



2020
Project Implementation Review (PIR)



**Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF SGP
in Mexico**

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

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A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	5531
GEF ID	9167
Title	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF SGP in Mexico
Country(ies)	Mexico, Mexico
UNDP-GEF Technical Team	Integrated Strategies and SGP
Project Implementing Partner	UNOPS
Joint Agencies	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Type	Full Size

Project Description
<p>The goal of this project is to contribute to achieving global environmental benefits by empowering local communities to manage production landscapes in Mexico's Southeast large ecosystems in a manner that enhances their social, economic and environmental sustainability and resilience. Resilience of five landscapes and seascapes Landscape and seascape resilience will be enhanced through the individual and synergistic impacts of a set of adaptive community practices that maintain ecosystem services, conserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and reverse land degradation in the following large ecosystems: - Deltaic-estuarine landscape of the Grijalva-Usumacinta Rivers; - Coastal lagoons and marine interface in the northern Yucatan Peninsula; - Tropical deciduous, sub-deciduous and sub-evergreen forests in the Yucatan Peninsula; and - Montane broadleaf and cloud forest in northern Chiapas. The project will build on the results, experience and lessons from previous SGP phases, and lessons learned from relevant Programmes such as COMPACT. In particular, the project will establish or strengthen networks and second-level organizations to integrate and bring to scale production and marketing of sustainably produced goods and services. Coordinated community projects in the landscapes 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.</p>

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B. Overall Ratings

Overall DO Rating	Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	Low

C. Development Progress

Description					
Objective					
To empower local communities to manage production land/seascapes in Mexico's Southeast large ecosystems in a manner that enhances their social, economic and environmental sustainability and resilience					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
A. Increased area (hectares) in the target landscapes and seascape with improved community management	118,281 hectares with improved management achieved during SGP's fifth operational phase No baseline data is available for the number of hectares of seascape with improved management practices but local communities improved the management of one fishery (i.e., spiny lobster) during SGP OP5	N/A	67,940 additional hectares with improved community management of which 49,940 hectares of landscapes and 18,000 hectares of seascapes	The target is on track. A total of 59,800 additional hectares are under improved community management (88% of the EOP target). At the landscape level, after the first call for proposals and 7 months of implementation, 43,729 additional hectares of forest ecosystem are under improved community management (88% of EOP target). This includes the promotion of community conservation areas (35,000 hectares); the inclusion of new communities in sustainable forest management (6,479 hectares); ecotourism (1,731 hectares); agroecology in the Yucatán area (320 ha) and agro-forestry in Chiapas (179 ha). Additionally, the programme is impacting 47,000 hectares through the support of FSC certification. At seascape level, the project selected after the first call for proposals have implemented improved management on 16,071 hectares of coastal and marine areas in Campeche, Yucatán and Quintana Roo (89% of EOP target). This includes, for example, the Mayan cooperative "Los Aluxes" in Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo, which is improving its management of 2,158 hectares of a RAMSAR site in the Sian Kaan biosphere reserve through	After two years of implementing OP6, we achieved and exceeded this target by improving community management on 143,180.37 ha of landscapes, and 33,641 ha of seascapes. At the landscape level, this was achieved with two grants to create new community conservation areas protecting a total of 35,593 ha of forests. Five new communities are carrying out sustainable forest management activities on 43,300.83 hectares. Agroecology and agroforestry projects now cover 804 and 638 hectares respectively, and ecotourism projects are strengthening the conservation of 7,968.75 hectares. In addition, the project is supporting the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification on a total of 54,875.19 hectares in two ejidos (Mexican social property regime, through which the land is managed communally mainly for agricultural production). At the seascape level, community management improved through grants awarded to eleven cooperatives that offer ecotourism activities on 13,741 hectares throughout the entire Yucatán Peninsula. One project is controlling invasive species by monitoring 17,000 hectares on the coast of Quintana Roo. In addition, two cooperatives are creating two marine conservation areas

				<p>ecotourism. Another cooperative, “Pescadores de Banco Chinchorro” is monitoring 2,380 additional hectares of the Banco Chinchorro protected area to control the Lionfish invasion. Nine additional coastal projects are in the project pipeline through the recent second call for proposals (the NSC will meet in August to select and approve the projects), thus the target is expected to be fully reached. To precisely track the implementation results and impacts, the programme is currently creating its own geographic information system (GIS). This system will be ready by December 2019.</p>	<p>(“no take zones”) covering a total of 2,900 hectares.</p> <p>The project now uses a Geographic Information System (See map 1 attached) to track the impact and progress of the forestry and community conservation projects.</p>
<p>B. Tons of CO2e mitigated in community-owned lands through sustainable forest management and avoidance of forest fires</p>	<p>To be determined during landscape level environmental assessments (see Output 1.2.1)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>2,874,564 tons of CO2e</p>	<p>Using the methodology proposed in the Project Document, a mitigation of 17,732,563 tons of CO2e can be estimated through the 48,609 hectares of forest under improved management. However, it was decided that this methodology does not produce a realistic estimation. Instead, using a new carbon map for Mexico, produced by the Woods Hole Research Center (https://whrc.org/publications-data/datasets/aboveground-forest-carbon-stocks-in-mexico/), a landscape-level environmental assessment is currently underway and will be fully completed in August 2019 to determine an adequate baseline.</p> <p>Inclusion of 3 new communities in forest management and 1 new community conservation area are key projects to avoid deforestation and thus, significantly reduce the CO2 emissions. 5 restoration projects with</p>	<p>The target has been achieved and exceeded, SGP Mexico estimates that the total area under sustainable forest management mitigates 5,798,500 tons of CO2e (201.72% of the EOP target). This area corresponds to that currently managed by two community conservation projects, and nine forest management projects, impacting a total of 55,541 hectares. This includes the second-largest community conservation area on the national level (35,000 hectares in Laguna Om). It also includes important efforts from communities to strengthen or start sustainable forest management and prevention of forest fires.</p> <p>In order to estimate carbon benefits from the eleven forestry and community conservation projects, a study with the research organization "Centro Geo" was conducted during June 2020. It also included a partnership with a local university, Centro de Investigación</p>

				<p>agroforestry practices will also significantly contribute to this target. Taking into account the variety of proposals received in the second call related to forest management (4), community conservation (1) and restoration activities (4), it is expected to achieve the goal by the end of OP6. We do expect to meet the target by the end of the project.</p>	<p>Científica de Yucatán (CICY), which provided an updated carbon map of the targeted landscape. High resolution carbon maps were also shared with the local communities, to increase their understanding of carbon benefits. Among the 18 communities that execute sustainable forest management there is interest to further explore the forest carbon market, and SGP Mexico is supporting this process through information sharing and training.</p> <p>A mapping app is under development in order to gather more data for agroforestry and beekeeping projects and update the target next year. The app will also be useful to quantify and verify future impact of supported projects for OP7. It is meant to be a platform useful for people implementing the SGP grants in Mexico. It is expected to be ready by the end of 2020 and users' capacitation is planned during 2021.</p>
<p>C. Number of communities directly benefiting from improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience to climate change</p>	<p>91 communities improved their livelihoods and resilience through sustainable land and resource use as well as by developing and implementing risk prevention and management plans during SGP OP5</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>135 communities with improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience to climate change</p>	<p>The target is on track. Overall, SGP Mexico is currently collaborating with 180 communities in the southeast of Mexico through 56 so far approved projects during OP6. The amount of communities will increase after the August NSC meeting, where second call proposals will be approved. While not all the projects are directly improving livelihoods, all projects provide support to improve their resilience to climate change, using a methodology of UNDP Mexico's risk management program, impacting 151 communities. Currently, 103 partner communities have received support for livelihood improvement activities through the</p>	<p>This target was achieved and exceeded. Throughout OP6 so far, 108 grants have been awarded. SGP is now supporting 252 communities (186% of the EOP target) in five targeted landscapes. Each of these projects received technical support to carry out a risk analysis and allocate a percentage of the grant (an average of 3.55%) in activities to protect their project. These actions are focused on improving their resilience capacity. A tropical storm named "Cristóbal" impacted the Yucatán Peninsula in early June 2020 and lasted 5 days, for which most of those plans were activated. For example, ecotourism cooperatives that had a protocol and equipment to protect their assets used it to efficiently remove</p>

				<p>implementation of local sustainable production projects (76% of the EOP target), which have a direct impact on the incomes of families, and improve the quality of ecosystem management.</p> <p>From those 103 communities, 74 (55% of the EOP target) are being supported for the first time, through 31 projects: 7 projects on organic beekeeping, 2 on aquaculture with native species, 3 on sustainable forest management, 8 projects on eco-tourism, 3 on agroforestry and 8 on agroecology. And 29 of the total communities (21% of the EOP target) were supported by the programme during OP5, and are now strengthening their community business. Precise impacts of these projects in terms of access to market, number of visitors/tourists, cost reduction, and quality improvements will be measured at the end of the project, in December 2020.</p> <p>Considering the 29 communities already supported during OP5, additional 151 communities are strengthening their resilience to climate change, equaling 160% of EOP target.</p> <p>Each project receives a specific assessment in order to identify main risks and design specific strategies to mitigate them. A set of indicators has been defined, and a monitoring system is ready to implement specific actions to improve the capacity to reduce disaster risks and define ecosystem-based adaptation strategies. During OP6, SGP Mexico and UNDP are piloting a new methodology called "ecosystem-</p>	<p>the boats and engines before the impact of the storm.</p> <p>Since the first call in 2018, the NSC approved a cross-disciplinary grant to provide continuous support to implement those resilience plans. As part of this grant, there is a four module capacitation on resilience and risk management. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, two modules were implemented. The "Strengthening resilience" training was given to 100% of the organizations, as part of the proposal formulation workshops (August 2018, and May 2019). While the training "Risk management plan with an ecosystem-based approach" was taken by 41% of the organizations (i.e. 44). Due to the COVID-19 emergency, it was impossible to continue with the schedule of face-to-face trainings since March 2020. From that moment on, as an adaptive management measure, this project focused on evaluating the economic and social effects of the pandemic and supporting the generation of economic reactivation plans, aligned with UNDP strategies.</p> <p>Furthermore, another emergency arose during the reporting period due to the tropical storm Cristóbal. The risk management team identified organizations with connectivity capabilities (cellphones, and internet access) and the possibility of traveling or contacting the most affected communities, in order to train them to apply the methodology for damages and needs assessments. This resulted in the virtual training of 60 organizations (25 of which are funded by SGP) who were able to evaluate 73 communities through telephone or face-to-face interviews when safe travel visitations whenever</p>
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				<p>based risk reduction". Ecosystem-based adaptation is part of Mexico's nationally determined contribution. The methodology includes a participative design of a community action plan, which includes sustainable ecosystem management as a tool to increase the socio ecological resilience.</p>	<p>were assured. Overall, this team has played a key role in coordinating working groups to generate economic and social recovery plans for the different productive sectors in the region.</p> <p>Through the 108 grants, 252 communities are developing productive activities that directly improve the participants' livelihoods. 72.6% of these communities execute the projects through organizations that are first-time grant recipients. These communities are engaged in the following activities: aquaculture and sustainable fisheries (10); invasive species control (5); agroecology (63) and agroforestry (27); organic beekeeping (20); sustainable forest management (12); eco-tourism (44); and community conservation (2).</p> <p>It is also worth highlighting the capacity building process under implementation aimed to mainstream gender perspectives in project planning, execution, and assessment. By strengthening this approach, we shed light on the differences in livelihoods between men and women, enabling us to identify the necessary strategies to implement actions that will result in improved livelihoods of all the people in the communities.</p>
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The progress of the objective can be described as: **Achieved**

Outcome 1

Component 1: Increased resilience of selected landscapes and seascapes for local sustainable development and global environmental benefits Outcome 1.1 Landscape and seascape resilience is enhanced through the individual and synergistic impacts of a set of adaptive community practices that maintain ecosystem services, conserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and reverse land degradation in the following large ecosystems of Mexico's Southeast:

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
A. Upriver landscape of the	A.1.1 0 hectares in	(not set or not	A.1.1 300 hectares	A.1.1. 170 new hectares under	A.1.1. This target was achieved. There

<p>Grijalva and Usumacinta Rivers A.1 Agroforestry production landscape in Northern Chiapas and Southern Tabasco A.1.1. Area under community management implementing agroecological principles and practices for selected crops A.2. Deltaic-estuarine production landscape of Tabasco and Campeche A.2.1 Number of community enterprises and initiatives contributing to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture with native species</p> <p>A.2.2 Number of hectares of continental and marine areas monitored to detect and control invasive alien species using SGP's established system</p> <p>A.2.3 Number of fisheries with improved community management</p>	<p>participating communities A.2.1 Six community-managed hatcheries producing fingerlings of Alligator gar and Castarrica (<i>Cichlasoma urophthalmus</i>), and 18 community fish farms A.2.2 A community system to detect and control alien invasive species in the freshwater ecosystem of the Grijalva-Usumacinta was established in SGP OP5 A.2.3 There are no sustainable fisheries management activities by communities currently taking place in the project area</p>	<p><i>applicable)</i></p>	<p>under agroecological coffee production 300 hectares under agroecological cacao production A.2.1 Five additional community-managed hatcheries producing native fish species' fingerlings to be released into their natural habitat and Fifteen new community fish farms, targeting 5,500 hectares A.2.2 Documented management of 2,400 hectares to detect and control invasive alien species in freshwater (400ha) and marine (2,000ha) areas A.2.3 At least three fisheries of ten species in rivers, protected interior and coastal lagoons, and wetlands with improved community management</p>	<p>agroecological cocoa production (57% of the EOP target) in the states of Tabasco and Chiapas, and 19 new hectares under agroecological coffee production (6% of the EOP target). As of June 2019, 4 projects are supporting the transition to agroecological practices in order to control and reduce the Moniliasis disease (<i>Moniliophthora roreri</i>) in cacao crops and Roya disease (<i>Hemileia vastatrix</i>) in coffee crops. Communities are receiving training to implement improved soil management, seed selection, shade control, natural pest control and organic fertilization. Communities are also receiving support to process the cacao and coffee beans, and in Comalcalco, Tabasco, women are selling directly their finished product to visitors. For coffee, 5 projects, impacting 565 hectares where submitted during the second call for proposals, and if selected by the NSC, they will start implementation in September (expecting to surpass the target). For cacao, 3 projects were submitted, in total covering 403 hectares. The target is expected to be reached by December 2020. A.2.1. As of June 2019, 0 additional hatcheries were created. During the second call for proposals, the programme received 3 proposals of new hatcheries, and one proposal to strengthen existing hatcheries. We do expect to reach the target. A field visit by the National Coordinator confirmed that the market for fingerlings is not even large enough for the existing hatcheries. A second field visit to assess the state of the</p>	<p>are currently 304 hectares under agroecological cocoa production and 334 hectares under agroecological coffee production through eight projects (101.3% and 111.3% of the EOP target, respectively). These projects include CBO and NGO initiatives that promote the use of scientific and traditional knowledge to treat diseases (<i>Moniliasis - Moniliophthora roreri</i>; and <i>Roya - Hemileia vastatrix</i>), improve soil quality and use organic fertilizers. Four (4) of these projects also focus on improving the value chain through direct commercialization of both beans and processed/finished products at a fair price.</p> <p>A.2.1. In the second call for proposals, the NSC approved three projects to establish new community hatcheries in Campeche (2) and Chiapas (1). Never the less, two missions by the SGP team to Tabasco confirmed a greater need to strengthen existing hatcheries and their market before creating new ones in this state. After discussing the strategy, the NSC decided to strengthen existing initiatives, so one additional project was approved to support three existing hatcheries in Tabasco. Therefore, a total of six hatcheries are receiving support through this new strategy.</p> <p>It is worth pointing out that the aquaculture strategy was discussed during the MTR. The MTR states: "Country Programme Team's field visits detected a lack of market for fingerlings. The decision to strengthen existing hatcheries as well as existing fish farms is sound and in agreement with field reality."</p>
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				<p>community fish farm will be held in July 2019 and recommendations will be submitted to the NSC.</p> <p>Two community fish farms (13% of the target) are supported and will contribute to the restoration of the ecosystem through the release of 20% of the fingerlings in the Laguna de Terminos Protected Area to restore biodiversity. The NSC also decided to support fish farms in the coastal landscape of the Yucatan Peninsula.</p> <p>For the deltaic-estuarine landscape, the first call for proposals on June 2018, allowed the SGP team to meet and map the local stakeholders. During this process, SGP received several proposals of communities that had been supported during OP5. However, they were not considered eligible as the target aims to engage additional communities. In order to meet the target, SGP performed several field visits and meetings to identify projects for the pipeline. Eleven projects are in the pipeline for the second call for proposals. We do not expect to reach the target.</p> <p>A.2.2. No projects on control of invasive species in freshwater and marine areas have been approved by the NSC yet. The NSC asked for more information and for a specific strategy to control the invasive alien species. Consequently, SGP organized a workshop at the landscape level, involving communities, NGOs and local universities of Tabasco and Campeche in January 2019 to share existing knowledge and practices. As a result of this workshop, a new</p>	<p>Five (5) cooperatives are already implementing aquaculture with native species in the targeted landscape. Jointly, they impact 3,373 hectares of the Usumacinta and Grijalva rivers watershed (61% of the EOP target). Three (3) additional communities are currently developing new fish farms using an innovative approach. One will be the first octopus aquaculture project (Octopus maya) in Sisal, Yucatán, and two aquaponic projects are under construction in Bacalar and Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo. It is unlikely that the target in hectares will be achieved by the end of the project, as there will only be eight farms instead of fifteen. However, the hatcheries are also committed to releasing native species into the water bodies, therefore the impact area will increase as soon as the farms and hatcheries complete the production cycles and are able to do releases. Together this initiatives are expected to have an impact on 4,600 hectares (83.63% of the EOP target).</p> <p>A.2.2. After implementing the regional workshop and designing the new strategy for invasive species during the last reporting period, one (1) project to control invasive species is under implementation. The project covers an area of 62,830 hectares of freshwater, through several monitoring points in a watershed, exceeding the target vastly. This is a broad project that includes generating a baseline on the ecology, reproductive biology, and socio-environmental and economic impacts of the Hypostomus Plecostomus. Additionally, the project includes the</p>
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				<p>strategy was developed as requested by the NSC (see attached). During the second call for proposals in April, we received 6 proposals for control of invasive species on 89,000 hectares of freshwater areas. No invasive species was detected in marine area of the targeted landscape.</p> <p>A.2.3. During the first call for proposals, no proposal for support of a sustainable fishery was submitted in the targeted seascape. For the second call for proposals, 2 projects were submitted and are currently being reviewed by the NSC.</p>	<p>ecotoxicological evaluation of the species by bioaccumulation of pollutants, to mitigate its effects and raise awareness about the health of the riverside ecosystems.</p> <p>As highlighted in the MTR, no invasive species were detected in the Usumacinta and Grijalva Rivers Watershed. Therefore, there was no project related to the invasive species control indicator that could have been approved. The NSC was informed and accepted it.</p> <p>A.2.3 Three projects located in the Yucatán Peninsula focus on improving community administration of coastal resources. In Quintana Roo, the socio-environmental resilience of six fishing cooperatives including strengthening no take zones is under implementation. In Campeche, work is underway to decree a 900 hectares fishing refuge as a Protected Area in Laguna de Terminos that is currently managed by local fishermen cooperatives. In Yucatán, a local marine reserve is strengthened in San Felipe. These three initiatives impact conservation activities for more than eighty endangered species, including turtles. Therefore, this sub-target has been exceeded.</p>
<p>B. Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Seascapes B.3.1 Number of community initiatives implementing alternative tourism as a substitute to unsustainable production practices</p> <p>B.3.2 Area with improved community monitoring and control of marine alien invasive</p>	<p>Two tourism routes including marine and terrestrial areas were established during SGP OP5</p> <p>A community system to detect and control marine alien invasive</p>	<p>(not set or not applicable)</p>	<p>Thirteen community initiatives implementing alternative tourism targeting 12,000 hectares (marine) and 300 ha (terrestrial)</p>	<p>B.3.1. Alternative tourism: 10 of the 13 targeted communities (77% of the target) are implementing initiatives on 13,691 hectares (111% of EOP target). 6 of them are fishermen communities that are switching to or strengthening eco-tourism as a livelihood alternative in 4 protected areas of the Yucatán Peninsula. One</p>	<p>B.3.1. SGP is currently supporting 17 communities (130% of the target) to develop alternative tourism projects in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Seascapes. These projects represent efforts to diversify and enrich community livelihoods, through tourism practices that sensitize visitors as to the importance of conservation of coastal</p>

<p>species</p>	<p>species was established in SGP OP5</p>		<p>4,000 hectares of marine areas monitored to detect and control invasive alien species in particular Pterois volitans (red lionfish) and Plecostomus sp (Armored catfish)</p>	<p>example are the communities of Xcalac, Quintana Roo, where fishermen are now working in coral reef restoration of 26.5 hectares of marine ecosystems, and designing an eco-touristic tour in order to secure long-term revenue generation to continue restoration activities. Visitors will “adopt” the reef and may support the restoration process in the long term.</p> <p>We estimate that 10 hectares (3% of the target) of those 13,691 hectares cover terrestrial areas. SGP received 5 proposals during the second call for proposals which would allow to meet the target of 300 ha terrestrial areas in 2020. The precise terrestrial area will be measured through the geographic information system (currently being developed) in 2020.</p> <p>B.3.2. Monitoring of marine areas: 2,380 hectares (59% of the target) of marine areas are monitored to detect lionfish (Pterois volitans), through one project in the Banco Chinchorro protected area. Two other project proposals were received during the second call for proposals.</p> <p>The NSC decided to include a strategy to monitor sargassum, which negatively impacts the livelihoods of coastal communities in the Caribbean area and may affect biodiversity (coral reef and sea turtle). We received enough proposals during the second call for proposals to meet the target in 2020 through 3 new projects.</p>	<p>ecosystems. Activities vary between mangrove and coral restoration projects that include tourists as sponsors; guided tours in an Environmental Management Unit for crocodiles; tours in canals, and coastal lagoons in the Sian Kaan Protected Area. However, all these activities are currently suspended due to restrictions because of the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>These grants impact the conservation and restoration of 15,741 hectares, of which the majority are marine or coastal wetland systems (131% of the EOP target).</p> <p>In order to accurately determine the influence on the landscape portion, it is necessary to establish buffer zones based on the specific conservation activities performed in each case. This work is in progress and expected to be completed by the end of 2020.</p> <p>Considering the number of communities (17) committed to conservation through alternative tourism, it is expected to meet the 300 terrestrial hectares target.</p> <p>B.3.2 Currently, in Quintana Roo, two projects are being implemented for monitoring and control of lionfish, covering an area of 19,000 marine hectares (475% of the target). The Banco Chinchorro Fishermen's Cooperative encourages the use of lionfish for a jewelry project led by 7 women and environmental education through festivals. Another cooperative is implementing a similar project in Isla Contoy.</p> <p>Additionally, the Amigos de Sian Kaan association has monitoring and control actions for Armored catfish in 182 ha of freshwater, through environmental</p>
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					education events organized by women.
<p>C. Forest Landscape/Milpa Landscape</p> <p>C.1 Timber and non-timber production forest landscape</p> <p>C.1.1 Area with improved community forest management</p> <p>C.1.2 Number of communities obtaining forest certification or retaining existing certification</p> <p>C.1.3 Number of communities implementing alternative tourism activities</p> <p>C.1.4 Area under community management implementing agroecological principles and practices for selected crops</p>	<p>85,573 hectares under sustainable forest management achieved during SGP OP5</p> <p>7 forest ejidos in Quintana Roo have FSC certification achieved during SGP fifth operational phase.</p> <p>4 communities with certified organic apiculture achieved during SGP fifth operational phase.</p> <p>Five communities under SGP OP5 implementing ecotourism activities</p> <p>102 hectares and about 1,000 families implemented sustainable agricultural practices during SGP OP5</p> <p>No research activities on agroecology during SGP OP5</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>42,000 hectares under sustainable forest management</p> <p>10 communities obtain or retain FSC or NMX 143 certification, for diverse products or services</p> <p>10 communities implement ecotourism activities targeting 1000 ha</p> <p>140 hectares under agroecological land management</p>	<p>C.1.1 Hectares under sustainable forest management: SGP is currently supporting projects that have brought 41,499 hectares of rainforest (99% of the target) under sustainable forest management in collaboration with 10 communities. Including new communities in sustainable forest management and forest conservation has been the key strategy to almost reach this target already. 11 additional forestry projects are in the pipeline, which will commence in September and will contribute to exceeding the target by likely 30%.</p> <p>C.1.2 FSC certification: 3 communities (30% of the target) retained their FSC certification: Noh Bec ejido, Petcacab ejido and Ka'ax Maya community carpentry. 4 other communities received training and are implementing the monitoring process in order to receive or retain their certification this year. SGP also trained 54 members of communities to FSC certification in March 2019. The second call for proposals allowed SGP to identify another 3 communities in order to reach the target in 2020 (starting in September). This target is on track.</p> <p>C.1.3 Ecotourism: 4 communities (40% of the target) are carrying out ecotourism activities on 1,731 hectares (exceeding the target by over 70%). The new landscape approach allows communities to impact large areas. For example, agro-tourism in Temozon covers and impacts 12 hectares of agro-diverse landscape in Yucatán. 4 communities</p>	<p>C.1.1. The approved and ongoing grants to carry out sustainable forest management span over an area of 118,893. 83 ha (283% of the target).</p> <p>In this reporting period, a community conservation area of 35,000 hectares was officially certified in the Ejido Laguna Om. Mexico's Minister of the Environment visited the area in November 2019 to present the certificate. The Yunkú ejido in Yucatán has designated 593 hectares to start the same registration and certification process.</p> <p>C.1.2. In addition to the 44,875.19 hectares covered by 6 ejidos in Quintana Roo, four communities sustainably manage 9,785 ha of forest. So far, 3 communities have retained the FSC certification (30% of the EOP target). 3 more are on process to acquire a collective FSC certification, and the other 4 maintain their interest, effort, and preparations for FSC certification. If so, the EOP could be 100% achieved. However, this process has been affected by the budget cut of the National Forestry Commission since the start of the new administration in December 2018 and represented the main co-financer for these organizations.</p> <p>C.1.3 In the second call for proposals, four new grants were awarded to ecotourism initiatives, which comprise twelve additional communities. Considering all grants, it adds up to 16 communities (160% of the EOP target), and it amounts to 8,582 hectares in</p>

				<p>received a planning grant and 5 communities are in the project pipeline, which will contribute to exceeding the target by the end of the project.</p> <p>C.1.4 Agroecological land management: 334 hectares (239% of the target) have been brought under agroecological management. SGP is currently working with 41 communities in the selected landscape. Agroforestry and upscaling of innovation in the Mayan Milpa system (traditional indigenous crops) are among the practices under implementation. The programme is also actively promoting exchange between the groups practicing agroecology and agroforestry through the 12 seeds fairs, where 6 tons of native seeds were exchanged. All the projects are focusing on improved soil management, and are implementing innovations such as soil analysis, microorganism fertilization and use of walking tractors. SGP supported a group of 13 farmers (6 women, 7 men) to participate and share their experience during Mexico's first congress on agroecology held in Chiapas in May 2019. SGP is also supporting the process for the recognition of the Milpa Maya as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) through a regional workshop and the participation in the technical group.</p>	<p>conservation (858% of the EOP target) (targets exceeded). These projects play an important role in strengthening the marketing and communication of activities, which is reflected in the increase in demand (prior to the suspension of work due to the COVID-19 contingency). Initiatives such as the consolidation of a 100 km hiking and biking tourist route called "Camino del Mayab" stand out. The coordination of five communities to carry out a bird watching marathon in Calakmul, with 123 participants is another example. In addition, a strategic project to form a Network of Community Tourism was approved in the second cal, which adds 14 additional communities to those already supported by the SGP. This project develops three lines of action: training and certification; governance and incidence in public policy; and promotion and marketing. Currently, the alliance has a crucial role in the development of post COVID-19 recovery strategies for the sector, coordinating efforts among communities to implement a comprehensive strategy.</p> <p>C.1.4. Thirteen (13) agroecology projects are under implementation, involving 85 communities. They are adopting agroecological practices on 804 hectares (574% of the EOP target). The strategies to achieve this are diverse and highlight the strong gender perspective and the inclusion of children and youth. The Ko'ox Tani project establishes agroecological schools with 77 Mayan women in Yucatán communities, as the basis of a capacity-building process to overcome extreme poverty. The Muuch-Kambal community alliance promotes</p>
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					agroecological practices in elementary schools to raise awareness on agroecological practices amidst a landscape affected by large soy crops. The leaders of the association Las Mujeres Rurales de la Frontera Sur designed an environmental awareness program with the community that includes the use of agroecological production techniques.
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The progress of the objective can be described as: **On track**

Outcome 2
Community-based organizations possess the organizational and managerial capacities for business development and performance on a larger scale to contribute to landscape and seascape management and governance

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
1.2.1 Number of adaptive and participatory land/seascape management strategies and plans developed/updated	None	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Six adaptive and participatory land/seascape management strategies and plans developed/updated	The SGP NSC selected 5 organizations to perform the design of the five participatory land/seascape management strategies and plans. The NSC also agreed to reduce the number of landscapes from 6 to 5, by merging one landscape in Tabasco area. This will be possible though the adoption of a watershed approach. This decision from the NSC will not affect the proposed targets and indicators of the OP6, because the merged landscapes are sharing similar targets. As of June 2019, SGP conducted overall 11 workshops for community consultations and baseline assessments in the 5 landscapes ((1) Forest and milpa landscape in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche State, (2) Sustainable forestry landscape of Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan, (3) Coastal seascape of the Yucatan Peninsula, (4) Agroforestry landscape in	1.2.1. We developed all five adaptive and participatory land/seascape management strategies and plans (100% of the target) during the previous reporting period. Overall, 23 workshops were conducted in order to establish a comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessment, using the methodology piloted by COMDEKS. This process included 501 stakeholders of which 127 were women (25%). Extensive documents, summaries and infographics were generated from each of the land/seascape sites, including the main socio-ecological characteristics of the land/seascapes; resilience assessments based on COMDEKS indicators; strategic cross-cutting themes, and their specific goals. Subsequently, a strategy was integrated at the regional level by combining the baselines, aligning the goals among landscapes, designing the shared strategic cross-cutting themes, and identifying the non-shared goals. This

				<p>Chiapas and Tabasco, and (5) Usumacinta and Grijalva rivers watershed) and several interviews were performed. This participative process for the development of the (agroforestry) landscape strategy for the Tabasco and Chiapas target landscape has been completed in June, and the 4 other landscape/seascape strategies will be completed by August 2019. For the Agroforestry landscape strategy in Chiapas and Tabasco, the main proposed outcomes by the communities are: creating alliances between communities, the integration of the most vulnerable sectors, climate change adaptation, sustainable transformation of the production systems, access to new links of the value chain and strengthening of community conservation.</p> <p>So far, a total of 419 stakeholders (17% were women) were interviewed or participated at the regional workshops for the participatory baseline assessments and landscape/seascape strategies' development. The baseline assessment received very positive feedback from participants, who recognized the innovation of this methodology. Together with key stakeholders, SGP identified the need to widely share the results within and beyond the boundaries of the landscape. The strategies will reflect the updated needs of local communities in the 5 landscapes. The process also allowed SGP to update the boundaries of the landscapes, which now cover 21</p>	<p>process resulted in the SGP-Mexico 2020-2030 Landscape Resilience Strategy. This document is the guiding document for planning operational phase seven (OP7).</p> <p>As part of the strategy integration, valuable documents were generated such as: Lessons learned from the planning process; disaggregated tables for monitoring the proposed goals in each land/seascape site; templates to generate management documents and presentation of the strategies to key stakeholders.</p> <p>So far, these documents have served as planning instruments (they have been key in preparing the PIF for OP7), identity awareness, negotiation and communication with partners, stakeholders and other donors.</p>
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				million hectares overall (18% in marine ecosystems, 72% in terrestrial ecosystems). The main changes were made in the agroforestry landscape of Chiapas and Tabasco, which focuses on a landscape managed by small Cocoa and Coffee farmers. New available data shared by the local government was used to draw the new boundaries and then submit this new proposal to key community stakeholders. The main benefit of this adjustment is a much more precise definition of the key ecosystems, that answer to the need of the communities. For example, the new agroforestry landscape effectively includes areas where small scale farmers are located, including a key socio-ecological landscape of the pacific coast. The community forestry landscape includes a new area in the Yucatán state, where needs of local communities were detected through field interviews.	
1.2.2 Number of community members with increased capacities for business development and management disaggregated by sex	140 community members increased their capacities for business development and marketing of timber and non-timber forest products 358 community members increased their capacities for ecotourism development and operation	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	200 additional community members with increased business development and management capacities of which at least 30% female	151 additional community members are currently receiving support by SGP to improve their capacities to manage their small businesses of timber and non-timber forest products as well as eco-tourism products and services (76% of the EOP target). 51% of the beneficiaries are women (77 women in 8 projects). For example, 6 beekeeping cooperatives are improving their capacity to sell honey though technical support. Some cooperatives are now breeding and selling Queen-bees, selling beeswax or selling beekeepings	1.2.2. We exceeded this target. Organizations supported for the first time, are currently involving 460 community members (230% of the EOP target) who are building greater capacities to develop and manage community businesses, of which 193 are women, representing 41.9% of the total. Community tourism and beekeeping initiatives continue to stand out for training activities to improve customer service and marketing strategies for their products. Other initiatives have adopted the risk management and reduction approach as part of their training. Some aquaculture cooperatives have set

				<p>gear/equipment. Moreover, those cooperatives are now focusing on the full landscape, including products of their traditional crops in their offer to expand their portfolio, for example, instead of solely focusing on beehives. This will allow them to diversify their incomes and thus increase their resilience to environmental or economic shocks. In the tourism sector, cooperatives are adopting innovative approaches, for example, including circular economy practices in their supply chain (buying the locally produced food and handicrafts to sell to visitors) to increase the benefits of the activities for the entire community, and improve resource efficiency. Eco-tourism cooperatives are also improving their capacities to market their services, increasing visibility and outreach through virtual marketing.</p> <p>In the forestry sector, a community of Quintana Roo is learning to manage and operate a new sawmill, market the new product, and manage the accounting system of this new community enterprise. A group of women is learning how to sell honey from native bees, eggs and vegetables from their gardens in the local market. In Quintana Roo, a cooperative led by Mayan women is improving the resilience of a native fruit jam factory by reconstructing their small factory that was damaged by severe flooding. In Tabasco and Chiapas, a new value chain for cocoa products is under development, which is expected to generate additional sustainable income to the</p>	<p>specific goals for community business management training. In this sector normally dominated by men, the increasing participation of women and youth is noticeable. This is enriched by the participation of the organizations in the government programme, Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro. This programme grants scholarships to individuals between 18 and 29 years old to join a company or a cooperative as apprentices. So far 20 cooperatives decided to receive 60 apprentices. In the forestry sector, the Ejido Caoba promotes a workshop of 30 female carpenters who focus on building beekeeping hives with FSC certified wood. Furthermore, following NSC's recommendations, male-only organizations such as Carboneros del Roble have developed specific strategies to facilitate the participation and training of women in forestry activities. A cross-disciplinary grant is underway to support a capacity-building process for cooperatives to increase management skills.</p> <p>Although the target has been reached, additional efforts are needed to consolidate these processes. The COVID-19 crisis is directly impacting 100% of the cooperatives, and the SGP team will focus on economic recovery. By working closely with UNDP CO, and thanks to the impact assessment, the Country Programme Team (CPT) is implementing a recovery strategy throughout these sectors. For example, the community tourism alliance expressed the urgent need for a web platform to promote the ecotourism offer of the Yucatan Peninsula. SGP supported the creation of a high-quality</p>
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				communities in the landscape.	webpage in which detailed information on 24 initiatives and customer service is provided. Its official launch was on July 4, 2020, within the international day of cooperatives (http://viajaturismocomunitario.com/). Also, by means of dialogue with the organizations and breaking down their needs, 13 grant's work plans were modified. Expendable activities or those that cannot be carried out in the context of the pandemic such as workshops, transportation, or work with schools were identified. That budget was redirected towards urgent actions such as the purchase of vegetable seeds, temporary employment, maintenance of equipment, or preparation of sanitation protocols. SGP also co funded the distribution of 1000 traditional medicine kit to distribute among affected communities.
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The progress of the objective can be described as: **Achieved**

Outcome 3
Successful small grants experiences from this and previous phases are consolidated/ up-scaled through production and marketing chains and second-level organizations as well as through exchange of knowledge and experiences, linking community-based organizations within and across landscapes/seascapes

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
1.3.1 Number of second level organizations established or consolidated at landscape or thematic levels	None existent for pursuit of this project's objectives	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least five	During its first year, SGP supported 5 second-level organizations (100% of the target). Through grant projects, SGP is supporting the consolidation of 4 second level organizations: 1) Ya'ax Sot' Oot' Yook'ol Kaab in Jose Maria Morelos, Quintana Roo State, 2) Sociedad de Productores Forestales Ejidales de Q.Roo in Othón P Blanco, Quintana Roo State, 3) Red Mayense de guardianes de Semillas, and 4) Red de Productores agroecológicos, Campeche State. SGP also supported the creation of the Maya Alliance for the Bees of	1.3.1 This goal was reached last year; however, the CPT believes this is a key strategy for OP6. The three strategic projects approved by the NSC are implemented by second and third level organizations and three regular grants are supporting second level organizations. The Maya Alliance for Bees in Milpa Forestry Landscape, Alianza Selva Maya in Forestry Landscape, and the Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism, are the strategic projects consolidating, replicating and up-scaling specific successful SGP-supported

				<p>the Yucatan peninsula - Kaanáalo' on through the organization of a regional meeting, the support of 4 working groups, and the presentation of the strategy to the new federal government in Mexico City. Projects for the establishment of another 3 second-level organizations are in the pipeline. Our goal for OP6 is to foster a second-level organization in the 5 landscapes in order to create the backbone for the implementation of the landscape strategy until 2030. Those projects will be: Mayan Alliance for the Bees in the Milpa Landscape, Alianza Selva Maya in the forestry landscape, Sistema producto peces nativos in the Usumacinta Watershed, Coordinadora Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Pequeños Productores y Trabajadores de Comercio Justo in the agroforestry landscape and Kanan Kay alliance in the coastal landscape.</p>	<p>technologies, practices or systems. In the Usumacinta Watershed, a planning project to strengthen sustainable aquaculture is under development through the Native Species Product System Committee, which includes 20 cooperatives. In the coastal landscape, the Kanan Kay Alliance strengthens the capacities of six fishing cooperatives for marine conservation. In May 2020, a project was approved for the Red Mayense de Guardianes de Semillas to urgently address the need for native seeds in communities facing the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis and the tropical storm that affected southeastern Mexico.</p> <p>Several productive sectors were strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the tropical storm Cristobal. The regional alliances of beekeeping, community tourism and native seeds have played a fundamental role in damage assessment, as well as identifying impacts and needs.</p> <p>Three projects continue their activities and contribute to this indicator: Ya'ax Sot 'Oot' Yook'ol Kaab in Jose Maria Morelos, (Repseram), and Society of Ejido Forest Producers of Q. Roo in Othón P Blanco, both in the State of Quintana Roo; and Agroecological Producers Network (Kakuxtal), in the State of Campeche.</p>
1.3.3 Number of strategic projects consolidating, replicating and up-scaling specific successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems	None existent in relation to this project's objectives	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least 3	During its second meeting in October 2018, the SGP NSC identified 5 possible grantees for the strategic projects: agroforestry alliance in small coffee farms of Chiapas; industrialization for sustainable forest	1.3.3 During the second call for proposals in August 2019 NSC approved 3 proposals for strategic projects, which were also endorsed by the UCP Global Coordinator. These projects impact three out of the five land/seascapes. Since

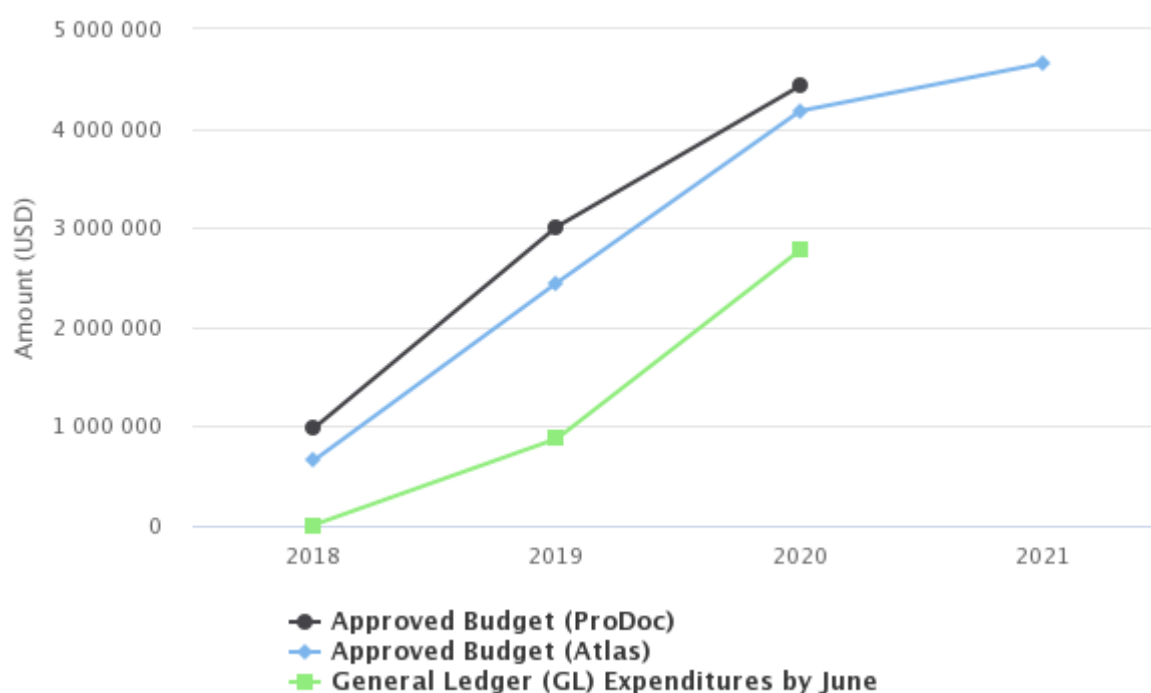
				management in Quintana Roo; market and resilience in beekeeping; regional alliance on eco-tourism; and climate change resilience in agroforestry. Four of those projects will strengthen second-level organizations. One will scale up several SGP experiences to a national agroforestry programme. During Q1 and Q2 2019, SGP supported those alliances to secure the necessary co-financing, undertake planning workshops, and create alliances with other stakeholders and donors. The 5 proposals will be submitted for approval to the NSC in August in order to start implementation in September.	October 2019, they are implementing strategies to upscale practices and experiences: 1) The Selva Maya Alliance, in the forestry landscape, strengthens the governance and entrepreneurial capacity of 5 FSC-certified forest communities. 2) The Mayan Alliance for the Bees of the Yucatán Peninsula - Kaabnáalo'on, works to position beekeeping as a fundamental productive activity in the conservation of natural heritage, rural development and protecting human and indigenous rights in the Milpa Forestry and Timber and Non-Timber Forestry Landscapes. 3) The Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism integrates 24 community companies in Yucatán, Quintana Roo and Campeche, to work jointly on the impact on public policies, obtaining certifications, and improving marketing strategies. This last point based on diagnostics and market studies proposes the creation of a digital platform that integrates the peninsular offer, including tourist circuits throughout the territory, as well as promotional audio-visual material and participation in tourism fairs. They cover Timber and Non-Timber Forestry Landscape, Coastal Seascape and Milpa Forest Landscape.
1.3.4 Number of knowledge products (case studies) produced and disseminated.	No case studies produced at the landscape level	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least 6 case studies developed (1 per landscape)	No case studies have been developed yet. However, during this 1st year of implementation, a consultant has been hired, and along with the team has been gathering graphic materials (photography, video, drone flight to prepare maps) and stories from the stakeholders. Furthermore, 19 case studies will be	1.3.4 Nineteen case studies were presented during the 25th Anniversary of the SGP México on October 2019. The material included one short video for each landscape, storytelling on successful experiences of CBO and NGOs. The book "Soluciones locales de comunidades mexicanas a los desafíos ambientales globales" was distributed in

				<p>developed for and presented at the 25th anniversary of SGP Mexico in October 2019. This will be done through 5 short videos, and a brochure. Another 5 case studies, one per landscape, will be published in 2020.</p>	<p>hardcopy to all 19 people interviewed, and the ebook has been widely disseminated. Three documents were revised, rebranded and published during the 25th Anniversary: “Practicando un modelo de Desarrollo”; “Experiencias exitosas en materia de biodiversidad y cambio climático”; and “Acciones prioritarias en materia de conservación y cambio climático”. All these materials are available digitally and free of charge (see Knowledge Management section).</p> <p>The NSC approved a specific grant to strengthen communication skills for all active SGP projects. The aim is to support community members to create their own stories and express themselves, as they consider appropriate. As part of this project, in April 2020, the first Program's Newsletter was released with six notes about projects, experiences, and events. An online conference on communication strategies was held in May 2020 for all grantees. All the partners were invited to submit a story about their projects. So far we have received 13 stories to be included in the July and October newsletters.</p> <p>Furthermore, we have intensified sharing experiences through social media. SGP's new website now includes a blog section. Blog posts are published every month (14 post during the reporting time) to share the projects' main results (see communication section).</p>
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The progress of the objective can be described as: **On track**

D. Implementation Progress

Cumulative Disbursements



Highcharts.com

Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	62.69%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	62.69%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August):	2,776,813

Key Financing Amounts

PPG Amount	136,987
GEF Grant Amount	4,429,223
Co-financing	6,333,389

Key Project Dates

PIF Approval Date	Apr 19, 2016
CEO Endorsement Date	Nov 6, 2017
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Feb 22, 2018
Date of Inception Workshop	Jun 15, 2018
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Mar 1, 2020
Actual Date of Mid-term Review	Nov 15, 2019
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Nov 22, 2020
Original Planned Closing Date	Feb 22, 2021
Revised Planned Closing Date	(not set or not applicable)

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2019 to 1 July 2020)

2019-08-22
2020-04-03
2020-05-12

E. Critical Risk Management

Current Types of Critical Risks	Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period
Social and Environmental	<p>México's Southeast region is affected every year by extreme weather events that affect ecosystems and communities.</p> <p>There are 107 projects approved and with signed MOAs who were advised by the UNDP Risk Management Program to carry out a risk analysis and implement actions to enhance resilience. For projects developed in coastal and flood areas, this process allowed them to allocate up to 4% of the grant to impact-mitigation activities for extreme weather conditions such as hurricanes and floods. Despite the intensity of the tropical storm Cristóbal in June 2020, some organizations reported minor damages linked to the implementation of resilience actions supported by SGP.</p>
Political	<p>Lack of national government support to NGOs.</p> <p>The new federal government, which started in December 2018, published the "Circular uno" which "prohibits the transfer of public funds to civil society organizations". This represents a risk for the NGO partners of SGP and increases the difficulty to secure co-financing. SGP's response was to prepare a report called "The state of the civil society and cooperatives in the Yucatán Peninsula" in order to highlight the role of CSOs and CBOs to reach the environmental goals of the country. The report has been officially presented in early July, through a talk broadcasted on Facebook live and YouTube. Furthermore, the document is available for download on the official webpage of SGP. We also supported the CSOs to secure co-financing through a permanent dialogue with private and international foundations, state and federal governments, and international NGOs.</p> <p>The decreased support to NGOs and the cutback of federal funds for the environmental sectors represent a major challenge to receive counterpart contributions from government agencies, mainly in the forestry sector.</p>
Safety and Security	<p>COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Mexico declared a health emergency on March 23. As of that moment, the CPT started to work with all the grantees to assess the impact. The first step consisted of ensuring safety. The CPT called every project leader to hear about their general health conditions and began to assess the impact. The SGP distributed 5,000 handmade woven facemasks throughout communities in States where their use was mandatory. The facemasks were made by a cooperative of women from a Mayan village. After this immediate response, the CPT and UNDP designed an assessment tool using the Kobo Toolbox Platform (https://www.kobotoolbox.org/). This platform was selected as it is a tool that offers the possibility of collecting data in the field without the need for an internet connection. The implementation of this assessment among the projects was performed through one cross-disciplinary grant, called "EAN" implemented by IEPAAC. We received an answer from 78% of the grantees. The assessment allowed us to identify the main impacts of the ongoing crisis. Sectors depending on mobility such as ecotourism or apiculture suffered a greater impact than agroecology and agroforestry projects. Another sector-focused assessment was then performed for those most affected. Using that data and along with the UNDP risk management team, we developed specific strategies that will be co-financed through multiple sources. For example, UNDP CO received a 500,000 USD grant from a Zurich insurance company to support the economic recovery of key sectors, and SGP is working closely with UNDP on the implementation part. As part of this strategy, the SGP has worked with 30 communities to redirect funds (total amount of 61,033 USD) towards key actions to address the impacts on livelihoods. Among these actions are the implementation of continuity plans, strengthening of local networks that promote the circular economy, health promotion to increase community resilience, and strengthen food sovereignty.</p> <p>At an administrative level, a total of 18 projects needed timely amendments. Seven projects were about to finish their planned activities in March - June and required a 6-month amendment. The main reason is their need to have workshops or meetings in order to share knowledge and experiences. Travel restrictions also had an impact on acquiring equipment and building infrastructure.</p> <p>The SGP is also in constant dialogue with other key donors of the region, in order to coordinate the response. For example, the ecotourism sector will need strong support from several donors.</p> <p>During this pandemic, SGP held 2 NSC virtual meetings. The first one in April 3, to inform the NSC on the CPT response: the assessment process and projects' status. At this meeting, the NSC adopted the CPT's proposal to redirect additional funds resulting from</p>

	<p>the peso/dollar exchange rate fluctuation. As of June, a total of \$54,122 USD from 26 projects have been allocated to local actions to reactivate the economy, and support food security.</p> <p>At its second meeting on May 15, the NSC authorized an emergency \$5,000 USD grant, in order to buy and distribute native maize seeds in affected communities. Seeds fairs, which are an important process for resilience, cannot be held this year because of the pandemic, and therefore we are implementing a distribution program for 6.5 tons of native seeds.</p> <p>With the impact of tropical storm "Cristobal" in June 2020, the need for seeds is even more urgent, and the CPT is partnering with the UNDP's response team to distribute additional seeds among the affected communities.</p> <p>Further actions are being implemented because the epidemic is on the rise in México as of the end of June.</p>
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F. Adjustments

Risk Management

The Country Office is responsible for completing the Risk Management section of the PIR in consultation with the RTA. Before updating the PIR, the Country Office must update project-level risks in the Atlas Risk Register line with UNDP's enterprise risk management policy and have a detailed discussion with the RTA on risk management. Next, the Country Office must select below the 'high' risks identified in the Atlas Risk Register as well as any other 'substantial' risks from the Atlas Risk Register identified by the RTA as needing to be addressed in the PIR. Moderate and Low risks do not need to be entered in the PIR Risk Management section. After selecting the risk, a text field will appear where the Country Office should describe the risk and explain actions undertaken this reporting period to address the risk selected.

Select the risk(s) from the options that match the 'high' risks in the project's UNDP Risk Register as well as any 'significant' risks from the register, as agreed with the RTA. Please describe the risk identified and explain the management approach agreed between the RTA and Country Office on managing/mitigating the risk.
Social and Environmental
Political
Safety and Security

Comments on delays in key project milestones

Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.

The MTR was performed during the reporting period, from September to October 2019 without delay, and the results were provided in time in order to start the preparation of a PIF for OP7. Based on the MTR recommendations and due to the new delays resulting from the coronavirus contingencies, the CPT will submit a request for a 17-month extension to the UNDP Directorate in August. The MTR mentioned: "Delay in hiring the CPM, the fact that the team is completely new and had to get fully acquainted with the SGP together with the large number of projects approved, half of which just recently awarded including all strategic and transversal projects, suggest considering an extension of the SGP of at least 6 months, and according to funds availability". The COVID 19 pandemic may add more delay in the execution. Time extension amendment has been signed with 18 organizations because virtually all the activities were stopped during the March – June period. The targeted landscapes are still under mobility restriction at the time of this report, and official information suggests an estimated impact until at least October. In order to support communities to successfully implement all the project activities, and to back them during the economic reactivation a longer extensions will be needed. Hence, a total of 17 months is needed to fulfill the goals.

Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.

As it was recommended in the Midterm Review, the project is looking for a 17-month no-cost extension to the GEF in order to consolidate the landscape strategies and to guarantee the fulfillment of the large number of projects approved by the NSC. On another hand, the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic complicates the fulfillment of the activities approved in the projects and reduces the possibility of adequate monitoring within the current timeframe.

UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.

Following recommendations from the MTR, as well as the impact from the COVID pandemic, the RTA recommends that the possibility of a project extension is reviewed by the next SGP National Steering Committee in view of allowing grantees time to complete their projects and see results on the ground,

taking into account initial start-up delays (as described in the previous reporting period) as well as the impact from COVID. Subject to the availability of funds, the extension of the Project will ensure due completion and monitoring of the results of the grant projects, as well as dissemination of the monitoring results to the stakeholders and public. The Project Board will need to conditionally approve the project extension, subject to approval by the RR and UNDP Executive Coordinator.

G. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Manager/Coordinator	Satisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>The project's development in the reporting period is satisfactory, as the progress of the objective is on track, as well as Outcomes 1 and 3, while Outcome 2 has been achieved. This second PIR reflects much more progress in the implementation. The result-oriented decision-making process of the NSC during the reporting period allowed the selection of several additional projects to complete most of the targets. The CPT is monitoring closely the development of each of the 109 supported grants. Despite the strong impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, especially for the ecotourism sector, communities supported during OP6 show a concrete impact on the field.</p> <p>The project's development in the reporting period is satisfactory, as a result of the second call for proposals, which enabled us to allocate 95% of funds. The second call for proposal and the NSC decision process concentrated on meeting the pending target for OP6. This results-based selection, along with appropriate adjustments, for example, those done in aquaculture, allows for all 108 projects to set course for reaching full completion. A significant improvement was achieved relating to indicator B, related to mitigated CO2 tons. During the last PIR, the CPT was not able to report impact because of an unclear methodology. This year, the CPT and a consultant developed a tool to precisely estimate CO2 emission through a geographic information system. The CO2 information will be moreover shared with communities, so they can use those maps in their decision-making process.</p> <p>Another key improvement has been the development of the monitoring system (Mon-ALISA) that allows to systematize, store, and analyze information and data collected from the program's operational processes.</p> <p>The OP6 objective to empower local communities to manage production by enhancing their social, economic, and environmental sustainability, and resilience is on track to be completed. All three indicators that comprise it have been covered, however, the full extent of the impact will only be measurable once all projects are completed. The COVID 19 pandemic may have a considerable impact on key-value chains, such as ecotourism, forestry, and even honey exportation. While it is too soon to measure the exact impact, SGP has taken a proactive approach. First, an adapted Impact and Need Assessment tool was created and implemented. Then the NSC authorized actions of 26 grants for a total amount of USD \$54,122 to support affected communities, through innovative approaches such as food auto production, temporary employment, and or mask sewing. Also, SGP distributed 3.5 tons of maize native seeds to support small scale farmers and more than 200 seeds packages of vegetables. A new website and a marketing strategy were created and launched to support the promotion of ecotourism for the recovery phase. This is an ongoing process, and more action will be reported during the next PIR.</p> <p>Outcome 1: Resilience has increased in 252 communities through the support of SGP. The 42 grants focus on improving landscape and seascape management and are showing concrete changes in their territories towards the maintenance of ecosystem services, conservation of biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and land restoration. With the second call for proposals, and through an impact-oriented decision-making process by the NSC, almost all the targets have been met or exceeded.</p> <p>At the Agroforestry Landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco, 8 grants are impacting 638 hectares under community management and implement agro-ecological principles and practices for coffee and cocoa crops (Indicator A.1.1). In the Usumacinta and Grijalva Rivers Watershed landscape, a major achievement was the approval of a grant that through various monitoring points covers an area of 62,830 hectares of freshwater for detection and control of <i>Hypostomus Plecostomus</i> (invasive species) (Indicator A.2.2). Also, 3 fisheries improved their community management (Indicator A.2.3). Nevertheless, the main difficulties have also been detected in this landscape, particularly in</p>	

Tabasco. The strategy regarding supporting new native fish hatcheries needed adjustment (Indicator A.2.1). The CPT developed a field survey, a regional workshop was implemented, and corrective strategies were proposed and accepted by the NSC. The new strategy is now under implementation. In the case of fish farms and hectares of impact, the proposed indicators will not be met. However, with just over half of the proposed farms (8 out of 15), and considering the release actions of the 6 hatcheries, an impact on over 4500 hectares (81.8% of the EOP target) is expected to be achieved.

For the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Coastal Seascape, 17 community initiatives are implementing alternative tourism as a substitute to unsustainable production practices (Indicator B.3.1). 19,000 marine hectares are being monitored for the control of lionfish (alien invasive species) through 2 projects (Indicator B.3.2).

In the timber and non-timber production forest landscape, the area under improved community forest management reaches 118,893 hectares (Indicator C.1.1) and there are 16 communities implementing alternative tourism activities (Indicator C.1.3). However, it has been a challenge to reach the number of communities with FSC certification (Indicator C.1.2), mainly due to the reduction of subsidies from the main federal co-financer of this sector (CONAFOR). So far, 3 communities have been certified, and it is expected that the strategic project of the forest ejidos alliance (Alianza Selva Maya) will strengthen the organizations' processes in order to successfully achieved the certification of 3 additional communities. Also, it is considered that the efforts and interest of other forestry projects will lead to the necessary certifications to meet the target. Furthermore, there are 13 agroecology projects under implementation, involving 85 communities. This represents 804 hectares under community management implementing agroecological principles and practices (Indicator C.1.4).

Outcome 2. As part of this outcome, 5 landscape strategies were completed as planned (Indicator 1.2.1), with compelling community participation (501 participants, 25% women, and 75% men). The baselines have been set, using updated socio-ecological data, and communities have set indicators that will drive the programme strategy for 2020 – 2030. Participants have recognized the COMDEKS methodology as useful and innovative. As a result of this process, valuable documents were generated and are now in use to plan OP7, negotiate co-financing, and as a communication instrument, with partners, stakeholders, and other donors.

The target regarding additional community members with increased capacities for business development and management (Indicator 1.2.2) has been doubled (230% of the EOP target), and women's involvement is also higher than the expected target (41.9% from the 30% expectation). Most of the projects are production-oriented, and communities are learning by doing and through knowledge sharing among peers. A cross-themed project to build capacities and generate key educational material has been approved by the NSC. Some successes are cooperatives now being able to sell their products online (honey) or have direct contact with hotels (marmalade). A regional assessment was completed and presented on the "state of the cooperatives" and a new tool developed by SGP to auto-assess capacities. The COVID-19 crisis represents a huge challenge for communities deciding to develop their business. Ongoing efforts have been paused and will resume as soon as conditions allow.

Meanwhile, equipment and infrastructure needed to improve access to the market are being purchased or built. Economic recovery will be a strong focus of the UNDP CO, and SGP is part of this collective effort. OP 6 strategy is centered on resilience, and all the activities to be performed during the recovery period will serve as a lesson to increase the resilience capacity.

Outcome 3 is on track. During this reporting period, SGP has continued supporting efforts to consolidate and up-scale successful small grants experiences from this and previous phases. Communities supported have increased their capacities in terms of governance of the commons. All 3 strategic projects (Indicator 1.3.3) and 6 second-level organizations (Indicator 1.3.1) require building new organizational skills. The strategic projects, based on the alliance of communities, allows SGP to upscale efforts in three very important productive sectors in the Yucatan peninsula: Sustainable forest management (Selva Maya Alliance); organic beekeeping (Mayan Alliance for

the Bees of the Yucatan Peninsula - Kaabnáalo'on); and alternative passenger cars (Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism).

Allied communities now have new skills to have direct dialogue with high-level government officials and share their agenda. Market access is also increasing through these alliances. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is increasingly affecting mainly the ecotourism alliance of 24 cooperatives (supported through one of the 3 strategic projects and fostered by SGP in 2019) and putting the same alliance at risk. Additional support will be needed for this specific project, together with CO, to shorten the recovery period.

Furthermore, 19 case studies (Indicator 1.3.4) were developed and presented during the 25th Anniversary of the SGP México. The material included one short video for each landscape (with testimonials of 4 or 5 grants each), a book that includes storytelling on successful experiences of CBO and NGOs.

In terms of knowledge management, the programme's 25th anniversary celebrated in October 2019, was a key event to share the information, results, and impact of the programme among communities, and key stakeholders, including the GEF's focal point and. The new communication strategy is based on bringing communication skills to the communities so they can increase their fundraising opportunities. This is a long-term process to be strengthened during the remaining months of OP6. The new website with 37 blog posts, the 3 social networks accounts with continuous rising engagement, and the increase of press releases (23 mentions during the reporting period) also reflect an increase in communication actions, to share experiences among broader audiences.

Communication within SGP allies increased during the pandemic. The CPT is sharing verified information on the national situation regarding COVID-19 on a daily basis. We also organized calls and meetings to share information as needed. A WhatsApp for business account is used to communicate quickly with all the SGP communities. This new communications tool was also used during the impact of tropical storm Cristóbal in the Yucatán Peninsula.

Another success was the 3-day trip with the Federal Secretary of the Environment, where communities and second level organizations were able to directly share their agenda and priorities. The COVID-19 crisis affected mostly alternative tourism projects and forest communities who sell timber and non-timber products in the Cancun area. An impact assessment has been implemented, and together with the UNDP CO and the NSC, the CPT is implementing an array of actions to support communities. The main goal is to support them during the peak of the pandemic (mainly ensuring food supply), and then provide tools and assistance to reduce the recovery time. Most of the projects are delayed due to the pandemic, but the CPT assumes that specific project goals (for example training, increase in sales, of peer exchange) can be met with a 17-month extension.

Gender. Throughout the entire OP6, comprehensive efforts have been made to strengthen the gender perspective in all areas of the SGP. From daily activities to processing the call for proposals, including monitoring activities, sponsorships, capacity building, workshops, and developing tools and materials according to specific needs. We have recognized challenges, for example, it is necessary to identify more women-only organizations or create the conditions for such initiatives to be developed or consolidated. There is also very important work to be done with men to raise awareness of gender equality issues. The two grants that work on gender topics focus on strengthening the capacities of organizations to incorporate a gender perspective; nevertheless, the majority of the participants are women. Even though there is still a long way to go to achieve gender equality, the steady increase of women participating in activities such as forestry, aquaculture, and fishing, that are socially attributed only to men stands out. During this reporting period, it is worth highlighting the increasing participation of women, particularly young, in activities such as forestry, fishery, aquaculture, and apiculture. Women leaders are becoming increasingly visible in decision-making processes, and several organizations are beginning to independently explore possibilities to address the issue (for further details see section 'F. Gender').

The MTR carried out in early October 2019 was very enriching for the programme, because it provided an opportunity to improve the monitoring system and make adjustments to the programme's implementation strategies.

Also, all the recommendations from the evaluator have been accommodated. On another note, the multiple monitoring visits (47 before the pandemic) enabled us to validate in the field the reported progress and verify the communities' commitment to reach the established goals in terms of hectares of work, development of productive activities, and beneficiaries involved. The process to strengthen capacities translates into educational processes geared toward men and women in the communities.

During the last reporting period, the programme reported a risk regarding the drop-in co-financing from the federal funds since the installation of the new government. In light of this, SGP is actively negotiating with national and international foundations to work in coordination to channel funds and ensure the diversification of sources of donors in the landscapes/seascapes. During this reporting period, there has been an active dialogue with other stakeholders. It stands out the negotiation with the PEMEX Community and Environment Support Program (PACMA). So far, support for 6 organizations is underway in Campeche, and due to the interest of PACMA, 7 additional organizations are being evaluated in Tabasco and Campeche. The programme is also actively collaborating with the new federal programmes, such as Sembrando Vida (agroforestry), and Jovenes Construyendo el Futuro (inclusion of young people in cooperative). This relationship will be deepened during the next reporting period. Other donation to SGP or UNDP CO, to support the recovery process that will be implemented in SGP 's project, will be reported as co-financing.

This operating phase prioritizes increasing the communities' resilience capacities. To do this, we developed a work strategy with the Risk Management Unit of UNDP,. This alliance has been built on 15 years' experience in both programme. It enables us to strengthen all the projects by taking preventive actions to possible risks. The communities have repeatedly reported that the actions taken have yielded good results. We notice the risk prevention and mitigation culture is present in the SGP community, and there are proactive and creative actions in strengthening their own resilience. However, the sum of the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and weather phenomena is testing said resilience.

For the rest of this year and 2021, we visualize two key areas to face the crisis: strengthening regional community alliances and the solidarity support actions among communities. The advantages and the scope of coordinated efforts are noticeable not only within the organizations or communities but among them. In this sense, SGP has made an effort to support organizational processes, such as building the website for the Alianza Peninsular para el Turismo Comunitario [Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism]. We also provide support to coordinate and establish the logistics of actions in solidarity that have emerged, such as product exchanges among the agricultural and fishing communities. The COVID-19 pandemic brought huge challenges to the OP6 implementation. However, the ongoing communication with the programme's beneficiaries, along with a comprehensive strategy to address their needs, have helped to mitigate its impact and direct our efforts to offer timely answers. We have prioritized the health and safety of all grantees and our work team, which led us to amend 18 projects, with the purpose of resuming their activities at such a time when contagion among the communities is no longer a risk. And finally, SGP jointly with the UNDP CO, is working with private foundations (Citibanamex, ADO, Zurich, and WK. Kellogg foundation) to reduce the time of the region's economic recovery.

Next steps:

For the next reporting period, the CPT and the NSC will focus on the closing phase of the first call for proposals, and 50% of the second call for proposals (an estimated total of 60 projects). To do that, we will restart the monitoring visit, as soon as the sanitary condition makes it possible,. We will also implement the case study process, to share among other stakeholders the results of the most successful projects. A new app for community monitoring will be tested and implemented.

We will also implement the PPG for OP7 by performing consultation to our allies about the future strategies.

Regarding the COVID pandemic and the economic recovery, we will maintain our partnership with UNDP CO, to implement all the recovery actions developed after the initial assessment perfumed by SGP. This is an evolving

	situation, and we will reassess every month the main needs of the most affected communities. In terms of public policy, SGP is now a partner of FAO and the ministry of environment to design the national agroecology transition strategy. This new public policy may be key to boost agroforestry and agroecology in Mexico. We are also working with the federal government to share knowledge about sustainable fisheries and aquaculture with native species. For some projects, such as ecotourism we will maintain coordinated actions with other donors to support this much more affected sector.	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>From the UNCP CO perspective, the project has had a satisfactory rating on the reported period. The project already achieved, and in some cases exceeded, some goals and is on track to achieve the rest of them. As it is detailed in the DO section, the project has accelerated its implementation and actions with respect to what was reported in the previous PIR, achieving the following targets.</p> <p>a) Landscape and seascape surface management improved by community schemes and sustainable criteria: 143,180.37 ha of landscapes, and 33,641 ha of seascapes. Forest conservation areas 35,593 ha Sustainable forest management 43,300.83 ha 804 ha on agroecology and 638 ha of agroforestry schemes 7,968 ha on landscape ecotourism livelihoods and conservation schemes and 13,741 ha on seascape ecotourism activities. 2,900 ha of seascapes communitarian conservation areas.</p> <p>b) Carbon mitigation actions related to sustainable forest management and avoidance of forest fires: estimated in 5,798,500 tons of CO₂e, according to the project estimations</p> <p>c) Communities directly supported to improve livelihoods and enhanced resilience to climate change: 252 communities in five targeted landscapes As referred in the previous PIR, the inclusion of new communities and the approval of basic level proposals submitted in the call for proposals (especially those related to aquaculture, fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the estuarine landscape will need special attention moving forward due to the limited successful study cases and the challenges in improving the productivity and collaboration between small business, cooperatives, access to markets and value chains. The strengthening of administrative and entrepreneurial capacities of small businesses has been prioritized in the reporting period and will continue in the next year.</p> <p>Regarding outcome 2, the landscape strategies have been completed with a multi-stakeholder governance methodology and a gender perspective. These strategies are key to align the small projects supported individually under a broader territorial intervention approach, but also set the basis for the Seventh Operational phase of the SGP and the coordination with other cooperating entities, donors, NGOs, communities and governmental entities.</p> <p>For outcome 3, the collaboration with second-level organizations is on track. SGP has already strengthened 8 second-level organizations (5 reported in the previous PIR and 3 additional this period). The focus of this collaboration is to promote the access to financial instruments beyond grants, sustainability of the efforts and the commercial benefits of the best practices promoted, which are still insufficient. This approach has been very important specially in the consolidation of upscale practices and experiences such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Selva Maya Alliance, in the forestry landscape, which strengthens the governance and entrepreneurial capacity of 5 FSC-certified forest communities. 2) The Mayan Alliance for the Bees of the Yucatán Peninsula - Kaabnáalo'on, which works to position beekeeping as a fundamental productive activity in the conservation of natural heritage, rural development and protecting human and indigenous rights in the Milpa Forestry and Timber and Non-Timber Forestry Landscapes. 3) The Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism, which integrates 24 community companies in Yucatán, Quintana Roo and Campeche, to work 	

jointly on the impact on public policies, obtaining

Overall, it is important to note that the results and impacts should be seen at the end of the implementation of the supported actions, and not only in the budgetary allocation of funds. In this sense, even when the project has theoretically reached the goals, the real outcomes should be measured at the end of each granted project to ensure achievement of the expected changes in the programme goals.

This concern is particularly important to highlight at this moment, due to the potential impacts of COVID 19 on achieving goals. The economic impact of the pandemic would have important risks in the confirmation of co-financing intended by the projects as well to the viability of the projects supported at this stage. The impact on value chains, access to differentiated markets and the profitability of life insurance become crucial in an adverse economic environment like the one that COVID 19 will leave. The monitoring and support from the SGP Coordination team to the projects and communities becomes particularly important in this context.

The need of an adequate follow-up and consolidation of the processes supported has also been referred in the Mid Term Review of the project. The review reflects a satisfactory progress of the project but also recommends to look for a one year no cost extension considering the recent adoption of the landscape approach in the SGP Mexico, the total renovation of the program coordination team, and the time needed to consolidate the proposals assigned on the the second half of the present report. This recommendation has been accepted and the No-Cost Extension request is already in process.

The Program celebrated its 25th anniversary in Mexico with a very successful communication strategy. The Anniversary event and the communication material and knowledge products developed helped improve the knowledge of key actors at the national and subnational levels and increased the interest for supporting the program objectives.

The active role of the Coordination Team has been crucial in the increase of the SGP positioning. The improved position of the SGP has created support for finding co-financing alternatives to the projects and identifying new financing sources for the local communities, such as the coordination with projects for early recovery in communities affected by COVID and other disasters, many of them grantees of the SGP.

In coordination with other UNDP projects, the SGP has been crucial in the support processes of local communities in the commercialization of products (coffee, cocoa, honey and wood) in better than market conditions. Cooperation schemes with other UNDP projects in Mexico such as: the credit tools for the forestry industry; Biofin tools and bioeconomy strategy, and the UNDP Value Chain Program has started and is expected to help the SGP grantees to facilitate the involvement of the private sector and banks in projects supported by GSP.

The above reference is shared by the GEF Focal Point and key actors in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. This allowed UNDP and the SGP coordination team to obtain the endorsement for the OP7 already approved by GEF for its PPG.

The Project Coordination Unit has demonstrated in a very short period its commitment to increase the impact of the SGP. The lessons learned and the consolidation of the actual SGP will be crucial for the design of the new phase considering the increase on the number of territories where the OP7 will be implemented.

Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
GEF Operational Focal point	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Implementing Partner	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>

Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
Other Partners	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>This is the second PIR for the Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Mexico and the project is granted a DO rating of SATISFACTORY as the project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The current progress shown below, explains why the project manager, the UNDP Country Office and the Regional Technical Advisor (RTA), concur with a satisfactory DO rating.</p> <p>As one of the SGP Upgraded Country Programmes, SGP Mexico in its Sixth Operational Phase has been adopting a community-based landscape approach to enhance and maintain socio-ecological resilience of five landscapes and seascapes in the key ecosystems of the Deltaic-estuarine landscape of the Grijalva-Usumacinta Rivers; the Coastal lagoons and marine interface in the northern Yucatan Peninsula; the tropical deciduous, sub-deciduous and sub-evergreen forests in the Yucatan Peninsula; and the Montane broadleaf and cloud forest in northern Chiapas. The project is in its second year of implementation, and has been able to make good progress towards its objective to enable community organizations in Mexico to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for socio-ecological resilience, through design, implementation and evaluation of grant projects for global environmental benefits and sustainable development.</p> <p>Since project start, SGP Mexico has approved 108 community-based grant projects, to enable community organizations and NGOs to develop and implement adaptive landscape/seascape management strategies that build social, economic and ecological resilience based on local sustainable development benefits. Out of these, 52 were approved during the reporting period. On-the ground supported activities have already placed 143,180.37 ha of landscapes and 33,641 ha of seascapes (176,821 ha overall) under improved community management, exceeding the target of 67,940 ha (260% of the EoP target). To track impact and progress of the forestry and community conservation projects, the programme has created its own GIS system during the reporting period. Each landscape is contributing to targeting a large number of beneficiaries (252 communities) actively participating in project activities (186% of the EOP target). While not all activities are directly improving livelihoods, all projects provide support to climate change using a proven methodology of UNDP's Mexico risk management program. With regard to measurements related to carbon sequestration, the project has developed a landscape level environmental assessment to determine an adequate baseline. Through this assessment, SGP Mexico has estimated that the total area under sustainable forest management is mitigating 8,932,772 tons of CO₂e (311% of the EOP target).</p> <p>The project is designed to enhance capacity of community organizations for landscape management for socio-ecological resilience in Mexico's Southeast large ecosystems through 3 outcomes; 1) Landscape and seascape resilience is enhanced through the individual and synergistic impacts of a set of adaptive community practices that maintain ecosystem services, conserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and reverse land degradation in the following large ecosystems of Mexico's South east; 2) Community-based organizations possess the organizational and managerial capacities for business development and performance on a larger scale to contribute to landscape and seascape management and governance; 3) Successful small grants experiences from this and previous phases are consolidated/ up-scaled through production and marketing chains and second-level organizations as well as through exchange of knowledge and experiences, linking community-based organizations within and across landscapes/seascapes.</p>	

With regard to Outcome 1, project activities are on track through 92 community based-projects currently under implementation (16 have been completed to date). In the Deltaic-estuarine production landscape of Tabasco and Campeche, the target related to the promotion of agro-ecological practices and systems has been achieved, with currently 304 new ha under sustainable agro-ecological cocoa production (101% of the EoP target) and 334 ha under agroecological coffee production through eight projects (111% of the EoP target). By contrast, some challenges were encountered by the project with respect to the indicators on community-managed hatcheries and sustainable fisheries as only a few proposals were received during the first call for proposals. However, the NSC approved three projects to establish new community hatcheries in Campeche (2) and Chiapas (1) after the second call; and missions to the sites highlighted that there is more of a need to strengthen existing hatcheries and their market rather than establishing new ones. This was also confirmed through the MTR. In the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Seascapes, targets have been met and even exceeded with 17 of the 13 targeted communities implementing alternative tourism activities in 13,691 hectares (130% of the target), impacting 15,741 hectares, of which the majority are marine or coastal wetland systems (131% of the EoP target). Monitoring of marine areas is also underway in 19,000 hectares of marine areas (475% of the target). In the Forest Landscape/Milpa Landscape, SGP is currently supporting projects that have brought 118,893.83 hectares of rainforest (283% of the target) under sustainable forest management. Ecotourism activities are also being carried out by 16 communities (160% of the target) on 8,582 hectares exceeding the target by over 750%, as the community-based landscape approach allows communities to impact large areas. The target of hectares under agroecological land management is also being exceeded (804 ha, which is 574% of the target) with traditional indigenous crops and practices under implementation in the Mayan Milpa system. It is commended that SGP Mexico is currently supporting the process for the recognition of the Milpa Maya as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS). Because of the COVID 19 crisis, the international verification committee from FAO is not able to perform a verification visit, which may occur in 2021.

With regard to outcome 2, in terms of landscape governance and the development of the landscape strategies, the project is on track. It is important to note that the NSC has agreed to reduce the number of landscapes from six to five by merging two landscapes in the Tabasco area in order to implement a watershed approach. The MTR also recommended to update the landscapes names to the logframe. By June 2019, comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessments had been completed in the five landscapes of Forest and milpa landscape in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche State, (2) Sustainable forestry landscape of Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan, (3) Coastal seascape of the Yucatan Peninsula, (4) Agroforestry landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco, and (5) Usumacinta and grijalva rivers watershed). Overall, 23 workshops were conducted to establish a comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessment, using the set of 20 SEPLS indicators of resilience developed under the Satoyama Initiative and piloted by the COMDEKS programme. This process included 501 stakeholders, of which 127 were women (25%), including community members and leaders, private sector/farmers, civil society, and government representatives. The landscape strategies for all five landscapes were finalized during the reporting period. SGP Mexico is also encouraged to review the potential for the establishment and/or strengthening of multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platforms in each landscape; bringing together community organizations, NGOs, and local and provincial government authorities, as well as other stakeholders for information, lessons learned and experience sharing, advocating for policy changes. In 3 of the 5 landscape, high level meetings have been held with federal officials (minister of environment) to share community experience, including field visits. However, no additional workshop or meeting has been held since the beginning of the COVID 19 in the region. During the closing phase of OP6, the CPT is recommended, if feasible, to encourage more exchanges between key stakeholders, to share the main lessons learned. With respect to strengthening business development and management capacities of community members, the target has been achieved and exceeded with 460 trained (230% of the

target), of which 193 are women (41.9% of the target). With regard to outcome 3 related to replication and upscaling, the project has supported five second-level organizations, already having achieved the target during the previous reporting period, with activities are currently underway to support another three second level organizations in the target landscapes to support the implementation of the landscape strategies beyond the life of the project, which is a key strategy of OP6. The three strategic projects approved by the NSC are implemented by second and third level organizations and three regular grants are supporting second level organizations. SGP Mexico had already identified five strategic projects for consolidation, replication and upscaling of specific successful SGP technologies, practices and systems during the first reporting period. The strategic projects (amount up to US\$150,000) were awarded by the NSC meeting in August 2019, and implementation of activities commenced in October 2019. Additionally, during the reporting period, 19 case studies were presented during the 25th Anniversary of the SGP Mexico in October 2019. The material included one short video for each landscape, telling stories of successful experiences of CBO and NGOs. Over the next reporting period, the project team is encouraged to produce case studies highlighting the role of these projects, and supported activities in addressing market barriers, up-scaling appropriate technologies or specific successful lines of work, and/or advancing needed policy changes. This work is expected to be implemented in 2021, as soon as travel restrictions are removed.

SGP Mexico has made good progress with regards to knowledge management and capacity building activities, as evidenced in this PIR by the number of trainings conducted by the project and SGP-supported grantees. With regard to knowledge management activities, one of the strategic priorities for SGP is the generation and dissemination of the knowledge produced by its projects allowing for other communities and donors to replicate and scale up good practices. During the reporting period, the NSC approved a grant to strengthen communication skills of active SGP projects with the aim to support community members to create their own stories. As part of this project, the first Program Newsletter was released in April 2020 with six notes about projects, experiences, and events. Additionally, SGP Mexico conducted a webinar on communication strategies for grantees in May 2020, inviting all partners to submit a story about their projects. So far, 13 stories were received and will be included in the July and October newsletters. Finally, the team has placed a stronger focus on sharing experiences through social media and added a blog section to their website, with 14 blog posts issued during the reporting period. The project team is strongly encouraged to continue to give special attention to this aspect in the next months so that lessons learned can be used to communicate and scale up successful interventions in Mexico and other countries around the world.

With regard to gender mainstreaming, SGP has been pioneering and highly recognized in mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in every step of the program cycle. A gender focal point is designated within each SGP National Steering Committee to ensure review of gender considerations in project selection. Gender equality and women's empowerment is a critical element of SGP efforts in Mexico, a number of recommendations have been developed by the team in close coordination with the NSC to strengthen its gender action plan and gender mainstreaming for on the ground activities. From the 108 projects approved so far, 5.7% are women-only groups, 44.8% groups with more than half of their members women, and 49.5% are made up mainly of men (related mainly to the forest and fishery sectors).

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Implementation is proceeding as planned, following the agreed workplan and the overall IP rating is rated as Satisfactory. The project is in its second year of implementation and is progressing without major delays. Important progress was made during the reporting period with regards to the delivery rate, which is at 62.69%, with a cumulative disbursement as of June 30 against expected delivery as of this year was at USD 2,776,813 with a cumulative delivery of 62.69%, of OP6 grant funds. Delivery picked up considerably in the reporting period as the NSC in August 2019 awarded an additional 48 community-based

projects (in addition to the 56 projects already under implementation as of the previous reporting period, committing 100% of the grants funding. This brings the overall portfolio of SGP Mexico to over 107 awarded projects by the second year of project implementation.

Continuous progress has been made during this reporting period. Overall, the project is well managed and executed, with a functioning project board (SGP National Steering Committee), as also reflected by the number of NSC meetings, three that took place during the reporting period. Following the most updated SGP Operational Guidelines, it will be key to ensure rotation of NSC members prior to the next reporting period. During the reporting period, the SGP Mexico National Coordinator has maintained effective work relationships with the NSC, the government, and the UNDP CO. The SGP Country Programme team, led by the National Coordinator newly appointed during this Sixth Operational Phase, has successfully managed SGP-Mexico showing great leadership and teamwork. The project has a strong partnership approach and stakeholder participation, and good cooperation has been achieved with relevant ministries, despite the fact that the change in the federal government and the three state governments during the reporting period has brought challenges in terms of cofinancing. New partnerships are being forged, including private and international foundations, and the cofinancing goals are expected to be reached by the end of the project. The project team is encouraged to continue to explore such synergies in the coming reporting period to promote the upscaling and replication impacts of the best practices, also exploring new partnerships with the private sector and the academia. Risk management is on track with a number of new identified significant risks reported during the reporting period, and risk measures in place. In particular, with regards to COVID, the last four months of the reporting period, coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. As of 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the new coronavirus rapidly spread to all regions of the world. Government restriction measures to respond to COVID affected SGP ongoing projects and led to delays in their activities, especially with regards to sectors such as ecotourism and apiculture. The project has adapted well providing technical support, training and continuous communication during this time of COVID challenges, with the SGP Team in continuous contact with grantees to adjust their projects' action plans taking into consideration delays in implementation, and also to minimize or replace physical awareness raising and capacity building activities with online sessions and trainings, using "Zoom" and other electronic digital programs. In particular, the SGP team in Mexico is commended for the designed and implementation of an assessment tool for all grantees (with 78% response rate) using the Kobo Toolbox Platform (<https://www.kobotoolbox.org/>). This platform was selected as it is a tool that offers the possibility of collecting data in the field without the need for an internet connection. The assessment allowed SGP Mexico to identify the main impacts of the ongoing crisis and develop, jointly with UNDP risk management team, developing specific recovery strategies that will be co-financed through multiple sources. Additionally, another significant risk also indicated in the previous reporting period, is the lack of national government support to NGOs, with the new federal government recently prohibiting the transfer of public funds to civil society organizations. While this is not expected to affect GEF SGP activities, a management strategy has been developed by the project team, and the project team has closely liaised during the reporting period with the NSC, UNDP CO and OFP office to encourage a permanent dialogue with private international foundations, state governments and international NGOs.

The MTR was performed during the reporting period, from September to October 2019 without delay, and the results were provided in time in order to start the preparation of a PIF for OP7. Overall, the SGP programme received a satisfactory rating. With regards to the timing of project milestones, the project was designed as a three-year project with an expected operational closure by February 2021, which is a limited timeframe for SGP activities. Based on the MTR recommendations and due to the delays related to COVID-19, SGP Mexico will submit a request for a 17-month extension to UNDP senior management in August to allow the grantees enough time to complete their projects smoothly and safely. Following the assessment from the MTR, it is

recommended that a request for project extension is reviewed by the NSC and a decision is taken by UNDP senior management by September. Subject to the availability of funds, the extension of the Project will ensure due completion and monitoring of the results of the grant projects, as well as dissemination of the monitoring results to the stakeholders and public.

Additionally, it is important to highlight that during the reporting period, SGP Mexico has successfully mobilized OP7 resources, obtaining the OP7 endorsement letter from the GEF OFP for the total amount of \$5 million for the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Mexico. The PIF was approved by the GEF Council meeting in June 2020, and a PPG is currently under development. Over the next few months, PPG stakeholder consultations will be carried out according to government directives due to COVID risks.

Final recommendations:

To sum up, the project is on track to deliver on its EoP indicators by its closure, and no major obstacles for the successful implementation of planned future activities have emerged during the period reviewed, with the exception of the COVID risk which will need to be continuously monitored over the next months. A number of recommendations are suggested below for adaptive management in the remaining of the project period. Acknowledging the concrete progress made this reporting period, moving forward the project has some strategic areas to be addressed in close coordination with all partners:

- 1) Prepare a case study on the adaptive management actions and recovery support undertaken in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. An adaptive management plan should be prepared to describe mitigation measures and to identify potential unavoidable delays or changes to the scope of the project interventions;
- 2) Revise the composition of the NSC to promote rotation. While the NSC is actively engaged in the monitoring of the project, moving forward, the project is highly encouraged to review the overall composition of the SGP National Steering Committee in Mexico. While the current composition of the NSC includes mostly members from civil society, in line with SGP Operational Guidelines, the length of NSC members should be reviewed, encouraging rotation. It will be important for the UNDP CO in Mexico to lead such discussion during the next NSC meeting. As per GEF-SGP Operational Guidelines, NSC members usually serve for a period of three years, with a maximum duration of two terms. Periodically inviting new members is a sound and healthy policy that brings new ideas and expertise to programme implementation, and roughly one quarter of NSC members may rotate in any given year;
- 3) establish and/or strengthen new and/or existing multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platforms in each landscape for information, lessons learned and experience sharing, advocating for policy changes;
- 4) Continue to promote the systematic documentation and dissemination of lessons learned through the development of case studies;
- 4) Tracking co-financing;
- 5) Continue to liaise closely with the UNDP CO in order to strengthen partnerships and capitalize on potential for upscaling and replication through other FSPs;
- 7) Discuss with the NSC, UNOPS and the RTA the proposed length of a project extension given the short 3 year duration of the project, and the COVID impact. The recommendation will then need to be reviewed by the RTA, and ultimately approved by the UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator.

H. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning. The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

<p>Gender Analysis and Action Plan: 1. Mexico Gender Action Plan.docxGender Analysis and Action Plan: 2. Inclusion and gender awareness workshop.pdfGender Analysis and Action Plan: 3. Mainstreaming gender perspective in productive projects workshop.pdfGender Analysis and Action Plan: Gender Action Plan_Mexico.pdfGender Analysis and Action Plan: Gender approach recommendations.pdf Gender Analysis and Action Plan: Gender manual index.pdf</p>
<p>Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.</p>
<p>Atlas Gender Marker Rating</p>
<p>GEN2: gender equality as significant objective</p>
<p>Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):</p>
<p>Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes</p>
<p>Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes</p>
<p>Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes</p>
<p>Not applicable: No</p>
<p>Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.</p>
<p>Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.</p>
<p>During this reporting period, the CPT has done an important effort to promote actions towards women's empowerment, considering a wide variety of aspects of the OP6 implementation. From daily activities to the call for proposals process, including monitoring activities, sponsorships, participation in workshops, and development of tools and material according to specific needs.</p> <p>During the two calls for proposals, all projects approved were evaluated by the NSC considering the Gender Action Plan (see attached). When needed, suggestions, or conditioning to reinforce women's participation were made. By these means, all proposals approved have taken into account gender equality, social inclusion, and women's empowerment criteria. From the 108 projects accepted, 5.7% are women-only groups, 44.8% groups where more than half of the participants are women and 49.5% are made up mainly of men (related mainly to the forest and fishery sectors). It should be noted that all participating groups are aware of the SGP gender policy and the requirement for compliance.</p> <p>One of the most active efforts to integrate a gender perspective in SGP projects is the approval of a specific grant targeting this topic. Its main objective is to build up capacities and offer tools for gender mainstreaming during the implementation and evaluation of projects. It is a process mainly for the organizations that received comments by the NSC (39 organizations in total). This process began with a diagnosis to identify the capacities, needs, and interests of the participating organizations. There were 34 representatives (mainly women) proposed and who made the commitment to attend the training. Given the condition of isolation imposed by the COVID-19 contingency, we modified the work strategy of a face-to-face process. The NGO is creating a manual with specific content to meet</p>

the needs identified in the assessment (see attached “Gender_manual_index.pdf”). Contact persons will play a key role in the (co)construction of this manual, which will include texts, videos, audios, and games to address different topics. The final product will be delivered to all OP6 organizations and will serve as learning material for future operational phases. This project is carried out in coordination with another grant awarded in the first call for proposals that advises the Chiapas and Tabasco projects. In this way, they are strengthened and have a comprehensive perspective of the needs in the five SGP landscapes.

In mid-June, the facilitators of the gender mainstreaming project held a digital workshop named “Participation and gender in collective work”. There were 30 people from the SGP community, who reflected on how men and women participate in the collective work, the problems, main challenges, and opportunities for equitable participation in their own organizations, and also received recommendations on how to achieve more effective and equitable participation in these spaces.

In September 2019, the Summit of Latin American Women Leaders was held in Mérida, organized by the Network of Entrepreneurs of Latin America and the Caribbean (WEAmericas). The SGP invited eleven women from SGP projects from rural communities in Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatán, and Quintana Roo. During those two days, they had the opportunity to listen to examples of successful women in various sectors, but also to analyze the differences between the rural and urban sectors. Given the lack of representation in community experiences, the motivation arose to organize a summit of rural women. Planning began in early 2020, however, the process is on standby given the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, these women have an active WhatsApp group where they share information and remarks about their work.

One of the main challenges to confront the effects of the pandemic was the lack of a tool to assess the impact on communities. SGP partnered with the UNDP Risk Management Programme to design a brand-new impact assessment tool, named EAN (assessment of impacts and needs). This tool is designed to consider feedback and several inputs by civil society. It also incorporates the gender perspective by including questions sensitive to impacts and needs differentiated by gender. In addition, considerable effort was made to increase the participation of women who responded to the survey. Of the 105 survey responses received, 39% were answered by women, which allows for a meaningful representation of their perception of the crisis. The EAN results indicate that the impacts are perceived in a similar way between men and women. However, differentiated needs were identified, for example, the shortage of feminine hygiene products or diapers. The EAN helped guide the preparation of humanitarian aid packages with the appropriate products. On the other hand, the evaluation included a section on safety in the community environment, in order to identify conflicts with violence in families and communities. The greatest conflict identified was between inhabitants fearing contagion by COVID-19 in 53% of the communities. Family conflicts with violence against women (4%) or infants (3%) were reported. The breakdown of these data per State, allows us to identify hotspots where we must provide advice on how to address the violence that is being experienced in the communities. Overall, this effort is in line with the SGP gender equity and social inclusion plan, by ensuring women's say and strong participation in the implementation of the response plans.

Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.

One of the main trends that are highlighted in the projects is the strong rise of women participating in activities previously dominated by men, particularly in forestry, beekeeping, aquaculture, and fisheries. Some projects report concrete actions to promote the participation of women in these activities, such as: identifying appropriate times for them to attend training and work; building restrooms for women in workspaces; or the inclusion of young women through the government program Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro (Youth Building the Future). Some specific cases are described below:

In the Ejido Caoba, a group of 30 women is training as carpenters to transform the surplus material from forestry activities. It is an initiative proposed by the women themselves for comprehensive and optimal use of resources and to promote the market for legal timber in beekeeping supplies, as the main products are beekeeping hives. The team has assigned positions of representatives and community promoters, with the function of coordinating and motivating their coworkers and following up on the collaboration with the group of men from the sawmill. They also carry out an important community reevaluation process of forestry activity, focused on the younger generations. This strategy strengthens the activity of sustainable forestry management in an ejido that preserves and manages 605 hectares of tropical rainforest.

The Tu'umben Ko'oben Project has done an exceptional job of empowering women around

renewable energy. The main theme of the Project is to promote the use of energy-saving woodstoves. Women are becoming involved in the construction of technology, as there is very little participation by men due to migration. This implies that they learn masonry principles based on their own knowledge, abilities, and time availability. It is an empowerment process that ends with the appropriation of a technology that reduces CO₂ emissions, seeks the health of users, and reduces the use of firewood. This same cooperative supported three women to get a scholarship from the Solar Mama project to be trained as solar engineers in India. The training was provided by Barefoot College and SGP provided logistical support. These women now have the knowledge to build, install, and maintain solar electrification systems. With this ability in the communities, it will be possible to create rural electrical workshops to promote the energy transition from community-based organizations. This approach will be crucial in the next operational phase of SGP, which will have a strong renewable energy component and may include mostly women.

Women's participation has also been very important among agroecological projects. The Ko'ox Tani Foundation works in highly marginalized communities through agroecological field schools for women. Participants received 13 varieties of corn and vegetable seeds purchased from local producers and were trained in agroecological techniques for planting and care. This process has resulted in women having diversified production gardens with native seeds that help improve ecosystem conditions. In addition, support groups have been created among women to divide the tasks of caring for home gardens and guarantee their permanence and production, experiences that are shared in meetings between communities to reinforce and enrich their knowledge of planting experiences.

Furthermore, SGP has encouraged organizations to participate in the government's program: Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro. There are currently 20 aquaculture, forestry, beekeeping, and agroecology projects that have actively incorporated women between the ages of 18 and 28. Young women are from the communities in which such activities are carried out, so they are learning about productive work with a focus on conservation and community development in the region. The projects report commitment, interest, and satisfaction of the scholarship recipients, and in some cases highlight that before them, the organization had very little women participation. In the case of a beekeeping cooperative, the scholarship holders were so interested in the activity that they installed their first apiary, and they dedicate an area to the conservation of trees that provide nectar and pollen to the bees.

I. Social and Environmental Standards

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

The Project Manager and/or the project's Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

SESP: Annex F SESP SGP OP6 Mexico.docx
For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?
Yes
If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.
<p>CBO and NGO vulnerability to cyber-fraud: At the end of 2019, two organizations reported that they were victims of a virtual fraud (phishing). Their bank accounts were emptied (including a considerable percentage of the SGP grant and funds from other donors). The CPT visited the affected organizations to acknowledge their process and provide guidance on possible legal actions. The UNOPS offices (GMS, SDC, NYSC) were notified and a workshop on digital security with UNDSS for the cooperatives is planned, however, it has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Safety of people who carry out conservation and defense activities of the environment and territories: In the implementation of the operational phase, there have been projects that have suffered strongly from the increasing violence, particularly in Chiapas and Tabasco. Two particular cases have resulted in human losses. José Luis Álvarez the chairman of the Tabasco NGO COBIUS was assassinated in June 2019. The treasurer of a Chiapas beekeeping cooperative was assassinated during a robbery. Those tragic events have been reported to UNDSS and the CPT is providing specific support in order to adapt strategies for both projects.</p> <p>Negative and long-term effects on the market for sustainable goods and services related to the COVID-19 pandemic: An important strategy for OP6 is the development of a sustainable value chain for honey, organic products from agroforestry, agroecology and aquaculture, and timber and non-timber forest products. Ecotourism is also a key strategy. Our COVID impact and needs assessment (EAN by its acronym in Spanish) conducted during the reporting period shows that the ecotourism projects are the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. With more than 100 days without receiving any clients, and no safety net in place or unemployment insurance, the impact in terms of incomes is immense. Experience from another pandemic, such as the AHN1 in 2009 shows that the recovery can be slow (4 years). Through one ongoing strategic project, and in close collaboration with UNDP CO, SGP is supporting a reactivation strategy, which aims to reduce the recovery period, and provide training and equipment to practice ecotourism under this "new normality". The cooperative shows a strong resilience capacity, for example, using cooperative's savings to alleviate the loss of income. Other experiences, such as bartering of mask making are described here: https://www.thegef.org/news/communities-and-covid?utm_source=GEFSEC+and+GEFEVAL&utm_campaign=639cedb280-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_07_09_04_40&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0c1b218281-639cedb280-30351555</p> <p>Another value chain affected are timber and non-timber products. The COVID impact on the traditional market for these products in the riviera Maya and Cancun, affected the income of local communities relying on these products. The sawmills are working at their minimum capacity, and most of the trees harvest used to be during the dry season. Since June, the rainy season makes most of the forest area unpracticable, and the community may lose an important part of their income by the end of the year. A women cooperative in Chunyaxche, which produces marmalade from native fruits</p>

also depends on the hotel market. During more than 100 days, their sales went to 0. However, because the marmalade can be kept in good condition during a long period of time, thanks to the new equipment bought through the project, the cooperative has a stock that can be sold once the Cancun area starts to receive tourists again. (In July, they delivered their first order since the lockdown began, it was made by a Tulum Hotel.)

Native fish aquaculture was also affected, because most of the production was planned and ready for Easter (April 5 to 12, 2020) when 80% of the production is usually sold. As social distance and travel restrictions were mandatory at that time, there were no touristic activities during this high season, and the production was not sold. The cooperative still has high costs for feeding and pumping, to maintain the unsold fishes in their ponds.

In the honey sector, lower international demand is lowering the prices. So production needs to be stocked longer, which raises the costs.

Because we are still in the middle of the pandemic, a precise assessment of the final impact still needs to be performed. Because several projects focus on the market, the grantees may have the capacity to regain their market share through active promotion. Together with the UNDP CO, which is implementing a US\$ 1,000,000 recovery project, SGP will support all the sectors to accelerate the recovery pace and learn lessons from this crisis to improve resilience. Attending the most affected cooperatives and community companies, 3.5 tons of native maize seeds have been distributed to communities with mobility restrictions. Seventy packages of vegetable seeds for solar were distributed among households, and 84 liters of honey was given to organize productive groups to feed and strengthen the native beehives. A cooperative of women embroiderers was also hired to make 5,000 cloth masks that were distributed among SGP projects.

2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.

No

If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.

n/a

3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.

No

If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.

n/a

4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential)?

No

If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.

n/a

J. Communicating Impact

Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's lives.

(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)

GEF SGP Mexico's Operational Phase 6 (OP6) began in June 2018. Since then, there have been two calls for proposals one in 2018 and the second one closed in August 2019. A total of 310 proposals were received. The NSC approved 56 projects during the first call and 51 in the second one. An extra grant was approved in May 2020 as a response to COVID-19. Out of the 108 approved projects, 8 grants have concluded successfully during the reporting period. As reported last year, 8 planning grants concluded in June 2019. The objective of OP6 is to empower local communities to manage their production in such a way that enhances their social, economic and environmental sustainability and resilience. Through 108 projects, community management has improved in 143,180.37 terrestrial hectares and 33,641 marine hectares. The mitigation of 5,798,515.96 tons of CO₂e was accomplished by means of sustainable forest management at community-owned lands. It should be noted that 252 communities improved their livelihoods and enhanced their resilience to climate change. All projects are implemented in five landscapes and seascapes in the southeast of Mexico, covering 17,787,338.89 ha terrestrial and 3,981,910.34 ha marine areas- (1) Forest and milpa landscape in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche State (5,263,860.10 ha) (2) Sustainable forestry landscape of Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan (5,991,031.93 ha); (3) Coastal seascape of the Yucatan Peninsula (5,153,876.90 ha); (4) Agroforestry landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco (5,943,534.40 ha); (5) Usumacinta and Grijalva rivers watershed (2,866,540.86 ha).

During this reporting period, one of the most important events was the SGP's 25th Anniversary celebration in México, which took place in October 2019, in Uxmal, Yucatán. Attendees included representatives of the 107 organizations that implement projects in the OP6, UNDP officials, members of the NSC, allied organizations, and guests from government agencies. The event lasted two days where different activities were carried out, including a knowledge fair to exchange experiences about topics relevant to all projects; panel discussions about the projects that have been strengthened over these 25 years, the innovations that are currently being carried out, and the youth's perception towards future challenges and opportunities in conservation. On the second day, three field visits took place to current projects to showcase experiences to participants. Overall, the event was an important milestone for the entire SGP "family" in Mexico.

During the ceremony, five high-quality videos were presented. Each video gathers various testimonies of the five land/seascapes. These products are a major effort to make experiences, ideas, and objectives visible directly from the people who implement those projects. In the video about the Agroforestry landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco, the producers explain the importance of valuing the artisanal and organic production of this crops

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R01C3Uy8ISQ&t=4s>). In the Sustainable forestry landscape, the collective efforts around timber value chains are highlighted, as well as the possibility of developing complementary activities such as beekeeping and alternative tourism (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-QxmfwEoHQ>). The peasants of forest and milpa landscape share different experiences with agroecological practices and their reflections on "el buen vivir"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY1D2qUEbJ4>). Fishing and tourism cooperatives, and NGOs share innovative strategies for the conservation of the coastal seascape of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjaDsrgQqhM>). While the projects in the Usumacinta and Grijalva rivers watershed, exemplify the alternatives to fishing activity that have been found in ecotourism and aquaculture with native species (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-u1Ptq4gNEw>).

A significant effort has been made to promote the voice of the communities in places and events where they regularly do not have access. This effort resulted in having eleven leaders of community projects attend the Summit of Latin American Women Leaders (September 2019); 20 forest community members participating in the celebration of the 25 years of the Forest Stewardship Council in Cancun (September 2019); partnered with Barefoot College, three women from Quintana Roo were sponsored to be trained as solar engineers in India (September 2019-February 2020); organization of a honey-tasting event with chefs and beekeepers to highlight the importance and value of organic honey; organizing an eco-technology fair in Chacsinkin, Yucatán with 150 participants, and half of exhibitors (6 out of 12) were grantees (January 2020). However, participations planned for events from March to June 2020 have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including an Eco-technology Fair for water management in Campeche; the Fair-Trade International Symposium, in Chiapas; the Biodiversity Investment Forum in Mexico City; and the IUCN congress in France.

In November 2019, a tour was carried out in three landscapes of the SGP in the Yucatan peninsula with the head of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, in which other government actors from environmental-related entities also participated. During this 3-day tour, different SGP projects were visited and dialogues were established with representatives of some of the key activities of OP6. Collaboration opportunities were identified in matters related to organic beekeeping, eco-tourism, conservation, TICCA, agroecology, and sustainable fisheries.

Another action has been to post messages and positions of community organizations to influence public policies from the grassroots, with topics related to the right to water; community organization (<https://www.facebook.com/ppd.mex/videos/956471678051176/>) or biodiversity conservation (<https://www.facebook.com/ppd.mex/videos/719630078780869/>).

To ensure we have systemized information and that it's widely distributed and accessible, SGP Mexico hired a consultant in OP6 to provide support in building a brand-new communication strategy and implementing a communication plan to effectively share information and emphasize the critical role of local communities in designing and implementing local solutions to global threats (Please see attached document 'SGP_Communication & KM Strategy_2019.docx').

Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media

Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.

Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file library' button in the top right of the PIR.

SGP's new website was officially launched during the 25th Anniversary celebration in October 2019. This product is the result of a complete redesign and migration of information process from the preexisting website. The new site (<http://ppdmexico.org/>) along with all social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube) provide a quality platform to post relevant information and materials related to SGP's work and its comprising organizations.

The SGP's communication mission is geared toward disseminating the sustainable development strategies implemented by base organizations, NGOs and allies, by informing, creating awareness, positioning and incentivizing the public to share and replicate practices using clear and understandable data for everyone. To do so, we have intensified the use of digital platforms.

Following are some categories of the information and materials produced and posted:

1. Projects and experiences. Blog posts that share the organization's activities, emphasizing the messages, remarks and learning moments of people implementing the projects. For example: "Mejoramiento Participativo de la Milpa como Sistema Agroforestal" [Participative Improvement of Cornfields as an Agroforestry System] (<https://url2.cl/9jRwt>) or "Comunidades participan en el Parque Nacional Isla Contoy" [Communities Participate in the Contoy Island National Park] (<https://url2.cl/lfvHK>). Or those initiatives in solidarity that resulted from the COVID-19 economic crisis, such as food exchange, narrated by the communities

(<http://ppdmexico.org/truequesolidario.html>) and posted on the UNDP's official website (<https://pnudmx.exposure.co/trueque-solidario-ante-covid19>).

2. Events. Important events shared by organizations, such as bird watching festivals (<https://www.instagram.com/p/B5WGgzyBf-H/>), and fishing, food shows (<http://ppdmexico.org/2a-muestra-gastronomica-de-la-milpa-maya.html>), knowledge exchanges. Also, those events organized by or where the SGP community participates, such as forums (<http://ppdmexico.org/cumbre-mujeres-lideres-latinoamericanas.html>); ecotechnology fairs (<https://www.instagram.com/p/B7Ub2KcAqUn/>); as well as lectures and conferences (<https://www.instagram.com/p/CAvRJA1g7wA/>).

3. Publications. This refers to the books and manuals gathering the organization's knowledge and experience, the most notable being "Soluciones locales de comunidades mexicanas a los desafíos ambientales globales" [Local solutions from Mexican communities to global environmental challenges], comprising 19 experiences of current projects; and the manual for home vegetable gardens, exceeding 2,000 downloads. These publications are available at <https://issuu.com/ppdmexico>. And through the SGP global website innovation library (<https://sgp.undp.org/innovation-library.html>).

4. Newsletter. This quarterly bulletin includes news from landscapes where PPD works, in

collaboration with civil society organizations. The first edition was produced in April 2020 <https://issuu.com/ppdmexico/docs/ppdnoticias2020abril>. The second one will be released in August 2020 and will entirely include experiences narrated by the communities and organizations implementing OP6's grants.

5. Scientific disclosure. It encompasses material to communicate scientific data and information to communities and citizens, in order to provide a tool for the decision-making process. Contents produced include a document on tools for monitoring deforestation (shorturl.at/vyJZ2); a tutorial to generate warnings on wildfires (shorturl.at/epBG5); and a map to identify flooded areas after tropical storm Cristóbal (shorturl.at/sBQ06).

6. Celebrations. Abiding by the commemorative dates of the UN related to the SGP, there is diverse content involving key stakeholders. Some memorable dates are: February 21, Indigenous Languages (<https://www.facebook.com/ppd.mex/videos/2767731066645381/>); May 20, Bees (UNDP exposure: <https://pnudmx.exposure.co/miel-organica-para-proteger-las-selvas>); June 5, World Environment Day (<https://www.facebook.com/ppd.mex/videos/1342936085895292/>); June 25, Day of the Seafarer (<http://ppdmexico.org/diadelagentedelmar.htm>).

7. General information. This section is to share the calls for proposals and relevant information on the program's operation and execution.

Social media accounts:

Facebook page (1,877 likes) <https://www.facebook.com/ppd.mex/>

Twitter account (536 followers) https://twitter.com/PPD_Mexico

Instagram account (227 followers) <https://www.instagram.com/ppdmex/>

YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiIsV-u_ZfgyIMZ_EwfKDFQ/featured

Project Location Data

Provide the coordinates for the project's geo-location sites. Provide the coordinates in decimal degrees (Longitude and Latitude). If you are not able to provide the coordinates in decimal degrees, you can alternatively provide them in the Degrees, Minutes, Seconds format. If you have this information stored in a GIS file, upload it below (e.g. shapefile, kmz/kml, or csv). If the project has multiple sites, please attach an Excel file with the coordinates for each site in either decimal degrees or in degrees, minutes, seconds format.

Please attach the GIS data. Any of the following formats are acceptable: shapefile (.shp)*, .kmz, .kml. If helpful, see here a quick note on how to gather geo-reference info. *Note that a shapefile is composed of several files: a .shp file should be zipped in a folder accompanied by the file extensions: .shx, .sbn, .prj, .dbf, .cpg, .sbx, .xml.

If the project has multiple sites, please attach an Excel file with the coordinates for each site in either decimal degrees or in degrees, minutes, seconds format.

Provide geo-location in longitude, latitude, format.

If you have this information stored in a GIS file, please upload it below (e.g. shapefile, kmz/kml, or csv).

18.962469

Longitude

-90.08082

Alternatively, provide geo-location in degrees, minutes, seconds format. Please also provide information on what the coordinates point to in the space provided.

(not set or not applicable)

Seconds

(not set or not applicable)

K. Partnerships

Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important! All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?
Yes
Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?
Yes
Does the project work with the Private Sector?
Yes
Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?
Yes
Does the project work with UN Volunteers?
No
Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?
No
CEO Endorsement Request: CEO Endorsement Request_25 Oct 2017.doc
Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.
<p>The most important stakeholders of the Mexican SGP are community-based organizations (CBOs) and local community members. During OP6 the Programme has directly worked with 108 NGOs and CBOs who design and implement the projects. Second level organizations, community production associations, civil society organization networks as well as local universities have been closely involved in the development of the land/seascape strategies which included the participation of 501 stakeholders. It is expected to continue their participation in various programme implementation aspects to achieve the expected outcomes.</p> <p>SGP Mexico has established partnerships at different levels: between community members, international environmental and local organizations, the GEF and co-financiers for community grants, and the institutions and members of the NSC. As it has been described in the Development progress section, support to consolidate second level organizations has been strong and sets an important ground to upscale consolidated strategies, as well as effectively responds to the COVID 19 crisis. Also, SGP partnered with the UNDP Risk Management Programme to design a brand-new impact assessment tool, named EAN (assessment of impacts and needs), designed to consider feedback and several inputs by civil society. The results of the 105 surveys carried out can be consulted in the attached document EAN-Survey_rural communities.pdf.</p> <p>The formation of multi-stakeholder platforms in each landscape/seascape, and the establishment of broad partnerships for value chain development, involve public and private entities that provide financing, technical assistance, or other forms of support. So far, significant co-financing has been committed by government institutions, international environmental organizations and other donors, such as WK Kellogg Foundation, ADO Foundation, CitiBanamex Foundation, PEMEX PACMA (Programa de Apoyo a la Comunidad y Medio Ambiente) Programme, Barefoot College, Heifer International, Rainforest Alliance, and The Nature Conservancy.</p> <p>At the national level, collaboration is in place with government institutions with programmes aligned to SGP Mexico's objectives. During November 2019, the National Coordinator participated in a 3-days tour with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y</p>

Recursos Naturales, SEMARNAT), where communities and second level organizations were able to directly share their agenda and priorities. It was a crucial event to determine collaborations with the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas CONANP); the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry (Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural, SADER); and National Commission of Aquaculture and Fishing (Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca, CONAPESCA).

There are two government programmes of social assistance with a very strong presence in the targeted landscapes. The program Sembrando Vida implemented by the Ministry of Welfare (Secretaría de Bienestar, SEBIEN), and the program Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social, STPS). The CPT is developing partnerships with the two programmes, to share lessons learned, experienced, and knowledge.

The National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, CONABIO), the National Forestry Commission (Comisión Nacional Forestal, CONAFOR), the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público, SHCP) are also key partner with who the programme maintain a permanent dialogue.

State governments of Campeche, Chiapas, Tabasco, Quintana Roo, and Yucatan are key partners, especially through its environmental, rural development, and agricultural state-level agencies, as well as the Yucatan Peninsula state ministries of tourism.

With academic institutions, significant synergies have also been established. The College of the Southern Border of Chiapas (ECOSUR), developed a training of trainers' diploma for beekeepers, which educational proposal was discussed with the CPT resulting in the incorporation of an andragogy perspective. With the Socio-Ecological Systems team of the Geospatial Information Sciences Research Center (Centro Geo), we are currently collaborating in the development of geolocation tools that are easy to use and culturally appropriate for precise registration of the area of action of the projects. The Yucatan Center for Scientific Research (CICY) has provided us with important inputs for carbon measurement. And with researchers from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) an article was prepared on the incidence of hurricanes in the Yucatan Peninsula (<http://infolliteras.com/2020/06/01/mayor-vulnerabilidad-de-la-peninsula-de-yucatan-before-hurricanes-demonstrates-study-de-la-unam/>).

L. Annex - Ratings Definitions

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.