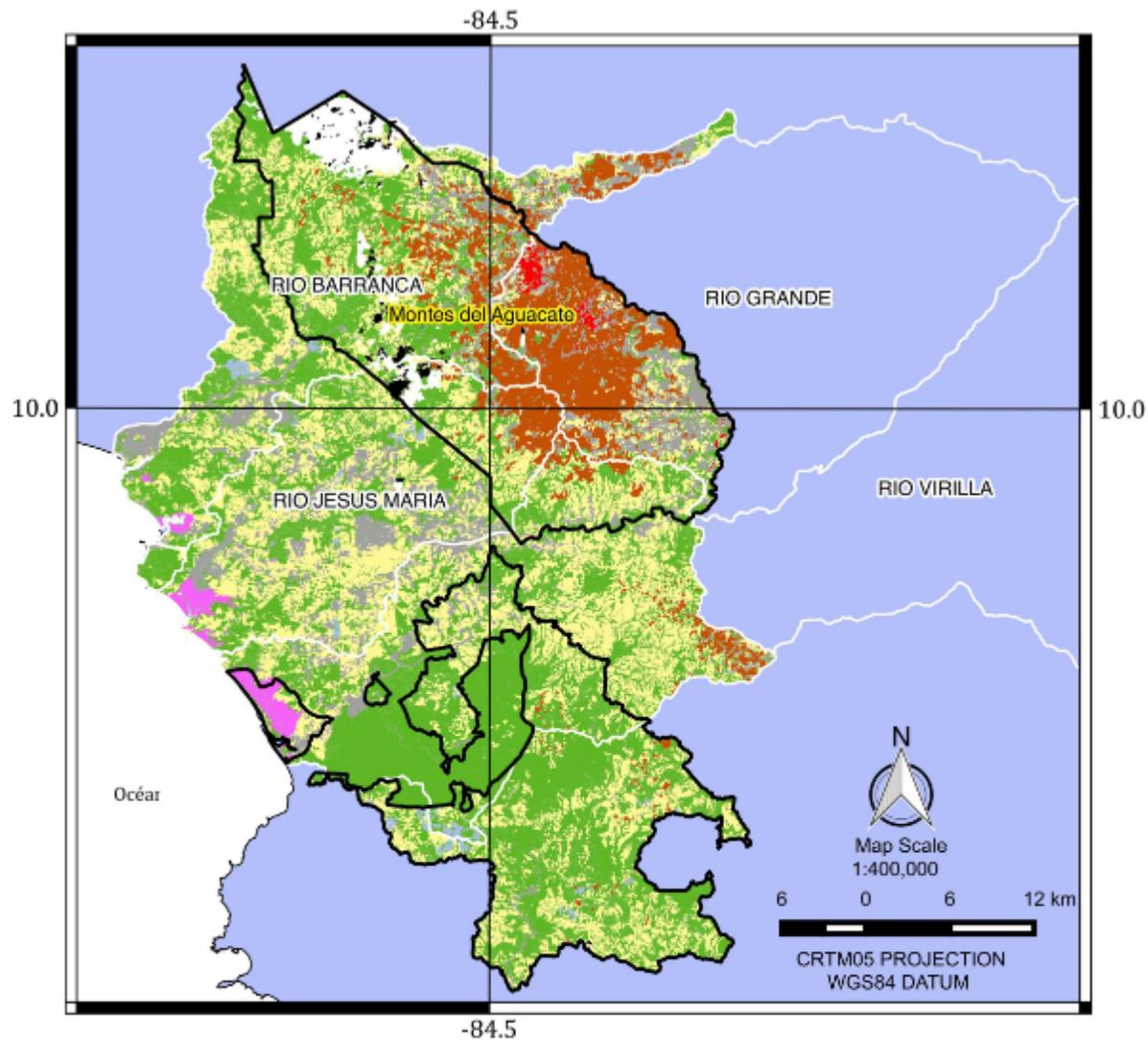
A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Enid Chaverri Tapia	Director International Cooperation/GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment and Energy	9/18/2018

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

Land Cover 2013-2014



- Legend**
- Biological Corridor
 - Watershed
 - Tropical Forest
 - The project limits
 - Costa Rica

CREDITS:
INVENTARIO NACIONAL
FORESTAL
SINAC, 2014



- Coffee farming
- Mangroves
- Pasture
- Plantation forest
- Urban
- Shadow (cloud)
- Cloud
- Non-forest

PROGRAMA NACIONAL DE
CORREDORES BIOLÓGICOS
SINAC, 2016

CENTROS URBANOS Y CAFE
(2005)
CENIGA

PREPARED BY:
Heiner Acevedo Mairena
Agathos Natura SRL

