

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

Annex to the Funding Proposal Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016

**within the framework of the
GCF Pilot Programme for REDD+ Results-based Payments**

01 October 2020

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Acronyms

AE	Accredited Entity
ALA	Local Enforcement Authority
ANA	National Enforcement Authority
CDF	Democratic Change Foundation
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CNA	National Agricultural Census
COFEMA	Federal Environment Council
CP	Conservation Plan
DNB	National Forests Directorate
DNCC	National Climate Change Directorate
EEE	Strategic Structural Axes
EEO	Strategic Operational Axes
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENOTPO	National Meeting of Territorial Organizations of Native Peoples
ESA	Environmental and Social Assessment
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESM	FAO's Environmental and Social Management Guidelines
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	FAO's Environmental and Social Standards
FAA	Funded Activity Agreement
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FNECBN	National Fund for the Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests
FP	Funding Proposal
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GRM	Grievance redress mechanism
HHP	Highly Hazardous Pesticides
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organization
INAI	National Institute for Indigenous Affairs

INTA	National Agricultural Technology Institute
IP	Indigenous peoples
IPC	Indigenous Participation Council
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPP	Indigenous peoples plan
IPPF	Indigenous peoples planning framework
MAYDS	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development
MBGI	Forest management with integrated livestock
NC	National Constitution
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
ONPIA	Organization of Indigenous Nations and Peoples
OTBN	Territorial Planning of Native Forests
PANByCC	National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change
PGRFA	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
PIC	Integral Community Plan
PMU	Project management unit
PS	International Finance Corporation Performance Standards
RBPs	Results-based payments
RETECI	National Programme of Territorial Survey of Indigenous Communities
SIS	Safeguards information system
SIS-AR	Safeguards Information System of Argentina
SMP	Sustainable Management Plan
UMSEF	Unit for Managing the Forest Evaluation System
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
ZICOSUR	South American Center-West Integration Zone

Executive summary

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared as part of the Argentina REDD-plus Results-Based Payment (RBP) proposal for the years 2014-2016 to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), through Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as Accredited Entity (AE) to the GCF. The project will be implemented by the Food and Agriculture Agency Organization of the United Nations (FAO - as accredited and executing entity) and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS). Partnership and collaboration is expected with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations, as well as key national and subnational institutions.

FAO acknowledges the high commitment of the Argentine Republic in the preparation of the GCF RBP package despite the COVID-19 outbreak, pandemic and related lock-down, which represented additional challenges in the preparation of the entire proposal package. FAO acknowledge also UNEP for key collaboration in the development of this document.

The *Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016* is in full alignment with the national forest regulatory framework, as well as sustainable development objectives and plans. It aims to support the implementation of the National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change (PANByCC in its Spanish acronym), the REDD+ strategy of Argentina, with activities contributing to the continued reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the enhancement of forest carbon stock. The project is designed to contribute to the achievement of the commitments pledged by the government in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as to contribute to other national and international commitments, such as those related to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The main lines of reinvestment of funds focus on a) territorial forest management; b) forest management with integrated livestock; c) the prevention of forest fires; d) and the strengthening of management, control and monitoring capacities at national and provincial levels. The landscape approach proposed for the implementation of territorial activities will enhance inter-sectorial collaboration for sustainable development and the fight against climate change.

This document includes a review of applicable safeguards and safeguards frameworks – including those of FAO, the GCF and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as related to REDD+ – as well as the relevant legal framework in Argentina which helps to apply these safeguards elements. The project has been screened against FAO's Environmental and Social Standards. Based on the screening exercise, this project has been classified as moderate risk (Category "B"), with the following standards being triggered:

- ESS2 – Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Natural Habitats
- ESS7 – Decent Work
- ESS8 – Gender Equality
- ESS9 – Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage.

Building on this risk screening, as well as other assessment exercises, a detailed analysis is included to help identify potential risks and impacts of project activities as well as mitigation measures to ensure that risks are avoided, mitigated or reduced to the extent possible in project implementation. This has been informed by extensive participatory risk analysis exercises and safeguards screening processes.

Throughout the document, there is a focus on stakeholder engagement processes that have informed the selection of activities in the proposal, with information on how stakeholders will be engaged during the planning and implementation of the project, with an important focus on gender. An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework is also included, to help ensure that project activities are developed and implemented in such a way that fosters full respect, promotion, and safeguarding of indigenous peoples

so that they benefit from the activities in a culturally appropriate manner, and do not suffer harm or adverse effects from the design and implementation of activities financed by this project.

1 Introduction

While Argentina has made significant advances in addressing key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, there are further opportunities to strengthen the sustainable management of native forests and to help meet multiple objectives on forests and climate change. The implementation of the relevant national legal framework, as well as the National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change (PANByCC for its acronym in Spanish), can help to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and increase GHG removals through restoration and recovery of degraded native forests. These instruments also aim to reduce vulnerability to climate change, with a particular focus on indigenous peoples and local communities, using a cross-cutting gender-sensitive approach.

Building on these objectives, and as part of the efforts to implement the PANByCC, the Argentina GCF RBP project aims to respond to key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the country, with activities focused on: a) territorial forest management; b) forest management with integrated livestock; c) the prevention of forest fires; d) and the strengthening of management, control and monitoring capacities at national and provincial level. The proposal is a joint effort between the Government of Argentina through its Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as Accredited Entity (AE) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Among the requirements established by the GCF for the Pilot Programme for REDD+ results-based payments, the AE must submit two key environmental and social safeguards documents along with the funding proposal:

- The Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA), looking at how environmental and social risks were managed by the country during the implementation of activities that allowed for the results to be achieved, in this case during the period 2014-2016; and
- The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which includes a screening of the project activities against relevant safeguards and safeguards standards, to help identify potential environmental and social impacts and risks, as well as mitigation measures for managing these risks.

This document corresponds to the ESMF requirement mentioned above, helping to identify potential adverse effects of project activities, for example on biodiversity and habitat, livelihoods and indigenous peoples, to ensure activities are designed and implemented in such a way that these impacts are avoided, mitigated or reduced.

Argentina's REDD+ results-based payments proposal will apply the safeguards policies and standards of the Green Climate Fund, as well as those of FAO as Accredited Entity supporting the project proposal, along with the safeguards framework agreed under the UNFCCC for REDD+ (the so called "Cancun safeguards"). The consistency of the GCF and FAO safeguards framework has been analyzed in the ESA annex.

The ESMF builds on the significant progress Argentina has made on social and environmental safeguards since 2007, in large part through the Law No.26331 on Minimum Standards for the Environmental Protection of Native Forests (hereinafter, Forest Law), as well as other key public policy and laws on forests and climate change, and through specific projects such as the "Forest and Community Project".

The ESMF includes a description of the context in Argentina for the development of the project, as well as information on proposed project activities. This is followed by environmental and social baseline

information, as related to the forest regions where the project will be implemented. The relevant safeguards standards as well as the key elements of Argentina's legal framework which help to meet these standards is included. A detailed risk screening, both based on FAO standards, and informed by previous risk identification exercises for REDD+ in Argentina is also presented in the document. There is a detailed analysis of potential risks of project activities, evaluated according to the relevant safeguards frameworks, as well as mitigation measures, which are associated with best practice guidance from FAO, the GCF and the UNFCCC, in consistency with Argentina's relevant legal framework. Planning for the continuous application of environmental and social standards in the use of proceeds, as well as more specific activity-level planning, are then discussed. Information on key stakeholders and their role and relevance for the project is then included, with special attention to gender, followed by an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework.

2 Context - native forests in Argentina

2.1 Native forest cover and pressures on native forests

Native forests in Argentina represent 19.2% of the country's surface (without considering Antarctica and South Atlantic islands) and cover an area of 53.6 million hectares (ha) distributed across seven main forest regions: the *Paranense (or Misiones)* rainforest, *Argentine Yungas (or Tucuman-Bolivian rainforest)*, *the Parque Chaqueño*, *the Andean Patagonian Forest*, *Argentine Espinal*, *Argentine Monte and Delta* and the *Parana River Islands*. These regions have specific characteristics and dynamics, and are subject to different human and natural pressures, which are described in more detail in the environmental and social baseline section.



Figure 1. Forest regions of Argentina

Source: SIG 250. National Geographic Institute of the Argentine Republic. Unit for Managing the Forest Evaluation System (UMSEF, in its Spanish acronym). National Directorate of Forests, MAYDS, October 2016.

In the last few decades, Argentina has experienced a significant decline in native forest areas, particularly in the centre and north of the country, largely due to the advance of the agricultural frontier, urban expansion, fires, infrastructure works and mining. However, the deforestation rate has slowed, from over 485,000 ha in 2007 to less than 156,000 ha in 2016.¹ Nonetheless, reducing deforestation and forest degradation remains a priority for the country, particularly considering that the loss of native forest cover has an impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and, therefore, on climate change (in addition to the effects on biodiversity, well-being and livelihoods of local communities, and on the provision of ecosystem goods and services). Table 1 describes the main causes of deforestation for each forest region during the period covered by the Argentine forest reference emissions level (FREL).

¹ This data come from the Parque Chaqueño, Selva Paranaense, Yungas and Espinal regions.

Table 1. Argentina's forest regions, forest surface areas, deforestation rate area during the FREL period and main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

Forest region	Native forests (Ha.)	Average deforestation 2002-2013 (Ha./year)	Main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
<i>Parque Chaqueño</i>	31,985,422	324,705	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of agriculture and livestock farming due to the increase in the profitability of crops (high prices for agricultural and livestock products, technological packages, capital liquidity) and, to a lesser extent, due to rural property investment. Selective forest extraction and overgrazing, which brings about a decline in their economic value, and subsequent deforestation.
<i>Paranaense (or Misiones) Rainforest</i>	1,299,535	10,902	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural, forest-industrial, urban and infrastructural development. Public policies that encourage colonization, resulting in demographic growth. Selective extraction of timber and illegal logging.
Tucuman-Bolivian Forest (Argentine Yungas)	3,767,527	11,069	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of crops such as sugar cane, citrus fruit, tobacco and, in recent years, soybean. Unregulated utilization of the forest. Livestock practices (particularly cattle breeding) with overgrazing. Forest fires.
Argentine Espinal	6,847,076	21,720	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of agriculture in marginal lands. Scarce regulation of forest resource utilization (<i>algarrobo</i> and <i>caldén</i>). Animal husbandry in the shrubland. Forest fires.
Andean-Patagonian Forest (2)	3,240,759	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest fires. Urban expansion due to population growth and real estate developments. Extractive forest use. Invasive alien species.
Argentine Monte(2)	767,253	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of the use of land for farming Metal and oil mining (alteration of the forest due to heavy machinery traffic, opening of paths, installation of survey lines and ducts, and pollution of soil and water). Forest fires. Extractive utilization of the forest and overgrazing.
Parana River Delta and Islands (2)		-	Not included in the study on drivers of deforestation and native forest degradation or in the report to INDEC.

1. Area measurements reported by the DNB to the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC). Available at: https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/anuario_estadistico_2018.pdf.

2. For the Argentine Monte, Andean-Patagonian forest and Parana River Delta and Islands regions, there is no deforestation information for the 2002-2013 period and, therefore, those regions were not included in Argentina's FREL.

2.2 Legal and administrative context

The Argentine Republic (hereafter referred to as Argentina) has adopted a republican, representative and federal form of government, with a decentralized political structure (National Constitution (NC), article 1). It comprises 23 provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. Within this structure, the provinces are autonomous, and existed even before the Nation was established as such, and maintain those powers

not explicitly devolved to the national government (NC, article 121). The provinces are also the original owners of the natural resources within their territory (NC, article 124), inter alia, the native forests. Therefore, the Federal Government can only legislate on “minimum standards”² (NC, article 41) and “laws of adherence”³ in matters concerning the environment and natural resources – including native forests. Thus, the national regulatory framework for native forest governance is supplemented by the pertinent provincial legislation. As this is the case, site-specific environmental and social risks and impacts will be further assessed during project implementation, with consideration for both the national regulatory framework – which sets the minimal standards applicable – as well as provincial legislation.

One of the most relevant laws on environmental protection in force is Law No. 25675/02 on Minimum protection standards for sustainable and adequate environmental management, preservation and protection of biological diversity and implementation of sustainable development (in short “**General Law on the Environment**”) (O.G. of 28 November 2002) that establishes minimum standards for sustainable and appropriate management of the environment, preservation and protection of biological diversity and implementation of sustainable development. The Law establishes the basic principles of the national environmental policy that: uphold the precautionary and preventive principles; “the polluter pays” principle; recognize the Ombudsperson, environmental NGOs and national, provincial or municipal governments as legitimate beneficiaries of compensation for damages to the environment; grant the right to public environmental information, citizen participation and public hearings; establish the foundation for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system for all public or private activities that may pose a risk to the environment; as well as other relevant principles and tools. For further information on the EIA system, please see section [6.2 Argentina Environmental and Social Assessment](#).

This General Law on the Environment provides the basic institutional groundwork on which the sectorial laws for minimum standards must be sanctioned and interpreted by virtue of the distribution of powers between the nation and the provinces. Likewise, it sets out the objectives, principles and instruments of national environmental policy, which are constituted as fundamental criteria and tools so that the provincial legislative and administrative authorities of the various levels of government can exercise the power of the environmental police, with community regulation and civil society participation in decision-making processes. The definition presented by the Law in its art. 6 considers that a minimum standard is *“... any rule that grants a uniform or common environmental protection for the entire national territory and aims to impose necessary conditions to ensure environmental protection ...”* and *“... must provide the necessary conditions to guarantee the dynamics of ecological systems, maintain their carrying capacity and, in general, ensure environmental preservation and sustainable development.”*

Likewise, the Law institutes the Federal Environmental System, whose objective is the coordination of environmental policy at the regional and national levels with the goal of achieving sustainable development, considering the Federal Environment Council (COFEMA) as a *sine qua non*. In this sense, the Law not only designates COFEMA as the basic instrument for policy coordination, but also instructs the National Executive Power to propose the issuance of recommendations or resolutions, as appropriate to the COFEMA Assembly, *“... for the adequate validity and effective application of the laws*

² Minimum standard as set forth in article 41 of the National Constitution is any regulation providing for a standard or common environmental protection across the country, with a view to imposing the necessary conditions to ensure such environmental protection. The contents thereof should envisage the above conditions to ensure the dynamics of the ecological system, keep its ecological carrying capacity and, overall, ensure environmental preservation and sustainable development (article 6, Law No. 25675, General Law on the Environment).

³ A “law of adherence” is a national law that, since it regulates issues under provincial jurisdiction, requires voluntary adherence of the provinces through a regulation to be enforced at the provincial level.

of minimum budgets, the complementary provinces, and their regulations in different jurisdictions ...”(Art. 24).

A key element of the legal framework related to **native forests** is **Law No. 26,331 Law on Minimum environmental protection standards for native forests (hereinafter, ‘Forest Law’)**, enacted in November 2007, and regulated by Executive Order No. 91/09 (O.G. of 16 February 2009). This Law provides the legal framework and promotes policies on native forests in the country, setting up the National Native Forest Protection Programme. Moreover, minimum standards have been established on environmental protection for the enhancement, restoration, conservation and sustainable use and management of native forests and the ecosystem services these provide to society.

The main management instrument specified in this Law, and a key aspect contributing to the achievement of the emissions reductions in the results period, is the obligation for each jurisdiction (province) to outline a plan and enact a law on the Territorial Planning of Native Forests (OTBN, in its Spanish acronym) in their territories, developing the following forest classification, according to their conservation value⁴:

- Category I (red): areas of high conservation value that cannot undergo any modifications;
- Category II (yellow): areas of medium conservation value, that might be degraded but, if restored, can become of high conservation value; and
- Category III (green): areas of low conservation value that can be partially or wholly modified, after conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

According to the Forest Law, the OTBN must be formalized through provincial law. While the identification of the forest categories is specific to each jurisdiction, such decision must be undertaken considering ten environmental sustainability Criteria (ESC) (see Table 2) in an integrated manner, according to the guidelines and a methodology agreed within the COFEMA, through Resolution 236/2012. These ESC are related to the following (see Figure 2Table 2):

- Minimum habitat area;
- Links with other natural ecosystems;
- Links with protected and regional integration areas;
- Presence of outstanding biological values (biodiversity);
- Connectivity of ecoregions;
- State of conservation;
- Forest potential;
- Agricultural sustainability potential;
- Watershed conservation potential;
- Native forests value for indigenous and peasant communities.

⁴ Law No. 26331, article 6, establishes that each jurisdiction (province) must carry out a participatory Territorial Planning of Native Forests (OTBN) across their territory, pursuant to 10 Environmental Sustainability Criteria, specifying different conservation categories. This information refers to the native forest area for the whole of the country, as arises from the OTBNs approved by the provinces. For additional information see: https://back.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/informe_de_implementacion_2010_-_2016.pdf. To develop provincial laws, the authorities (Provinces) base on the Forest Law. These provincial laws include as their main element the specific OTBN map, which they elaborate through participatory processes. In the provinces with traditional forest use, which already had regulations on the management and use of forests, those are completed with the OTBN map and some complementary regulations to be in line with the Forest Law. On the other hand, in the provinces which did not have forest traditional use, these must develop more complex norms to regulate the use and management of forests, such as the establishment of management plans definitions or penalties for non-compliance.

Table 2: Environmental sustainability criteria of the Forest Law	Criterion	Description
1	Surface area	The minimum size of habitat available to ensure the survival of plant and animal communities. This is especially important for large carnivore and herbivore species.
2	Link with other natural communities	Determination of the link between a forest patch and other natural communities in order to preserve complete ecological gradients. This criterion is important since many species of birds and mammals use different ecosystems at different times of the year in search of adequate food resources.
3	Link with existing protected areas and regional integration	The location of patches of forests near or linked to protected areas of national or provincial jurisdiction as well as to Natural Monuments, increases their conservation value, whether they are within the provincial territory or in its vicinity. Additionally, an important factor is the complementarity of the landscape units and the regional integration considered in relation to the environment present in the existing protected areas and the maintenance of important ecological corridors that link the protected areas to each other.
4	Existence of outstanding biological values	These are elements of natural systems characterized by being rare or infrequent, giving the site a high conservation value.
5	Connectivity between ecoregions	Forested and riparian corridors ensure connectivity between ecoregions, allowing the movement of certain species.
6	State of conservation	The determination of the conservation status of a patch of forest implies an analysis of the use to which it was subjected in the past and the consequences of that use for the communities that inhabit it. In this way, forestry activities, the transformation of the forest for agriculture or livestock activities, hunting and disturbances such as fire, as well as the intensity of these activities, influence the conservation value of a sector, affecting the diversity of the animal and plant communities in question. Diversity refers to the number of species in a community and the relative abundance of these. The state of conservation of a unit should be evaluated in the context of the conservation value of the system in which it is immersed.
7	Forest potential	This is the current availability of forest resources or their future productive capacity, which in turn is related to interventions in the past. This variable is determined through the structure of the forest (height of the canopy, basal area), the presence of new trees of valuable species and the presence of individual trees of high commercial timber value. At this point, the information provided by

		key informants from the provincial forestry sector, who are accustomed to generating management and sustainable use plans, which includes the provision of timber and non-timber forest products and environmental impact studies in the province, is also relevant.
8	Potential for agricultural sustainability	This consists of making a careful analysis of the context of each sector to offer long-term sustainability of agricultural activity. The evaluation of this variable is important, since the particular characteristics of certain sectors mean that once the clearing has been carried out, the implementation of economically sustainable agricultural activities in the long term is not feasible.
9	Watershed conservation potential	This consists of determining the stocks of areas that have a strategic position for the conservation of water basins and to ensure the provision of water in the necessary quantity and quality. In this sense, the areas of protection of springs, edges of permanent and transitory waterways, and the strip of "cloud forests", the areas of recharge of aquifers, wetland or Ramsar sites, large areas with higher slopes are of special value.
10	Value that Indigenous and Peasant Communities give to forested areas or their adjoining areas and the use they can make of their natural resources for the purpose of their survival and the maintenance of their culture	<p>In the case of Indigenous Communities and within the framework of Law 26160 (Land Emergency Act), action must be taken in accordance with the provisions of Law 24071, ratifying Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO).</p> <p>This identifies cultural aspects; evaluates use of land and land tenure; and establishes projections of future use to help determine the relevance of the continuity of certain forest sectors and generate a plan of strategic actions that allow solving or at least mitigating problems that could be detected in the medium term.</p>

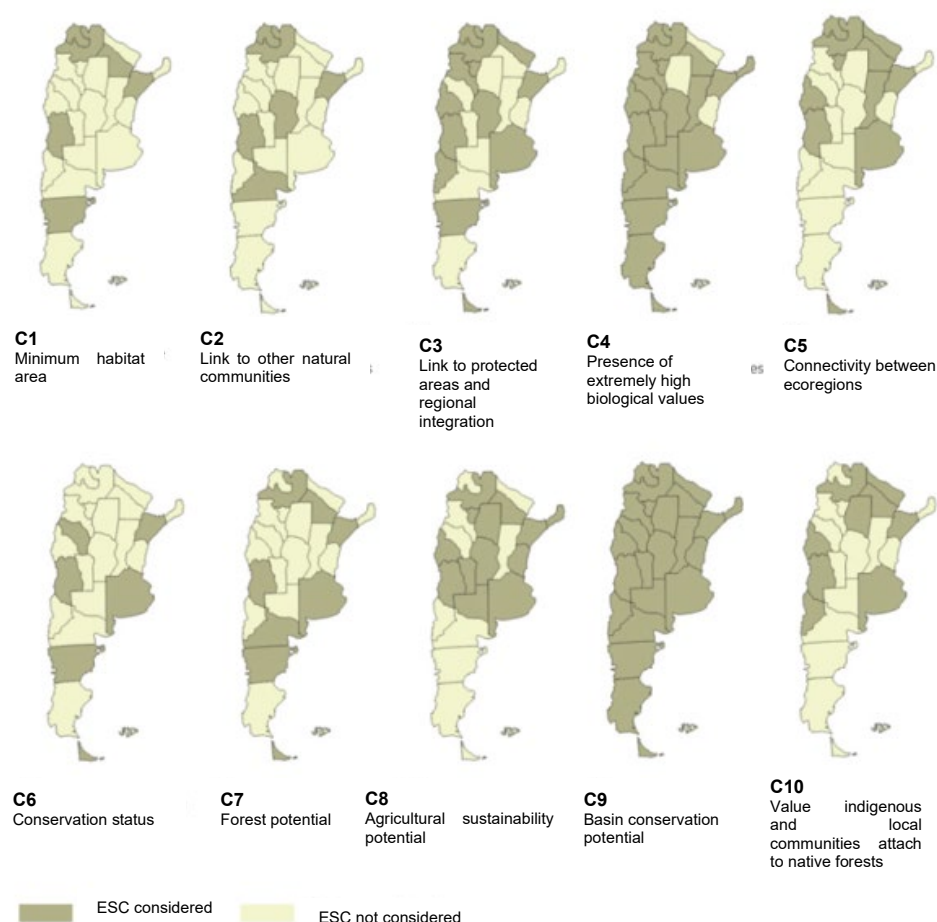


Figure 2. Analysis of Environmental Sustainability Criteria (ESC) included in the Annex to the Forest Law for the first OTBN in each jurisdiction.

Source: MAyDS. 2017. Law No. 26331 on Minimum Environmental Protection Standards for Native Forests: Implementation status report 2010-2016, p. 12

Additionally, the process for defining the OTBN must be done through a multi-stakeholder participatory process, with special consideration for indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights. It is important to note that all provinces have agreed to use the same forest definition within COFEMA. All the tools and methodologies mentioned favour the environmental integrity of the Forest Law across the entire country. The process for developing and updating OTBNs is described in more detail in the ESA annex.

Funding mechanism of the Forest Law

The Forest Law specifies an incentives regime and distribution criteria for the National Fund for Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests (FNECBN), which allocates 30% of the funds to institutional strengthening of local enforcement authorities, and 70% to compensate the owners of native forests submitting any of the following instruments:

- Management Plans (MP): for forests under conservation categories II (yellow) or III (green). Its objectives and activities must ensure forests are not replaced and that interventions uphold the minimum conservation attributes for their categories. Should such attributes be affected, their recovery shall be technically ensured (either naturally or artificially).

- Conservation Plans (CP): for forests in any of the three above-mentioned conservation categories, provided the proposed objectives and activities uphold or increase conservation attributes

• 5

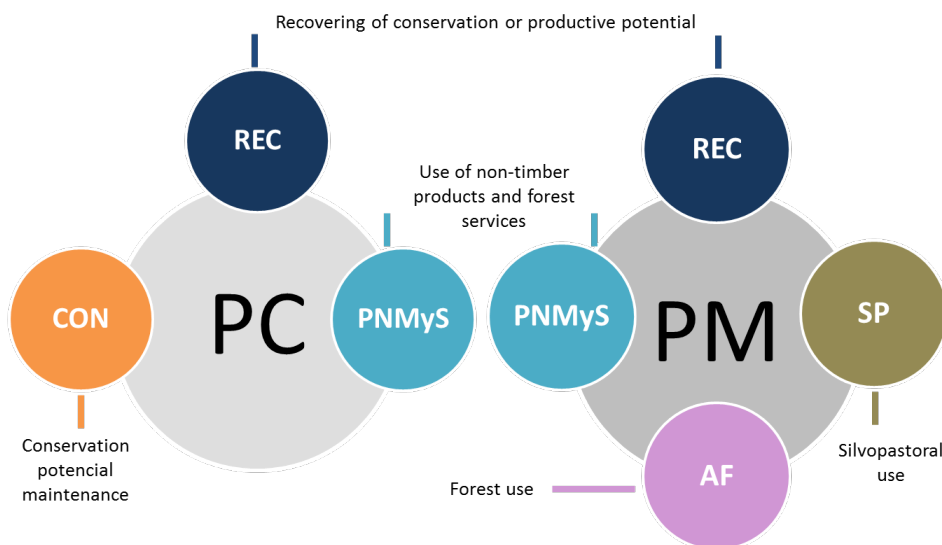


Figure 3. Main implementation modalities of the Forest Law Plans contributing to emission reductions (CP/PC: Conservation Plan; PM/MP: Management Plan)

Source: Implementation status report 2010-2018. National Forest Directorate, MAyDS.

In 2017 strategic technical guidelines were prepared and agreed by consensus, through a participatory process with governmental stakeholders, the scientific sector and civil society. The contents were discussed at six regional workshops held across the country (see Table 3). This process resulted in the definition of the following strategic guidelines that are the target of the funding and were adopted by COFEMA Resolution 360/18:

- 1) Sustainable Forest Development;
 - 1.1 Sustainable Forest Management at Basin Level;
 - 1.2 Integrated Livestock and Forest Management;
- 2) Restoration of degraded forests;
- 3) Sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening of conservation areas;
- 4) Prevention of forest fires;
- 5) Urban – Forest interface.

⁵ MAyDS (Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development). (2017). Plan de Acción Nacional de Bosques y Cambio Climático. Republic of Argentina: Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

Table 3. Workshops with Local Enforcement Authorities (ALAs) on Strategic Technical Guidelines for enforcing the Forest Law

Workshop	Venue	Date	Participants
1°	Eldorado, Province of Misiones	19 April 2017	Authorities and representatives from the ALAs of Misiones 14 participants
2°	San Miguel de Tucumán, Province of Tucuman	24 April 2017	Authorities and representatives from the ALAs of Tucumán, Catamarca, Salta & Jujuy 38 participants
3°	San Carlos de Bariloche, Province of Rio Negro	10 May 2017	Authorities and representatives from the ALAs of Tierra del Fuego, Santa Cruz, Chubut, Río Negro & Neuquén 39 participants
4°	Santiago del Estero, Province of Santiago del Estero	18 May 2017	Authorities and representatives from the ALAs of Formosa, Chaco, Santiago del Estero & Santa Fe 37 participants
5°	<i>Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires</i> (CABA - Buenos Aires Autonomous City)	7 June 2017	Authorities and representatives from the ALAs of La Rioja, San Luis, San Juan, Mendoza, La Pampa, Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos & Corrientes 41 participants
6°	<i>Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires</i>	28 February & 1 March 2018	ALAs from all the provinces. 45 participants

From the beginning of the implementation of the Forest Law and the FNECBN, complementary regulations were established for the application and distribution of finance within the scope of COFEMA. Among the federal agreements reached, one of the most relevant is the Strategic Technical Guidelines for the Implementation of the Forest Law, approved through Resolution 360/18.

The Argentina RBP Funding Proposal will support the implementation of selected pillars of the PANByCC. The four components described in the proposal will be implemented using the general procedures provided by the Forest Law and its monitoring and control instruments. In this sense, an ad-hoc benefit-sharing scheme for the use of proceeds has been established and detailed in the Proposal, aimed at complementing the one established for the FNECBN. For further information on benefit-sharing related to the Argentina REDD-plus RBP Funding Proposal, see section [3.2.1. Benefits distribution scheme](#).

Finally, as a key element of the legal framework related to climate change, and considering the objective of the funding proposal, in 2019 Argentina also approved Law No. 27520, on Minimum Standards for Global Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (O.G of 20 December 2019). The Law establishes minimum standards for environmental protection to ensure appropriate actions, instruments and strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the entire national territory, in line with Article 41 of the National Constitution. The Law has the following objectives: i) to establish strategies, measures, policies and instruments related to impact studies, vulnerability and climate change adaptation activities that can guarantee human and ecosystem development; ii) to support and foster the development of mitigation and GHG reduction strategies in the country; iii) to reduce human and natural system vulnerability to climate change, protect them from adverse effects and make the most of benefits. (For further information, see: [Official Gazette of the Argentine Republic website](#) – Spanish only). The Law 27520 also established the National Climate Change Cabinet (GNCC in its Spanish acronym). The GNCC works within the remit of the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers and the Secretariat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation is the technical coordinator. The main function of the GNCC is to articulate with different government areas of the National Public Administration the implementation of

the National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Action Plan, and of all the public policies related to established standards in the Law, such as fostering the emissions reduction strategies and reducing human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change. The work of the Cabinet is based on the different government levels and has participatory bodies where the annual work plan is discussed and priorities are established. The Cabinet's work (originally formed in 2016 through Decree 891/16) also resulted in the preparation of inputs as a basis for the [First Review of Nationally Determined Contributions](#) submitted by the country in 2016 ([2016 Activity Report](#))

2.3 National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change

Argentina developed its national strategy for REDD+, called the [National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change](#) (PANByCC, in its acronym in Spanish), which was submitted to the UNFCCC on the [REDD+ Web Platform](#) in January 2019. As part of its National Plan for Response to Climate Change, Argentina also developed a National Plan for Agriculture and Climate Change, which details the response options of the agricultural sector in both mitigation and adaptation. Due to the close relationship between forest conservation and the agricultural sector, this Plan is part of the overall strategic framework of plans and policies at the national level. The strategy for the use of funds presented in this RBPs proposal is aligned with this Plan.

The PANByCC is a public policy instrument and an operational management tool, with the general objective to strengthen the sustainable management of native forests to reduce their vulnerability to climate change and that of the communities that depend on them. In this way, the Plan aims to contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions through the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, and the increase in GHG removals through the restoration and recovery of degraded native forests.

The Plan was prepared within the framework of the National Climate Change Cabinet (GNCC for its acronym in Spanish), by MAYDS, through the joint efforts of the National Directorate of Climate Change (DNCC, for its acronym in Spanish) and of the National Directorate of Forests (DNB) and with the support of the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme. It was developed based on a participatory process from 2014 to 2019 and involved consultations with relevant stakeholders linked to native forest management within national and sub-national governments, academia, the private sector, civil society organizations, small farmers and indigenous peoples. The process was essential to consolidate, coordinate and update already ongoing activities to reduce deforestation, as well as identify new strategic structural and operational pillars. To prepare the PANByCC, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation were analyzed, as along with strategic guidelines to implement the Forest Law, and measures foreseen in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

The Plan defines strategic lines of action, which are classed according to structural and operational axes. The structural axes, through targeted actions, help overcome structural barriers and meet needs for implementation. Each operational axis defines specific actions, based on the strategic guidelines of the Forest Law, and is associated with a specific mitigation measure that has been considered for Argentina's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

Strategic Structural Pillars (SSP): cross-cutting actions that are necessary to achieve the proposed objectives:

- SSP 1. Strengthening governance
- SSP 2. Strengthening of local communities
- SSP 3. Strengthening of management, control and monitoring capacities

- SSP 4. Recognition of the importance of native forests as a good for society
- SSP 5. Knowledge management

Strategic Operational Pillars (SOP): actions that represent direct interventions on native forests and that have associated mitigation measures:

- SOP 6. Land-use planning
- SOP 7. Sustainable forest management
- SOP 8. Conservation in productive landscapes
- SOP 9. Restoration and recovery
- SOP 10. Forest fire prevention

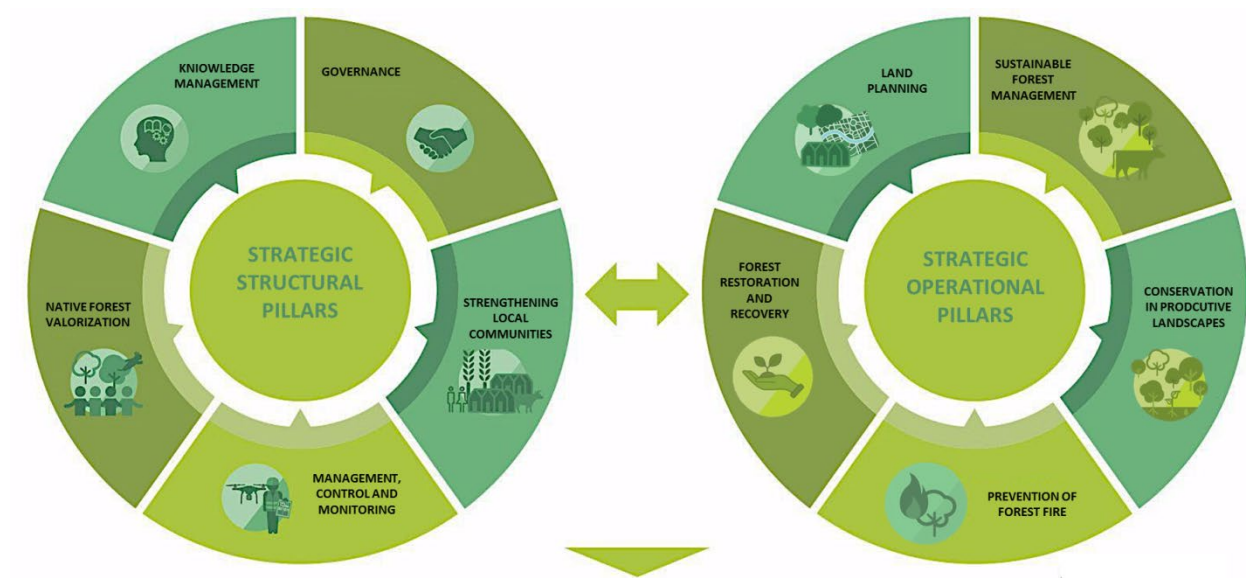


Figure 4. PANByCC Strategic Structural and Operational Pillars

Source: National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change, MAYDS

In terms of mitigation, the PANByCC seeks to reduce emissions and increase GHG capture associated with deforestation and degradation of native forests, based on appropriate land-use planning, sustainable and competitive land use, and conservation and recovery of productive landscapes. The Plan seeks the reduction of net emissions of 27 MtCO_{2e}⁶ by 2030.

The project **aims at addressing selected drivers of deforestation (unsustainable livestock management, fires) and especially the underlying causes of deforestation and degradation, by strengthening economic and social opportunities** (and supporting diversified livelihoods), **strengthening the control and oversight capacities** at provincial and national level, **and** strengthening overall **forest governance**.

⁶ All the quantifications were made based on parameters and assumptions in force at the time of estimating and preparing the PANByCC. Given the dynamic nature of sector planning, the values obtained will be modified and updated according to the availability of new data, the update of assumptions and adjustments for interaction between measures. Also, the implementation of the objective could be achieved through other management options and locations.

Priority will be given to actions aimed at strengthening regional economies through sustainable forest management by adding value to goods and services from native forests, with special attention to forest-dependent communities with no access to formal economies, securing legal access to their natural resources and improving their livelihoods and production systems, promoting the legality of value chains, increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of micro and small industries, and guaranteeing products harvest, maintaining and increasing natural capital, through models that are economically viable, socially fair and environmentally sound; and transforming management practices into sustainable livestock and forest systems through the implementation of the National Forest Management with Integrated Livestock Plan. The implementation of the Funding Proposal (FP) actions are expected to increase coverage of forests under sustainable management (including boosting native forest mass and regeneration), as well as under protection, with special attention to vulnerable communities, forest economies and activities that limit impacts on land use change, as livestock expansion. In addition, as reflected in the Annex “Analysis of Risk of Reversal and Buffer estimation”, fires, either if due by anthropogenic or natural causes, represent a risk for native forests in the country, particularly on the levels of forest degradation; for this reason a specific component of the Funding Proposal has been designed to allocate resources at local level to develop and implement strategic plans for fire prevention. Lastly, through the Funding Proposal Argentina also plans to strengthen forest governance and the monitoring and control capabilities of national and provincial enforcement authorities.

3 Project description

3.1 Project Objective, Outputs and Activities

The *Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016* Funding Proposal has been designed and planned to contribute to the implementation of the PANByCC and Argentina’s work towards achieving its NDC, responding to key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the country and fostering transformational activities at the territorial level. The Project plans to use the proceeds in four main components, contributing to combating deforestation and forest degradation and promoting conservation and sustainable management of forest resources. The Project will also support enhanced national and provincial institutional capacities on land and forest governance, and contribute to the continued strengthening and operationalization of its national native forests monitoring system and safeguards information system.

The four components are as follows:

A. Territorial forest management. This includes planning and implementation of forest management projects/interventions, at forest basin level, and the design and implementation of Integral community plans (PIC in its Spanish Acronym). These are an innovative proposal for outlining forest management plans at the community level, respecting the customary collective use of forest lands by local and indigenous communities. PICs may also include actions aimed at promoting the growth of native forest mass and regeneration (both natural and active; forest plantations would however not be included in the component nor in the FP). Main beneficiaries: forest producers; micro and small sawmills and carpentry; logistics providers; indigenous peoples and local communities.

B. Forest management with integrated livestock (MBGI, in its Spanish acronym). MBGI systems will be designed and implemented - with clear environmental and social safeguards for the various types of forests - with interested farmers located in II and III categories of OTBN and to be selected following the decision-making process reported in the FP. Main beneficiaries: small to medium cattle farmers.

C. Enhanced response to forest fires. This component is intended to implement strategic provincial plans for the prevention of forest fires in priority regions and reinforce initial response capabilities in forest fires. Main beneficiaries: provincial authorities, forest holders, communities and urban society.

D. National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation and to monitor and control forest are strengthened. This component entails enhancing local and national monitoring, oversight, technical and forest extension capacities, including a continuous enhancement and operationalization of Argentina's National Native Forest Monitoring System, its monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) functions, including for an enhanced early detection of fires, and the operationalization of the Safeguards Information System (SIS-AR). The strengthening of the capacities will also entail developing commercialization services, markets and supplementary strategic investments as well as knowledge management. Main beneficiaries: national and local enforcement authorities; and beneficiaries mentioned in components A, B and C.

These components will be implemented using the general procedures provided by the Forest Law and its monitoring and control instruments.

Table 4. Project outputs, activities and outcomes

Component	Output	Activity	SSP	SOP	Outcome
A. Territorial forest management	A.1. "Sustainable forest basins" for timber and non-timber products established	A.1.1 Preparation of integrated management plans for the sustainable forest basins and their value chains (timber and other non-timber forest products). Leading EE: MAYDS	1,2,3, 4	6,7,8	7 basins with a study, a plan and specific investments operational on the ground
		A.1.2 Preparation of strategic forest management plans within the sustainable forest basin. Leading EE: MAYDS			
		A.1.3 Implementation of specific timber and non-timber sustainable production investments, pursuant to the integrated management and the strategic forest management plans. Investing in transformational infrastructure derived from general and strategic basin management plans ⁷			

⁷ Depending on the specific sustainable forest basin and the activities defined by each area, production investments may be directed to a combination of the following: improve value chains competitiveness, efficiency in the use of forest resources, working conditions of blue-collar workers and small and medium holder farmers, purchasing specific working equipment (considering the financial challenges of this specific category of beneficiaries).

This may include investment in tools for primary producers that supply forest basins; equipment to improve efficiency and safety operations to micro and small sawmills and carpentries for adding value, transformation and efficiency in the use of timber and timber products; support for

		Leading EE: FAO			
	A.2. Local communities manage their collective territories through PICs ⁸ , according to regulations in force and in a sustainable manner ⁹	A.2.1 Identification of eligible territories at the local level. Leading EE: MAYDS	1,2,4	6,7,8,9	95 investment plans prepared and communities supported for the related on-the ground implementation
		A.2.2 Participatory development of the Integral community plans (PICs) Leading EE: MAYDS			
		A.2.3 Support for managing community forest rights at the provincial level. Leading EE: MAYDS			
		A.2.4 Implementation of community investment plans. Leading EE: MAYDS			
B. Forest management with integrated livestock (MBGI in its Spanish acronym) ¹⁰	B.1. Livestock farmers implement models of forest management with integrated livestock	B.1.1 Generation and request of interest from the ALA for submission of projects on MBGI. Leading EE: MAYDS	5	7,8	92 plots of land with MBGI plans
		B.1.2 Formulation of MBGI projects at the provincial level (technical support for plan formulation until plan's submission to ALA for approval) Leading EE: FAO			

timber and non-timber products logistics as well as safety equipment for forest industry workers and primary producers. More details in more details in section C.2.2 table 17 of the Funding proposal

⁸See Box 1 for information

⁹ Rights on indigenous' territories and access to natural resources within them, are regulated by ILO Convention 169; the Biological Diversity Convention; National Constitution (art. 75.17); Argentine Civil Code (Law No. 26994); Law 26331 on Native Forest (art. 19), Law 27118 on Familiar Agriculture, and others. Besides, such legal framework shall be complemented with the relevant subnational regulations in force.

¹⁰ MBGI activities will not be carried out in "red category" OTBN areas (forest of high natural value), and must be developed in accordance with three sustainability principles:

- a) The productive capacity of the ecosystem must be maintained or improved;
- b) The integrity of the ecosystem and its ecosystem services must be maintained or improved; and
- c) The well-being of the communities associated with its use must be maintained or improved. (Further information is available in annexes IV and V.).

According to the latter, a MBGI National Technical Committee was established in order to implement the National MBGI Plan. Provinces which entered into participation agreements will create a Provincial Technical Committee tasked with defining its own intervention guidelines and thresholds for establishing the Integrated Livestock and Forest Management Plans, which will require approval by the National Technical Committee. Further information is available in Annex IV: Forest Law and MBGI environmental standards.

		<p>B.1.3 Implementation of MBGI projects (including training and investments on supplies, rural services and productive tools and civil works)</p> <p>Leading EE: MAYDS</p>			
C. Enhanced response to forest fires	C.1. Institutions and communities involved have capacity of response to forest fires	<p>C.1.1 Participatory design of forest fire prevention plans</p> <p>Leading EE: FAO</p>	4,6	10	6 provinces with forest fire prevention plans and capacity of response to forest fires
		<p>C.1.2 Field activities to implement the prevention plan (firewall paths, reduction of combustible material and purchasing of equipment for forest fire initial response).</p> <p>Leading EE: MAYDS</p>			
D. National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor forest and control are strengthened	D.1. Provincial governments have institutional forest monitoring and control capabilities	<p>D.1.1 Strengthening of Local Enforcement Authorities to improve their technical and operational inspection and control capabilities.</p> <p>Leading EE: FAO</p>	3		23 provincial governments with improved monitoring and control capabilities
	D.2. National government has institutional forest promoting, monitoring and control capabilities	<p>D.2.1 Regulatory, statutory and public policy improvement</p> <p>Leading EE: MAYDS</p>	1,2,3, 4,5	6,7	Regulatory and public policy at national level improved
		<p>D.2.2 Increase of forest extension capabilities (SFM, MBGI and participatory processes mainstreaming gender), and targeted training to government staff, including activities associated with the gender plan.</p> <p>Leading EE: MAYDS</p>			Improve knowledge of forests, carbon dynamics and sustainable management.
		<p>D.2.3 Follow-up, evaluation and knowledge management, including forest carbon dynamics, forest management, social and cultural dynamics associated with use of forests, mainstreaming the gender perspective</p> <p>Leading EE: FAO</p>			Greater knowledge of forest management plans with REDD+ approaches, by authorities,

		D.2.4 Continuous improvement of Argentina's NFMS, FREL, SIS-AR, emission scenarios and mitigation measures Leading EE: FAO			technicians and communities at the national and local levels. Improve of MRV capacities at national level.
		D.2.5 Market development and financing options, considering the needs of vulnerable groups Leading EE: FAO			
		D.2.6 Supplementary strategic investments in forest basins, PICs and special projects directed to rural women Leading EE: MAYDS			

Box 1 Short description of Integral communities plans (PICs)

Integral Community Plans (PICs) are Community Forest Management schemes, which were launched by the DNB within MAYDS. These are intended to support social inclusion within the framework of the Forest Law. PICs might also include actions aimed at increasing the growth of the native forest mass and regeneration. The initiative was started through the [Forests and Community](#) Project (IBRD 8493), which seeks to strengthen livelihoods of local communities in their territories. This helps to combat forced-migration through land management planning, capacity-building processes, promotion of sustainable production, enhanced access to water and support to product marketing. The funds of this loan were allocated to the development of community projects aimed at improving legal access to resources through forest tenure, and positively impact communities and areas that had not been reached by the benefits of the Forest Law. This stems from the institutional priority to promote social inclusion through schemes that supplement the benefits of the Law. PICs are prepared in a participatory manner for each project intervention to arrive at a territorial management plan with a broad base of agreements that avoids negatively affecting the livelihoods of local and indigenous communities.. This long-term project has provided MAYDS and sub-national agencies with important inputs and capacities in participatory processes with indigenous and other forest-dependent communities. More information on this project and the process of PICs selection is available in the ESA.

At present, there is a portfolio of 80 PICs covering more than 400,000 ha and approximately 2,500 families of indigenous peoples and local communities in departments with more needs of Chaco, Salta and Santiago del Estero provinces. The average forest cover in these PICs territories is 90%, with management units of approximately 6,000 ha administered, on average, by more than 30 families.

PICs are prepared to ensure that:

- i) indigenous peoples and communities involved in the project receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits; in this sense, the preparation of PICs takes into account the concept of "Good living" (*Buen vivir*) and customary forms of use and occupation, which is discussed during the planned participatory activities, identifying the actions that express it; and
- ii) if potential adverse effects on indigenous peoples and communities are identified, efforts will be made to ensure that these are avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated.

Within the content of the PICs, the following elements are included:

- A summary of the results of prior, free and informed consultations with indigenous peoples involved in the territories that have taken place;

- Procedures that ensure prior, free and informed consultations during the PIC implementation;
- An action plan to ensure that indigenous peoples and communities receive culturally appropriate benefits;
- An action plan with measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or offset possible adverse effects; and
- An appropriate complaints procedures for indigenous peoples and communities.

3.2 Project beneficiaries and benefits distribution scheme

The *Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016* project plans to benefit key stakeholders (government authorities at national and provincial level, local communities, indigenous peoples communities and organizations, forest-dwellers, small and medium cattle farmers, and small holders,

small and micro forestry enterprises and service providers) by boosting activities at different levels that can contribute to a transformational change of the use of land, strengthening differentiated and sustainable economies based on forest and sustainable land-use. The project will foster increased territorial governance and promote the active and effective participation of relevant stakeholders and sectors. Further details on the project beneficiaries are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Types of beneficiaries by output

Component	Output	Use of proceeds percentage	Type of Beneficiary	Description
A. Territorial forest management	A.1. "Sustainable forest basins" for timber and non-timber products established	17%	Forest producer	These are forest land owners, holders with rights or users who carry forest harvesting permits issued by the ALA, to make use of timber and non-timber products for sale. It involves members of local communities, indigenous communities, smallholders, and occupants with legal or consensual arrangements with landowners.
			Workers and owners of micro and small sawmills and carpentry	They are mainly small family businesses with an employment capacity is around 10 operators per establishment. The building structure is very precarious, in some cases not having walls and sometimes no roof. When they do not have a roof and the weather conditions are adverse, it is not possible for them to work. As for the use of personal protection elements, most of the micro and small sawmills do not have the minimum elements for the safe work of the operators.
			Logistics providers	These are family enterprises dedicated to the transport of forest products (timber and non-timber products) from the supply basins to the transformation centers (micro and small sawmills and carpentry). They generally have inadequate equipment, with low security conditions for loading, transporting and

				unloading products, as well as safety equipment for operators. In general, these are work teams of between 3 to 4 people.
			Other beneficiaries	Depending on the identity of the basins, governmental or non-governmental organizations might require investment support for the performance of sustainable development plans such as; municipalities, producer organizations or service providers linked to environmental education, support for the commercialization of crafts or other products or tourist and recreational services.
	A.2. Local communities manage their collective territories through PICs, according to regulations in force and in a sustainable manner	27%	Indigenous peoples and local communities	They are groups of families who share a common identity and make collective use of the territory and hold land rights through traditional and public occupation of the territory. They can be holders with recognized rights or owners with collective or individual land deeds. These are communities with low capitalization, and Unmet Basic Needs (UBN). They are generally dedicated to subsistence activities, with the sale of surpluses, complementing their economy with jobs outside the plot work and State aid. The main activities are animal breeding, sale of forest products, while indigenous communities also incorporate hunting, gathering fishing and crafting.
B. Forest Management with Integrated Livestock – MBGI	B.1. Livestock farmers implement models of forest management with integrated livestock	13%	Small scale cattle farmer	Small size farmers with less than 500 hectares of land, mostly covered by native forests, that carry out their activities based on cultivated pastures and forage, with acceptable levels of technology on their plots of land, as well as infrastructure. Their economy is mainly dedicated to cattle breeding on non-forest areas or forest areas converted into cultivated pastures combine with timber products.
			Medium scale cattle farmer	Medium size farmers with 500 to 3000 hectares of land that carry out their activities based on cultivated pastures and forage, with acceptable levels of technology on their plots of land, as well as infrastructure and machinery. Forest activity is scarce or non-existent. There are significant areas of native forests on their land, and these farmers are dedicated to cattle breeding and cow-calf operations on non-forest areas or forest areas converted into cultivated pastures
C. Enhanced response to forest fires	C.1. Institutions and communities involved have capacity of response to forest fires.	10%	Provincial authorities, forest holders, communities and urban society	While the plan preparation activities will be conducted by the provincial authorities (ALAs), and their capacities will be strengthened accordingly, the main beneficiaries will be the forest holders who will see their fire risks decrease due to the implementation of the institutional plans, together with local communities and urban society.
D. National and	D.1. Provincial		Local Enforcement	They are the Provincial Directorates of Forests, or their equivalents, who are in charge of

provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation , to monitor forest and control are strengthened	governments have institutional forest monitoring and control capabilities	5%	Authorities (ALA)	regulating the use of forests, approving interventions in their jurisdiction, promoting sustainable management guidelines and overseeing compliance with legislation.
	D.2. National government has institutional forest promoting, monitoring and control capabilities	28%	National Enforcement Authorities (ANA)	This is the national authority, represented by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation. It is in charge of coordinating, with the ALA, compliance with the Forest Law and promoting improvements in implementation at the technical and legal level.
			Beneficiaries of components A, B and C	See above

3.2.1 Benefits distribution scheme

The majority (94.7%) of available funding from the GCF results based payments (total Project budget) is planned to be used for investments at provincial level and for strengthening capacities at national and provincial level - as indicated in details in the use of proceeds and in the investment framework (sections C and D of this funding proposal); and the remaining 5.3% will help allow the efficient and effective implementation of this complex project, including in due diligence with rules and procedures and with an appropriate monitoring and evaluation (further information in section G of the funding proposal).

For the 94.7% of the budget for the proceeds referred to above, the Project will promote articulated schemes between the ANA and the ALA and territorial stakeholders such as municipalities, public agencies, private sector, local communities and academy. In this context, the benefits-sharing proposal for the use of the proceeds of this Project envisages the allocation of funds as follows:

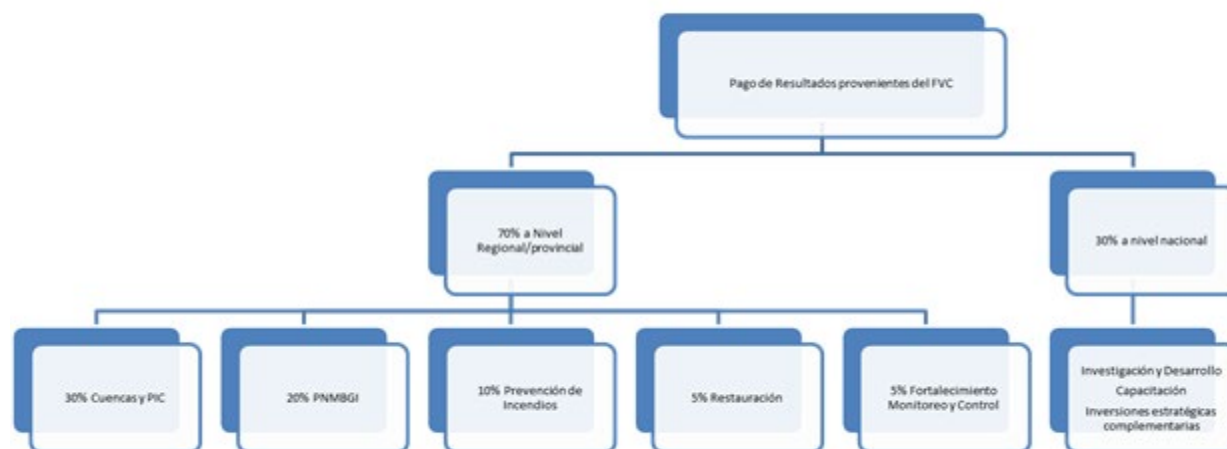
- [72% allocated to investments at territorial level in forest regions and provinces, and to strengthen capacities of communities, indigenous peoples and small holders \(components A, B, C\);](#)

The resources will be targeted toward interventions to decrease deforestation and forest degradation – and related carbon emissions - at territorial level in forest regions, implementing forest, land-use and livestock management with a landscape approach contributing to enhanced livelihood at different levels: forest basins, community territories and private farms (small and medium holders). The distribution of the budget assigned to each component was defined prioritizing social inclusion, job creation, large-scale planning and the transformation of livestock practices in native forests. A portion of the funds will also be allocated to strengthening institutional plans and implementation for fire prevention plans (comp. C), therefore supporting protection and enhancement of forest carbon stock. Lastly, a 5%¹¹ of the total budget funds will be dedicated for the needs of specific ALAs, to improve monitoring and oversight capacities through equipment purchased for forest inspection and strengthening of outposts and checkpoints.

- [28% allocated to strengthen technical capacities of institutions at provincial and national level to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor and control forest cover, to enhance and operationalize safeguards system and for supplementary strategic supports to investments in](#)

¹¹ In the budget breakdown (details in section C.2.4) this 5% is visible in component D

forest basins, including boosting women engagement (component D).



The 28% allocated to the national level will be targeted toward carrying out several activities that will also have an impact on the ground, such as implementing forest extension programmes, strengthening monitoring instruments and generating knowledge on forest dynamics. A portion of this 28% may be allocated to strategic investments in support of forest basins or to the enhancement of PICs and the implementation of a program to support rural women who live in the forests.

Allocation of funds to the local level will be prioritized in accordance with the areas that where the drivers of deforestation are exerting the most pressure on native forests.

It is envisaged that the Project will include safeguards and related criteria in its benefits distribution plan, for example, i) implementing a fair benefits-sharing mechanism; ii) ensuring fair compensation to the regions and provinces that have significantly contributed to achieving ERs (e.g., *Parque Chaqueño* Region); iii) paying special attention to the risks associated with double counting. Allocation of funds to the local level will be prioritized in accordance with the areas that exert greater pressure on native forests, and with more vulnerable local communities.

3.3 Implementation arrangements

Full details on the implementation arrangements are available in section C.2.5 of the funding proposal. For ease of reference, key arrangements are also reported in the following paragraphs.

The Government of Argentina, through MAYDS, has requested FAO's technical and overall assistance for the design and implementation of the REDD+ Results-Based Payments funding proposal package, with collaboration from UN Environment Programme (UNEP) as needed - mostly regarding safeguards, but also on issues related to private sector and markets.

The Government also specifically requested that FAO act as executing entity for this project; responding to such request, **FAO will serve both as Accredited Entity (AE) and Executing Entity (EE).**

As an AE of GCF, **FAO shall be responsible for the overall management, implementation and supervision of the Funded Activity.** FAO will do so through its Headquarters. FAO will carry out both **operational and administrative support activities**, as well as **advisory and technical support functions** during the implementation of the Project.

Execution will be carried out in collaboration with a variety of partners as needed (an initial identification of which is reported in the “Project partners” paragraphs in this section).

FAO recognizes that successful development should be driven and owned by countries, as emphasized by Agenda 2030. To achieve the objectives of the project, while reinforcing capacities, ownership, sustainability and making the best use of expertise available on the ground, the project will be implemented through the FAO [Operational Partner Implementation Modality \(OPIM\)](#) with MAYDS. Under this modality, **FAO and the national counterpart (MAYDS)** enter into an Operational Partners Agreement (OPA), through which **MAYDS also become Executing Entity, together with FAO.** The agreement will follow the rules and procedures of FAO Manual Section 701 on OPIM.

Since its launch in 2015, OPIM has been increasingly used by FAO to implement its projects and programmes in conjunction with eligible operational partners.

According to Manual Section 701.6.5.1 the MAYDS can be directly selected as Operational Partner, being a governmental entity. The assessment of MAYDS scored the risk linked to its capacities as “low”.

There is a clear advantage to jointly deliver the project with MAYDS, as such approach will allow for complementarity of skills, capacity and expertise to achieve results between FAO and MAYDS, for better sustainability of such large project also at project’s end, and for continuous capacity strengthening of this key national entity in implementing and monitoring climatic and environmental policies.

In accordance with the FAO Manual Section 701.8.1 *after signature of the Operational Partners Agreement, FAO is responsible for the monitoring of progress in achieving project/programme results, compliance with the agreed work plan, monitoring of risks and compliance with the conditions set out in the signed Operational Partners Agreement. This includes inter alia timely funds transfers and reporting, quality of reporting, verification of eligibility of expenditures incurred by the Operational Partner, compliance with the Risk Mitigation and Assurance Plan, and timely completion and follow-up on the results of Assurance Activities.* In summary, it is herewith confirmed that **the Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016 proposal has two co-EE: FAO and MAYDS.**

While the project will be implemented in partnership, **FAO and MAYDS detailed out a clear division of roles:**

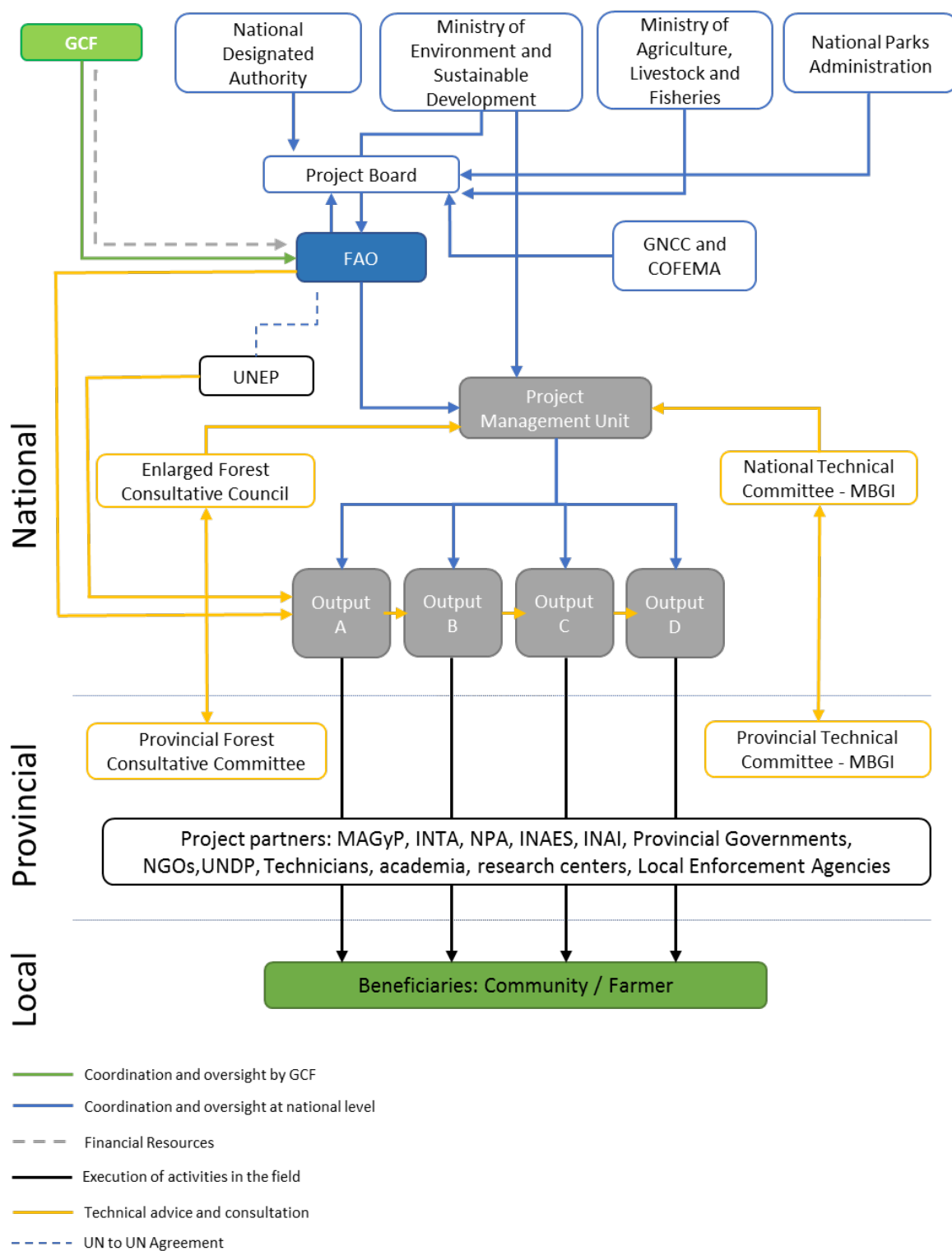
- **FAO:** in addition to the AE and EE responsibilities mentioned in the paragraphs above, will provide technical support for the design and implementation of ground interventions as well to strengthen capacities of the counterpart and key stakeholders and beneficiaries, at different levels. Contributing to enhanced ground interventions, main areas of technical support will encompass: integrated land-use planning, sustainable forest management, community based forestry, restoration, and forest and land governance - in support of strategic integral forest basin management plans and Integral Community Plans; enhancement of practices on forest and livestock management, sustainable rural development and environmental and social safeguards – in support of Forest Management with Integrated Livestock; fire management – supporting institutions and communities strengthening their capacity of response to forest fires. Furthermore FAO expertise in REDD+, climate change mitigation, forest monitoring and MRV will be key

areas of technical support within the framework of component D, enhancing the National Forest Monitoring System, updating Greenhouse Gas National Inventory, Forest Reference Emissions Level, NDC revision process and through targeted trainings for government staff, to achieve successful forest promotion, monitoring and control, including activities associated with the gender plan. Lastly, FAO will take leadership on the implementation of Activities: A.1.3, B.1.2, C.1.1, D.1.1, D.2.3, D.2.4, D.2.5.

- MAYDS, as the technical entity responsible for forest public policies, including the PANByCC (i.e. the national REDD+ strategy) and REDD+ National Focal Point to UNFCCC, will have an important role in the articulation with key national platforms (for example the GNCC) and with the provinces through COFEMA. In addition, MAYDS will deliver key efforts to strengthen capacities at territorial level and increase forest extension capabilities. As indicated in **Figure 5** MAYDS will also be part of the Project Board (together with FAO, NDA, NPA and MAGyP) and from there it will support technical oversight and management. Within MAYDS, support for the project will be coordinated between the Ministry Unit and with Dirección Nacional de Bosques (National Directorate of Forests - DNB), and the Dirección Nacional de Cambio Climático (National Directorate of Climate Change - DNCC). Lastly, MAYDS will take leadership on the implementation of Activities: A.1.1, A.1.2, A.2.1, A.2.2., A.2.3, A.2.4, B.1.1, B.1.3, C.1.2, D.2.1, D.2.2, D.2.6.

FAO may also enter into agreements with other organizations and entities (project partners) beyond MAYDS, which may support the implementation of specific activities and achievement of project outputs on its behalf or in collaboration. These arrangements will seek to facilitate and enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the project. These entities will be accountable directly to the Executing Entity and will be selected by FAO and MAYDS, as per FAO Rules and Regulations.

The **implementation arrangements** - described below and summarized in the figure - include the Project Board, Project Management Unit, Enlarged Forest Consultative Council, National MBGI Committees and at the sub-national level the Local Forest Consultative Committee and Provincial MBGI Technical Committee and the initially identified project partners. Additionally, it should be noted that the GNCC in coordination with COFEMA, as platform for the federal dialogues and articulations, can be the decision-making forums for establishing benefit-sharing arrangements and managing the ER volume within the framework of GCF.



GCF: Green Climate Fund; FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme; GNCC: National Climate Change Cabinet; COFEMA: Federal Environment Council; MBGI: Forest Management with Integrated Livestock; MAGyP: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; INTA: National Institute of Agricultural Technology; NPA: National Parks Administration; INAI: National Indigenous Affairs Institute; INAES: National Institute of Associativism and Social Economy, UNDP: United Nations Development Programme; NGOs: non-governmental organizations

Figure 5. Diagram of institutional arrangements proposed for the project

Project Board

The Project Board is the governance body that will provide overall guidance and direction to the project and will approve the Annual Work Plan (AWP). It is responsible for making management decisions by consensus or majority, when guidance is required by the Project Manager, including recommendations for FAO approval of project plans and revisions, and addressing any project-level claims. To ensure FAO's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions must be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. For specific responsibilities and other details refer to section C.2.5. of the Funding Proposal document.

Following the structure of other RBP projects implemented in the region, **the Board shall be composed of MArDS, the National Directorate for Funding through International Financial Institutions (NDA), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP in its Spanish acronym), the National Parks Administration (NPA) and FAO.** FAO will also act as the Board's technical secretariat through the Project Manager. FAO will chair and organize Board meetings at least once a year or at the request of any of the Parties. MArDS, as Chair of the Board, may consider including other relevant stakeholders. MArDS will be responsible for coordinating the activities implemented under this proposal and other multisectoral and territory-based activities, as well as for supporting coordination with and participation of territorial authorities.

Project Management Unit (PMU)

Under the overall guidance of the Project Board, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Project activities. The PMU will have responsibility for, among others:

- (i) Project operational planning, management and execution, including the direct supervision of project activities subcontracted to experts and other institutions;
- (ii) coordinating the management of financial resources and procurement;
- (iii) reporting on the use of resources and results achieved;
- (iv) preparing management reports for the Project Board, GCF, NDA and FAO, including annual reports and any proposals for the adaptive management of the Project, if required, and based on inputs from the Project M&E plan;
- (v) promoting inter-institutional linkages; and
- (vi) disseminating project results.

The PMU will be headed by a Project Manager (PM), who will submit reports to the Project Board. The unit will also be composed of an appropriate technical and administrative team to ensure correct execution. The PM will be responsible for the overall management and implementation of the project's activities and for requesting disbursement of the Project's resources to the EEs for delivery. The PM will be recruited by and directly report to the FAO Budget Holder and is also technically accountable to the MArDS to serve the overall project on operational and managerial matters. The PM will lead the management of the project activities as per approved Annual Work Plans (AWP), including financial, budget and human resources. He/she also prepares detailed project annual work plans, in collaboration with the PMU and according to the logical framework.

Under the PM's leadership and guidance, the PMU team will lead the preparation of the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the effective and efficient implementation of the project activities to achieve the stated objectives, will prepare and/or oversee the development of Terms of Reference for consultants,

subcontractors and partnerships, ensure consistency between the various project elements and activities provided or funded by other donors, and develop reports on project progress in the project for technical meetings, and others, as appropriate. The PM is a full-time position throughout the duration of the Project, reporting directly to FAO and is technically accountable to MAYDS.

The PM has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis, for management and decision-making on behalf of the Project Board. The PM's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the outcomes specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

MBGI National Technical Committee and MBGI Provincial Technical Committees

A National Technical Committee including the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the National Institute of Agricultural Technology, was established in order to implement the National MBGI Plan. Provinces which entered into participation agreements will create a Provincial Technical Committee tasked with defining its own intervention guidelines and thresholds for establishing the Integrated Livestock and Forest Management Plans, which will require approval by the National Technical Committee. Within its jurisdiction, the Provincial Technical Committee will also be in charge of outreach actions, identifying interested farmers and training technicians and farmers in MBGI models. The Provincial Technical Committee will be responsible for submitting the projects to be funded to the National Technical Committee for their evaluation, prior to submitting projects to the Project Management Unit for resource allocation. These committees will be made up of the Forest Law local enforcement authority, the local institution in charge of carrying out livestock farming plans and the local INTA office, as well as the public and private institutions that they deem relevant.

Provincial committees shall work jointly with the National Committee towards meeting the National Plan goals, focusing mainly on training, monitoring, project implementation and development of marketing strategies, and pilot sites.

Enlarged Forest Consultative Council and Provincial Forest Consultative Committees

The Enlarged Forest Consultative Council will be integrated by MAYDS, MAGyP, INTA, the National Indigenous Affairs Institute (INAI in its Spanish acronym), National Institute of Associativism and Social Economy (INAES in its Spanish acronym), the NPA, among other institutions; and its role will be the coordination of project promotion actions all along the national territory.

Provinces interested in submitting projects related to this proposal shall create adequate consultative structures to identify projects, develop activities, evaluate, monitor and implement social and environmental safeguards. Several provinces have their own Forest Consultative Committees, composed of Local Enforcement Authorities, academic and technical institutions, professional associations and non-government organizations which are active in the territory. These spaces may be considered as Provincial Consultative Committees, and participation may be broadened to include Institutes or Ministries of Indigenous Affairs, representatives of local communities, Indigenous Councillors and other sectoral structures, so as to give transparency to the activities and secure broad support for initiatives, prior to submitting them to the Project Management Unit. In the absence of an adequate consultative structure, each province shall create its own Provincial Consultative Committee, which will consider each jurisdiction's proposals, including those developed by the MBGI Technical Provincial Committee.

Project Partners

The implementation of project activities requires participation and support from partners related to each of the projects' areas of work. Such partners may support the implementation of specific activities

according to previous experience in the region, or their possibility to facilitate the processes underway. Key initial partners have been identified as follows:

UNEP will be a strategic partner and will have an important role in providing ongoing technical support and advice on safeguards throughout the implementation of the project. Given the relevance of compliance with safeguards, *UNEP* will accompany project activities in a cross-cutting manner, and will focus on ensuring that activities are consistent with relevant safeguards. Support will be provided on the updating/development of relevant safeguards plans, in coordination with the PMU and safeguards and gender specialists. Specific support will also be provided for the strengthening of the safeguards approach both nationally and on the ground, and for the strengthening of the safeguard information system (SIS), to ensure that a robust system is in place for the continuous application, evaluation, monitoring and reporting on safeguards, in line with project requirements and country needs. Additionally, it is envisaged for *UNEP* to be a strategic partner also for technical support on issues related to engagement with the national financial sector leveraging the experience of its Climate Finance Unit and of the *UNEP* Finance Initiative.

Discussions are ongoing with *UNDP* about potential collaboration, capitalizing on the experiences and lessons learnt from past and ongoing initiative, continuing building up strengthening stakeholders engagement processes especially at local level and with indigenous peoples. *UNDP*'s strong experience, knowledge and skills in ensuring gender mainstreaming and supporting gender equality will highly benefit the implementation of the project components. Building on ongoing efforts in the country, the collaboration will also benefit in the identification of social and economic impact of COVID-19, with the overall objective of increasing the project contribution to enhanced livelihood in its areas of implementation.

MAGyP will be a key partner in the implementation of the project, as well as part of the Project Board, mainly for the articulation of activities framed in the Forests with Integrated Livestock National Plan (component B.1), as well as for strategic coordination and implementation of activities under the outputs A.1 and A.2, specially in family farming issues in the work with local communities and restoration activities. *MAGyP* will also contribute to the implementation of the project as member of the MBGI committee, and the Enlarged Forest Consultative Council (see above).

MAGyP has under its remit [INTA](#), a decentralized public body whose objective is to generate capacities for the agro-industrial sector, generate knowledge and technologies that are put at the service of different sectors of society, through its extension systems, information and communication. *INTA* will be a key partner in the implementation of activities under components A, B and C through technical support and its experience in extension capacities at the territory level; as well as providing technical support to basins plans development and being a member of the different participatory spaces such as the MBGI National and provincial Technical Committees, Enlarged Forest Consultative Council and Provincial Forest Consultative Committees.

INTA together with other science and technical institutions, such as the National Scientific and Technical Research Council ([CONICET](#) for its acronym in Spanish) as the main organism dedicated to science and technology promotion in the country will be key partners for articulation and generating knowledge within the project framework; to carry out technical studies, diagnoses and to provide technical support to development of technical guidelines for the implementation of project activities; and will be a member of the participatory spaces in order to provide technical knowledge to strengthen and support decision making.

NPA: is a public body in charge of the National System of Protected Areas, aimed at conserving the country's biological diversity and cultural resources. It depends on the *MAYDS*. In addition to being a member of the Project Board, *NPA* may participate in provincial consultative spaces and other planning spaces for the activities to be developed that are close to *NPA* jurisdictions or areas of influence.

Agreements may be established for the development of PIC with communities surrounding National Parks and other protected areas.

Other stakeholders will strengthen the actions undertaken in terms of the regulations governing the project activities, e.g., the Ministry of Productive Development, Provincial Governments, in particular those agencies acting as Local Enforcement Agencies under the Forest Law. In addition to government agencies, academia will be involved through universities and research centers, as well as social and productive sector representatives, on both the national and provincial scale.

INAI: in its role of enforcement authority for Law No. 23302 on Indigenous Policy and Support to Indigenous Communities and is a key public institution related to indigenous and communities' rights in the country, and will be a member of the Enlarged Forest Consultative Council and Provincial Forest Consultative Committees providing technical support regarding consultation process issues. Also, the institute will contribute to forest extension activities and facilitating dialogues with indigenous peoples, including via their own participatory spaces at the national and local levels. Furthermore, INAI will provide support in the preparation of PICs and in the activities carried out with indigenous peoples and local communities within the project framework.

NGOs are active stakeholders in the context of native forests as well as in community forest and land management. They are active parties in the ongoing consultation process. NGOs are expected to be involved in a complementary manner with the above-mentioned partners for technical assistance in the preparation of management plans, especially in activity A.2, and in the processes of promotion, dissemination and participation of components A, B and C. They will also take part in the participation instances within the framework of the Provincial Consultative Committees, certification processes and the development of market strategies.

Mitigating the risks identified in the ESMF

It is expected that as part of the preparation of the activities and outputs mentioned in section C.2 of the Funding Proposal – through the Project Management Unit, its partners and beneficiaries - the risks identified in the ESMF will be taken into consideration and, at inception phase and formulation phase of each sub-project in the components A, B, C, there will be further development and specific funding assigned for the risk mitigation measures to be implemented. Component D on strengthening capacities of key stakeholders at national and provincial level will also embed attention to risk mitigation efforts.

3.4 Project cost and financing

Following the procedures included in the Terms of Reference for the REDD+ Results-based Payments Pilot Programme, the Funding Proposal was technically assessed by the iTAP. The final score agreed between the GCF Secretariat and iTAP, and accordingly communicated to the AE, is 41/48. The GCF Secretariat also communicated iTAP recommendation for the inclusion of the additional 2.5% for non-carbon elements.

Based on such results, the volume of ERs that qualifies for payments is 20,542,281 tCO₂eq, which at a 5 USD / tCO₂eq and considering the 2.5% for non-carbon elements translates into \$105,279,191.

However the total funding available volume assigned and available for Argentina confirmed by the GCF amounts to \$82,000,000, as a result of the special circumstances linked to the ending phase of the financial envelop of the REDD+ Results-based Payments Pilot Programme.

With this consideration, Argentina is therefore offering to the GCF the amount of volume equivalent to a total budget of **\$82,000,000** (including the 2.5% for non-carbon benefit). The **volume of ER offered** would therefore be **18,731,707 tCO₂eq**, with a volume of ERs that applying the final score of 41/48 qualifies for payments of 16,000,000 tCO₂eq. In addition, **Argentina sets aside 2,997,073 tCO₂eq** (16% of the ERs paid by the GCF) as an interim mechanism to manage risks of reversals.

Argentina may choose to present a subsequent proposal for the additional funds that correspond to the volume of payments not covered by the funding availability in the current GCF Pilot programme which may amount to \$23,279,191 at a later Board meeting/phase of the REDD+ Results-based Payments Programme.

Table 6 provides a detailed breakdown of the \$82,000,000 project budget:

Table 6. Indicative budget per component (refer to Sect. C.2.4 of Funding Proposal for details)

Component	Output	Activity	Indicative cost (USD)	Use of pr. %	Tot bud. %
A. Territorial forest management	A.1. Forest basins for timber and non-timber products are established	A.1.1 Preparation of integrated management plans for the sustainable forest basins and their value chains (timber and other non-timber forest products).	\$ 1,089,586	15.9	94.7
		A.1.2 Preparation of strategic forest management plans within the sustainable forest basin.	\$ 1,089,586		
		A.1.3 Implementation of specific timber and non-timber sustainable production investments, pursuant to the integrated management and the strategic forest management plans.	\$ 10,869,761		
		Subtotal A.1	\$ 13,048,933		
	A.2. Local communities manage their collective territories through PICs, according to regulations in force and in a sustainable manner	A.2.1 Identification of eligible territories at the local level.	\$ 105,039	25.6	
		A.2.2 Participatory development of the Integral community plans (PICs)	\$ 1,890,696		
		A.2.3 Support for managing community forest rights at the provincial level.	\$ 105,039		
		A.2.4 Implementation of community investment plans.	\$ 18,906,959		
		Subtotal A.2	\$ 21,007,733		
	Total A			\$ 34,056,666	
B. Forest management with integrated livestock	B.1. Livestock farmers implement sustainable models of forest management with integrated livestock	B.1.1 Generation and request of interest from the ALA for submission of projects on MBGI.	\$ 207,200	12.63	
		B.1.2 Formulation of MBGI projects at the provincial level (technical support for plan formulation until plan’s submission to ALA for approval	\$ 932,400		
		B.1.3 Implementation of MBGI	\$ 9,220,400		

		projects (including training and investments on supplies, rural services and productive tools and civil works)		
Total B			\$ 10,360,000	12.63
C. Enhanced response to forest fires	C.1. Institutions and communities involved have capacity of response to forest fires.	C.1.1 Participatory design of forest fire prevention plans	\$ 1,476,000	9
		C.1.2 Field activities to implement the prevention plan (firewall paths, reduction of combustible material and purchasing of equipment for forest fire initial response)	\$ 5,904,000	
Total C			\$ 7,380,000	9
D. National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor forest and control are strengthened	D.1. Provincial governments have institutional forest monitoring and control capabilities	D.1.1 Strengthening of Local Enforcement Authorities to improve their technical and operational inspection and control capabilities.	\$ 3,690,000	4.5
		Subtotal D.1	\$ 3,690,000	
	D.2. National government has institutional forest promoting, monitoring and control capabilities	D.2.1 Regulatory, statutory and public policy improvement	\$ 1,107,000	27
		D.2.2 Increase of forest extension capabilities (SFM, MBGI and participatory processes mainstreaming gender), and targeted training to government staff, including activities associated with the gender plan.	\$ 5,535,000	
		D.2.3 Follow-up, evaluation and knowledge management, including forest carbon dynamics, forest management, social and cultural dynamics associated with use of forests, mainstreaming the gender perspective	\$ 2,214,000	
		D.2.4 Continuous improvement of Argentina's NFMS, FREL, SIS-AR, emission scenarios and mitigation measures	\$ 3,321,000	
		D.2.5 Market development and financing options, considering the needs of vulnerable groups	\$ 3,321,000	
		D.2.6 Supplementary strategic investments in forest basins, PICs and special projects directed to rural women	\$ 6,642,000	

		Subtotal D.2	\$ 22,140,000		
Total D			\$ 25,830,000	31.5	
Project Management	Project Management Unit		\$ 1,694,667		5.3
	Direct Support Cost		\$ 1,202,667		
	Provision of supervision services to the project		\$ 1,476,000		
Total PM			\$ 4,373,334		
Total Budget			\$ 82,000,000		

4 Environmental and social baseline

The section presents an environmental and social baseline of Argentina forest regions. The *Parque Chaqueño*, Argentine *Yungas*, *Paranense* Rainforest and Argentine *Espinal* forest regions account for approximately 90% of the national area covered by native forests 53,6 millones de hectáreas (ha)¹². Relevant environmental and social information for these regions has been generated through work on [social and environmental benefits](#) of REDD+ with the support of the UN-REDD National Programme in Argentina, and is summarized below. Additional information on protected areas, poverty and tenure is also included.

4.1 Description by forest region

4.1.1 *Paranense* Rainforest

The *Paranense* Rainforest forest region, also known as the *Misiones* Rainforest, is part of the South American Atlantic Forest ecoregion system, which runs along the Atlantic coast of Brazil to eastern Paraguay and northeast Argentina. Currently, the Atlantic Forest is highly fragmented and only has around 16.8% of its original forest cover.¹³ In Argentina, the *Paranense* Rainforest represents 2% of the national forest regions, and this region covers the upper basins of the Paraná and Uruguay rivers, encompassing the entire province of Misiones and a small part of northwest Corrientes.¹⁴

The climate of the region is subtropical, characterized by abundant precipitation distributed more or less uniformly throughout the year, varying from 1500 mm in the south to 1900 mm in the northwest. The forests of the *Paranense* Rainforest are semi-deciduous, characterized by multi-layered forest formations 20 to 30 m high with abundant lianas and epiphytic plants. Depending on the climatic and orographic conditions, three major types of plant communities can be distinguished: the laurel forest (*Nectandra lanceolata*) and guatambú (*Balfourodendron riedelianum*) that occupy most of the region; the laurel, guatambú and palo rosa (*Aspidosperma polyneuron*) forest, which encompasses the northernmost part of Misiones; and the laurel, guatambú and araucaria forest (*Araucaria angustifolia*), located in the easternmost part of the province. A total of 200 native tree species has been recorded in this region, with

¹² Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación (SAyDS) (2019). Nivel de Referencia de Emisiones Forestales de la República Argentina

¹³ Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina y WWF (2017). State of the Atlantic Forest: Three Countries, 148 Million People, One of the Richest Forests on Earth. Puerto Iguazú, Argentina.

¹⁴ Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (MAyDS) (2017). Productos forestales no madereros. Buenos Aires: MAyDS. Disponible en <http://ambiente.gob.ar/especies/productos-forestales-no-madereros/>

an average of 329 trees per Ha.¹⁵

The Atlantic Forest is a world biodiversity hotspot. It is estimated to host around 7% of all species on the planet.¹⁶ In Argentina, the region contains approximately 2000 species of vascular plants, 554 species of birds, 120 species of mammals, 79 species of reptiles and 55 amphibian species.¹⁷ Among these species, it is worth noting the yaguararé (*Panthera onca*), declared a National and Provincial Natural Monument for Misiones. The *Paranense* Rainforest is not only characterized by its richness of species, but also by its high degree of endemism (species that are not found anywhere else on the planet). It is estimated that around 40% of the species of plants and terrestrial vertebrates in the *Paranense* Rainforest are endemic.¹⁸ These characteristics make the *Paranense* Rainforest the forest region with the highest biodiversity in the country.

The forests of the *Paranense* Rainforest also play an important role in the provision of key ecosystem services. Due to the high level of rainfall and rugged topography, these forests are vital for controlling soil erosion, regulating water balances and reducing the risk of downstream flooding. The forests of the region also play an important role at the socioeconomic level. Logging was the main economic activity in the region in the first half of the last century. Certain tree species native to the region, such as *Parapiptadenia rigida*, *Cedrela fissilis* and the guatambú were traditionally used for the manufacture of furniture and for construction. The region also hosts an important production of yerba mate (*Ilex paraguariensis*) as well as species highly valued for their medicinal properties such as *Acrocomia aculeata* and *Syagrus romanzoffiana*, among others.¹⁹

In the *Paranense* Rainforest there are currently more than 9,000 people belonging to the Mbyá Guaraní people, organized in different communities throughout the province, for whom the conservation and management of forests is an essential part of their culture, way of life and economy.²⁰

4.1.2 Argentine Yungas

The Argentine *Yungas*, or *Tucuman-Bolivian* Rainforest, forest region is made up of numerous mountainous areas along a narrow and discontinuous strip located in northwestern Argentina and southern Bolivia, on the eastern slopes of the Andes Mountains. In Argentina, this region is distributed in the provinces of Salta, Jujuy, Tucumán and Catamarca, covering 3% of the national forest regions. Its climate is warm and humid, with summer rains resulting from the condensation of humid air currents from the Atlantic. This phenomenon allows the existence of a thick forest cover characterized in certain areas by a persistent or seasonal cloud and mist cover that makes the region unique.

¹⁵ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación (SAyDS) (2007). Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: informe regional selva misionera. – 1a ed.-. Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación.

¹⁶ Plací, G. y Di Bitetti, M. (2006). Situación ambiental en la ecorregión del Bosque Atlántico del Alto Paraná (Selva Paranaense). En Brown, A.D., Martínez Ortiz, U., Ascerbi, M., y Corcuera, J. (Eds.), La situación ambiental Argentina 2005. Buenos Aires: Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina.

¹⁷ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación (SAyDS) (20017). Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: informe regional selva misionera. – 1a ed.-. Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación.

¹⁸ Plací, G. y Di Bitetti, M. (2006). Situación ambiental en la ecorregión del Bosque Atlántico del Alto Paraná (Selva Paranaense). En Brown, A.D., Martínez Ortiz, U., Ascerbi, M., y Corcuera, J. (Eds.), La situación ambiental Argentina 2005. Buenos Aires: Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina.

¹⁹ Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (MAyDS) (2017). Productos forestales no madereros. Buenos Aires: MAyDS. Disponible en <http://ambiente.gob.ar/especies/productos-forestales-no-madereros/>

²⁰ Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas (INAI) (2017). Zonas de asentamiento territorial de los pueblos indígenas de Argentina. Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos. Descargado de www.argentina.gob.ar/derechoshumanos/inai/mapa el 9 de octubre 2017.

The Argentine *Yungas* region is characterized by wide altitudinal and latitudinal gradient, which allows the coexistence of an important diversity of vegetation types. These are typically classified according to altitude: Pedemonte Rainforest, a tree stratum located up to approximately 800 m in height, characterized by the presence of *Calycophyllum multiflorum*, *Phyllostylon rhamnoides* and a large number of climbing and liana species; Selva Montana, located between 700 and 1500 m where tree populations are found, mainly *Phoebe porphyria* and myrtaceae; Montane Forest, from 1500 m, dominated by the cloud forests themselves and characterized by pine forests (*Podocarpus parlatorei*), *Alnus jorullensis* forests and *Polylepis australis* forests; clouded grassland, from 1800 m and reaching 4000 m, where grasses predominate, and which has great forage potential; and the High Andean Grassland, from 3900 m to the altitude limit of the vegetation at 5000 m, a steppe landscape with hard grasses predominating. Forest formations are usually between 20-30 m of height. A total of 108 tree species has been recorded in the region, and average carbon storage (above- and below-ground) of 120 tonnes per Ha.²¹

This diversity of environments is also translated into significant biodiversity in Argentine *Yungas*; around 120 species of mammals, 500 species of birds, 30 species of amphibians and various species of reptiles and fish have been in the region. It is estimated that, together with *Paranense* Rainforest, these two regions are home to more than 50% of the biodiversity of the entire country, even though they represent less than 2% of the continental surface of Argentina.²²

Argentine *Yungas* forests also play an important role in the provision of key ecosystem services. Water harvesting capacity, mainly due to the ability of cloud forests to intercept mist and introduce it into the local hydrological cycle, is especially important to ensure the supply of drinking water for the population, particularly during the dry season. Given the steep slopes characteristic of the region, these forests also contribute to preserving water quality through control of runoff and sedimentation.²³

In addition, these forests play an important role in maintaining the livelihoods of local communities. In the region there are around 16 indigenous ethnic groups, many of whom depend on forest products for consumption and sources of income. Among these, it is worth highlighting the extraction of timber for construction and fuelwood, hunting, the collection of honey and wild fruits. Medicinal uses of forest species are also important.

4.1.3 *Parque Chaqueño*

The *Parque Chaqueño* forest region occupies a vast sedimentary plain that extends through the provinces of Formosa, Chaco, Salta, Santiago del Estero, northern Santa Fe and Córdoba, and sectors of Catamarca, La Rioja, San Juan, San Luis, Corrientes, Tucumán and Jujuy. With a total extension of around 67 million hectares, it represents approximately 60% of the Great American Chaco and is as the largest forest region in the country, covering 41% of the national forest regions. Its climate is varied, presenting a marked gradient from east (wetter, with average annual rainfall that can exceed 1400 mm) to west (dry, with average annual rainfall of around 500 mm). These differences translate into a heterogeneous mosaic of different environments and a high diversity of species. A total of 28 tree species have been recorded in

²¹ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación (SAyDS) (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: informe regional parque chaqueño* – 1a ed. – Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación.

²² Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación (SAyDS) (2007) *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: informe regional selva tucumano boliviana* – 1a ed. – Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación.

²³ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación (SAyDS) (2007) *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: informe regional selva tucumano boliviana* – 1a ed. – Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación.

the region, with an average of 145 trees per hectare. Carbon storage is estimated for the region at 79 tonnes per Ha. (carbon above and below ground).²⁴

In the *Parque Chaqueño*, the predominant vegetation is xerophilous deciduous forests, and it is classified into four subregions: the Humid Chaco, which occupies the eastern half of the provinces of Formosa and Chaco, and part of the north of Santa Fe and northwest of Corrientes, is composed of a landscape of semi-xerophilous forests, grasslands, savannas, palm groves and riparian flood forests; the Semi-arid Chaco, which occupies the west of Formosa and Chaco, the east of Salta and Tucumán, part of the north of Córdoba and almost all of Santiago del Estero, characterized by a xerophilous and semi-deciduous forest, dominated by *Aspidosperma quebracho-blanco* and *Schinopsis* sp., *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, and *Prosopis* sp.; the Chaco Serrano, which forms most of the western limit of the region, is dominated by quebrachos in the south and cacti and prickly legumes in the north; and at higher altitudes, the forest is replaced by gramineous grasslands and steppes and the Arid Chaco, in the southwestern region, with different types of shrubs, and xerophilous forests and where the salt flats are characteristic.²⁵

The great variety of environments in this region translate into a high diversity of animal and plant species.²⁶ As for fauna, almost 70% of large and medium-size native indigenous mammals whose distributions include the Argentine Chaco show a declining or unknown population trend worldwide, with 36% of the species being considered endangered, vulnerable or almost threatened according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Threatened species include several large species such as *Catagonus wagneri*, *Chrysocyon brachyurus*, *Mazama americana*, *Pecari tajacu*, *Tapirus terrestris* and *Tayassu pecari*. The forests of the Chaco also play an important role in the provision of key ecosystem services. These include the control of soil erosion, both water and wind-driven, and the regulation of water balance. Furthermore, these forests play an important role in supporting the livelihoods of local communities. About 20 indigenous ethnic groups live in the *Parque Chaqueño* region, and have developed a culture closely associated with natural resources, making use of forest resources for the provision of raw materials and products such as wood, firewood and charcoal, as well as food, fibre and medicinal products.²⁷

4.1.4 Argentine Espinal

The Argentine *Espinal* forest region surrounds the Pampas region to the north, west and southwest, and is in contact with the river forests of Paraná and Uruguay, Chaco and Monte. With a total area of around 32,939,454 Ha. It represents the 20% of the national forest regions. Its climate is very varied, being warmer and wetter in the north, and temperate and dry to the west and south. Average annual rainfall varies between 1190 and 1270 mm.²⁸

²⁴ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación (SAyDS) (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: informe regional parque chaqueño* – 1a ed. – Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación.

²⁵ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación (SAyDS) (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: informe regional parque chaqueño* – 1a ed. – Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación.

²⁶ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación (SAyDS) (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: informe regional parque chaqueño* – 1a ed. – Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación.

²⁷ Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas (INAI) (2017). Zonas de asentamiento territorial de los pueblos indígenas de Argentina. Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos. Descargado de www.argentina.gob.ar/derechoshumanos/inai/mapa el 9 de Octubre 2017.

²⁸ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: Informe regional Espinal*, 1a ed., Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable.

The Argentine *Espinal* region is characterized by the presence of deciduous xerophilous forests that rarely exceed 10 meters in height, alternated with palm groves, grass savannas, grass steppes and shrub steppes.²⁹ The *algarrobo* of the genus *Prosopis* is the predominant species. The region has been subdivided into three districts related to its different plant formations: *Ñandubay* District, characterized by forests dominated by this species (*Prosopis affinis*), which comprises the region with the greatest biodiversity in the region; *Algaborro* District (*Prosopis nigra* and *Prosopis alba*), with a sub-humid climate, which represents a transition zone between the Pampa and the Chaco and where there is hardly any forest at present; and the *Caldén* District (*Prosopis caldenia*), characterized by an open forest with a very rich grass layer.³⁰

Within the *Ñandubay* and *Caldén* districts, a total of 28 tree species has been recorded. Average carbon storage is estimated at 65 tonnes per hectare (carbon above and below ground).³¹

This great variety of environments makes the region present a great variety of species, having identified a total of approximately 33 species of amphibians, 61 species of reptiles, about 300 species of birds and 77 species of mammals, among which the cougar stands out (*Puma concolor*), the Pampas gray fox (*Lycalopex gymnocercus*), the skunk (*Conepatus humboldtii*), the ferrets (*Eira barbara*, *Galictis cuja*) and the plains vizcacha (*Lagostomus maximus*). The region also has a wide variety of micro-mammal species.³² The Argentine *Espinal* forest region also plays an important role in the provision of key ecosystem services, such as soil erosion control, as well as water regulation and maintenance of the water table, protecting neighbouring agricultural lands. Furthermore, forests play an important role in maintaining the livelihoods of around seven ethnic groups of indigenous peoples and other local communities.

4.1.5 Andean Patagonian Forest

The Andean Patagonian Forest region extends through a narrow strip along the Andes Mountains, from the north of the province of Neuquén to Tierra del Fuego and Isla de los Estados, occupying an area of 4,119,145 Ha. Between Forest Lands and Other Wooded Lands, representing 5% of the national forest regions³³. The landscape is markedly mountainous, of steep and steep relief, with snowy peaks, glacial valleys and other geoforms of volcanic origin. It has numerous water courses and lakes that drain through different rivers to the slopes of the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean.³⁴ This region is characterized by enormous environmental heterogeneity, which is marked by its wide elevational gradients and latitudinal gradients.

The climate of the region is largely conditioned by the presence of the Andes Mountains, which causes the rise of humid air masses from the Pacific Ocean and the subsequent discharge of water on the western slope (which is decreasing gradually to the east). Another important gradient, in the north-south direction, manifests itself in the seasonality of the rains: in the northern part of the region, precipitation is concentrated in the winter season, while in the south, it is distributed more uniformly throughout the

²⁹ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: Informe regional Espinal*, 1a ed., Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable.

³⁰ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: Informe regional Espinal*, 1a ed., Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable.

³¹ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación (SAyDS) (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: informe regional parque chaqueño* – 1a ed. – Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación.

³² Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: Informe regional Espinal*, 1a ed., Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable.

³³ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: Informe nacional*, 1a ed., Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable.

³⁴ Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca y SAyDS. (2015). Segundo Reporte de Argentina al Proceso de Montreal. Buenos Aires: SAyDS.

year. These gradients are clearly reflected in the vegetation cover, which is divided into four districts according to the distribution of the most important species: *Pehuén* District, characterized by Pehuén forests (*Araucaria araucana*), as well as forests spars mixed with species of the genus *Nothofagus* or trees alternated with steppe; Deciduous Forest District, which extends throughout the eastern edge of the region and is characterized by tree species such as the ñire (*Nothofagus antártica*), the lenga (*Nothofagus pumilio*) and the mountain cypress (*Austrocedrus chilensis*); Valdivian District, the wettest district, reaching up to 4 000 mm of annual precipitation, and where the dominant species is the coihue (*Nothofagus dombeyi*) accompanied by other species such as the tineo (*Weinmania trichosperma*), the female mañiu (*Saxegothea conspicua*); the larch (*Fitzroya cupresoides*), Hua huam (*Laurelia philippiana*), among others; and the Magellan District, where the predominant species is sour cherry (*Nothofagus betuloides*), and other trees present are cinnamon (*Drymis winterii*) and Podocarpus nubigenus in the extreme north of the District.³⁵

Data from 18 tree species have been recorded with an average of 358 trees per hectare. Average carbon storage for the region is estimated at 340 tonnes per Ha. (above and below-ground).³⁶

As a consequence of the long history of isolation, the flora of the Andean Patagonian Forest presents a high degree of endemism. In particular, about 30% of woody plants are endemic. As for the fauna present in the region, the presence of *Hippocamelus bisulcus*, an internationally classified species in danger of extinction, stands out. Other notable mammal species include: the cougar (*Puma concolor*), *Dromiciops gliroides* and *Pudu puda*. Among the birds, are included the condor (*Vultur gryphus*), *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*, *Cygnus melancoryphus*, *Campephilus magellanicus*, *Merganetta armata* and the *Sephanoides galeritus*³⁷.

In addition to its biodiversity, the forests of this region play an important role in the provision of key ecosystem services. These include the control of water erosion (moderating runoff after heavy rains), prevention or mitigation of the effects of floods or droughts, the recycling of nutrients, microclimatic regulation, the filtration of pollutants, and the provision of fresh water, among others. Likewise, different indigenous communities live in the region, and may depend on forest resources for their livelihood. The scenic beauty characteristic of the Andean Patagonian Forest is also an important service for a large number of tourist and recreational activities based on nature.

4.1.6 Argentine Monte

The Argentine *Monte* region extends latitudinally for more than 2000 km, from the provinces of Salta and Jujuy to the Atlantic Ocean, and in Río Negro and Chubut (29% of the national forest regions) . Its climate is varied, presenting itself as dry subtropical in the northern region, and dry and cool in the southern region. Despite its large geographical extension, the amplitude of temperatures and precipitation is small, with a variation of the annual average temperature between 13° C in the south and 17.5° C in the north, and the annual average rainfall between 100mm in the east and 400 mm in the west.³⁸

³⁵ Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca y SAyDS. (2015). Segundo Reporte de Argentina al Proceso de Montreal. Buenos Aires: SAyDS.

³⁶ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: Informe regional Espinal*, 1a ed., Buenos Aires: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable.

³⁷ Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca y SAyDS. (2015). Segundo Reporte de Argentina al Proceso de Montreal. Buenos Aires: SAyDS.

³⁸ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (SAyDS) (2007). *Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: Informe regional Monte*, 1a ed., Buenos Aires: SAyDS.

The Argentine *Monte* region has low forest cover, dominated by *algarrobos* (*Prosopis spp.*) and a large extension of xerophytic shrub steppes, where *Larrea spp.* dominates.³⁹ The region is divided into two ecoregions based on its geomorphological characteristics: on which extends from the north to the south of San Juan, and another from the south of San Juan to Chubut.

Monte forests play an important role in the provision of key ecosystem services. These include water regulation and the supply of fresh water, as well as control of soil salinity. Furthermore, these forests play an important role in supporting the livelihoods of local communities; around 10 indigenous ethnic groups live in this region.⁴⁰

The Argentine *Monte* region has several endemic species of flora and fauna, among which there are species that make use of or depend on forests for their habitats. Among the species of fauna characteristic of the Argentine *Monte*, the guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*), the puma (*Puma concolor*), *Lagostomus maximus*, *Lycalopex culpaeus*, *Lycalopex griseus*, *Microcavia australis*, *Galea musteloides*, *Ctenomys mendocinus*, *Conepatus castaneus* and *Lyncodon patagonicus* are included.⁴¹

4.2 Protected areas

Argentina has made continual progress in expanding the territorial areas under protection. By 1990 there were 155 protected areas, with a total area of about 16,192,700 Ha., that is, 5.8% of the mainland surface of the national territory. As of 2019, there are 493 recorded protected areas, distributed in the national and provincial jurisdictions (including three marine protected areas), with a protected land area of 36,462,613 Ha., representing 13.06% of the mainland surface of the country.⁴²

³⁹ Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (SAyDS) (2007). Primer inventario nacional de bosques nativos: Informe regional Monte, 1a ed., Buenos Aires: SAyDS.

⁴⁰ Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas (INAI) (2017). Zonas de asentamiento territorial de los pueblos indígenas de Argentina. Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos. Descargado de www.argentina.gob.ar/derechoshumanos/inai/mapa el 9 de Octubre 2017.

⁴¹ Pol, R., Camín, S. y Astié, A. (2005). Situación ambiental en la ecorregión del Monte. En Brown, A.D., Martínez Ortiz, U., Ascerbi, M., y Corcuera, J. (Eds.), La situación ambiental Argentina 2005. Buenos Aires: Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina.

⁴² SAyDS (2018). Informe Nacional: Ambiente y Áreas Protegidas de la Argentina 2008-2018. Buenos Aires: SAyDS.

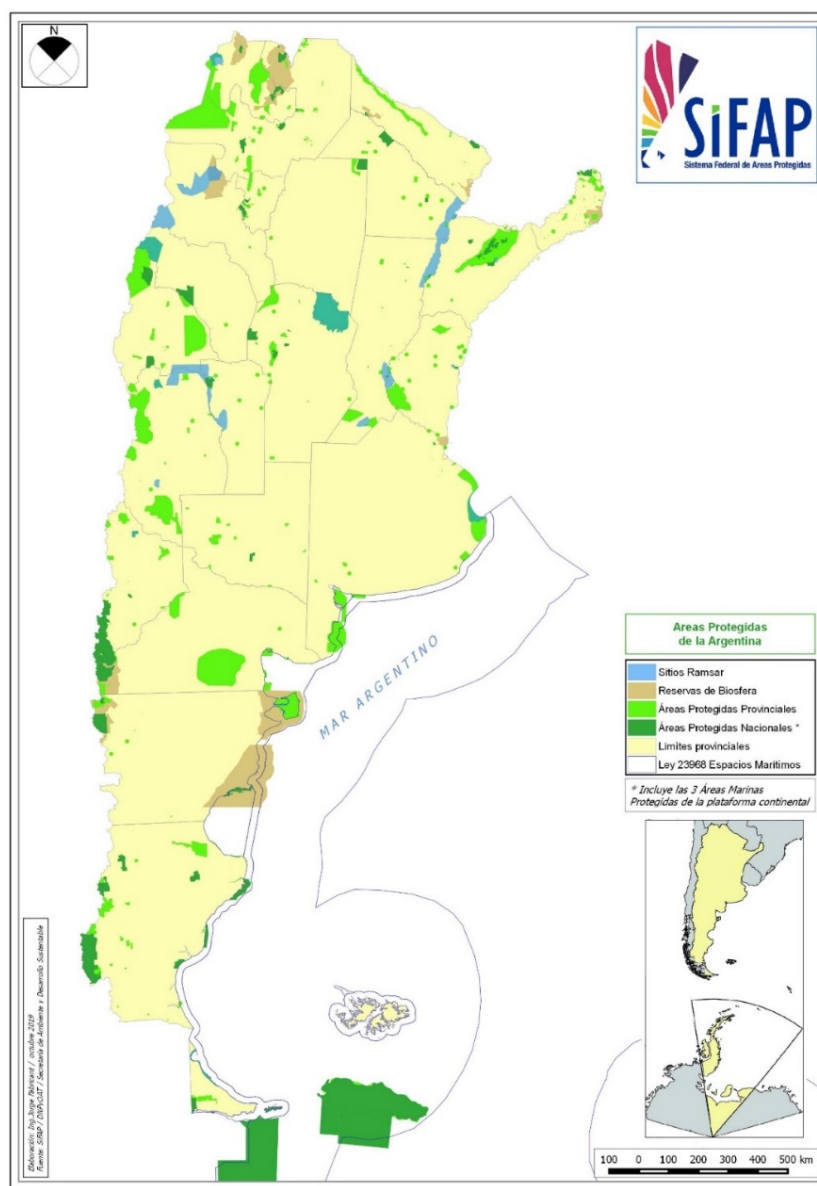


Figure 6. Protected areas. Source: [SIFAP](#).

4.3 Poverty and land tenure considerations

In areas of high forest cover and high poverty, there may also be a relatively high dependence on forests for livelihoods, especially in times of hardship; the rural poor are the most likely to be reliant on ecosystem services, and are therefore the most vulnerable to changes in those services.

The 2010 national Census showed that the departments in Argentina with native forest represent 61.5% of the population with unsatisfied basic needs (2010) and 89% of the rural population with unsatisfied basic needs. It is estimated that 71.2% of the departments with native forest have a percentage of unsatisfied basic needs that is higher than the national average (12.4%). The forest communities of *Parque Chaqueño* are among populations with the highest levels of unsatisfied basic needs in the country.

Crossing information from the 2018 National Census of Agriculture and the OTBN coverage, it can be inferred that more than 40% of the native forest cover could be found in areas without clearly

defined tenancy. This includes indigenous territories, communal fields, public lands, lands subject to possession rights, and other areas that generally coincide with precarious forms of land tenure.

5 Applicable safeguards standards and relevant legal framework

As a basis for this ESMF, the following safeguards standards were considered for analysis of activities to be carried out with the use of proceeds of this proposal:

- GCF safeguards and policies, including its [Indigenous Peoples Policy](#), [Gender Policy](#), and [Policy on Prohibited Practices](#);
- The safeguards of FAO as Accredited Entity to the GCF (these are consistent with GCF safeguards and policies);
- The UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards, which have been contextualized through the national interpretation of safeguards and analyses of relevant legal and institutional frameworks in Argentina.

Each of these standards is described in more detail below, with information on how the legal framework in Argentina helps support risk management and the application of the safeguards.

5.1 Consistency of GCF and FAO safeguards standards

The GCF has provisionally adopted the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards (PS) and directives of implementation for the purposes of safeguarding GCF projects. The GCF has also adopted an [Indigenous Peoples Policy](#), [Gender Policy](#), and [Policy on Prohibited Practices](#), which apply to all projects. The table below presents the IFC Performance Standards and the corresponding FAO Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), which are described in detail in section 4.3, demonstrating consistency and complementarity between the standards:

Table 7. IFC Performance Standards and corresponding FAO Environmental and Social Standards

IFC PS	FAO ESS
PS 1 – Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	ESS 1 – Natural Resources Management
	ESS8 – Gender Equality
PS2 – Labour and Working Conditions	ESS7 – Decent Work
PS3 – Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention	ESS5 – Pest and Pesticide Management
PS4 – Community, Health, Safety, and Security	ESS7 – Decent Work (partially)
PS5 – Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement	ESS6 – Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement
PS6 – Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	ESS2 – Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Natural Habitats
	ESS3 – Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
	ESS4 – Animal – Livestock and Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
PS7 – Indigenous Peoples	ESS9 – Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage
PS8 – Cultural Heritage	

Consistency of GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy and the FAO's ESS 9 on Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage

GCF and FAO safeguards frameworks include particular attention to the rights, needs and situations of indigenous peoples, with specific provisions, tools and instruments for projects that may involve or affect indigenous peoples or communities.

The table below includes some of the key elements as well as points of consistency of the two frameworks:

Table 8. Key elements and points of consistency of GCF Indigenous Policy and FAO's ESS 9

Topic	GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy	FAO's ESS 9 on Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage
Free, prior and informed consent	There is a need to ensure that meaningful consultation has been undertaken and free, prior and informed consent has been properly sought, with evidence provided	Before adopting and implementing projects and programmes that may affect indigenous peoples, a process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent is followed and consent given by the indigenous community
Risk management	<p>There is a need to implement a management system to manage the risks and impacts associated with the [project] activities</p> <p>There is a need to ensure that activities proposed for GCF financing are properly screened, assigned appropriate risk categories, and that the risks and impacts are properly and sufficiently assessed</p>	<p>There is a need to carry out screening of risks, including answering "trigger" questions. The levels of risks are defined as follows: LOW: At project assessment there are no indigenous peoples in the project area MODERATE: There are indigenous peoples in the project area and/or project activities could affect indigenous peoples outside the project area HIGH: There are indigenous peoples in the project area or outside the project area who are adversely affected by the proposed project activities</p> <p>The risk level of a project will be determined by: (i) the results of the project assessment undertaken by the FAO technical units and independent external experts as part of an environmental and social assessment; and (ii) the outcome of the Free Prior and Informed Consent process determined by the indigenous community(ies).</p> <p>Annex 2: Risk Classification Certification Form</p>
Indigenous Peoples Plan	Where there are potential impacts on indigenous peoples, accredited entities must prepare an IPP (Indigenous People Plan)	In those circumstances when a proposed project may be considered high risk an Indigenous Peoples' Plan (IPP) will be prepared following the results of the FPIC
Monitoring	Monitoring and reporting on the progress and performance of GCF-financed activities to GCF and its stakeholders will take place throughout the implementation of the GCF-financed activities, in accordance with this Policy and any relevant plan	Participatory and transparent monitoring arrangements under the principle of FPIC will be put in place, wherein indigenous peoples will jointly monitor project implementation with FAO.
Grievance redress mechanism	There is a need to ensure that all grievance mechanisms associated with GCF activities are effective in addressing issues raised by indigenous peoples and are accessible, fair,	An adequate redress mechanism for indigenous people is a component of the IPP (E.11)

	transparent and culturally appropriate	
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5.2 GCF policy on avoidance of prohibited practices

Although FAO safeguards and relevant policies are consistent with those of the Green Climate Fund, the GCF also includes additional guidance through their [Policy on Prohibited Practices](#), which seeks to establish requirements to guide the development of policies and procedures that define and prescribe integrity violations in the operations of the GCF. The purpose of this Policy is to establish the specific conduct and activities which are prohibited by the Fund. The prohibited practices identify threats to the transparent, accountable and efficient use of GCF resources, and ultimately the accomplishment of the overall GCF goal to deliver financing for projects that address the threats of climate change.

The GCF maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward Prohibited Practices and is strongly committed to preventing and combating Prohibited Practices. The GCF expects individuals and entities involved in Fund-related Activities to observe the highest standards of integrity, to refrain from directly or indirectly condoning, encouraging, participating in or engaging in Prohibited Practices and to take measures, where and when appropriate, to prevent and combat Prohibited Practices regarding all Fund-related Activities. The GCF recognizes established international practices and policies with respect to the prohibition of Prohibited Practices, and particularly the principles in the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other instruments related thereto.

In accordance with relevant GCF policies, standards and procedures, and subject to the terms of legal agreements concluded between a Counterparty – including, inter alia, AEs, direct access entities, executing entities, delivery partners, fiscal agents, financial intermediaries and vendors - and the GCF, Counterparties shall take timely and appropriate measures to:

- (a) Ensure that Fund-related Activities are carried out in accordance with this Policy;
- (b) Promptly disclose to the GCF any real or perceived Conflicts of Interest in relation to a Fund-related Activity;
- (c) Prevent Prohibited Practices from occurring in relation to a Fund-related Activity, including (but not limited to) adopting, implementing, and enforcing appropriate fiduciary and administrative practices and institutional arrangements to ensure that the Fund proceeds in the form of a grant, loan, contract award, or other forms of financing or support are used only for the purposes for which such financing or support was granted;
- (d) Promptly inform the GCF of Prohibited Practices found, suspected or alleged in connection with a Fund-related Activity;
- (e) Investigate any occurrence of, or report of suspected Prohibited Practices in a Fund-related Activity and report preliminary and final findings of investigations to the GCF;
- (f) To the satisfaction of the GCF, respond to, mitigate, and remedy any Prohibited Practice that is found to have occurred in a Fund-related Activity and take actions to prevent the re-occurrence of such Prohibited Practice;
- (g) Cooperate fully with the GCF in any Independent Integrity Unit investigation into reports of suspected Prohibited Practices in connection with a Fund-related Activity, and take all appropriate measures to ensure the full cooperation of relevant persons and entities subject to such investigation, including, in each case, allowing the Fund to meet with relevant persons and to inspect all their relevant accounts, records and other documents relating to the GCF-related Activities and have them audited by, or on behalf of the GCF; and
- (h) Ensure that individuals or entities sanctioned by the GCF do not participate in Fund-related Activities in violation of their sanction.

Information on how activities implemented have and will adhere to GCF policies on avoidance of prohibited practices, supported by the application of Argentina's relevant legal framework, is provided in section E.4 of the full proposal, and have also been used to inform both ESA and ESMF development.

5.2.1 Relevant legal framework

Argentina has developed a legal framework in accordance with international treaties to prevent money laundering and financing of terrorism. The country also has an access to information law.

In general terms, the country has a very comprehensive regulatory framework dealing with the prevention of corruption practices and fraud in the public administration.

Argentina has ratified international instruments including the United Nations Convention against Corruption ([Law No. 25319](#)) the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (Law No. 24759), the American Convention on Human Rights (Law No. 23054) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1986).

The country has a legal framework promoting transparent forest governance of native forests, and access to information on environmental matters by citizens, reflected in the Law on Access to Public Information (Law No. 27275) and the General Environmental Law (Law No. 25675).

Regarding anti-corruption practices, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights adopted a Resolution 186/18 stating that the Anti-corruption Office created by Law No. 25233/99, is a technical body with specialized competences, which concentrate its efforts specifically referring to acts of corruption and that require a high degree of professionalism in the subject. In this sense, it has the competence to analyze the exercise of the attributions, including: 1.3. "the relationship with the critical areas, by subjects or Organisms, that are included in the Action Plan, including those interventions that are useful in the framework of inter-institutional coordination with other Organisms or for compliance with international conventions dealing with corruption practices and fraud ratified by the country, and their mechanisms for monitoring and implementation."

Additional relevant instruments aiming to regulate and prevent corruption practices and fraud are:

- Decree No. 201/17 on Integrity in lawsuits against the State, Decree No. 202/17 on Integrity in public procurement, Regulatory Decree No. 1179/16 regulating article 18 "Regime of gifts to public officials" of Law No. 25188, Decree No. 895/13 regulating Law No. 26857, and Decree No. 41/99 on the Code of Ethics in the Public Service.
- The Law No. 27275/16 regulates access to public information. The objective is to guarantee the effective exercise of the right of access to public information and promote citizen participation and transparency in the public administration. To implement the law, an Agency of Access to Public Information has been created, as an autonomous entity that will operate within the Head of Ministers Cabinet. In addition, to enforce the law, a Joint Resolution SGRP 1/08 and FCA 3/08 state procedures for the processing of complaints for breaching the obligations contemplated in the Law and General Regulation of Access to Public Information.

More recently, Decree No. 258/19 approved the National Anti-corruption Plan for the period 2019 – 2023. To monitor and implement its measures, the following instrument has later been enacted:

- Resolution No. 21/19 creates the Advisory Council to follow-up the Implementation of the initiatives incorporated in the National Anticorruption Plan (2019 – 2023) together with Decree No. 650/19, Resolution No. 797/19, and Resolution No. 33/19.
- To avoid conflicts of interest in public employment, a series of secondary instruments regulate the subject. Specifically, the framework Law regulating national public employment, Decree No. 8566/61 on the regime regulating accumulation of charges in the public administration.

- Finally, regarding money laundering, the Law No. 25246 and Decree No. 169/01 regulate the matter together with Decree No. 1025/01 establishing incompatibilities and prohibitions related to financial Information units. Decree No. 1023/01 defines the procurement regime for the public administration, and Decree No. 467/99 regulates administrative investigations.

In line with the GCF policy on whistle-blowers and grievance redress, an appropriate grievance resolution mechanism will be made available for the project, at project inception. Whilst the project's grievance mechanism is being established and made operational, the FAO grievance resolution mechanism, described in detail in the ESMF Annex (section 5.4.1) will serve as the interim mechanism for the project, supporting and complementing the MAYDS' Buzón Verde (Green Mailbox) (as described in section 5.4.2) mechanism to receive queries, complaints and allegations.

FAO, as an AE to the GCF, will use its policies, rules and regulations for the management of funds to comply with the provisions of the GCF. These policies will be applied in all activities that are implemented not only by FAO, but also by implementing partners and collaborators of the project.

FAO is committed to planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating activities for transparent, efficient and adequate management of resources, in line with the country's legal framework and the provisions of relevant international instruments and conventions.

In addition, the country has the mechanisms described in the previous section that guarantee that an adequate national legal framework is in place.

5.3 FAO safeguards framework

FAO's [Environmental and Social Management Guidelines](#) (ESM) are an important building block for FAO's approach to achieve sustainable development and provide guidelines for the management of environmental and social risks in its projects. These guidelines facilitate the early and systematic identification and assessment of environmental and social risks and the integration of the management of these risks into the project cycle (design and implementation). At the project level, FAO applies a risk management process that focuses specifically on individual project risks.

FAO's Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) 1-9 are designed to help manage and improve FAO environmental and social performance through a risk- and outcome-based approach. The nine ESS set out specific requirements relating to different social and environmental issues. Projects approved and supported by FAO must meet these Environmental and Social Standards, which relate to the following areas:

Table 9. FAO Environmental and Social Standards

Environmental and Social Standards	Objectives
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote direct action to enhance resource use efficiency. • Focus on ways to ensure the transition to sustainable practices.
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid agricultural, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry practices that could have adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, ecosystem services or critical habitats. • Sustainably manage the ecosystems in order to maintain the services and benefits they provide. • Ensure that exchange of genetic resources conforms to access

	and benefit sharing measures in force in the country(ies) involved.
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent actions resulting in loss of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) diversity by promoting their effective conservation (in situ and ex situ). • Safeguard against actions resulting in unintended environmental and social consequences. • Promote sustainable crop improvements and production and enhanced productivity. • Ensure that the transfer of PGRFA conforms with the measures relating to access and benefit sharing, IPR and farmers' rights which are in force in the country(ies) involved.
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable management of animal and aquatic genetic resources. • Prevent loss of valuable livestock and aquatic genetic diversity. • Safeguard against actions resulting in unintended environmental and social consequences.
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM), reduce reliance on pesticides and avoid adverse impacts from pesticide use on the health and safety of farming communities, consumers and the environment.
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit forced eviction. • Avoid, and when avoidance is not possible, minimize adverse social and economic impacts from restrictions on land or resource use or from land and resource acquisition. • Improve or at least restore living conditions of persons who are physically or economically displaced, through improving and restoring their productive assets and security of tenure.
ESS 7: Decent Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote direct action to foster decent rural employment. • Promote fair treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity for all workers. • Protect and support workers, particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable categories of workers. • Promote the application of international labour standards in the rural economy, including the prevention and elimination of child labour in agriculture.
ESS 8: Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide equal access to and control over productive resources, services and markets. • Strengthen women and men's participation in decision-making in rural institutions and policy processes. • Ensure that all stakeholders benefit equally from development interventions and that inequality is not reinforced or perpetuated.
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous

and Cultural Heritage	<p>Peoples is respected in all FAO's projects and programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the right to self-determination and development with identity of indigenous peoples (right to decide the kind of development that takes place among their people and on their lands and territories, in accordance with their own priorities and conceptions of well-being). • Guarantee the application of the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples affected by the project.⁴³ • Recognize, respect and preserve the rights, lands, natural resources, territories, livelihoods, knowledge, social fabric, traditions, governance systems of Indigenous Peoples. • Protect cultural heritage and avoid its alteration, damage or removal.
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5.3.1 FAO risk screening

An Environmental and Social Screening has been carried out for this project (available in Annex I), assessing the activities to be implemented with the use of proceeds against FAO's ESS. Where it is determined that an activity may present certain risks and/or impacts, the relevant standard(s) are triggered.

As a result of the risk screening and categorization, this project has been classified as moderate risk (Category "B").⁴⁴ It is expected that project activities will trigger the following Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies: ESS2, ESS7, ESS8 and ESS9, as detailed below.

As the level of risk may not always be immediately apparent or may change during project preparation when project sites are being identified, this project will be systematically screened during identification and preparation and systematically monitored during implementation in order to identify indirect, cumulative and associated impacts, as relevant, in accordance with FAO's ESM.

⁴³ **Clarification:** As it is explained in the ESA Annex to this funding proposal and in the description of the participative process in section 8.3 of this ESMF, the implementation of actions that led to the reduction of emissions during the results period was carried out with respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with relevant safeguards and the legal framework of the country. In this context, and in agreement with the Argentine legal framework, consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities was carried out ensuring rights to free, prior and informed consultation (within the scope of ILO Convention 169), given that the implementation of the Forest Law and other actions that led to emissions reductions, did not involve any type of displacement or relocation of indigenous peoples during the period of results (aspects which, in accordance to the ILO Convention 169, would require free, prior and informed consent of potentially affected indigenous peoples). It should be noted that for the use of the funds of this proposal, FAO as Accredited Entity, will carry out the necessary measures to ensure free, prior and informed consent for the implementation of any project activity that may pose a risk or impact to indigenous peoples and communities (according to the analysis in section 6. Potential risks and mitigation measures), and in strict compliance with the ESS of FAO and the GCF indigenous Peoples Policy.

⁴⁴ **Moderate risk projects include:** a. Projects with identified potential adverse environmental and /or social impacts. b. Potential impacts are not unprecedented in the project area. c. Potential impacts are limited to the project's footprint. d. Potential impacts are neither irreversible nor cumulative. e. Potential adverse impacts can be addressed by the use of recognized good management or pollution abatement practices, and there is a demonstrated record of their successful use in the project area (upstream and downstream). See <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4413e.pdf> for more information.

Table 10. List of safeguard policies triggered for the project

Safeguards	Triggered
ESS 1 – Natural Resources Management	No
ESS2 – Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Natural Habitats	Yes
ESS3 – Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	No
ESS4 – Animal – Livestock and Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	No
ESS5 – Pest and Pesticide Management	No
ESS6 – Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement	No
ESS7 – Decent Work	Yes
ESS8 – Gender Equality	Yes
ESS9 – Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage	Yes

• **ESS2 – Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Natural Habitats. This policy is triggered.**

This standard was triggered because *the project activities may be implemented within the buffer zone of a legally designated protected area or may be located in and/or near an internationally recognized conservation area*. The interventions will specifically aim at reducing deforestation and – in certain areas – enhancing carbon stock in native forests and therefore it is expected that there will be a positive impact on the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural habitats. Specific sites of project implementation will be identified during project implementation inception, however, due to the nature of the project and the focus of a number of interventions at the level of forest basin, or on restoration and recovery of degraded native forests which might be planned within PICs, activities may take place in and/or near protected areas and buffer zones. The use of proceeds will not aim at changing land-use in a detrimental manner for forests, not other natural habitats, biodiversity and ecosystems. At the contrary, through the implementation of the project forest ecosystems will be maintained and enhanced. The further reduction of the deforestation and of landscape fragmentation will have also been highlighted – in this COVID-19 era – as an important tool to reduce the transmission of zoonotic infections⁴⁵. Interventions will be planned and implemented in full respect to the Forest Law and the related OTBN classification, therefore no modification will be implemented in category I (red) areas (please refer to section 0 for details).

Project activities will be designed and implemented with consideration of biodiversity, ecosystems and natural habitats, particularly those that are in or near protected areas. Analyses have already been carried out to identify areas important for biodiversity and a range of other key ecosystem services (see, for example, the work on [social and environmental benefits](#)), and related information was included as specific layers in the Argentina's NFMS [web dissemination platform](#). The information will serve as part of

⁴⁵ Laura S. P. Bloomfield, et al, 2020, Habitat fragmentation, livelihood behaviours, and contact between people and nonhuman primates in Africa, *Landscape Ecology* volume 35, pages985–1000;

Wilkinson DA, Marshall JC, French NP, Hayman DTS. 2018Habitat fragmentation, biodiversity loss and the risk of novel infectious disease emergence. *J. R. Soc. Interface* 15, 20180403

the decision-making inputs when planning areas of intervention for the project, in order to ensure that these services are not negatively affected, but rather are maintained and/or enhanced.

Landscape approaches at the scale of forest basin, where appropriate, will be used to consider integral biophysical and cultural aspects related to sustainable management of land and productive activities.

The design and implementation of systems for forest management with integrated livestock (MBGI) will establish intervention thresholds in native forests for livestock forestry systems that ensure the continuity of forest ecosystem services and is in full respect of environmental standards and the OTBN categorization. While contributing to enhance sustainable rural livelihood, MBGI also aims to avoid the risk of deforestation, reduce fragmentation of native forest, and maintain and improve the integrity of ecosystems and their services, whilst maintaining and improving the productivity of the ecosystem, contributing to the well-being of the associated communities. The National Plan on MBGI defines a series of National Principles and Guidelines that include: (i) minimum elements to be included in the MBGI Management Plans; (ii) the maintenance of exclusive areas for conservation; (iii) the maintenance of all the layers of the forest structure and the conservation of fauna; (iv) periodic monitoring; (v) limiting livestock management to sustainable thresholds, considering the interannual variability; (vi) the prevention and control of forest fires; and (vii) improved management of water sources. (See Annex IV: Forest Law and MGBI environmental standards)

Native forest restoration practices, to be potentially proposed within the PICs, will seek to restore the functional processes of native forests and their biodiversity, taking into account flood control and recovery of forest, soil, biological corridors and burned areas. All restoration activities that will be developed in the project will use native species; it is not anticipated that alien invasive species will be used in any project-related activities.

Throughout the planning and implementation of activities, climate risks will be taken into consideration, both in terms of how extreme weather events (floods, droughts, etc.) and climate variability may affect the short- and long-term success of project activities, as well as how activities can help reduce vulnerabilities to climate change, or be targeted toward the most vulnerable communities. Opportunities for synergies with Argentina's [National Adaptation Plan](#) will be promoted. In this context, a climate change risk assessment will be carried out at project inception in order to identify opportunities for facilitating joint climate change adaptation and reduction of GHG emissions.

- **ESS7 – Decent Work. This policy is triggered.**

The project will work in areas where subsistence producers, agricultural labourers and farmers operate. Activities which foresee the participation of small- and medium-sized farmers and landholders include sustainable forest management at basin level; integrated forest management at local level; integrated forest and livestock management; and fire prevention. There are also plans for the development of sustainable meat certifications or similar schemes to incentivize the positive market impacts of the product deriving from selected project interventions. Besides the purpose of contributing to the continuous reduction of deforestation and carbon emissions, the implementation of the activities will aim at enhancing local livelihood, bringing positive impact on the provinces and communities where it will be implemented. The forestry and agricultural sector in Argentina is characterized by some gender inequalities in land rights, labour market and participation in decision-making processes. A specific Gender Analysis and Action Plan has been developed (see specific document, annex to the full funding proposal); the project has gender-sensitive activities and a specific gender mainstreaming approach to address gender inequalities as well as for promoting decent work and rural employment to support local and rural populations' livelihood and sustainable farming practices.

Argentina has a robust legal framework for labour law, including the National Constitution that recognizes decent and fair working conditions; a maximum number of working hours; rest and paid leave; fair pay and sliding scale minimum wages, among others (article 14 bis). Argentina also has specific legislation applicable to rural areas, such as Law No. 26727 that establishes a Rural Work Scheme with special conditions for rural workers. Additionally, the intervention measures and actions included in the PANByCC may contribute indirectly to meeting the requirements of this safeguard, including:

- A2.4. Create employment opportunities to discourage migration to urban areas;
- A7.2. Promote territorial development and application of comprehensive productive models including forestry, agriculture, livestock, tourism activities and other many uses of forests, whilst maintaining the ecological functions and ecosystem services in a sustainable manner.

In addition to the above, FAO, as the Accredited Entity, will also ensure that employment positions directly related to project activities are aligned with the country's labour rights. The project will be implemented in line with FAO's ESS 7 on Decent Work, available in the [ESMG](#), and including the following objectives:

- Promote direct action to foster decent rural employment.
- Promote fair treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity for all workers.
- Protect and support workers, particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable categories of workers.
- Promote the application of international labour standards in the rural economy, including the prevention and elimination of child labour in agriculture.

The following general requirements will be applied:

- During the life-cycle project developers and implementers will consider and apply principles, practices and techniques that are best suited to avoiding the violation of, and promoting the application of, core international labour standards other international labour standards relevant to the agri-food sector and national employment and labour laws.
- During the life-cycle project developers and implementers will prioritize the creation of more and better employment opportunities, especially for more disadvantaged and vulnerable workers.
- Where avoidance of negative effects on the quantity and/or quality of employment opportunities – for example, employment destruction in specific areas or sectors, increase in workloads, increase in health and safety risks – is not possible, project developers and implementers will minimize adverse impacts and develop specific mitigation strategies.

The following criteria will apply, focused on the creation of more and better employment opportunities, especially for youth and women:

- FAO project formulators and implementers will optimize the potential of agricultural and value chain development, including natural resources management, to create more and better employment opportunities for the poor, especially in rural areas.
- To do so, FAO projects involving the use of agricultural technologies, practices, transformation processes and business models should give due consideration to the importance of using technologies, practices and models that generate more and better employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly.
- FAO projects involving sub-contracting should promote, to the extent possible, subcontracting to local entrepreneurs – particularly to rural women and youth – to maximize employment creation.
- FAO project formulators and implementers should optimize the employment effects of projects' activities on rural youth and women in particular, and make direct efforts to engage and empower them. Specific targets for youth and women should be established in all projects.

- FAO projects involving capacity development and support to the enabling environment (e.g. policy and regulatory frameworks) for agricultural and rural development, should always explicitly consider employment-related capacities.
- FAO projects with a high risk of sectoral restructuring (e.g. shifts to intensive production technologies that carry a significant risk of destroying existing jobs and/or threatening existing livelihoods) should systematically include an ex-ante assessment of these potential impacts, and define a corresponding mitigation strategy.

The following aspects related to non-discrimination and equal opportunity will apply:

- Many forms of discrimination at work persist. All FAO projects will respect the core labour standard of the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
- All employment relationships established will be based on the principle of equal opportunity and fair treatment, and will not discriminate with respect to any aspects.
- Project formulators and implementers will ensure that all projects do not increase existing discrimination at work and, on the contrary, empower and prioritize disadvantaged categories of workers, including small-scale agricultural producers.

Occupational health and safety criteria are:

- All FAO projects that may pose serious OSH risks should undertake a dedicated assessment of these risks and appropriate means of mitigating them.
- All FAO projects that involve direct interactions with workers (including agricultural producers) through concrete activities in the field should ensure workers' safety and health by adopting minimum OSH measures and contributing to improve capacities and mechanisms in place for OSH in informal agriculture and related occupations.

Child labour prevention and reduction provisions include:

- Child labour is defined as work that is inappropriate for a child's age, affects children's education, or is likely to harm their health, safety or morals. Child labour refers to working children below the nationally-defined minimum employment age, or children of any age engaging in hazardous work.
- FAO projects will avoid engaging children in child labour, and will therefore ensure that no children engage in project-related work that could negatively affect their health and personal development or interfere with their compulsory education.
- FAO projects will guarantee that children under the age of 18 who are involved in the project's activities will not be employed under hazardous working conditions. If work of persons under the age of 18 is foreseen, the project will include provisions for appropriate risk assessments and regular monitoring of health, working conditions, and hours of work as well as for improvement in occupational safety and health.
- When operating in a sector or area with a high risk of child labour, project developers and implementers will include some measures to contribute to address the root causes of child labour (economic, social, political, institutional, and cultural).

Regarding forced labour:

- FAO projects will ensure that no forced labour is employed, which consists of any work or service not voluntarily performed that is exacted from an individual under threat of force or penalty. This covers any kind of involuntary or compulsory labour, such as indentured labour, bonded labour, or similar labour-contracting arrangements.

Regarding workers' and producers' organizations:

- Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining is a core labour standard and FAO should both promote it, and denounce any violation of it.
- Promotion here refers to the active support of opportunities for rural workers to join groups, producers' associations or rural workers' organizations. In particular, producers' organizations, contract farming groups, out-growers' associations and other informal groups represent important vehicles to enable rural workers to form representative organizations.
- When supporting producers' and workers' organizations, FAO's projects should in particular look at empowering rural youth and women to join such organizations or organize in specific groups.

- **ESS8 – Gender Equality. This policy is triggered.**

The ESS is triggered because project activities, if not planned or implemented in a gender-sensitive and gender-responsive manner, might risk leading to unequal access to opportunities and benefits, unequal ability to use, develop or protect natural resources, or to discrimination against women or minorities in decision making or implementation of interventions.

To mitigate these risks, as mentioned in the previous paragraph, a specific Gender Analysis and Action Plan has been developed (see specific document, annex to the full funding proposal) leading to the preparation of gender-sensitive and -responsive activities and a specific gender mainstreaming approach for the project.

It is worth mentioning that the assessment highlighted that Argentina has a broad legal framework on gender and human rights at both the international and national levels, which offers the necessary guidelines for the protection of the human rights of women and communities. Therefore, the guiding principles for the implementation of this proposal are compliance with current national and international regulations on gender and the application of social, gender and environmental safeguards and guidelines that guarantee gender equality, rights and the full participation of women. Through the application of its gender action plan, while implementing its activities to continuously reduce deforestation, related carbon emission and while restoring native forests, the project will contribute to strengthening the forest dwellers livelihoods economic autonomy, ensuring equal access of women and minor groups to resources and decision making.

The preparation of the analysis and action plan, as well as the future implementation will benefit from the "Methodological Guidance for the Integration of a Gender Perspective in the Management of Forests and Climate Change", produced by the MArDS with support of the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme. The technical guidelines are currently in the final stages of publication and, once finalized, will be available through the MArDS REDD+ [safeguards webpage](#). For further details, please refer to the Gender Analysis and Action Plan document.

- **ESS9 – Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage. This policy is triggered.**

The project will engage indigenous peoples and local communities particularly for what regards activities on integrated forest management at the local level, and in areas of high cultural value and resources. These interventions will aim not only at reducing emissions from the forest sector and at enhancing forest carbon stocks, but also at enhancing livelihood of forest-dwellers, with special attention to communities most in need, women and men. The interventions will focus with priority on the provinces with the largest rural population in vulnerable situations and the greatest pressure on native forests. This includes the provinces of the *Parque Chaqueño*, *Paranense* Rainforest and Argentine *Yungas* regions such as Chaco, Santiago del Estero, Salta, Misiones and Jujuy. Provinces that are part of the Andean Patagonian Forest, Argentine *Monte* and Argentine *Espinal* forest regions, which have a large indigenous population in their territories, are also considered. The project will focus on communities that depend on the forests of

different regions of the country. The direct participants will include indigenous peoples, *campesinos*, and small-farmer family farming communities, many of whom live in poverty.

Also, in 2014 the *Encuentro nacional de organizaciones territoriales de pueblos originarios* ([ENOTPO](#) for its acronym in Spanish - a space grouping-up 45 indigenous peoples' territorial organizations) accompanied by technicians and officials from different ministries, prepared and agreed upon a [Protocol for Free and Informed Prior Consultation of Native Peoples](#). The protocol was also discussed and considered in specific REDD+ participatory meetings (for example at REDD+ meeting in 2015, access the [presentation](#)), and was intended to serve as input for potential future preparation of a specific law.

The present project is based on the PANByCC and supports its implementation. As reported extensively in the ESA (as an annex of the funding proposal), there was an extensive participatory process for the development of the strategic pillars of the PANByCC, including targeted consultations with indigenous peoples. It is worth mentioning that in that context, MAYDS, with support of the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme developed a “*Technical manual for the consultation with indigenous peoples on matters related to native forest management and climate change* - guidance on free, prior and informed consultation of indigenous peoples” and a “*Guide for the Participation of Relevant Stakeholders in the Implementation of the PANByCC*”, in a consultative and participatory process. The technical guidelines are currently in the final steps of publication and, once finalized, will be available through the [climate change webpage](#) of the government.

Project interventions will be designed to identify and take into consideration indigenous peoples' differentiated needs and priorities, key concerns, and preferred methods of grievance redress. Project activities engaging indigenous peoples and/or in areas of high cultural value and resources, will be designed and implemented following the above mentioned guidelines to ensure full participation and agreement with Indigenous Peoples in full accordance with the [International Labour Organization \(ILO\) Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples](#), to which Argentina is signatory, and in line with Argentina's national and provincial legal framework.

As it will be further indicated in section 8.2, as a signatory of the ILO Convention 169 Argentina recognizes that “indigenous peoples have the right to participate in the adoption of decisions on matters that affect their rights”, and that the State shall consult the peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, whenever consideration is being given to legislative or administrative measures which may affect them directly. Such consultations shall be undertaken, in good faith and in a form appropriate to the circumstances, with the objective of achieving agreement or consent to the proposed measures. An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) has been included in this document, in Section 8, with information on how project activities will be designed and implemented in such a way that fosters the full respect, promotion, and safeguarding of indigenous peoples so that they benefit from the activities in a culturally appropriate manner; and do not suffer harm or adverse effects from the design and implementation of activities financed by this project.

The implementation of the use of proceeds does not include any measure or objective which could result in forced displacement of persons, settlements or land-use change; on the contrary, there are specific safeguards to promote sustainable rural development and the well-being of forest-dependent communities and indigenous peoples, through enhanced forest management and conservation. These instruments, as well as the proposed use of proceeds from the RBP proposal, actually seek to strengthen the “*arraigo*” (settlement) of the communities, decreasing forced-migration of communities and of indigenous peoples towards areas of the country for income.

FAO prohibits forced evictions which include acts involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that they occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating or limiting the ability of an individual, group or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of and access to,

appropriate forms of legal and other protection. Physical and economic displacement includes: (i) involuntary restrictions on land use and access to natural resources that causes a community or groups within a community to lose access to resource usage where they have traditional or recognizable usage rights; (ii) restrictions on access to land or use of other resources, including communal property and natural resources such as marine and aquatic resources, timber and non-timber forest products, freshwater, medicinal plants, hunting and gathering grounds and grazing and cropping areas, physical, cultural and spiritual sites.

The Project will also be implemented in line with the IFC PS5 on Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement, used as the interim GCF safeguard, which defines resettlement as involuntary when affected persons or communities do not have the right to refuse land acquisition or restrictions on land use that result in physical or economic displacement. This occurs in cases of (i) lawful expropriation or temporary or permanent restrictions on land use and (ii) negotiated settlements in which the buyer can resort to expropriation or impose legal restrictions on land use if negotiations with the seller fail. This standard recognizes that displaced persons may have formal legal rights to the land; they may have recognized but not formal legal rights to land (e.g., through traditional customary claim to the land or communal possession of community land); or they may have no recognizable legal right to the land they occupy (e.g., informal settlers). In addition, displaced persons may be seasonal or permanent tenants, paying and non-paying or seasonal migrants. Provision of security of tenure for each category of occupant may differ as outlined in the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, 2007).

Relevant legal framework in line with triggered FAO ESS

The ESA annex to the full project proposal includes a detailed assessment of alignment between Argentina's legal framework and FAO's ESS.

Key aspects as related to the FAO safeguards standards that have been triggered are summarized in Table 11.

Table 11. Key aspects as related to the FAO safeguards standards that have been triggered

ESS 2: Biodiversity, ecosystems and critical habitats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law No. 22351 on National Parks (BO 12/12/1980), Law No. 25675 on minimum budgets for achieving sustainable and adequate management of the environment, preservation and protection of biological diversity and the implementation of sustainable development (BO 28/11/02), and Resolution SAyDS Nº 91/03: of the National Strategy on Biodiversity (BO 24/02/03). • Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992 (CBD) (Law No. 24375; BO 03/10/94) and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Participation of Benefits derived from its use to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2010 (Law No. 27246, BO 06/01/17). • Forest Law, which creates the National Programme for the Protection of Native Forests.
ESS 7: Decent work
Argentina has a robust legal framework of labour law, beginning with the Argentine National Constitution that recognizes decent and fair labour conditions for workers; limited hours; paid rest and vacation; fair remuneration; living minimum wage, among others (art. 14). Likewise, there are special regulations for rural areas, such as Law No. 26727, which creates the Agrarian Work Regime, with special conditions for the agricultural worker.
ESS 8: Gender equality

In Argentina, public policy is increasingly adopting different mechanisms to promote gender equality, including:

- Law No. 26485, of *comprehensive protection to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women in the areas in which they develop their interpersonal relationships* (BO 14/04/09): has among its objectives to guarantee the rights recognized by ratified international conventions by the country on the matter, for the “elimination of discrimination between women and men in all walks of life”;
- *Family Agriculture* Law No. 27118 (BO 28/01/15): establishes among its objectives to contribute to eliminating gender gaps and stereotypes, ensuring equal access between men and women to the rights and benefits enshrined in this law, adapting actions and implementing specific policies in favor of women; likewise, to strengthen the upward social mobility of family, peasant and indigenous agriculture, with special attention to the conditions and needs of women (art. 4.c).
- Law No. 27499, on *Compulsory Gender Training for all Persons in the Three Powers of the State* (BO 10/01/19): creates the Permanent National Program for Institutional Training on Gender and Violence against Women with the aim of “training and sensitizing” all public officials, who make up the different levels of the State.

ESS 9: Indigenous peoples and cultural heritage

- ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, 1989 (Law No. 24071; BO 07/04/92): recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to “maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage” and “Their traditional knowledge (...)” (art. 31). It recognizes the rights to consultation for indigenous’ peoples, and the government’s duty to “consult the peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, whenever consideration is being given to legislative or administrative measures which may affect them directly”(art. 6). Additionally, it establishes indigenous peoples’ right to the free and informed consent in situations related to relocation from the lands which they occupy (art. 16);
- Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992 (CBD) (Law No. 24375, BO 03/10/94): the country assumes the commitment to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities that involve traditional styles the sustainable use of biodiversity;
- 2030 Agenda, 2015: SDG 2 on "zero hunger", SDG 10 "Reduction of inequalities", SDG 4 "Quality education" and SDG 16 "Justice and peace for all", set objectives closely related to improving the conditions of the Most vulnerable sectors, which include indigenous peoples.
- Argentine National Constitution: recognizes the ethnic pre-existence of indigenous peoples;
- Law No. 23302 on Indigenous Policy and support for Aboriginal Communities (BO 08/11/85): defines indigenous peoples, as “the groups of families that are recognized as such by the fact of descending from populations that inhabited the national territory in the time of the conquest or colonization and indigenous or Indians to the members of said community ”(art. 2), and creates the National Indigenous Institute (INAI) (art. 5);
- Decree 91/09, regulation of the Forest Law (BO 16/02/09): defines "peasant communities" as "communities with their own cultural identity, effectively settled in native forests or their areas of influence, dedicated to the work of the land, animal husbandry, and with a diversified production system, aimed at family consumption or marketing for subsistence. In addition, for the purposes of the Native Forest Law, the legal status of those is assimilated with that of indigenous communities (article 2.e);
- Family Agriculture Law No. 27118 (BO 28/01/15): seeks to guarantee the preservation, promotion and dissemination of practices and technologies specific to families organized in family, peasant and indigenous agriculture, in order to strengthen cultural identity, the transmission of knowledge and recovery of good practices on production (art. 24).
- The Forest Law has several provisions to protect the rights of native peoples. On the one hand, art. 19 establishes that "any project for clearing or sustainable management of native forests must recognize

and respect the rights of the indigenous communities that traditionally occupy those lands" (art. 19). Likewise, among the Environmental Sustainability Criteria (CSA) to declare the value of conservation interest of native forests in the respective provincial OTBNs, indicator C10 is included on the value that indigenous and peasant communities give to native forest.

- National Law No 26160 addresses the land survey of indigenous communities (Extensions 26554 / 26894 / 27400) and was passed at the end of 2006 for a four-year term, to address the situation of territorial emergency of Indigenous Communities in the country, consistent with Article 75, paragraph 17, of the National Constitution, and to partly fulfill Article 14, para. c, of ILO Convention 169. This is an emergency and public order law and its objectives are: to declare the territorial emergency of indigenous peoples' communities in the country; stay judgment enforcement, court or administrative proceedings aimed at eviction or vacation of the lands they live on; order a technical, legal and cadastral survey of the indigenous communities and, if necessary, of the currently, traditionally and publicly occupied lands.

5.3.2 Safeguards information and disclosure

According to GCF and FAO policies on access to information, all safeguards instruments related to this project proposal must be disclosed online in English and Spanish versions at least 30 days prior to the GCF Board meeting that will evaluate the Project. Local stakeholders must be able to access the documents in a form and language that are appropriate. FAO is committed to disclosing information in a timely manner and in a way that is accessible and culturally appropriate, placing due attention to the specific needs of community groups which may be affected by project implementation (e.g. literacy, gender, differences in language or accessibility of technical information or connectivity).

FAO will release the applicable information as early as possible, and no later than 30 days prior to project consideration by the GCF Board. FAO uses a disclosure portal to publicly share all of the documentation related to environmental and social safeguards of the project proposal, which is available here: <http://www.fao.org/environmental-social-standards/disclosure-portal/en/>.

In line with the FAO [ESMG](#) policy on disclosure, the following criteria will be applied to the project:

- Disclosure of relevant project information helps stakeholders to effectively participate. FAO will disclose information in a timely manner, before appraisal formally begins, that is accessible and culturally appropriate, placing due attention to the specific needs of community groups which may be affected by project implementation (such as literacy, gender, differences in language or accessibility of technical information or connectivity). This applies to both projects and sub-projects.
- In the case of high risk and some moderate risk projects or sub-projects, national or local legislation may specify disclosure requirements.
- For moderate risk projects or sub-projects FAO releases the applicable information as early as possible, and no later than 30 days prior to project approval. The 30 day period commences only when all relevant information requested from the project has been provided and is available to the public.
- For all high-risk projects or sub-projects, FAO releases the draft ESIA as early as possible, and no later than 60 days prior to project approval. The 60 day period commences only when all the relevant information requested from the project or sub-project has been provided and is available to the public.
- FAO will undertake disclosure for all moderate and high-risk projects or sub-projects.

5.4 Grievance Redress Mechanisms

A grievance redress mechanism (GRM) is an integral project management element that aims to seek feedback from beneficiaries and/or those affected by the project, and resolve complaints related to project activities.

Developing a GRM in line with GCF Environmental and Social Policy (section 7.3) requires a three-scale GRM, as follows:

- (i) At the GCF level: the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM);
- (ii) At the Accredited Entity (AE) level (FAO);
- (iii) At the project activities level.

These GRM scales are described in more detail below.

5.4.1 GCF independent Redress Mechanism

The [GCF independent Redress Mechanism](#) and the GCF Secretariat's indigenous peoples' focal point will be available for assistance at any stage, including before a claim has been made, as required by paragraph 70 of the [GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy](#).

5.4.2 GRM at the AE level: FAO's Guidelines for Compliance Reviews Following the Organization's Environmental and Social Standards

FAO is committed to ensuring that its programmes are implemented in accordance with the Organization's environmental and social obligations. In order to better achieve these goals, and to ensure that beneficiaries of FAO programs have access to an effective and timely mechanism to address their concerns about non-compliance with these obligations, the Organization, in order to supplement measures for receiving, reviewing and acting as appropriate on these concerns at the program management level, has entrusted the Office of the Inspector-General with the mandate to independently review the complaints that cannot be resolved at that level.

FAO will facilitate the resolution of concerns of beneficiaries of FAO programs regarding alleged or potential violations of FAO's social and environmental commitments. For this purpose, concerns may be communicated in accordance with the eligibility criteria of the Guidelines for Compliance Reviews Following Complaints Related to the Organization's Environmental and Social Standards⁴⁶, which applies to all FAO programs and projects.

Concerns must be addressed at the closest appropriate level, i.e. at the project management/technical level, and if necessary, at the Regional Office level. If a concern or grievance cannot be resolved through consultations and measures at the project management level, a complaint requesting a Compliance Review may be filed with the Office of the Inspector-General (OIG) in accordance with the Guidelines. Program and project managers will have the responsibility to address concerns brought to the attention of the focal point.

The principles to be followed during the complaint resolution process include: impartiality, respect for human rights, including those pertaining to indigenous peoples, compliance of national norms, coherence with the norms, equality, transparency, honesty, and mutual respect.

⁴⁶ Compliance Reviews following complaints related to the Organization's environmental and social standards: <http://www.fao.org/aud/42564-03173af392b352dc16b6cec72fa7ab27f.pdf>.

If the compliance review process outlined in the Guidelines results in findings of noncompliance, the Office of the Inspector General will make recommendations to FAO aimed at ensuring that the project meets applicable standards.

The FAO ESM establishes that if no response is received within 7 business days, the complainant can directly contact the corresponding regional office (for Latin America and the Caribbean: FAO-RLC@fao.org).

5.4.3 GRM at the project activities level

Apart from the above-mentioned FAO guidelines, Argentina has key existing channels to attend to complaints and requests for information, such as the Forest Law citizen participation instruments; and the Mechanism for Managing Claims and Suggestions, of the Forests and Community Project. Considering the *Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016* will be implemented in the framework of the Forest Law and as part of the implementation of the PANByCC, its GMR will strongly base on existing mechanisms, so to continue – and enhance – tools to which key actors on the ground are already familiar with.

Forest Law citizen participation instruments

To prevent conflicts and make it easier to address claims and complaints of interventions of application of the Forest Law, the following citizen participation instruments have been operational since 2007:

- Mandatory participatory process for preparing OTBNs;
- Mandatory Public Consultation for adopting Land Use Change Plans (PCUS, in its Spanish acronym) in low conservation value forests (III – green), prior authorization of the Forest Law local enforcement authority;
- COFEMA, as a political-technical discussion forum at the federal level (and specifically, its Native Forest Committee), for general procedures to implement the Forest Law; and
- [Buzón Verde](#) (Green Mailbox): MAYDS has enabled this on-line public consultation mechanism that receives queries, complaints and allegations. This site lists the different communication channels and also includes the contact details of each directorate within the MAYDS, in case of more specific queries. Front Desk of the MAYDS: when a query is received at the front desk, a file is opened through the Electronic Document Management System (GDE, as its acronym in Spanish) and it is redirected to the corresponding area
- In 2014, the National Forests Directorate (DNB) of MAYDS created the **DNB Social Participation Unit (APS-DNB)**⁴⁷ to support participatory methodologies, and to **address claims and complaints, as well as requests for information**. The figure below illustrates the procedure developed within the DNB:

⁴⁷ The Unit was set up at DNB in 2012, based on the need to analyze participatory processes for outlining OTBNs. The Unit (APS) performs the following functions:

1. Analyzes participation processes in the provinces' OTBNs.
2. Provides technical assistance to local enforcement authorities on the participatory process, according to the Forest Law.
3. Outlines participatory methodologies, and acts as moderator at meetings for different DNB and SAYDS units.
4. Manages claims filed with the National Forest Directorate by different stakeholders with regard to OTBNs.

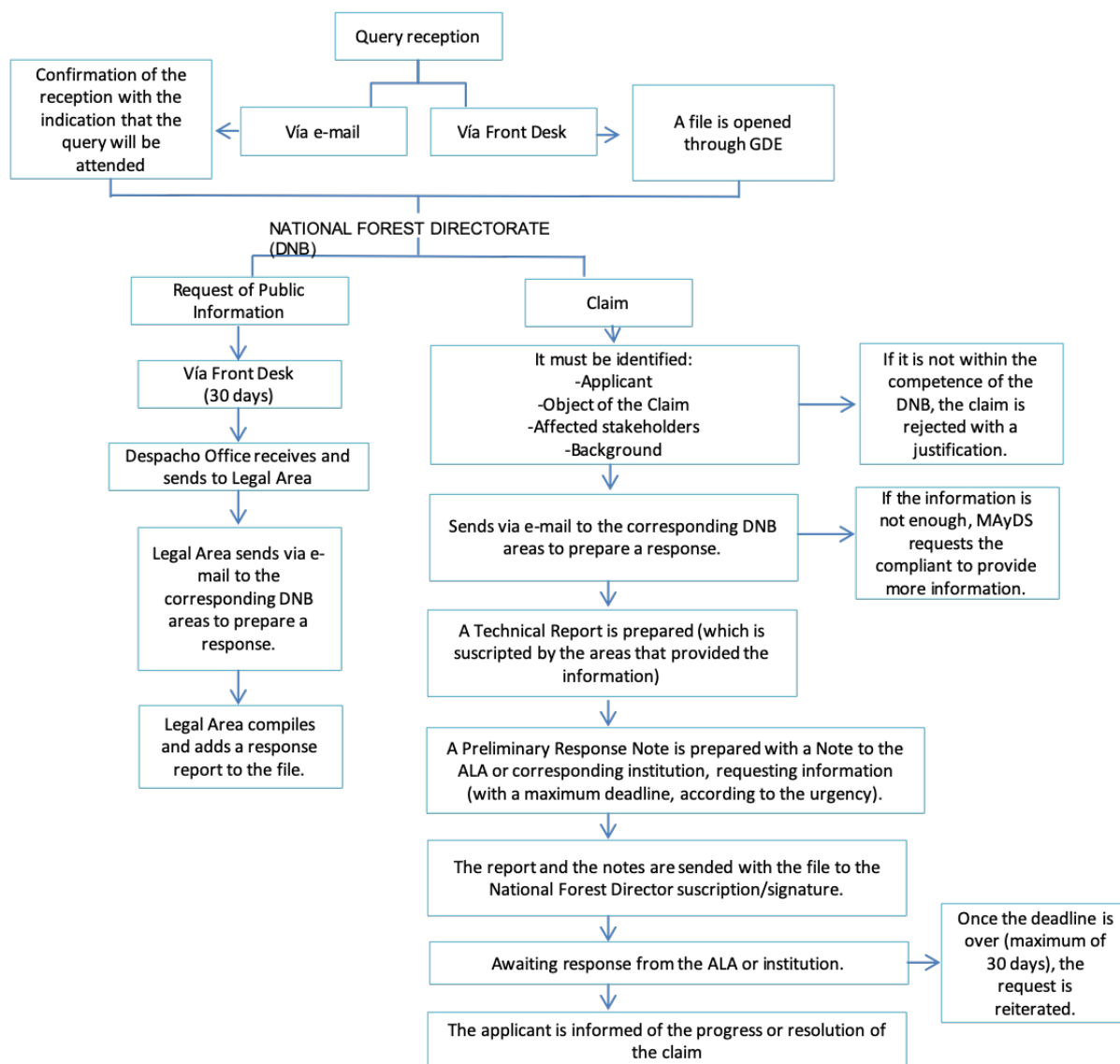


Figure 7. Procedure developed within the DNB to address requests for information, as well as claims and complaints.

The information request or claim is entered through the MAYDs “Entry Table”, in person or by email through the Green Mailbox, as referred above. In the first case, a file is created; in the case of e-mail, a confirmation is sent. Afterwards the case is sent to the DNB.

Within the DNB, the mechanism has two different procedures depending on whether it is a request for public information or a claim. Information requests are sent to the DNB Legal Area, responsible for producing the corresponding information.

When a claim is received, it is first decided whether or not it falls within the competence of the DNB; if not, the case is rejected with justification. If so, the case is sent via e-mail to the relevant DNB area, so that they can prepare the response.

The correspondent DNB area prepares a Technical Report and the "Draft Response Note", and both are sent to the local enforcement authority and/or other entity as appropriate, indicating the question and the time frame for responding (according to the urgency of the case). Then, the file is sent with the

Technical Report and the “Draft Response Note” to the DNB Director, for their consideration and signature.

Once the response from the local enforcement authority or other body is received, the applicant is informed of the progress or resolution of the case.

In the case of non-reply from the local enforcement authority or other entity, after 30 days the request to them is re-sent.

For information about this GRM performance during the Results Period, see the summary of the Social Participation Unit, Forest Directorate (APS-DNB) in the **ESA Report, section 6 Mechanism for addressing claims and complaints with regard to native forests in Argentina.**

GRM of the Forests and Community Project

Furthermore, within the structure of the Forest Law, there are a series of projects that coordinate with one another and create synergies to achieve the goals of the law and of the pertinent initiatives. Among them, it is worth highlighting the **Forests and Community Project** (joint World Bank/FAO/UNDP Programme), within the remit of MAYDS, and that started in 2015. It has a claims and complaints mechanism called “Mechanism for Managing Claims and Suggestions,” which includes a system for addressing claims at an early stage, giving citizens the possibility of sending queries, making suggestions, filing claims and/or requesting information on the project. The mechanism has the following main components:

Stage 1: Receipt of claims or suggestions

It provides the public at large with different options to file claims or make suggestions. People should be informed about this option (e.g. through brochures, posters), and such options should be available for any of the stakeholders wishing to express a concern, without any formality besides mentioning the main purpose thereof and contact data.

Available channels:

- i) Telephone;
- ii) E-mail;
- iii) MAYDS’ [Buzón Verde](#) (Green Mailbox) or section for suggestions or claims on the [Project’s website](#);
- iv) Via a Request for Information, pursuant to Law No. 25831 on Access to Public Environmental Information, and Law No. 27275 on the Right to Access Public Information;
- v) Via the National or Provincial Ombudspersons’ Offices;
- vi) Complaint or Suggestion Boxes at the Provincial Executing Units in three provinces (Chaco, Santiago del Estero and Salta).

Once the claim has been received, the Executing Units shall analyze the appropriateness and timeliness of the claim, and if it is directly related to the Project. If so, then comes Stage 2 (term: 30 working days, pursuant to Law No. 25831).

The Figure below illustrates the procedure of the Mechanism for Managing Claims and Suggestions:

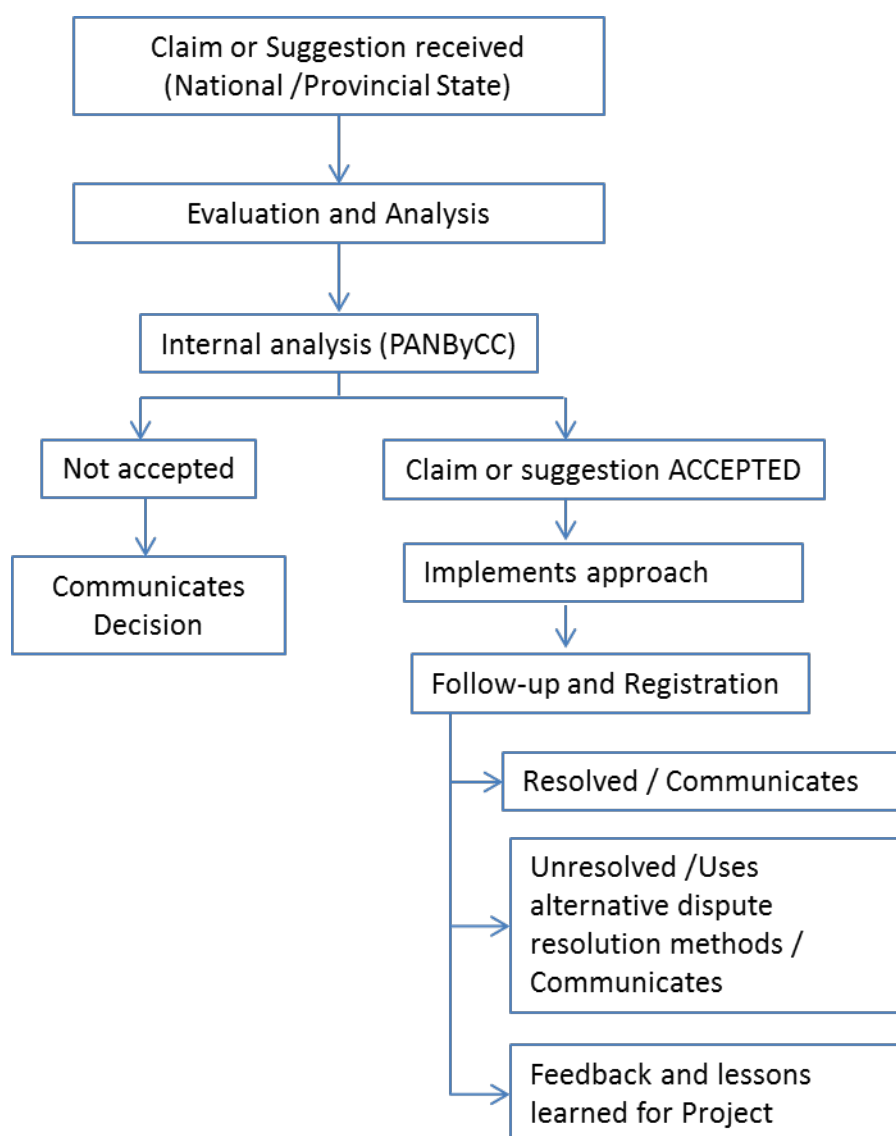


Figure 8. Claims and Complaints Mechanism – Forests and Community Project

Source: SAYDS (2019). Mecanismos de Gestión de Reclamos y Sugerencias. Proyecto Bosques Nativos y Comunidad (BIRF 8493-AR/PNUD ARG 15/004), p. 19.

Stage 2: Evaluation and internal analysis

If appropriate, the query or request for information will be considered and answered. If it is a claim on a project component, its appropriateness will be assessed taking into consideration the following:

- i) If it is related to the project
- ii) If it is deemed pertinent

Once a decision has been made, it shall be sent in writing to the requesting party within the term established under 1). If rejected, the claimant shall be informed of the decision and the reasons therefor (according to the social and cultural characteristics of the claimant), and asked to sign a document stating he/she has been informed, which will be filed together with the query.






Stage 3: Answer to concerns

If a claim or complaint is deemed pertinent, the Executing Units shall contact the claimant within a given time frame, depending on how urgent the matter is:

- *Urgent query*: claimant will be immediately contacted and a solution shall be provided in line with how urgent the matter is;
- *Ordinary query*: the claimant will be contacted within a term of 15 working days to seek a solution and, if it were difficult to find a solution, such term can be extended for an additional 15 days.

In order to determine the relevance and priority of the claim, the Mechanism for Managing Claims and Suggestions has a System to Classify the Claim by Risk Levels, as stated in **Error! Reference source not found..**


Table 12. Claim Categorization System

				
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate/High Risk	High Risk	Claim Solved

Source: (SAyDS, 2019)

Each claim shall be recorded in an Official Register Book to record, follow up on and assess claim-related risks.

Table 13. Official Register Book

Nº	UEL/ UEN	Reclamante / Presentante	Motivo/Tema	Clasific.	Fecha Reclamo	Fecha de respuesta / acciones	Resumen de las acciones que implican la respuesta	Document. respaldatoria	Resolución/Acciones/ Observaciones
1	Provincia de Ejemplo	Ejemplo	Ejemplo		Ejemplo	Ej.	Ej.	Ej.	Ej.

Source: (SAyDS, 2019)

Stage 4: Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods

Vis-a-vis a lack of an effective solution for a claimant (either because the claim was dismissed or because no agreement was reached), the next step is Mediation with the participation of the Executing Unit,

participating third parties (e.g. INTA, INTI, etc.) and community members, to reconcile and help bridge the gap between the parties.

Stage 5: Follow-up and Monitoring

The Project's National Executing Unit (Project's Coordinator of Social and Environmental Safeguards and Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator) will have an Official Register Book at the national headquarters, to record all concerns, suggestions, queries, claims and/or requests for information, in chronological order (SAyDS, 2019).

Project-level grievance mechanism

The *Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016* Project will develop an appropriate GRM during the project inception phase. Such GRM will be in line with GCF Environmental and Social Policy, GCF Indigenous People Policy, the correspondent FAO guidance and the national and subnational relevant legal framework. Considering the project has been designed and it will be implemented in the framework of the Forest Law and as part of the implementation of the PANByCC, it will be strongly based on existing GRM mechanisms related to Argentina's native forests and the Forests and Community Project referred above. This will help to ensure the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the process, by strengthening and tailoring tools for the project, which key actors on the ground are already familiar with. GRM information related to the project will be duly shared with stakeholders during all workshops and participatory platforms, as well as via website and dissemination material.

The Project's GRM will be constructed on the existing **Mechanism for Managing Claims and Suggestions** of the Forests and Community Project, as described above, with certain improvement to fulfill FAO and GCF's requirements, as well as project necessities. It will consider the needs and requirements of all stakeholders who are involved in or may be affected by the project, including indigenous peoples, *campesinos* and women. At the minimum, the development of the mechanism will be guided by the following components:

- Receipt of complaints or suggestions via various culturally appropriate channels (online portal; e-mail; telephone; via a Request for Information, pursuant to Law No. 25831 on Access to Public Environmental Information, and Law No. 27275 on the Right to Access Public Information; via the National or Provincial Ombudspersons' Offices);
- Evaluation and internal analysis, including consideration of relevance and pertinence;
- Answer to concerns, within a given time frame;
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods: If no agreement is reached through the previous steps, mediation can take place, with appropriate third parties to help reconcile the issue;
- Follow-up and monitoring will take place to record all concerns, suggestions, queries, claims and/or requests for information, and to ensure all complaints or suggestions are dealt with appropriately, in a timely manner; and
- Public access to information related to the GRM structure, operation and performance, according to GCF and FAO's requirements, aimed to ensure the GRM is accessible, equitable, predictable, transparent, and that allows for continuous learning.

The project will establish a grievance mechanism at local level to file complaints during project inception phase. Contact information and information on the process to file a complaint will be disclosed in all meetings, workshops and other related events throughout the life of the project. In addition, it is expected that all awareness raising material to be distributed will include the necessary information regarding the contacts and the process for filing grievances.

The project will also be responsible for documenting and reporting as part of the safeguards performance monitoring on any grievances received and how they were addressed.

The mechanism includes the following stages:

1. In the instance in which the claimant has the means to directly file the claim, he/she has the right to do so, presenting it directly to the Project Coordination Unit (PCU). The process of filing a complaint will duly consider anonymity as well as any existing traditional or indigenous dispute resolution mechanisms and it will not interfere with the community's self-governance system.
2. The complainant files a complaint through one of the channels of the grievance mechanism. This will be sent to the Project General Coordinator (PGC) to assess whether the complaint is eligible. The confidentiality of the complaint must be preserved during the process.
3. Eligible complaints will be addressed by the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). The PGC will be responsible for recording the grievance and how it has been addressed if a resolution was agreed.
4. If the situation is too complex, or the complainer does not accept the resolution, the complaint must be sent to a higher level, until a solution or acceptance is reached.
5. For every complaint received, a written proof will be sent within ten (10) working days; afterwards, a resolution proposal will be made within thirty (30) working days.
6. In compliance with the resolution, the person in charge of dealing with the complaint, may interact with the complainant, or may call for interviews and meetings, to better understand the reasons.
7. All complaint received, its response and resolutions, must be duly registered.

Internal process

1. Project Management Unit (PMU). The complaint could come in writing or orally to the PMU directly. At this level, received complaints will be registered, investigated and solved by the PMU.
2. If the complaint has not been solved and could not be solve in level 1, then the Project Manager (PM) elevates it to the Project Board.
3. FAO Representative. The assistance of the FAO Representative is requested if a resolution was not agreed in levels 1 and 2.
4. FAO Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean. FAO Representative will request, if necessary, the advice of the Regional Office to resolve a grievance, or will transfer the resolution of the grievance entirely to the regional office, if the problem is highly complex.
5. The FAO Regional Representative will request only on very specific situations or complex problems the assistance on the FAO Inspector General who pursuits its own procedures to solve the problem.

Resolution

Upon acceptance a solution by the complainer, a document with the agreement should be signed with the agreement.

Table 14. Review level and contact details

Review Level	Contact Details
Project Management Unit (PMU)	Must respond within 5 working days.
Project Board	Anyone in the team may receive a complaint and must provide proof of receipt. If the case is accepted, the Project Manager (PM) must send the information to all Project Board members and call for a meeting to find a solution. The response must be sent within 5 working days after the meeting of the Project Advisory Committee.

FAO Representation in Country	Must respond within 5 working days in consultation with FAO's Representation. FAO-Argentina Officer-in-Charge FAO-AR@fao.org
FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	Must respond within 5 working days in consultation with FAO's Representation. FAO Representative: Julio Berdegue RLC-ADG@fao.org; Julio.Berdegue@fao.org Tel: (56 2) 2923 2100
Office of the Inspector General (OIG)	To report possible fraud and bad behaviour by fax, confidential: (+39) 06 570 55550 By e-mail: Investigations-hotline@fao.org By confidential hotline: (+ 39) 06 570 52333

Interim GRM for the Project

While the project's GRM is being established and made operational, the FAO GRM described in [section 5.4.1](#) will serve as the interim GRM for the project, supporting and complementing the MAYDS' "Green Mailbox", as described in [section 5.4.2](#). The internal processes and institutional responsibilities for the project-level GRM will be further defined at project inception.

5.5 UNFCCC safeguards for REDD+

In addition to the safeguards, frameworks and guiding principles mentioned above, activities implemented with the use of proceeds from this proposal will also be consistent with the UNFCCC safeguards for REDD+, also known as the Cancun safeguards.

REDD+ policies, actions and measures have the potential to generate additional social and environmental benefits, but their planning and implementation may carry certain risks. In this regard, to minimize these potential risks, while promoting the multiple benefits of REDD+, the Parties to the UNFCCC have adopted the "Cancun safeguards": a set of seven safeguards that must be addressed and respected by countries that implement REDD+.

To help respond to UNFCCC guidance and requirements, and to help ensure that REDD+ activities will be designed and implemented in a way that avoids or mitigates risks, while promoting benefits, Argentina developed a [national safeguards approach](#). This was developed through a broad multi-stakeholder participatory process led by the MAYDS, through the National Directorate of Climate Change, in conjunction with the National Directorate of Forests, and with the support of Argentina's UN-REDD National Programme. This Approach, which is described in more detail in the [First Summary of Information on REDD+ Safeguards in Argentina for the period 2014-2019](#), includes several elements, all of which are available through the [climate change webpage](#) of the Argentine government:

- [National safeguards interpretation](#): legal and institutional framework to support the addressing and respecting of REDD+ safeguards in the design and implementation of the PANByCC, and other REDD+ initiatives, according to the country context;

- [Safeguards Information System \(SIS-AR\)](#): existing information systems and sources to inform how the country addresses and respects REDD+ safeguards in the design and implementation of PANByCC, and other REDD + initiatives;
- [Summary of Safeguards Information](#): summary report sent to the UNFCCC to report on how REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected in the PANByCC, and other REDD+ initiatives (available online); and
- [Tools for the Implementation of Safeguards on the Ground](#): a set of documents and guidelines to facilitate compliance with safeguards in the implementation of the PANByCC, or other REDD+ initiatives. At present, tools covering the following aspects are in the final phase of preparation:
 - Indigenous peoples' rights to free, prior and informed consultation;
 - Stakeholder engagement;
 - Gender mainstreaming in the management of forests and climate change; and
 - Analysis of social and environmental benefits of native forests.

In addition, analyses of potential benefits and risks of REDD+ policies and measures were carried out, to ensure that the PANByCC would be designed and implemented in a manner consistent with the REDD+ safeguards, seeking to avoid or mitigate potential social and environmental risks and enhance or promote benefits.

The formulation of safeguards under the UNFCCC constitutes a general framework and countries are expected to "interpret" the meaning of the Cancun safeguards in their own national context. The Cancun safeguards have been interpreted in the national context of Argentina, with analyses of relevant legal and institutional framework, as detailed in the Summary of Information, and as summarized below:

Safeguard a: That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements.

National interpretation: The PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives contribute to the objectives of the national policies on native forests and climate change, respecting the national regulatory and institutional framework and international conventions and agreements on the matter, which have been ratified by the country.

A.1 Compatibility and complementarity with the objectives of the national policies on native forests and climate change, and with the regulatory and institutional framework on this matter.

A.2. Compatibility and complementarity with the objectives of international conventions and agreements ratified by the country that are relevant to the native forest sector.

Safeguard b: Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty.

National interpretation: The country's regulatory and institutional framework promotes transparency and effectiveness in the governance of native forests, in the implementation of the PANByCC or other REDD+ initiatives.

B.1. The PANByCC, and other REDD+ initiatives, are implemented under a national governance framework for native forests that promotes transparency and access to information.

B.2. The PANByCC, and other REDD+ initiatives, are implemented within the national framework of effective governance of native forests, which includes dispute resolution mechanisms and adequate access to justice.

B.3. The PANByCC, and other REDD+ initiatives, are implemented with a gender approach.

Safeguard c: Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

National interpretation: The PANByCC, or other REDD+ initiatives, are implemented with the participation and respect of the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and forest-dwelling and forest-dependent communities, in accordance with national circumstances and the corresponding national and international regulatory framework.

C.1. The PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives are implemented respecting the right to free, prior and informed consultation of indigenous peoples, when a measure or action may affect the rights of indigenous peoples present in the territory.

C.2. The PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives are implemented with the recognition, respect, and promotion of traditional and ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities.

C.3. The PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives promote respect for the rights of land access and tenure of indigenous peoples and forest-dwelling and forest-dependent communities.

Safeguard d: The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision.

National interpretation: In the implementation of the PANByCC, or other REDD+ initiatives, a framework for the full and effective participation of key stakeholders, particularly indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities, is promoted, with a gender approach.

D.1. The PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives promote the full and effective participation of key stakeholders, with a gender perspective and, in particular, of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities.

D.2. The PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives promote the distribution of benefits, with a participatory approach and gender perspective, adapted to the specificities of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Safeguard e: That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits.

National interpretation: The PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives, consistent with the Forest Law (No. 26331), promotes the protection and conservation of native forests (or other natural ecosystems) and biodiversity, in addition to the protection and promotion of ecosystem services related to native forests.

E.1. The PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives are consistent with the conservation of native forests and biodiversity, avoiding the conversion of native forests (or other natural ecosystems), and contributing to the protection and conservation of ecosystem services.

E.2. The PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives are intended to incentivise the protection, conservation and sustainable management of native forests and their ecosystem services, while enhancing other environmental, social and economic benefits.

Safeguard f: Actions to address the risks of reversals.

National interpretation: The country has measures in place to address the risks of reversals of emissions reduced by the PANByCC and other REDD + initiatives.

Safeguard g: Actions to reduce the displacement of emissions.

National interpretation: The country has measures in place to reduce the risk of displacement of emissions during implementation of the PANByCC and other REDD + initiatives.

5.5.1 Relevant legal framework

Argentina's extensive legal framework relevant for addressing and respecting the UNFCCC safeguards for REDD+ is highlighted in the Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) annex to this proposal, and is also available in Argentina's first [Summary of Safeguards Information](#) and the [Safeguard Information System](#). This information is briefly summarized below.

Safeguard A: Alignment with national and international forest policies

The regulatory framework of the country's native forests at the national level is mainly made up of the Forest Law (Law No. 26331), the regulations on protected areas and those related to forest fire management. At the international level, the country ratified the United Nations system treaties on climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development, along with other indirectly related inter-American system treaties.

In the Argentine Republic, the complementarity between national and international law is ensured by means of the National Constitution, by recognizing them as supra-legal and even supra-constitutional hierarchy to international treaties (art. 75, inc. 22). Also, in 2009 the Law No 27520 on *Minimum Standards for Global Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation* (O.G. of 20 December 2019) was enacted. It provides the basis for the climate change national policy, to be further complemented by the provinces. Among other relevant matters, it formalized the National Climate Change Cabinet (GNCC), also it establishes the preparation of the National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Action Plan.

Safeguard B: Transparent and effective forest governance

The country has a regulatory and institutional framework to promote transparent governance of native forests, with access to information on environmental matters by citizens, both with national regulations and the Law on Access to Public Information (Law No. 27275), and the General Environmental Law (Law No. 25675); as with ratified international instruments: the United Nations Convention and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the American Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Forest Law (Law No. 26331) and the General Environment Law promote national and effective governance of natural forests. Both minimum budget laws ensure a "floor" of environmental protection.

The country has legal tools for universal access to justice and mechanisms for the resolution of disputes, contemplated by national and international regulations. Among them stands out the art. 41 of the National Constitution that establishes the right of every inhabitant to a healthy environment, and art. 43 that creates the "environmental protection", as a tool for the defense of said right, provided that there is no other more suitable judicial means. In turn, the General Law of the Environment establishes the principle of "who pollutes pays", legitimizing the Ombudsman, environmental NGOs and the State as beneficiaries of environmental damage.

With regard to strengthening the **gender approach** in public policy, this impacting in forest governance, it is worth mentioning *Law No. 27499 on Mandatory training in gender issues for all National Officials working in the Three Branches of the State* (O.G. of 10 January 2019), which establishes the Permanent National Programme for Institutional Training in Gender Issues and Violence against Women with the goal of "educating and creating awareness" among all public officials working in different State levels; and the Creation of the Ministry for Women, Genders and Diversity (O.G. of 10 December 2019).

Safeguard C: Knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities

The National Constitution recognizes the ethnic and cultural pre-existence of indigenous peoples (art. 75, paragraph 17), and the country has a national and international framework that recognizes the right of those to be consulted on issues that may affect their rights. Worth mentioning that NC and the Civil code reform Law No. 26994/2014) and the Law No. 26994 recognize community ownership and ownership of lands traditionally occupied by indigenous peoples. Also relevant mentioning: Law No. 23302 on *Indigenous Policy and Support to Aboriginal Communities* (mentioned in more details in section 8 of this document), Law No. 26160 on possession and ownership of lands traditionally occupied by indigenous communities. However, there is still the need of a Community property law, which could establish minimum standards for more effective implementation of these rights.

Argentina is also signatory of key international regulations on the recognition, respect and promotion of traditional knowledge, and access rights and land tenure of native peoples and forest-dwellers, such as the Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO), Convention on Biological Diversity, 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals), and domestic law (National Civil and Commercial Code,

Native Forest Law, Family Agriculture Law, and others).

As the **PANByCC** was developed through an extensive participatory process that included indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities, one of the goals of Strategic Structural Pillar (SSP) 2, *Strengthening of local communities*, was to contribute to the legal certainty of land ownership of these stakeholders. This goal seeks to “improve the conditions of local communities, specifically regarding regularization and certainty of land ownership, in order to implement long-term native forest management and conservation actions. Among the actions included in this Pillar are: A2.1 *Promote regularization of land ownership based on recognition of the territories of indigenous peoples and local communities*.

Additionally, the PANByCC addresses the component of the safeguard related to traditional knowledge through Strategic Structural Pillar 5, *Knowledge management*, promoting generation and application of ancestral knowledge for sustainable management and conservation of native forests. Furthermore, the Strategic Structural Pillar (SSP 2) entitled “Strengthening of local communities”, which, among other purposes, seeks to:

Promote land tenure regulation based upon the recognition of indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ territories;
Develop and strengthen the capacities of the local communities and make available to them, in a transparent fashion, the information and necessary instruments to attain a sustainable use of resources.

Safeguard D: Full and effective participation of stakeholders

The country's regulatory framework promotes the participation of the different actors involved in the management of native forests, with institutions for their effective implementation.

At the international level, Convention 169 of ILO on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, ratified by the country (Law No. 24071), which states that governments should consult them through appropriate procedures (art. 6) and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that “indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in issues that affect their rights”(art. 18).

At the national level, the General Law on the Environment (Law No. 25675) establishes that “everyone has the right to be consulted and to give an opinion on administrative procedures related to the preservation and protection of the environment, which are of general or particular incidence, and of general scope”(art. 19). For its part, the Forest Law (Law No. 26331), establishes that the territorial ordering of native forests must be carried out through a participatory process, and that “any project for clearing or sustainable management of native forests” must respect the rights of indigenous peoples (art. 19).

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Safeguard E: Protection and conservation of native forests (or other natural ecosystems) and biodiversity

Argentina’s National Constitution establishes the duty of the authorities to preserve the “natural and cultural heritage and biological diversity” (art. 41).

In the same sense, the Forest Law proposes to conserve forests based on a classification according to their conservation value in high (red), medium (yellow), and low (green), with clearing allowed in the latter case only (art. 14), prior authorization and approval of the corresponding Plan for the Use of Land Use Change and environmental impact assessment.

The Forest Law defines as environmental services of native forests the “tangible and intangible benefits generated by the ecosystems of the native forest (...)”. By way of example, it considers water regulation, biodiversity conservation, fixing of greenhouse gas emissions and others (art. 5). As this list is not exhaustive, said article could serve as a legal basis for recognizing the benefits of REDD+ beyond carbon.

Argentina also ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (Law No. 24375) whose main objective is “the conservation of biological diversity”.

Additionally, the PANByCC provides for a series of actions intended to improve the national system of

protected areas, including, among others:

- A8.1. *Strengthen and support native forest conservation activities on public and private lands, and on local communities' territories comprising forest ecosystems with a high conservation value;*
- A8.2. *Promote the creation and implementation of new protected areas in focal sites for biological diversity that currently have conservation gaps;*
- A8.3. *Promote connectivity among areas of conservation value by means of ecological corridors and other strategies.*

Safeguard F: Risks of reversals of emissions

Addressing the risks of reversion involves establishing measures to ensure the long-term permanence of the reduction of emissions and the increase in captures of greenhouse gases by the implementation of REDD+ actions.

The Forest Law (Law No. 26331) has among its objectives the conservation through the territorial ordering of native forests and the regulation and control of the decrease in the area of native forests throughout the country. For this, the National State allocates 30% of the resources of the Law Fund to develop and maintain the monitoring network and information system of native forests (art. 35).

One of the risks of reversion is forest fires, understood as a fire that, whether produced by natural or human causes, spreads without control or planning in a forest landscape and that affects the soil and biodiversity of the area. To this end, the country generated a broad regulatory framework from various perspectives of public policy:

- Law No. 26815 created the Federal Fire Management System (SFMF) to “prevent, suppress and fight forest and rural fires (...) in native forests and other non-urban ecosystems”, which are one of the main reversal risks. The SFMF also has a [Forest and Rural Fire Early Warning and Hazard Assessment Program](#), which was already in place during the Results Period. Currently, it offers detailed and public information on tracking of early warning reports linked to [Fire Hazard Indexes](#) of the National Weather Service, monthly forest fires reported and other;
- Criminal Code of the Argentine Nation (Law No. 11179): causing fires in forests, plantations, trees or bushes is a criminal offense with a prison term of three to ten years (art. 186);
- Forest Law 26331 states that native forests degraded by fire or others natural or anthropic events must be recovered and restored through local authorities, having to maintain the forest category defined in the OTBN (art. 40), as a measure to avoid speculation or intentional forest fires to enable land use changes;
- Law No. 26562 (O.B. 12/16/2009) on Minimum Environmental Protection Standards to Control Burning Activities, aims at preventing fires, environmental damage and risks to public health and safety. In accordance with this, burning activities without specific authorization by relevant local authorities are prohibited throughout the national territory (art. 3). Penalty fines are established. Regulation of this Law is still pending;
- Decree 706/2020: establishes that MAYDS is the enforcement authority of the SFMF throughout the country and responsible for operational firefighting response actions.

As detailed out in the Buffer annex of the Funding Proposal, and in safeguard C of this document (above) Argentina also has a set of key laws and regulations providing an enabling environment for the respect of tenure rights – which further support the mitigation of the risk of reversal.

Additionally, the **PANByCC** has several tools to avoid or mitigate the risk of reversal. As part of SSP 1, on *Strengthening Governance*, the Plan seeks to coordinate and strengthen interinstitutional, interjurisdictional and interdisciplinary actions (A1.2) and enforce existing legislation more efficiently (A1.4). In turn, SSP 3 seeks to *Strengthen management, control and monitoring capabilities*. Finally, SOP 10 seeks to improve the capabilities to prevent forest fires, including measures such as the implementation of plans to reduce fuels (fine and coarse) and other prevention activities (firewalls), mainly in the Andean Patagonian Forest and

Argentine *Espinal* forest regions (FCPF Argentina, 2019). Also, component C of the RBP project proposal has specific actions aimed at enhancing response to forest fires (see section C.2., component C of the FP)

Safeguard G: Risk of displacement

Displacement or leakage of emissions can occur when efforts to reduce emissions in a given area result in increased emissions elsewhere.

The Forest Law (Law No. 26331) addresses this safeguard, since it is applicable throughout the national territory based on pre-established criteria, which prevent the movement of deforestation to other forests under some of the three conservation categories of the own law, regardless of jurisdiction.

6 Potential risks and mitigation measures

Throughout the development of the PANByCC, a number of risk assessment exercises took place to help inform Plan development and ensure that strategic structural and operational axes were adequately designed with consideration of potential social and environmental impacts. In addition to these assessments, which have helped to inform understanding of potential impacts of the activities to be implemented with the use of proceeds, additional risk screening has been carried out specifically for this RBPs project. The FAO Environmental and Social Risk Identification screening, as detailed in the previous section, has helped to identify possible negative impacts and risks of the project activities to be implemented.

Building on these multiple assessment exercises, the table below (Table 16, section 6.4) summarizes key potential risks and impacts related to the implementation of project activities. This table will serve as the basis for further assessment to be undertaken at project inception, and will directly feed into the design of activities and sub-activities (as described later in this document). The identification of risks informs the selection of measures needed to manage these risks (which can include measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate risks), many of which relate to the application of laws and policies in the country.

The risks are likely to change over time, and will depend on how, when, where and with whom the activities associated with the use of proceeds are implemented. As such, the identification of risks, as well as the definition of measures to prevent, minimize or mitigate them, are continuous processes that will be associated with periodic monitoring and reporting, in a participatory manner. These processes will involve relevant stakeholders throughout the risk management cycle.

6.1 Principles and procedures to mitigate impacts for implementation

In order to ensure that potential environmental and social impacts are addressed properly in accordance and in compliance with FAO and GCF Policies, as well as the UNFCCC safeguards for REDD+, all project activities will undergo a detailed screening, assessment, review, and clearance process before implementation of the project activities. This information will help identify, address and mitigate specific risks and impacts, depending on where, how, when and with whom the activities are implemented. In the case that sub-projects or sub-activities are screened and found to be high risk, they will be avoided; where avoidance is not feasible, risks will be minimized or mitigated to acceptable levels.

As the Project is classified as **Moderate Risk**, according to the screening against FAO Guidelines, the analysis undertaken will serve as a basis to prepare an Environmental and Social (ES) Analysis for Moderate Risk Projects, according to FAO guidelines. This will be developed at project inception, and once the areas of intervention as well as all relevant stakeholders who could be involved in or affected by project activities have been identified. These same stakeholders will be involved in the development of the Analysis.

Based on recommendations in the ES Analysis, and in line with FAO guidance on Moderate Risk projects, an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will be prepared to set out the measures and actions required for the project to manage and effectively mitigate environmental and social risks and achieve compliance with the ESM. The ESCP will set out the project commitments and list actions that the project will take, with a timeframe for these actions, to achieve compliance with the standards, and manage the identified risks and impacts throughout the entire life of the project. The ESCP will incorporate the mitigation recommendations of the Environmental and Social Analysis and the results of the stakeholder engagement process and will summarize concrete measures and actions required to avoid, minimize, reduce or otherwise mitigate the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the project.

FAO's environmental and social screening checklist will also help determine if a sub-activity will require a separate Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). This will apply to sub-activities that are classified as "moderate risk" according to the screening process. While the nature, magnitude, reversibility, and location of impacts are main elements in the screening of sub-activities, expert judgment will be a main factor in deciding whether an ESMP is required for a sub-activity or not.

For a sub-activity that requires a specific ESMP, the proposal must include a set of mitigation measures with monitoring (including the development of indicators and a timeframe where the completion of such mitigation measures are expected) and institutional arrangements to be taken during the implementation phase to correctly manage any potential adverse environmental and social impacts that may have been identified.

The sub-activity level ESMP – which by rules and procedures will be prepared at the inception of the project - should include:

- **Mitigation measures:** Based on the environmental and social impacts identified from the checklist, the ESMP should describe each mitigation measure in detail, together with operating procedures, roles and responsibilities.
- **Monitoring:** Environmental and social monitoring will take place during the implementation of the sub-activities, in order to measure the success of the mitigation measures. The ESMP will include a description of the methodologies and approaches for monitoring mitigation measures, including indicators, frequency, sampling areas and definitions of thresholds signalling the need for corrective actions, etc. It will also include the monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure early detection of impacts and provide information on the progress and results of particular mitigation measures.
- **Institutional arrangements:** The ESMP should also provide a specific description of institutional arrangements, i.e. who is responsible for carrying out the mitigating and monitoring measures (for operation, supervision, enforcement, monitoring of implementation, remedial action, financing, reporting and staff training). Additionally, the ESMP should include an estimate of the costs of the measures and activities recommended so that the necessary funds are included. The mitigation and monitoring measures recommended in the ESMP should be developed in consultation with all the affected groups to incorporate their concerns and views into its design.

Once the pre-implementation documents with ESMPs are endorsed by the ESM unit in FAO Headquarters, the project safeguards specialist will ensure ESMPs are included and reported upon, along with stakeholder engagement, in the context of the monitoring plan. In this context, field staff will be responsible for monitoring the progress, as relevant, in the monitoring plan, as well as to identify any potential risks that may emerge through the implementation phase. This information will be compiled in

progress reports; templates will include a section on environmental and social risk management, where the above information will be reported upon.

6.1.1 Defining and screening sub-activities

The project, by its design, is intended to have environmental and social benefits. Though the potential negative impacts and risks from the project are likely to be small and limited, such impacts could result in larger impacts if they are not identified early during the planning cycle, with appropriate mitigation measures integrated into project planning and implementation. The identification and analysis of sub-activities can help to identify potential or expected impacts, as well as mitigation and monitoring measures.

FAO and MAYDS, through the PMU of the project, will be committed to ensuring meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders to help define sub-activities during the project inception phase (Year 1). Stakeholder consultation is an integral part of the sub-activity preparation process, and public disclosure and comment are necessary prior to the decision to approve or reject a programming sub project on the basis of environmental and social information. The identification of sub-activities will be informed by a continual process of risk screening and analysis, wherein initial planning and selection of sites is informed by any potential adverse impacts, and either re-planned or developed with accompanying appropriate mitigation measures. Special attention will be paid to ensure that the risk classification of the project is not increased, and on potential impacts on protected areas, indigenous peoples, decent work and gender equality. In the case that sub-projects or sub-activities are screened and found to be high risk, they will be avoided; if not feasible, risks will be minimized or mitigated to acceptable levels.

The PMU, with overall FAO supervision, supported by MAYDS safeguards experts and collaboration from UNEP, will undertake environmental and social screening of sub-activities, following the Environmental and Social Screening Checklist together with MAYDS. The results of the screening checklists will be analyzed by the project safeguards specialists, and sent to the Environmental and Social Management Unit in FAO for endorsement. Screening of sub-activities will involve:

- Checking that the activities involved are permissible (as per the legal and regulatory requirements of the project);
- Determining the level of further assessment required based on the level of expected impacts.

The screening checklist will result in the following screening outcomes: (i) determining the risk category for further assessment; and (ii) determining which additional assessment instruments are to be applied.

FAO will be the responsible entity for ESS with its role of main executing entity, while ensuring an oversight role for the ESS related to the implementation of activities or sub-activities by implementing partners within the Operational Partners Implementation Modality (OPIM). This modality allows FAO to carry out projects in collaboration with national and non-profit actors, to achieve more sustainable results. In this case, operational partners can manage ESS specific to its defined role, ensuring that ESS comply to FAO requirements.

As a first step, the project will go through ESS screening and the Lead Technical Officer (LTO) has to assign the risk and ensure that relevant ESS are triggered and processes are put in place to ensure compliance. To ensure that operational partners (OP) comply with FAO ESS requirements, it is foreseen that FAO will:

- Agree with the OP on the conditions under which the FAO can provide support to the project (during project preparation);
- Assess the OP capacity to implement FAO ESMG;
- Assist the OP in identifying appropriate methods and tools to assess and manage the potential ES risks and impacts of the Project;

- As and where required and possible, support the OP to carry out early and continuing engagement and meaningful consultation with stakeholders, in particular affected communities, and in providing Project-based grievance mechanisms; and
- Monitor the ES performance of the Project (OP Project).

6.2 Argentina Environmental and Social Assessment which Subprojects/Activities are subject to

In addition to this screening, FAO will also ensure environmental and social due diligence compliance with Argentina's environmental and social laws, regulations and procedures. Screening of activities and sub-activities will be consistent with Argentina's principles and procedures to mitigate environmental and social impacts in the implementation of projects, including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures in Argentina.

The EIA was established as a national instrument of environmental policy and management by the General Environmental Law No. 25675 (O.G. 28/11/02) (art. 8). Considering Argentina's federal system, this Law represents a national environmental law of minimum standards that provides the legal basis, principles and requirements, to be complemented at the provincial level. Currently all provinces have EIA regulations, some through a general environmental law and others through specific EIA laws.⁴⁸ Additionally, at the national level, the EIA general procedure is complemented by a number of specific requirements in sectoral laws, such as the Forest Law No. 26331, Law No. 24585 on Environmental Protection for Mining Activity, and Law No. 26639 on the Preservation of Glaciers, among others.

According to the General Environmental Law, any work or activity that may generate a negative impact on the environment, or any of its components, or that could affect the population's quality of life in a significant way, will be subject to an EIA prior to its execution (art. 11). As mentioned previously, this would include any modifications in Category III (green) areas in the Forest Law, which require an EIA before they can be partially or wholly modified.

The EIA procedure has different stages, which vary according to each regulatory framework or procedure set by provincial authorities. The Figure below summarizes the general procedure:

⁴⁸ [MAyDS. Guide for the preparation of EIAs.](#)

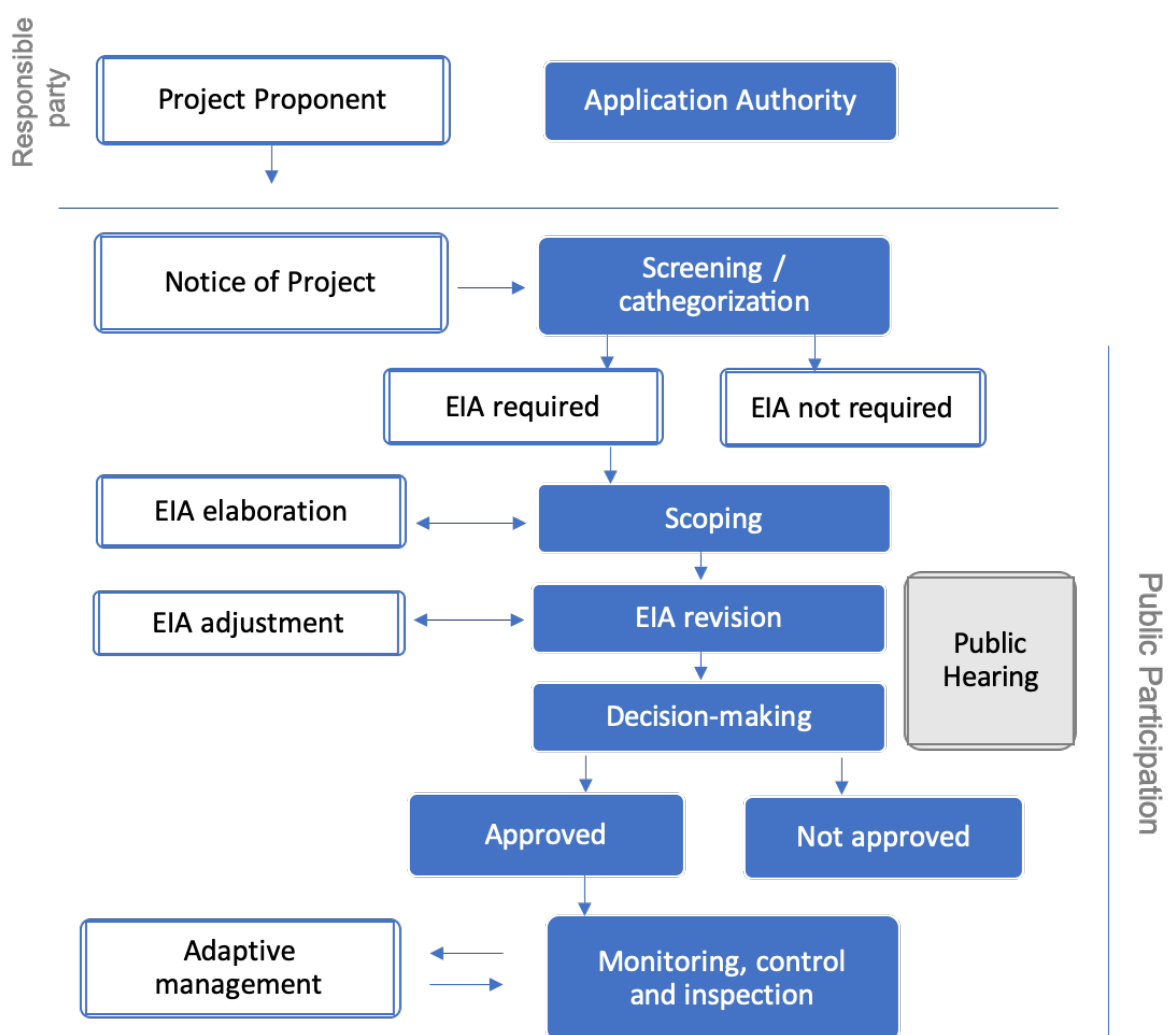


Figure 9: General stages of an EIA procedure; Source: MAyDS. Guide for the preparation of EIAs

As can be seen in this figure, some activities correspond to those proposing the project, and others to the provincial environmental enforcement authority. In the screening stage, the environmental authority determines whether or not a project must have an EIA, determined by the type of project and information such as technology, location, etc., corresponding to the potential of the project to cause significant environmental impacts. This categorization is dependent on sub-national regulations. If an EIA is needed, the authority must determine the EIA requirements according to the scope of the project, which may be established in general terms in provincial regulations, in specific guides or manuals, or defined ad hoc for each case.

The project proponent will develop the EIA according to the scoping, and it will later be presented for the assessment of the environmental authority. The review is generally carried out by a multidisciplinary team from the environmental authority. Depending on the case, such entity could request the intervention of other specialized areas or sectoral organizations (i.e. universities and scientific institutions). The decision-making process then concludes with an environmental impact statement approving, rejecting or requesting for further information.

Public participation is a fundamental tool in the EIA procedure, throughout planning, approval and execution of a project. Additionally, participating in the EIA is a right recognized by different national and

international regulations for all citizens whose rights may be affected by a private or public project. Public hearings are the typical mechanism used for public participation in EIA procedures (see Figure 9). Potential Environmental and social risk assessment and mitigation measures for the Project.

It is worth mentioning that, respecting the Federal system of the country, MAYDS has developed [Environmental Assessment Guides](#) (publicly accessible), aimed at strengthening the country's EIA system, through joint work with local authorities and sectoral organizations. These include:

- Guide for the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Guide for the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (EAE): Approved by SAYDS Resolution No. 337/19, this guide is a response to the need to early incorporate the environmental dimension into decision making in strategic planning processes. Provinces with regulated EAE: Chaco, Entre Ríos, Córdoba and Mendoza.
- Social Impact Assessment Guide: This guide provides tools to strengthen participatory processes in EIAs and EAEs and establishes criteria and good practices to improve how social impacts are studied and evaluated in EIAs.
- Sectoral Guides for EIA in the sectors of renewable energy and Hydroelectric projects.

6.2.1 Provincial regulations of the EIA system

Currently all the 24 jurisdictions (23 provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires) have regulations on EIA in places, addressing the minimum requirements stated in the national General Environmental Law No. 25675. In order to assess the different approaches and EIA advances, the National Government conducts an annual Diagnosis of the status of the Environmental Assessment (publicly accessible), based on an online survey of jurisdictional environmental authorities from the COFEMA's Environmental Impact Commission. According to the 2019 assessment, some of the main differences between provincial EIA systems are:

- The environmental authority is the only entity that conducts the EIA procedure: 16 of the 24 jurisdictions. In those 8 also participates entities like municipalities or the mining entity (Jujuy, Salta, Tucuman, Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Jujuy and San Juan);
- The environmental authority requests the intervention of other entities in the EIA procedure: only in 5 provinces the environmental authority not do this (Misiones, Formosa, Tucuman, Santa Fe and Santiago del Estero); and
- Determining which projects needs an Environmental Impact Declaration (DIA) (screening): the different criteria are included in the table below:

Table 15. Criteria to determining which projects needs a DIA

Jurisdiction	Criterion			
	(i) List of projects or activities	(ii) Categorization by formula	(iii) Combination of (i) and (ii)	(iv) Environmental authority criterion
Buenos Aires			X	
Catamarca	X			
Chaco			X	
Chubut				X
Ciudad de Buenos Aires			X	
Córdoba	X			
Corrientes	X			
Entre Ríos				
Formosa		X		
Jujuy				X
La Pampa	X			X
La Rioja	X			X

Mendoza				
Misiones	X			X
Neuquén	X			
Río Negro	X			
Salta	X			
San Juan			X	
San Luis			X	
Santa Cruz				X
Santa Fe	X	X		
Santiago del Estero				X
Tierra del Fuego	X			
	46%	8%	21%	25%
	11 jurisdictions	2 jurisdictions	21 jurisdictions	25 jurisdictions

Fuente: S AyDS. 2019. Diagnóstico de la Evaluación Ambiental 2019, p. 20

- Stages for public participation: in the different schemes, public participation is foreseen in:
 - Early stage (prefeasibility): 4% (Misiones);
 - With advanced Environmental Impact Studies (EIA): 62%;
 - Other criteria: 29%. When presenting the EIA (La Pampa and Tierra del Fuego) and others (Chaco, Rio Negro, Santiago del Estero and Tucuman).

In most of the EIA at the jurisdictional level, public participation is channeled through the following modalities (some uses more 1 or more):

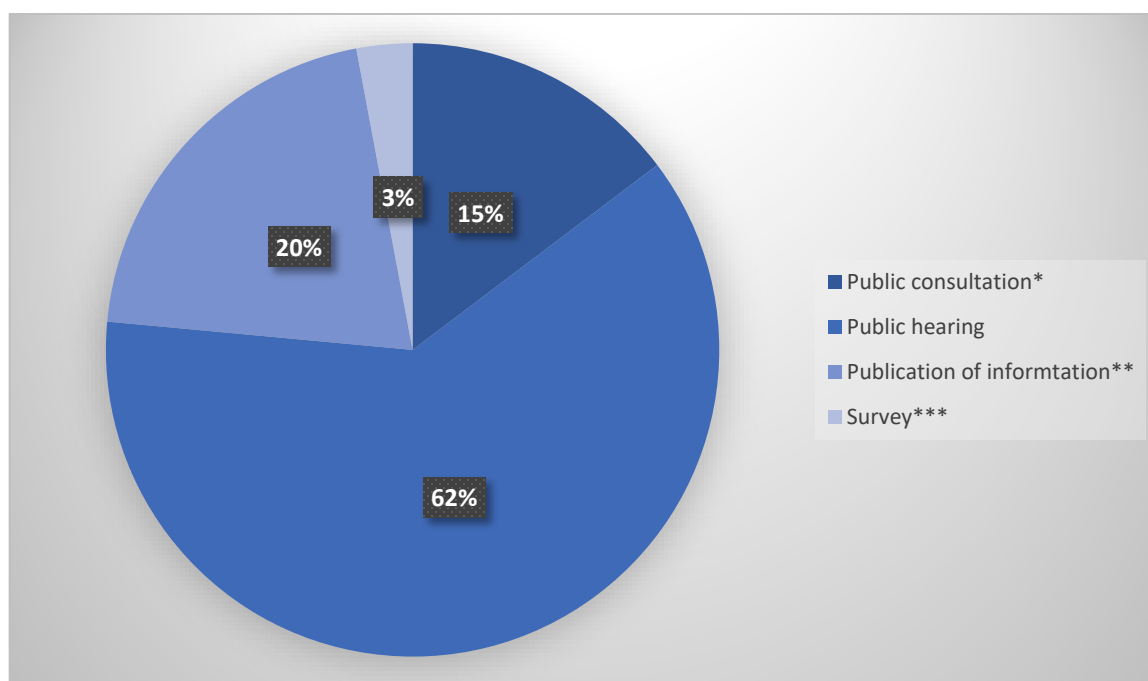


Figure 10. Modalities of public participation in the EIA

For information disaggregated per province, please see the [2019 Assessment](#).

6.3 FAO Environmental and Social Analysis Requirements for Moderate Risk Projects

Preliminary potential negative impacts and initially proposed mitigation measures have been identified for the project. Since the project has been classified as Moderate Risk, according to the FAO Guidelines, during the first months of implementation the project will prepare the requested ES Analysis for

Moderate Risk Projects. The construction of the ES Analysis will involve all relevant stakeholders that could be involved in the implementation of the activities as those that could be affected for the interventions, and the scope will cover the entire project and/or subprojects.

Based on the recommendations derived from the ES Analysis, and according to FAO procedures for Moderate Risk projects, the PMU, supported by FAO and MAYDS safeguards experts, will prepare the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) for the entire project, during project development, setting out the measures and actions required for the project to manage and effectively mitigate environmental and social risks and achieve compliance with ESS over a specified timeframe. The ESCP will serve as monitoring and reporting tool, defining the mitigation indicators to be monitored, the time frame agreed, reporting mechanisms and templates, reporting time frame and will define the procedures to adjust mitigation measures and plans, following and adaptive management approach. In this way, during implementation and monitoring, the E&S risk management process will focus on monitoring the project against the ESCP to track progress and establish relevant operational controls to verify compliance.

FAO's environmental and social risk management process, incorporating the key steps in the project cycle, is shown in the following figure:

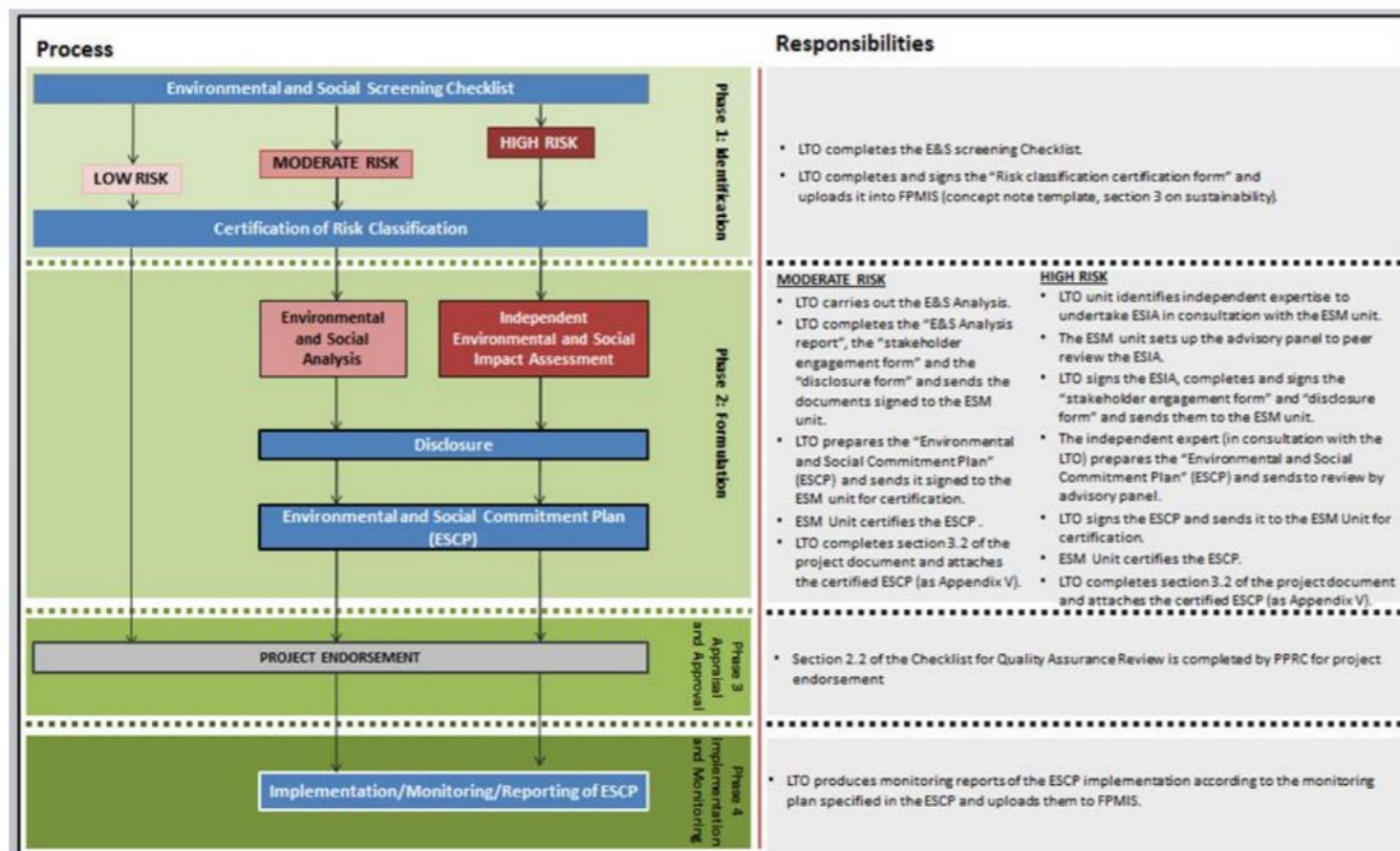


Figure 11. Environmental and Social risk management in the FAO project cycle and responsibilities

Source: [FAO Environmental and Social Management Guidelines](#).

6.4 Environmental and social risk and impact assessment and related mitigation measures for project components

An initial list of potential environmental and social risks linked to project's components and related mitigation measures is reported in Table 16. Complementary information on the risk of reversal is also included in the Annex to the Funding Proposal on the analysis on the risk of reversal and related buffer of emission reductions to be offered to the GCF.

Table 16. Potential social and environmental risk assessment and mitigation measures for the project

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
1. The project may lead to conflicts over natural resources , such as land, productive landscapes and water. These risks may be exacerbated by climate change or natural disasters and/or uncertain situations of land tenure, and may have a gender dimension or unequally affect women and girls.	A; B; C	Considering that the implementation of REDD+ activities goes beyond the forestry sector, it is essential to ensure fluent cooperation among stakeholders, institutions and programmes (including support) from the different relevant sectors. The need to maintain coordination between provinces and municipalities, and among different institutions responsible for territorial policies in the same jurisdiction is essential and was also identified during PANByCC. The lack of that could lead to conflicts over natural resources. This could be particularly relevant for activities related to Territory-based management of forests (A) and forest management with integrated livestock (B). There could also be conflicting infrastructure development plans in territories where ownership is not defined or where activities take place in disputed areas, without clear land tenure.	Low	<p>Environmental and social risk management measures will be incorporated into project design, ensuring and monitoring their application throughout project implementation.</p> <p>FAO has developed guidelines for the assessment and documentation of sustainable land management techniques and approaches, which will be consulted as appropriate.</p> <p>In addition, in Argentina, and with a view to solving incompatibilities between livestock farming and the preservation of forest integrity, in 2015, the current MAgDS and MAgPy signed a Technical Agreement for the Management of Forests with Integrated Livestock farming, which is still in force, is consistent with the Forest Law and will be followed for the implementation of the project. COFEMA and the National Climate Change Cabinet are also worth mentioning as they are key decision-making platforms.</p>

⁴⁹ A: Territorial forest management (EEO 2/6/7/8/9); A1: Forest basins for timber and non-timber forest products are established and strengthened; A2: Legal and sustainable management of forests by communities is strengthened through Integral community plans linked to supply basins; B: Forest management with integrated livestock; C: Enhanced response to forest fires;; C1: Forest fires are prevented and capacity to respond to forest fires is increased; D: Strengthening of institutional, monitoring and surveillance capacities.

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
		<p>Although Argentina has an enabling environment to the respect of tenure rights, the potential gap still existing if not addressed properly may lead to challenges and could promote conversion or degradation of habitats, or lead to conflicts over natural resources. It is not envisaged that the project will permanently or temporarily deny or restrict access to natural resources to which individuals, communities or others having legal or informal rights of access or use. Project activities related to sustainable forest basin management and the design and implementation of Integral Community Plans (including forest restoration), will be designed and implemented in such a way that denial or restriction of access to natural resources will not be applied in any way.</p> <p>There may be unequal effects of the project on women and girls, as related to access and use of natural resources; these are covered in more detail in the section corresponding to the fourth listed risk in this table.</p> <p>Additional risks related to non-permanence of activities or risks of reversals of emissions reductions were evaluated to inform REDD+ planning in Argentina (as described in the ESA annex of the FP). With regard to the risk of natural extreme climate events, the risk of fires was highlighted. In Argentina, forest fires are due to both natural and anthropic causes. Even if direct contribution of forest fires to the national GHG-I is limited less than 1% of the national emissions reported in the latest GHG-I, with data from 2016), fires contribute to the land-use change caused by</p>		<p>Considerations of tenure will inform work on support for forest management projects, especially at the forest basin level and the design and implementation of Integral Community Plans and other schemes (component A). The project will address any tenure and administration dimensions that may be related to the project, including issues of security of tenure and access to natural resources, compensation, administration or land governance. This will be done in accordance with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). In addition, the project has planned specific activities to support strengthened rights (such as the A.2.3 Management support of statutory community rights on forests at provincial level.) and gender mainstreaming. Additional specific gender-sensitive actions and activities are reported in the Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan. In addition, Argentina's regulatory framework provides an enabling environment for respecting the land access and tenure rights of indigenous peoples and communities that are forest-dependent and live therein. In this regard, the National Constitution, the Civil Code (particularly its amendment set forth in Law No. 26994 / 2014) and the Commercial Code (Law No. 26994) recognize community possession and ownership of the lands traditionally occupied by indigenous peoples. It is also worth mentioning the following: Law No. 23302 on Indigenous Policy and Support of Aboriginal Communities (O.G. of 8 November 1985), which instructs INAI to prepare and implement plans for access to land ownership by the indigenous peoples; Law No. 26160: emergency law on</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
		<p>livestock or agriculture in the country, as reported in the PANByCC/ REDD+ strategy and FP section C.</p> <p>Droughts and floods were also likely to happen (though less frequently), which could affect the success and sustainability project activities. Those risks might be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, and persist for the implementation of this project.</p>		<p>the possession and ownership of the lands traditionally occupied by the country's original indigenous communities (O.G. 23 November 2006), which, among other things, commissions INAI to carry out a technical-legal-cadastral survey on the ownership status of the lands occupied by indigenous communities and, moreover, to promote relevant joint actions. Nonetheless, a Community Property Law is still necessary, establishing the minimum guidelines for a more effective implementation of said rights.</p> <p>Project design and implementation will consider climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, in line with national planning on these issues. The planning of activities will consider vulnerability to climate change, and how it may differentially affect stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities and women, and how activities can be planned and implemented in a way to increase adaptive capacity of communities and landscapes. Opportunities for synergies with Argentina's National Adaptation Plan will be promoted. In this context, a climate change risk assessment will be carried out at project inception in order to identify opportunities for facilitating joint climate change adaptation and reduction of GHG emissions.</p> <p>Regarding forest fires, Argentina included fire prevention as one of the mitigation measures within its PANByCC/ REDD+ strategy, with an associated Strategic Pillar (EEO10). It is in this framework, and as a contribution to this mitigation measure, that the RBP proposal includes a specific component on fire prevention. Component C of the project directly aim at</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
				<p>strengthening capacities of institutions and communities to respond to forest fires. In addition, additional measures can be considered to mitigate potential risks from extreme climate events (particularly fire, droughts and floods).</p> <p>(linked to: FAO ESS 2; ESS 8)</p>
<p>2. Project activities may incentivize interventions in natural ecosystems and protected areas or their buffer zones, affecting biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural habitat.</p>	<p>A, B; C</p>	<p>The aim of the overall project is to reduce deforestation, also contributing to native forests regeneration, therefore – by its nature – the project envisions to enhance, and not negatively impact, natural ecosystems nor protected areas. Most project activities will promote the maintenance of biodiversity and other ecosystem services, as well as natural habitat, resulting in benefits for the biological and physical characteristics of soils in the areas of intervention. The project supports sustainable land management practices both at the forest basin and local levels – therefore the risk of negative impact on natural resources or soil degradation is expected to be only minimum.</p> <p>However, there is a risk that, if not planned nor monitored appropriately, certain activities at local level (especially in component B1 - Livestock farmers implement models of forest management with integrated livestock), could negatively impact natural habitat, biodiversity, or ecosystem services, or increasing exposure to diseases and vectors like <i>dengue</i>, <i>zika</i> and <i>chikungunya</i>, which are already a health challenge, especially in the northern part of the country</p> <p>It is not foreseen that the project will introduce or utilize any invasive alien species of flora nor fauna, whether accidental or intentional.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The project is part of the implementation of the PANByCC (the REDD+ national strategy of Argentina); as such respect of REDD+ safeguards is embedded in project design, including compliance with Safeguard E (with the following national interpretation: <i>The PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives, consistent with the Forest Law (No. 26331), promotes the protection and conservation of native forests (or other natural ecosystems) and biodiversity, in addition to the protection and promotion of ecosystem services related to native forests.</i>)</p> <p>Specific project activities, (especially in component D) have been included to support the continuous strengthening and operationalization of the Argentina REDD+ national approach to safeguards, and safeguards information systems.</p> <p>The project will be implemented in the framework of the Forest Law, therefore also respecting its OTBN, safeguards and minimum standards of environmental protection (see Annex IV for further information). According to the OTBN areas of high conservation value (including protected areas) are included in “red category”, in which no activities, apart from conservation, can be carried out. Activities envisaged in the project will therefore not be located in high</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
				<p>conservation value areas.</p> <p>In those cases where interventions will be located in buffer or nearby areas to high value conservation areas, as per stated in the Forest Law the intervention <i>“objectives and activities must ensure forests are not replaced and that interventions uphold the minimum conservation attributes for their categories. Should such attributes be affected, their recovery shall be technically ensured (either naturally or artificially)”</i>.</p> <p>Project activities will be designed and implemented with consideration of biodiversity, ecosystems and natural habitats. Extensive analyses have already been carried out to identify areas important for biodiversity and a range of other key ecosystem services through work on social and environmental benefits, supported through the UN-REDD National Programme. The results of such analysis (incorporated as layers in the NFMS web dissemination platform and soon to be available in the MAyDS REDD+ safeguards webpage) will be part of the inputs for the decision making when planning specific areas of intervention; this with the aim to ensure that ecosystem services are not negatively affected, but rather are maintained and/or enhanced.</p> <p>Sustainable management of forests units will have to assure that extraction practices are not depleting ecosystem services and not affecting or changing the characteristics of surrounding natural ecosystems or protected areas.</p> <p>MBGI is meant to be an alternative to enhance livelihoods while reducing pressure on high value</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
				<p>forests and forest fragmentation. MBGI activities will not be carried out in “red category” OTBN areas, and must be developed in accordance with three sustainability principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The productive capacity of the ecosystem must be maintained or improved; b) The integrity of the ecosystem and its ecosystem services must be maintained or improved; and c) The well-being of the communities associated with its use must be maintained or improved. (Further information is available in annexes IV and V.) <p>In addition to the above, MBGI activities in native forest will be closely screened and monitored before activities are supported, with relation to their location, and the related effects on biodiversity to ensure there will be no negative impacts on high conservation value areas, ecosystems and biodiversity. MBGI plans will include exclusive areas for conservation.</p> <p>Technical support and capacity strengthening at local level will be ensured to further enhance livestock management practices, fostering that such interventions will help integrity of areas allocated for conservation, reduce forest fragmentation, and help reduce the degradation of soils</p> <p>Forest restoration activities within Integral Community Plans (A.2) will aim to reduce further deterioration, to maintain or enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functionality, and be environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable. It is not foreseen that the proposed project will introduce or utilize any invasive alien species of flora and fauna, whether accidental or intentional. Especially for MBGI</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
				<p>Plan the management of native pastures will be promote; or the sowing of them. If native pastures are not available on the market, non-invasive exotic pastures can be used.</p> <p>(linked to: FAO ESS2)</p> <p>For the (low) risk of an increment of the diseases and vectors (i.e. dengue and Chikungunya) in the area due to improvement of the state of ecosystems, project activities will be designed and implemented in close coordination with public health-related local authorities, to promote the recommended sanitary measures, especially in the case of activities close to human settlements.</p> <p>It is also important to consider that, The use of proceeds will not aim at changing land-use in a detrimental manner for forests, not other natural habitats, biodiversity and ecosystems. At the contrary, through the implementation of the project forest ecosystems will be maintained and enhanced. The further reduction of the deforestation and of landscape fragmentation will has also been highlighted – in this COVID-19 era – as an important tool to reduce the transmission of zoonotic infections⁵⁰</p>
3. Project activities might	A; B; C	The implementation of interventions at local level	Low to	The project will seek to optimize the potential of

⁵⁰ Laura S. P. Bloomfield, et al, 2020, Habitat fragmentation, livelihood behaviours, and contact between people and nonhuman primates in Africa, Landscape Ecology volume 35, pages985–1000;

Wilkinson DA, Marshall JC, French NP, Hayman DTS. 2018Habitat fragmentation, biodiversity loss and the risk of novel infectious disease emergence. *J. R. Soc. Interface* 15, 20180403

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
<p>result in negative employment effects, or inequitable economic effects on women or minorities.</p>		<p>(especially component A and B) is planned to lead to new sources of employment or income-generating opportunities. However, there is a risk of negatively affecting income and livelihoods, which could be related to implementation of policies or the strengthening of controls that target traditional forest users, or those who depend on forests for subsistence or livelihoods.</p> <p>These effects could be particularly important for indigenous peoples and local communities. There is also a risk of negative economic effects if, for example, restoration activities are sited in areas that already host productive economic activities. This might lead to economic migration, particularly if activities are not adequately planned and managed.</p> <p>Another risk, particularly related to restoration of native forests is linked to potential reluctance of decision-makers, native forest owners, farmers, and others to adopt invest in such interventions.</p> <p>Market demand is certainly one of the main incentives for implementing sustainable practices in forest / land-use management. There could be a risk that markets would not respond appropriately to the new offer of deforestation-free products.</p> <p>There is a low to medium risk of inequitable access to employment opportunities for women.</p>	medium	<p>innovative agricultural, livestock and forestry practices and value chain development to create more and better employment opportunities for the local communities and forest-dwellers, especially in areas of low income.</p> <p>The project will embed specific activities to foster that territory-based management of forests and forest management with integrated livestock develop and implement strategic market strategies, with value chain studies, business plans, supplier development plan, and development of certifications of sustainable meat and other schemes. It would be an asset to involve private companies in the process of forest/livestock product development, and act in partnership with other actors to continue the activities once the project is completed.</p> <p>The project will also embed communication strategy, including for raising awareness on the products derived from sustainable forest management, PICs, sustainable and low impact MBGI and their contribution to enhanced livelihoods of women and men, reduce deforestation, protect high value conservation areas and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Attention and priority will be given to proposed plans that will promote diversity of products to reduce economic dependence of one single product.</p> <p>Efforts will be made to optimize the employment effects of project activities on rural youth and women in particular, with direct efforts to engage and empower them, and the establishment of specific targets for youth and women, and indigenous peoples.</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
				<p>All project activities will respect the core labour standard of the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. The project will empower and prioritize disadvantaged categories of workers, including small-scale producers. The project will be implemented in line with FAO ESS 7 on Decent Work, and its guiding principles, which are detailed in section 5.3 of this ESMF.</p> <p>(linked to: FAO ESS 7, ESS 8, ESS 9)</p>
<p>4. Project activities may not adequately promote, or may negatively affect, gender equality and women and girls' access to productive resources, goods, services, markets, decent employment and decision-making.</p>	<p>A, B, C, D</p>	<p>If project activities are not adequately designed and implemented, there is a potential risk that they may result in discrimination against women, or unequal access to opportunities and benefits. There may also be unequal participation in decision-making for women and men. If not planned and implemented with an appropriate gender-sensitive approach, its activities could potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing benefits.</p> <p>There is the risk that during the implementation of on-the-ground activities and in benefit distribution, groups or individuals might be excluded or will have limited participation, especially women, since the forest and agricultural sectors in Argentina tend to be male-dominated.</p> <p>Further details on the gender gap – as well as other related information - is included in the Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan, annex to the Funding Proposal, and describe the important gender gap between women and men in the forestry sector, as well as recommendations that</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>These risks will be addressed in an integral way throughout project design and implementation, as identified in the Gender Analysis and Action Plan annex to the Funding Proposal. The project will also benefit from the "Methodological Guidance for the Integration of a Gender Perspective in the Management of Forests and Climate Change", which was produced by MAYDS with the support of the Argentina UN-REDD Programme and that will be soon available in the MAYDS REDD+ safeguards webpage.</p> <p>The project will be based on the principle of equal opportunity and fair treatment, and will empower and prioritize vulnerable women and men. Measures to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate adverse gender-related impacts will be identified for each activity.</p> <p>To promote women engagement, the project will aim at achieving a 30 % of women's involvement in participatory mechanisms or access to support (see more details in Annex 4 - The Gender Action Plan within Funding Proposal Package).</p> <p>Progress on gender results will be measured over time, in line with the Gender Action Plan for the project.</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
		can be implemented in the project to help overcome this gap.		(linked to: FAO ESS 7, ESS 8)
5. The project may affect indigenous peoples' rights , lands, natural resources, territories, livelihoods, knowledge, social fabric, traditions, governance systems, and culture or heritage (tangible and intangible) .	A, B, C	<p>There is a risk that if activities are not adequately designed and implemented, the project may affect indigenous peoples' rights, lands, natural resources, territories, livelihoods, knowledge, social fabric, traditions, governance systems, and culture or heritage (tangible and intangible).</p> <p>This project, particularly through activities focused on integrated forest management at the local level (A2), might work directly with indigenous peoples and local communities and in areas of high cultural value and resources. These activities will focus with priority on the provinces with the largest rural population in vulnerable situations and the greatest pressure on native forests. This includes the provinces of the <i>Parque Chaqueño</i>, <i>Paranense</i> Rainforest and Argentine <i>Yungas</i> regions such as Chaco, Santiago del Estero, Salta, Misiones and Jujuy. Provinces that are part of the Andean Patagonian Forest, Argentine <i>Monte</i> and Argentine <i>Espinal</i> forest regions, which have a high indigenous population in their territories, are also considered. The project will focus on communities that depend on the forests of different regions of the country. The direct participants will include indigenous peoples, and small-farmer family farming communities, which mostly live in poverty.</p>	Medium	<p>Project activities that work with indigenous peoples and/or in areas of high cultural value and resources, will be designed and implemented in accordance with principles of stakeholder engagement and free prior and informed consultation processes, designed to identify and take into consideration indigenous peoples' differentiated needs and priorities, key concerns, and preferred methods of grievance redress for this Project, with the purpose of reaching an agreement or, if the type of activity request it, a consent (in line with the articles of the ILO Convention 169)</p> <p>Particular attention will be paid to indigenous (individual and collective) land rights, especially in areas where tenure might be unclear or there are ongoing disputes.</p> <p>"Guidance on Free, Prior and Informed Consultation of Indigenous Communities" as well as the "Guide for the Participation of Relevant Stakeholders in the Implementation of the PANByCC", developed by the MArDS with the support of the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme (soon to be available in the MArDS REDD+ safeguards webpage), will inform project design and implementation.</p> <p>Activities will also be implemented in line with Argentina's legal framework, including national and provincial laws and in accordance with the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, to which Argentina is signatory.</p> <p>An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) has</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
				<p>been included in this proposal, with information on how project activities will be designed and implemented in such a way that fosters full respect, promotion, and safeguarding of indigenous peoples so that they benefit from the activities in a culturally appropriate manner; and do not suffer harm or adverse effects from the design and implementation of activities financed by this project.</p> <p>Before implementing project activities that may affect indigenous peoples, a process of Free, Prior and Informed consultation, will be undertaken following ILO convention 169 of which Argentina is signatory, and with the purpose of reaching an agreement or, if the type of activity request it, a consent (in line with the articles of the ILO Convention 169).</p> <p>Complete information must be disclosed to the indigenous community (-ies) involved; in a timely manner, with sufficient time for the community to carry out internal deliberations; in accordance with indigenous peoples traditions and customs; in their local language; and in an environment and in ways to which the indigenous peoples can relate.</p> <p>This process will aim at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring a positive engagement of indigenous peoples in the project; • avoiding adverse impacts, or when avoidance is not feasible, minimizing, mitigating, or compensating for such effects, as per the indigenous peoples agreement; • tailoring benefits in a culturally appropriate way. <p>Activities that may have adverse impacts on or limit access to culture or heritage, both physical and non-</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
				<p>physical or intangible, will be avoided.</p> <p>In addition to the IPPF included in this ESMF, an Indigenous Peoples' Plan (IPP) (see Annex II for a summary of what will be included) will be developed for the entire project in full consultation with the affected communities and in accordance with FAO's Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and integrated into the implementation of the project.</p> <p>Activities that may have adverse impacts on or limit access to culture or heritage, both physical and non-physical or intangible, will be avoided.</p> <p>(linked to: FAO ESS 9)</p>
<p>6. There may be a risk of reversals, or non-permanence, of emissions reductions and enhancement of carbon stocks related to project activities, which includes risk of forest fires. These risks relate to factors that could affect the sustainability and continuity of project implementation.</p>	<p>A, B, C, D</p>	<p>A number of factors could lead to the non-permanence of emissions reductions in Argentina.</p> <p>Risks linked to external factors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest fires; • Climate change (more frequent drought or flooding); • Instability in the market prices of key commodities such as soy or beef, which could have impacts on opportunity costs, for example, increases in commodity prices, livestock or exchange rate fluctuations could work against the long-term success and sustainability of forest management practices, or lead to agriculture expansion into forest area; • Projected demographic trends and changing demands on land. <p>Risks linked to sustainability and effectiveness of sustainable forest management practices (related</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Project activities, consistent with the PANByCC, have been designed to address indirect and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, so that emissions reductions can last over time and be sustainable, and they are not only conserved during the duration of the project. Component C of the project will specifically address the risk of forest fires, with initiatives to implement strategic provincial plans for the prevention of forest fires in priority regions and reinforce initial response capabilities for forest fires.</p> <p>The project will support the implementation of sustainable forest management practices, including land-use planning, as well as MBGI, in such a way that those should allow forest holders to increase the efficiency and profitability of their activities, reducing the economic and environmental (due to land degradation) incentives to increase the area used for the activities to the detriment of forest cover. Efforts will be made to link to markets as well as enhanced profitable and sustainable value chains (see mitigation measures under risk #3).</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
		<p>particularly to components A, B and C) and technical oversight (related to component D) could be related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor oversight of illegal logging and timber; • limited/insufficient human resources, and frequent turnover of trained technical staff in management entities; • uncontrolled use of fire as a management tool. <p>Potential low risks related to governance/government decision making include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unforeseen impacts of policy interventions; • insufficient or ineffective implementation of the relevant legal framework; • changes in legal framework, and relevant forest policies/decisions to change the categories of native forest areas; • policy changes that impact sustainable long-term financing of activities; need for institutional strengthening to be able to face new economic and social scenarios; • Institutional challenges or a government decision to voluntarily withdraw from REDD+ or Paris agreement. <p>Additionally, there could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a low risk of reduced support from key stakeholders in the provinces and territories, or at national level; • a medium-level risk linked to persistence of technical capacities or sub-national cooperation • a low risk of reduced/lack of intersectorial coordination or support from other Ministries or entities with key role on rural sustainable 		<p>Enhanced forest monitoring and early warning systems is also key to help identify and address areas at risk of reversals and enable rapid response. During REDD+ readiness phase Argentina progressed in the development and consolidation of its early warning system, which will be further strengthened as part of the component D of the project.</p> <p>The project will embed direct technical support from FAO, and other relevant partners as needed, to continuously enhance technical capacities in the areas of the four project components in counterparts and key stakeholders at different levels of jurisdiction (national, provincial and territorial) within the government and with other key actors, including women groups, indigenous peoples, small-holders, local communities and associations.</p> <p>Several measures could help enhance governance and engagement help mitigating the risk of reversals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support authorities in design and implementation of strategies to reduce deforestation by increasing access to financial resources and promoting wide participation of all relevant stakeholders; • Identify institutional gaps, define and implement with the relevant stakeholders the mechanisms needed to strengthen articulation among national, provincial and territorial organizations; • Strengthen engagement and participation throughout the planning and implementation of activities; key stakeholders will be involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of activities, with transparency about the scope and budget of activities, in order to help manage

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
		<p>development.</p> <p>Additional and complementary information related to the risk of reversal is also available in the annex on the buffer linked to the total emission reductions offered to the GCF.</p>		<p>expectations.</p> <p>Further details on the buffer are available in the related annex to the funding proposal.</p> <p>(linked to: FAO ESS 2)</p>
<p>7. Displacement of emissions to other sectors or ecosystems could take place if project activities are not planned appropriately.</p>	<p>A, B, C, D</p>	<p>These risks could be related to the following factors, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers of land-use change and forest degradation persist despite the design and implementation of the PANByCC, and other activities under the Forests Law framework; • Activities could result in the displacement of land-use change at the local level, such as with forest protection leading to agricultural conversion of natural grasslands; and • Activities could cause the displacement of emissions to other ecosystems, such as through the displacement of pressures on forests to another region or area. 	<p>Low</p>	<p>To ensure that activities implemented through the use of proceeds will not cause leakage or displacement of deforestation to other areas (at the local level, to other ecosystems, or to other areas of the national territory) activities will be implemented with consideration of the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activities, developed within the framework of the PANByCC, are designed to address the direct, indirect and underlying drivers of deforestation (ongoing analyses and monitoring will be carried out to identify potential changes in these drivers); • Analysis of potential impacts on livelihoods will be analyzed, and activities developed accordingly, with a focus on ensuring continued access to forests for the products on which communities depend, and the implementation of sustainable economic alternatives where relevant; • The design and implementation of activities will consider impacts on supply and demand for forest and agricultural producers; • Forest control and monitoring systems to detect and report displacement will continue to be implemented and strengthened to help monitor potential displacement. <p>Activities implemented with the use of proceeds will</p>

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
				<p>contribute to the implementation and strengthening of the Argentina's NFMS, which generates information based on remote sensing and field data robust enough to detect and estimate displacement of emissions by deforestation, and has an early warning system which can also help to detect displacement.</p> <p>Additionally, it is worth mentioning that the main cause for loss of native forest coverage in the regions included in the FREL (and in the period of results) is the advancement of the agricultural frontier. However, the same modality and commodity occurring in one forest region usually does not occur in other forest regions, because of their different climate conditions and agricultural potential. Additionally, each province developed and approved the specific OTBN, under the same ten criteria of the Forest Law that apply to all the provinces, reducing the risk of "importing" deforestation from a different forest region. Lastly the NFMS includes all forest regions in the country and preliminary data for 2018 indicates that only 1.7% of native forest coverage loss occurred in the forest regions of the Andean-Patagonian Forest and Argentine Monte (not included in the FREL).</p> <p>(linked to: FAO ESS2)</p>
8. Monitoring systems at the local level may not have adequate capabilities to track that forest management is sustainable, that MBGI implementation is supporting forest conservation, or that restoration interventions are successful.	A, B, C, D	For a continuous adaptive management and to boost the project towards sustainability and results, it is important to monitor progress of its interventions. There is a risk that the current monitoring approaches, system and technology could have difficulties in capturing those changes, as related to sustainable forest management, MBGI and/or restoration interventions, particularly at the local level.	Low	Within component D, the project seeks to embed a continuous strengthening of technical capacities and of the systems to measure, monitor and report changes in forest cover, as well as early warning systems. In addition, the project will embed strengthening of capacities of local communities and key stakeholders at different levels, particularly with a view to boosting capabilities for monitoring sustainable forest management, MBGI and/or

Risk description	Project components ⁴⁹	Comments	Risk level	Mitigation measures and applicable FAO safeguards
				restoration interventions.

6.5 Exclusions list

The exclusions list for activities that will not be supported by the use of proceeds includes those that may involve involuntary resettlement⁵¹ as well as any activities that are associated with prohibited practices specified in the [GCF Policy on Prohibited Practices \(e.g. corrupt practices, fraud, obstructive practices and money laundering\)](#).

Also, the following exclusions are stated and will be reviewed and validated at the project inception:

Scope	Key elements
Non-eligible environmental aspects	<p>Construction or financing of dams over 15 m in height.</p> <p>Direct discharge of wastewater into freshwater courses and surface runoff originating from production units or processing areas.</p> <p>Significant conversion or degradation of critical habitats, critical forest areas, natural areas of cultural or religious value, areas that are legally protected, officially proposed for protection, or of high conservation or biodiversity value.</p> <p>Actions in which access to and sharing of the benefits accruing from the use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture does not respect farmers' rights to them and over associated traditional knowledge</p> <p>Planted forests do not recognize and support the implementation of existing national forest programmes or equivalent strategies</p> <p>Foreseeing an increase in production by at least 30% (due to non-native or non-locally adapted species, breeds, genotypes or other genetic material introduction) relative to currently available locally adapted breeds.</p> <p>Use of pesticides that meet the criteria that define Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).</p> <p>Activities or materials deemed illegal under host country laws or regulations or international conventions and agreements, or subject to international phase-outs or bans, such as:</p>

⁵¹ FAO prohibits forced evictions which include acts involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating or limiting the ability of an individual, group or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of and access to, appropriate forms of legal and other protection. Physical and economic displacement includes: (i) involuntary restrictions on land use and access to natural resources that causes a community or groups within a community to lose access to resource usage where they have traditional or recognizable usage rights; (ii) restrictions on access to land or use of other resources, including communal property and natural resources such as marine and aquatic resources, timber and non-timber forest products, freshwater, medicinal plants, hunting and gathering grounds and grazing and cropping areas, physical, cultural and spiritual sites. The Project will also be implemented in line with the [IFC PS 5](#) on Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement, used as the interim GCF safeguard, which defines resettlement as involuntary when affected persons or communities do not have the right to refuse land acquisition or restrictions on land use that result in physical or economic displacement. This occurs in cases of (i) lawful expropriation or temporary or permanent restrictions on land use and (ii) negotiated settlements in which the buyer can resort to expropriation or impose legal restrictions on land use if negotiations with the seller fail. This standard recognizes that displaced persons may have formal legal rights to the land; they may have recognized but not formal legal rights to land (e.g., through traditional customary claim to the land or communal possession of community land); or they may have no recognizable legal right to the land they occupy (e.g., informal or opportunistic settlers). In addition, displaced persons may be seasonal or permanent tenants, paying and non-paying or seasonal migrants. Provision of security of tenure for each category of occupant may differ as outlined in the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, 2007).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ozone depleting substances, PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) and other specific, hazardous pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides or chemicals; • Wildlife, trees or products regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species or Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
Non-eligible social aspects	<p>Permanently or temporarily denying or restricting access to natural resources to which they have rights of access or use, without voluntary consensus and agreement of the affected people.</p> <p>Consolidation or adjustments of tenure rights are not voluntary and do not have the agreement of the affected people.</p> <p>Involuntary resettlement and displacement⁵².</p> <p>Forced evictions which include acts involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating or limiting the ability of an individual, group or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of and access to, appropriate forms of legal and other protection.</p> <p>Practices that violate core international labour standards, other international labour standards relevant to the agri-food sector and national employment and labour laws.</p> <p>Involvement in project-supported activities of children below the nationally-defined minimum employment age.</p> <p>Actions that may employ forced labour, defined as any work or service not voluntarily performed that is exacted from an individual under threat of force or penalty. This covers any kind of involuntary or compulsory labour, such as indentured labour, bonded labour, or similar labour-contracting arrangements.</p> <p>Discrimination against women or girls or reinforcement of gender-based discrimination and/ or inequalities.</p> <p>Actions that may have adverse impacts on or limit access to culture or heritage, both physical and non-physical or intangible.</p> <p>Actions that may generate the following significant impacts on Indigenous Peoples: a) cultural disruptions that seriously affect traditional practices and / or ways of life, such as the physical displacement of these populations without their prior, free and informed consent, without benefiting from the project; b) negative impacts on community lands and natural resources of traditional use with irreversible impacts on the livelihoods of indigenous populations, and; c) severe and / or irreversible effects on resources and ancestral practices of cultural or spiritual value, among other issues.</p> <p>Actions that generate significant impacts related to Involuntary Resettlement (IR), direct</p>

⁵² Physical and economic displacement includes: (i) involuntary restrictions on land use and access to natural resources that causes a community or groups within a community to lose access to resource usage where they have traditional or recognizable usage rights; (ii) restrictions on access to land or use of other resources, including communal property and natural resources such as marine and aquatic resources, timber and non-timber forest products, freshwater, medicinal plants, hunting and gathering grounds and grazing and cropping areas, physical, cultural and spiritual sites.

	<p>economic and social negative effects resulting from the project's activities for the following causes: i) involuntary land deprivation, which results in displacement or housing loss; loss of assets or access to assets; or loss of sources of income or livelihoods; or ii) the involuntary restriction for accessing to areas classified by the Law as parks or protected areas, with the consequent adverse effects on the subsistence of displaced peoples. For Involuntary Resettlements, the physical displacement of more than 200 people and / or the loss of more than 10% of the affected assets will be considered significant impact</p> <p>Other activities that could result in displacement of jobs (e.g. because of sectoral restructuring or occupational shifts), negative change to existing legitimate tenure rights, a reduction of the adaptive capacity to climate change for any stakeholders in the project area, reduction of resilience against extreme weather events.</p> <p>Permanently or temporarily denying or restricting access to natural resources to which they have rights of access or use, without voluntary consensus and agreement of the affected people.</p> <p>Consolidation or adjustments of tenure rights are not voluntary and do not have the agreement of the affected people.</p>
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6.6 Implementation arrangements and institutional capacity assessment for the ESMF

Implementation arrangements for the ESMF will mirror the implementation arrangements for the project, as described in section 3.3

FAO, as Accredited Entity and Executing Entity for the project, will maintain overall responsibility for the implementation of the ESMF; MAYDS, that is also an executing entity (via OPIM) will share that responsibility. FAO and MAYDS will work closely with the project PMU, and in close collaboration with UNEP for safeguards issues. At project inception, FAO, working together with these partners, will lead the identification of sub-activities.

The PMU, with overall FAO supervision, supported by MAYDS safeguards experts and collaboration from UNEP, will undertake environmental and social screening of sub-activities, following the Environmental and Social Screening Checklist together with MAYDS. The results of the screening checklists will be analyzed by the project safeguards specialists, and sent to the Environmental and Social Management Unit in FAO for endorsement. Screening of sub-activities will involve:

- Checking that the activities involved are permissible (as per the legal and regulatory requirements of the project);
- Determining the level of further assessment required based on the level of expected impacts.

The screening checklist will result in the following screening outcomes: (i) determining the risk category for further assessment; and (ii) determining which additional assessment instruments are to be applied.

Special attention will be paid to ensure that the risk classification of the project is not increased, and on potential impacts on protected areas, indigenous peoples, decent work and gender equality. This process will ensure commitment to ensuring meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders to help define sub-activities during the project inception phase (Year 1).

A safeguards specialist will be contracted for the duration of the project as part of the PMU, and will work closely with the PM and counterparts from MAYDS (particularly gender and indigenous peoples specialists), under the guidance of FAO, and with UN Environment as a collaborating partner, on the following activities at project inception:

- Updating ESMF;
- Carrying out risk-screening for project sub-activities, identifying which projects need further safeguards instruments including ESMPs;
- Development of further sub-activity-specific safeguards instruments and ESMPs;
- Continual monitoring and reporting of environmental and social aspects of project design and implementation.
- Continual risk screening of project activities and sub-activities.

Complementary to this work, a Safeguards Working Group for the project could be established, with cross-cutting specialists in gender, environmental and social issues, and forestry, from institutions including MAYDS, the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs (INAI), the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, FAO, UNEP and others. This group could have a role in advising on safeguards application to the project, and the implementation and monitoring related to safeguards and the ESMF.

As part of this work at project inception, an institutional capacity assessment will be carried out, to help identify and assess particular institutional needs within the implementation framework for the application of the ESMF, including a review of the authority and capability of institutions at different administrative levels (e.g., national, provincial, local, municipal), and their capacity to manage and monitor ESMF implementation. Where necessary, capacity building and technical assistance activities will be carried out, under Component D of the project, to enable implementing agencies and involved institutions and stakeholders to implement the ESMF, including preparation, implementing and monitoring of specific social and environmental management plans and/or measures.

The budget for implementation of the ESMF will be specified in inputs to the full project proposal at later stage.

7 Stakeholder engagement

A number of key stakeholders and beneficiaries for this project have been identified. Key types of stakeholders along with information on their envisaged role in project implementation are reported in Table 17; initial details on key beneficiaries per output are reported in section 3.2. Both groups will be updated and refined at project inception.

Table 17. Key stakeholders

Stakeholder	Description	Envisaged role in project implementation
Environmental authorities	<p>At the national level, the environmental authority is the Ministry of Sustainable Development (MAYDS). The National Directorate of Forests (DNB) and the National Directorate of Climate Change (DNCC) are particularly relevant for the implementation of this project.</p> <p>Environmental policies are agreed upon by the Federal Council of the Environment (COFEMA) whose members represent the federal</p>	<p>Activities related to the native forests fall under the jurisdiction of environmental authorities at three different levels of Argentina's federal system: national, provincial and municipal.</p> <p>According to the National Constitution, the domain over natural resources remains with the provinces, environmental authorities at the provincial level will play an important role in the implementation of the project. In this vein,</p>

	<p>government and the provinces. COFEMA is the basis for the Federal Environment System, and was set up to coordinate participation and synergy among the different government areas at all three levels of administrative decentralization. COFEMA was created to coordinate regional and national environmental strategies and management programmes. Its Executive Secretariat comprises representatives from the different regions and a representative from the Argentine government and the specialized Committees, among them, the Committee on Native Forests and Climate Change, that plays an important role in the design of the PANByCC and in participation, particularly in the provinces. The Committee on Native Forests within COFEMA discusses and agrees on strategies and actions for forest resources.</p> <p>Relevant authorities are those responsible for preparing OTBN, and for implementing the monitoring mechanisms in the territory.</p> <p>At the municipal level, authorities have responsibility for urban planning and development, which can be directly related to many drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.</p> <p>Environmental authorities also have a particularly important role in the control of fires. At the national level, this involves the MAYDS,. At the sub-national level, it varies according to each province.</p> <p>The National Parks Administration of Argentina also has an important role in maintaining (and in some cases expanding) national parks in Argentina, helping to conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as cultural resources.</p>	<p>i.e. Output D, on “Strengthening of management, control and monitoring capacities” will work with both provincial environmental entities (D.1) and national entities (D.2).</p> <p>Municipalities will have a key role in local coordination of project activities and sub-activities, particularly those than involve interventions on the ground, such as Output C.2. on “Prevention of forest fires and increase of the capacity to respond to forest fires”, and also to improve inspection and surveillance capacity (D.1.1).</p>
Livestock and agricultural authorities and entities	<p>Public agencies and institutions that guide and support livestock and agricultural sector policy.</p> <p>These can include, for example, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP for its acronym in Spanish) and the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA).</p>	<p>Due to the nature of the project and its aim at reducing deforestation and addressing key related drivers, involvement of relevant stakeholders in the livestock and agricultural sector will be key for the project. Component B on “Forest Management with Integrated Livestock” deserves a specific mention as area of collaboration. The inclusion of projects at the provincial level (B.1.2), as well as developing training and technical material for producers (B.1.3).</p>
Indigenous	These include representatives from indigenous	This is a key sector for forest management and

peoples, local communities, and relevant organizations	<p>peoples , as well as small farmers and other local communities that live in or depend on forests.</p> <p>For purposes of the Forest Law and this project, the legal status of local communities is similar to that of indigenous communities (article 2.e).</p> <p>National and sub-national indigenous organizations mapped in more detail in the IPPF, will also be relevant stakeholders for project activities.</p>	<p>territorial interventions (component A and B of the project) in the country, and therefore for this project. Indigenous and local communities in many cases are directly responsible for the use and protection of Argentina's forests.</p> <p>The Project proposes a series of activities aimed at improving the participation of this sector within the PANByCC, as well as improving their living conditions. For example, through output "A.2. Local communities strengthened for the legal and sustainable management of forests through Integral community plans", which includes activities such as territorial prospecting and participatory assessments (A.2.1); management of legal forest use rights (A.2.3); and investment and training in eligible sustainable productive activities (A.2.4).</p>
Small land-owners/ producers	<p>These can include landowners or occupants who develop small subsistence agriculture or livestock activities, often in natural ecosystems, either for subsistence or for small-scale production.</p>	<p>Small producers are often directly involved in the use and protection of forests, particularly in remote rural areas, with high forest cover or high conservation interest (Forest Law "red" category). The project foresees a series of activities related to sustainable production, compatible with the conservation of native forests, such as outputs A.1 Forest basins for timber and non-timber forest products, A.2 on "Strengthened local communities for the legal and sustainable management of forests through integral community plans" and B.1 on "Managed forests with integrated livestock", to name a few examples.</p>
Private sector, including medium-large-scale agricultural producers	<p>These can include those who directly develop agricultural activities or are involved in relevant businesses at a medium- or large scale.</p> <p>Private sector actors might also have interest in investing in nature-based solutions, and provide important opportunities for strategic alliances, the provision of incentives, or co-financing of project activities.</p>	<p>Outputs A and B, on Territorial management of forests, and forest management with integrated livestock respectively, anticipate a number of activities and outputs related to private producers and value chains. Therefore, the adequate and timely involvement of these actors will be key to the success of such components. Investment from the private sector can also be important for leveraging financing from the proposal, and creating important incentives for nature-based solutions.</p>
Women's groups and organizations	<p>These can include women's organizations at the local level, or organizations and government entities that function at the national or provincial level.</p> <p>An example at the national level is the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity.</p>	<p>In line with FAO's principles on gender, many activities planned in the project are focused on strengthening the gender approach within forest governance, i.e. in developing forest management plans at forest basin level (A.1.2), in the preparation of Integral Community Plans (A.2.2), Management of legal forest use rights</p>

	This can also include NGOs related to gender issues, or with a gender focus. This can also include academic and gender experts.	(A.2.3). There is also an activity for “Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management, including the generation of information with a gender perspective” (D.2.4) among others. In such interventions, different women’s group might play a key role helping to bring the needs and expectations of women, facilitating dialogue and advising on technical aspects of the project.
NGOs	This can include organizations or institutions with projects or responsibility for topics related to the project, who might eventually support or advise on project implementation. NGOs might also provide a key voice in the verification of safeguards aspects on the ground.	NGOs play a very important role in facilitating dialogue, building capacities, providing critical insights and inputs on social and environmental effects of project activities, and representing vulnerable populations or sectors.
Academic/ Technical sector	This sector is comprised of different institutions, such as universities, research organizations, and others, working on topics directly or indirectly related to the Project, such as forests, climate change, agriculture, indigenous peoples, gender, and others.	Together with NGOs, this sector can play an important role in the facilitation of multi-stakeholder dialogue and provide Technical insight and overviews relevant for Project monitoring and evaluation. The Project proposes a series of activities in which this sector will be important for successful implementation, such as those related to building capacities at the local and provincial level, and those that involve indigenous peoples and local communities.

7.1 Stakeholder engagement for the PANByCC and this proposal

The development of the proposal for results-based payments for REDD+ builds on the extensive stakeholder engagement processes that have been carried in Argentina throughout the implementation of the Forest Law, as well as during the development of the PANByCC. The *Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016* proposal has been planned and designed as part of the PANByCC implementation.

Extensive information on the participatory process within the Forest Law scheme during the Results Period is available in the ESA. Under this sections we will focus on the stakeholder engagement process for the development of the PANByCC, which in turn informed the selection of activities to be implemented with the use of proceeds, annex of the Funding Proposal, as well as in the [first Summary of Safeguards Information](#). To summarize such process, the main spaces of participation and dialogue as related to the PANByCC included:

- *Socialization and capacity strengthening on forests and climate change as well as on key elements of REDD+ strategies:* between 2015 and early 2017, workshops were held with representatives of COFEMA, NGOs, the government, the private sector and academia at provincial and national level. Worth mentioning a workshop attended by 106 participants, including representatives of civil society and academic organizations, and representatives of *campesino* and indigenous communities, government ministries and institutions, and f United Nations agencies;

- *Formation of technical working groups addressing key REDD+ issues:* i) environmental and social benefits and safeguards, ii) reference levels and forest monitoring, iii) financial structure and REDD+ financing, iv) causes of deforestation and forest degradation, v) indigenous peoples;
- *Regional and multisectoral dialogue workshops,* developed in collaboration with local institutions with experience and knowledge of socio-environmental aspects of Argentina's forest regions. In total, 10 workshops were conducted in a systematic manner between 2017-2018, with a total participation of 627 people. The stakeholders mapping included representatives of the different sectors linked to land use, forests and climate change, validated by COFEMA representatives;
- *Workshops on safeguards, gender and free, prior and informed consultation processes* with indigenous peoples, which are described in detail in the ESA.

It must be noted that, due to the high level of participation and how important this was for completing the PANByCC, in 2017 and 2018 Multi-sectoral Dialogue Meetings were held in six out of the country's seven forest regions. During the first round, the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation were discussed and analyzed, as well as economic, social/cultural and environmental benefits of each forest region and the strategic actions to halt or reverse deforestation and forest degradation. At a second stage, the PANByCC was presented and provincial groups worked on discussing the operational pillars, priority actions and activities for implementing the PANByCC; identifying key aspects for its implementation at the provincial level; and reflecting on the social and environmental risks and benefits of the prioritized pillars, actions and measures, as well as on environmental and social safeguards.

All told, ten workshops were systematically held with a total number of 627 participants. For convening these meetings, a stakeholder mapping was carried out, including the representatives of the different sectors linked to land use, forests and climate change. This exercise was done within the framework of the UN-REDD+ NP and validated by COFEMA provincial representatives. Stakeholder mapping was supplemented with contributions from local partners, the *Fundación Cambio Democrático* (Democratic Change Foundation- FCD) and its local technicians. These meetings were intended to ensure effective engagement, and information was disaggregated on the participation of the indigenous peoples and small farmers, peasants and tenant farmers, as stated in the table below.

Table 18. Stakeholders participating in the above PANByCC meetings

	Paranaense (Misionera) Rainforest	Yungas (Tucumano- Boliviana) Forest	Andean- Patagonian Forest	Argentine Monte & Espinal	Parque Chaqueño
2017 - Total number of participants: 334 - Women: 105 - Men: 229					
Indigenous Peoples	29%	12%	15%	12%	12%
Small farmers / peasants / tenant farmers	2%	0%	2,5%	3%	10%
2018 - Total number of participants: 293 - Women: 100 - Men: 193					
Indigenous Peoples	13%	13%	17%	11%	3%
Small farmers / peasants / tenant farmers	2%	0	3%	4%	9%

Source: Summary of results of regional workshops, UN-REDD National Programme Argentina

To ensure appropriate and active participation of the indigenous peoples at these meetings, coordination and planning meetings were held among the partners, facilitator team and indigenous peoples' institutions to agree on a roadmap, criteria and methodologies. Among other aspects, the indigenous peoples' institutions helped prepare the stakeholder mapping to guarantee appropriate representation. Among the many guidelines, it was agreed that when convening these meetings, the aim should be to have a balanced presence of indigenous chieftains or leaders, and at least one must be "young" and the other an "older" representative for each community. This methodology led to ensuring that indigenous participation guaranteed the voice, interests and knowledge of the different generations within a community, as well as the participation of women and the possibility of mainstreaming gender (FCPF Argentina, 2019, pág. 20).

Through the efforts and achievements of active participation, the main PANByCC guidelines that, among others, reflected actions carried out by the Forest Law during the Results Period, were designed with the participation of indigenous peoples and communities from different forest regions across the country, in line with the regulatory framework on the matter

Therefore, PANByCC includes objectives that call for respecting the right to FPIC of the communities that are either forest-dependent and/or live within forests and, in turn, reinforcing such processes. In this regard, one of the strategic pillars (EEE 2) refers to *Strengthening local communities*, and aims at improving the situation of local communities, building and strengthening capacities; likewise, another of its pillars, that of *Strengthening Governance*, promotes and reinforces participatory spaces (EEE 1, Action 1.7)

As indicated previously, the Project on Forests and the Community is one of the country's fundamental efforts to improve the quality of life of both the Creole and indigenous communities living in native forests, and to enhance engagement of such communities in forest governance

As a corollary of the process started back in 2015, a specific workshop was held in 2019 to train key stakeholders in the mainstreaming of gender in climate change and forest management, and present management tools for decision-makers and technicians working on the ground. To complete the work undertaken during the Results Period and subsequent years, MAYDS prepared the **Methodological Guidelines to Mainstream the Gender Perspective in Climate Change and Forest Management**, including basic notions, methodologies and practical tools to mainstream gender in climate change and forest management. The purpose of these guidelines is to support the authorities and technical staff at the national and sub-national levels in their task of mainstreaming gender in the country's different REDD+ - related interventions. These guidelines will soon be made available [on the Argentine government's climate change website](#).

The Multi-sectoral Dialogue Meetings carried out in 2017 and 2018 served to analyze the potential social and environmental benefits and risks of the different pillars and actions associated with the PANByCC and ensure that its design was appropriate before it was implemented; the process also served to report on the progress of the Country Approach to Safeguards, and the future adjustments that would be made in the PANByCC, based on the experience with its implementation.

It should be noted that the analysis was conducted within the national safeguard development framework wherefore only the benefits and risks of potential actions of the Strategic Operational Pillars (SOPs), and not those of the Strategic Structural Pillars (SSPs), of the PANByCC were analyzed given that the actions of the SOPs are the only ones that entail a direct intervention on the ground and generate reduced emissions (the difference between the Pillars is shown in the Table below, "PANByCC Structure").

Furthermore, these benefits and others, that were identified after the Results Period, were collected and located in the territory⁵³ with GIS technology and included in the [National Forest Monitoring System of Argentina](#) which is publicly available. These maps identify intervention areas that could increase the benefits of implementing the PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives by focusing actions on areas where there is greater convergence of benefits.

These participatory processes have helped inform the development of the PANByCC, and the results have guided the development of this proposal.

7.1.1 Participation and socialization process of the proposal Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016

FAO, received a request from the MAYDS to act as Accredited Entity for the preparation of a concept note and proposal to be submitted to the GCF RBP pilot programme in July 2019. Consultations between FAO and MAYDS for the preparation of the concept note started soon after, also in collaboration with UN Environment as FAO partner in this endeavor. In December 2019 the GCF Secretariat confirmed about the eligibility of Argentina to preparation and submitting a RBP funding proposal. Considering the 2019 national elections and the related entry of new government authorities between mid-December 2019 and mid-February 2020, further FAO–MAYDS consultations took place in February 2020, when the new government authorities confirmed the willingness of the country in combating climate change through the reduction of deforestation and the enhancement of carbon stocks, as well as the strengthened interest and commitment in developing a funding proposal to the pilot programme, through FAO as AE.

The process to socialize the concept of the funding proposal with key stakeholders included COFEMA, MAGyP, INAI, NGOs, technical-scientific sector and academia.

On 3 March 2020, in the context of the meeting of the Forest Commission of the COFEMA, MAYDS presented to environmental authorities of all the provinces the concept of the RBP funding proposal, objectives, initial elements and concepts for use of proceeds, and the proposed distribution of benefits.

As a key result of consultation and socialization with COFEMA, on 4 March 2020, the COFEMA General Assembly unanimously declared their interest for the preparation of the proposal and agreed for MAYDS to undertake those efforts, with FAO as Accredited Entity. At the same meeting, all participants agreed to support the approach for the distribution of benefits (use of proceeds) of the proposal in accordance with the strategic technical guidelines of the Forest Law included in the PANByCC as operational strategic pillars with a proportion of approximately 72% to support interventions at regional/provincial level and of approximately 28% towards application at national level (minutes of the meeting included in Annex III: Minutes of key socialization meetings of this document).

⁵³ The analysis includes the benefits for which spatial information and digital coverage were available to develop the maps.



Figure 12. Presentation of Argentina REDD+ RBP proposal for the years 2014-2016
concept idea by MAYDS to COFEMA (3-4 March 2020)

In the same month, dialogue and consultations also progressed with INAI related to organization of a process for free, prior and informed consultation with indigenous peoples, resulting in the agreement for the joint-organization of a series of consultation events, the first of which should have been held in early April with the Mesa Nacional del Consejo de Participación Indígena (the Council of Indigenous Peoples Participation). A second meeting would have been held with a larger number of participants/representatives (approximately 130) at the regional level. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the related lock-down in the country, face-to-face meetings had to be put on hold (and until this submission date are still not authorized), limiting the ability to carry out consultations as planned. Following the initial exchange started up in March with INAI, a virtual meeting was therefore held, held on July 8th, with the objective to present the main concepts and content of the proposal to gather inputs, queries, suggestions and exchanges. The meeting received high attendance and participation, with more than 50 representatives from indigenous peoples. At the meeting MAYDS and INAI stressed the key role of IP to continue boosting the reduction of deforestation in the country, and also announced the online survey to foster the provision of inputs also through that channel. The meeting was [recorded](#) and it is available for dissemination to other interested actors. Original minutes of the meeting are available upon request.

It should be noted that under the ongoing pandemic and lock-down, indigenous peoples are following recommendations from UN and international organizations and are postponing, until date to be confirmed, any contact with external actors. Presential meetings will have to be planned as soon as the pandemic will allow it.

As a contingency plan, the consultation process continued remotely from April 2020 – with the plan to resume face-to-face consultation as soon as the health emergency would allow it. As of July 2020 the country continues in a state of health emergency and in lock-down, therefore the consultation and participation had to continue through virtual platforms, as the next paragraphs will explain.

In the specific an online survey was first prepared and sent out, together with a summary of the draft Funding Proposal, to 261 actors from more than 110 institutions and organizations (including indigenous peoples, *campesinos*, NGOs and academia) who had participated in the regional workshops for the construction of the PANByCC described in previous sections (and at length in the ESA annex of this funding proposal), allowing for a period of ten days response. The list of stakeholders consulted for this is available in [Annex V](#).

The same survey and a summary of the RBP proposal have then also been made publicly available on the [MAyDS website](#) for continuous feedback.

Opinions and contributions from 126 actors, representing 73 institutions, were received (23% technical sector, 22% academic sector, 17% private sector, 17% NGOs and community-level organizations, 6% indigenous peoples, 3% small scale farmers, 12% government). Regarding gender, 70% of the replies were from males, and 30% from female actors. With relation to provinces, all the 23 provinces of Argentina were represented in the answers.

The survey asked for the respondent to indicate his/her engagement with native forest management and in the REDD+ process, and to indicate which kind of impact (positive or negative) the proposed project would have on his/her area of work. The survey also asked respondents to prioritize the outputs included in the Funding Proposal, in order of importance, and included questions on how to potentially improve the project.

When asked to identify the impacts of the proposal, 71% considered only positive impacts, 16% listed positive and negative impacts, 2% only negative and 13% abstained from answering. The positive impacts were numerous, including the strengthening of sustainable forest management, continuance of practices that produced good results and complemented the Forest Law, likelihood to reduce of pressures of extraction from small scale farmers, strengthening of the involvement of local communities and social inclusion. Within the negative impacts mentioned, there were concerns about the sustainability of results and benefits, which could arrive too late or generate false expectations from communities; and awareness of the need of a suitable monitoring and control system to achieve desired results.

The four components of the project were ranked in order of priority: 1º Territory-based forest management, 2º Forest management with integrated livestock, 3º Strengthening institutional and monitoring and oversight capabilities and 4º Enhanced response to forest fires.

When asked to suggest potential improvements to the proposal, 59% of respondents included details that already were included in the proposal but not fully or explicitly specified in the summary circulated with the questionnaire, 25% did not include any suggestion and 28% included suggestions which will be duly reviewed and considered, including defining clear guidelines for implementation, communication and diffusion of the tools, involving other actors of the agricultural sector, promoting financial incentives for the private sector, and including local entities in certification and control systems, among others.

In this context, on July 27th MAyDS maintained a new meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP in its spanish acronym) to present in more details the main contents and the most updated implementation arrangements of the funding proposal, so to further discuss role of MAGyP within the project. The meeting was attended by 9 representatives of different areas within the MAGyP, including the National Directorate of Industrial Forestry Development; Directorate of Bovine Livestock; Directorate of Sustainable Productions; Secretariat of Family, Peasant and Indigenous Agriculture; Under Secretariat of Politics Coordination; and the Under Secretariat of Agriculture. MAGyP

ratified its commitment with the project proposal development and implementation. The main areas of joint work include MBGI, the strengthening of forest fires prevention measures, and developing adequate territorial planning within forest basins. They also ratified their support promoting sustainable production schemes, carbon-neutral to avoid deforestation and work together even sharing stakeholders' platforms. Furthermore, they valued the gender approach of the proposal. Finally, MAYDS shared the online survey link, for MAGyP, and its network, to give additional feedback, suggestions and contributions as needed. Original minute of the meeting is available upon request.

On 10 August 2020, MAYDS presented the funding proposal main contents to the Central of Workers of Argentina (CTA, in its Spanish acronym). The CTA is an organization that brings together first-degree unions, associations or federations of workers, popular cooperatives and civil associations. The meeting was attended by 34 representatives of the CTA based in different provinces of the country. The main issues addressed during the meeting were the necessity of inter-ministerial work to address land tenure issues, the need for a good approach between rural and urban transition, and key drivers of deforestation in the country. The importance of the continuity of the PICs developed within the framework of the Forest and Community Project was highlighted, as well as the participatory methodology used in planning. The CTA expressed their predisposition and openness to participate and work together, specifically when it comes to working in the territory. They highlighted that the CTA network is available and can help bringing territorial projects closer. MAYDS shared the online survey link for the CTA to give additional feedback, suggestions and contributions. The minutes of the meeting are available upon request.

On 14 August 2020, MAYDS presented the funding proposal main contents to the Argentine Forest Engineering Federation (FAIF in its Spanish acronym). FAIF is a civil and non-profit association, that brings together forest engineering and related organizations, exercising collective representation before public and private organizations of national and international order. The meeting was attended by 86 representatives of professional councils on forestry sciences and engineering. The professionals of the Federation made a call for all forestry professionals to improve the technical quality of the plans that are presented under the Forest Law. They suggested incorporating measures that can accompany and leverage investment made through private activity. In addition, they proposed to analyze the MBGI regulations and their application to see the results obtained in different regions and make the necessary adjustments. Each region has its own vectors or drivers of deforestation and degradation, and they should be addressed. They highlighted the need to strengthen the manufacture of native products (timber and non-timber forest products).. They maintained that the manufacturing chain of native products should be strengthened, due to physical accessibility problems and the amount of available resources. The FAIF recognized that the implementation of the RBP will generate an important job market. They also emphasized the importance of strengthening technical teams to work on the valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests, not only as carbon sinks; work on issues such as sustainable tourism, and territorial identity, to showcase their value, and increase the awareness for those who are the beneficiaries of these services. The Federation thanked and highlighted the openness and predisposition to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of those who live in the forests. MAYDS shared the online survey link for FAIF to give additional feedback, suggestions and contributions. The minutes of the meeting are available upon request.

On 14 September 2020, MAYDS held a virtual meeting with **representatives of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations**, to present further details and exchange on the main contents of the funding proposal. The meeting was attended by 41 representatives of different organizations. Some of the organizations that participated in the meeting were the Chaco Argentina Agroforestry Network (REDAF, for its name in Spanish), the Institute of Popular Culture (INCUPPO), the Argentine Climate Youth, the Association for the Promotion of Culture and Development (ACDP), the Association of Mountain Guides, ProYungas Foundation, the Argentine Wildlife Foundation (FVSA), among others.

Participants' interventions highlighted some key aspects, such as the importance of preservation of the forest through the strengthening of the communities that live in it and the positive impact and increase respect for communities' rights that working schemes through the PICs can bring.

The spaces for participation proposed in the RBP project, such as the Local Consultative Committee, were confirmed as good opportunities for participation. The important for consultations not be affected by cultural barriers was noted. The importance of financing effectively reaching the communities was pointed out. The importance of transparency in the implementation of the local interventions within the framework of the proposal was also addressed.

NGOs and civil society organizations representatives confirmed their interest in proposal and expressed their commitment to support. MAYDS shared the online survey link, for additional feedback, suggestions and contributions. The minute of the meeting is available upon request.

On 15 September 2020, the funding proposal was presented to main contents in the **Argentine Network of Forest Science and Technology** (REDFOR.ar, in its Spanish acronym), which is a joint initiative of institutions linked to forest sciences, integrated by researchers and institutions related to education, science and forest technology. The meeting was attended by 152 people. During the meeting, the need for a multisectoral approach was expressed, considering the different factors that are involved in deforestation. Carrying out long-term and sustained territorial work to strengthen communities so that they do not depend on technicians and financing, taking advantage of the existing permanent structures and presence of the State are also important. Greater articulation of the DNB and subnational institutions was suggested, specifically in monitoring implementation and deforestation processes. Regarding the proposed institutional arrangements of the proposal, it was proposed that explicit representation be given to the academic-scientific sector. The REDFOR.ar stated that they were going to send a formal document with contributions, that condenses all opinions collected by the internal survey sent to the members of the network. Additionally, MAYDS shared the online survey link, for all the members of REDFOR.ar to give additional feedback, and suggestions. The meeting was [recorded](#) and the minute is available upon request.

All the inputs collected throughout these different instances has been systematized. The distribution of the budget presented across activities reflects feedbacks on the prioritization of the interventions received from stakeholders during the consultation sessions. In this framework the highest priority for the investments on the ground was identified as the Territorial forest management (Component A), since such approach would continue triggering reduction of emissions from the forest sector, while boosting positive economic impacts on local communities and indigenous peoples. Component B (Forest management with integrated livestock) and component C (Enhanced response to forest fires) have been prioritized in second and third place (see also response 1 for component C).

7.1.2 The dialogue and exchange process will continue with the various stakeholders, with follow up meetings with COFEMA and INAI already organized for the month of October to share update on the upcoming B27. Other meetings and coordination actions will follow. Planned stakeholder capacity building and engagement during project implementation

In order to ensure stakeholder engagement during the entire project cycle, as well as to implement a capacity-building process related to each of the four project components, the RBP funding proposal establishes the following activities.

	Component	Output	Stakeholder capacity building / engagement
A	Territorial	A.1.	<i>A.1.1 Preparation of integrated management plans for the sustainable</i>

	forest management	Sustainable forest basins	<i>forest basins and their value chains (timber and other non-timber forest products):</i> the activity will be implemented through a participatory approach with the beneficiaries. It will include market and value chain studies (timber and other forest products), business plans, development plans for the whole of the forestry-related and services industries.
		A.2. Local communities manage their collective territories through PICs	<p><i>A.2.1 Identification of eligible territories at the local level: Dissemination workshops and calls to communities so that they can submit expressions of interest:</i> Calls for participation must be broad, in line with the gender plan, and include appropriate material to explain the management proposals involved in a PIC.</p> <p><i>A.2.2 Participatory development of the Integral community plans (PICs):</i> It includes technical support for the formulation of the PICs (through participatory and inclusive gender responsive workshops, following the General Procedures of the Forest Law and including necessary forest inventory steps) and of the investment plan, the subsequent submission to the ALA.</p>
B	Forest management with integrated livestock	B.1 Livestock farmers implement models of forest management with integrated livestock	<p><i>B.1.2 Formulation of MBGI projects at the provincial level. Includes professional support service for the formulation of the plan following the general procedures of the Forest Law and the MBGI Technical Guidelines locally adopted.</i></p> <p><i>B.1.3 Implementation of MBGI projects:</i> the activity will also include training and investments in supplies, tools and civil works (cattle fences, forest protection fences, small rainwater reservoirs) and rural services (mechanized silvicultural interventions for forage improvement) for the application of low intensity treatments</p>
C	Enhanced response to forest fires	C.1 Institutions and communities involved have capacity of response to forest fires.	<i>C.1.1 Participatory design of forest fire prevention plans.</i>
D	National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor forest and control are strengthened.	D.2 National government has institutional forest promoting, monitoring and control capabilities	<i>D.2.2 Increasing of forest extension capacities (SFM, MBGI and participatory processes mainstreaming gender):</i> This type of support will focus on providing communities, owners and plan developers with training on plan development and follow-up, especially regarding the activities proposed and the application of the associated safeguard policies

7.2 Stakeholder engagement for the implementation of activities

Building on the extensive stakeholder engagement in design and implementation of key policies (Forest Law) and the PANByCC, it is planned for this project to continue and reinforce the stakeholder engagement in the implementation of its activities. The project *Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016* will be implemented with a focus on participatory, transparent and equitable processes, complying with the needs, perspectives and priorities of key project stakeholders.

This will be in line with FAO and GCF commitments to ensuring meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of projects. Stakeholder engagement will be considered an on-going process that involves in varying degrees identification of stakeholders, disclosure and establishment of a mechanism by which people can make comments on project proposals and performance or raise grievances (all described in previous sections). As such key stakeholders will also be engaged for the preparation of the ES analysis and ESRM identification of adverse risks of sub-activities and sub-projects supported with GCF funds. The project will consult with project-affected representative communities and/or groups and civil society representatives to identify adverse impacts, define mitigation measures and categorize the risk level. Mitigation measures will also be undertaken with key stakeholders.

According to existing national framework the project will follow processes of free prior and informed consultation with indigenous peoples depending of the characteristics of the components and activities, in accordance with the ILO convention 169. The Project will evaluate risks involving INAI and IPs representatives and councils, and will define with them the procedures and protocols to be implemented in order to carry out a Free Prior and Informed Consultation in a culturally appropriate and understandable way for communities and their representatives.

In its operation the project will also use key resources for ensuring designing and implementing effective stakeholder engagement processes, such as the ones prepared by MAYDS as part of the National Approach to Safeguards, described in previous sections, as well as existing elements related to the Forest Law. This includes the following guidelines, published in 2014:

- Guidelines on Analyzing Social Stakeholders for OTBN Participatory Processes;
- Guidelines for Disseminating OTBN Participatory Processes;
- Guidelines on Methodologies for OTBN Participatory Processes;
- Guidelines for Documenting the OTBN Participatory Process.

Within the implementation, the Project proposes a number of activities that will support comprehensive participation processes. Although this will apply to all the four components of the project, it's worth mentioning here few examples from Component A on "Territory-based management of forests", which among other aspects, aims to increase communities management of forests and territories, which is considered a priority action for the recovery of regional economies, aimed at generating fair forms of economic income, but at the same time maintaining and increasing forest heritage. Strengthening capacities and technical assistance for the elaboration of Integral Community Plans (A.2) will contribute to improving access to resources of the Forest Law for communities. For this, the project plans to support territorial prospecting activities and participatory diagnoses (A.2.1), which will provide an opportunity for processes to understand and manage expectations, opportunities and obstacles of different actors as related to the Forest Law Fund. In addition, the component will have specific activities targeting women (such as the A.2.2. Participatory development of PIC mainstreaming gender).

The Integral Community Plans that are proposed in Output A.2.2 can also serve as useful tools to improve participation in forest governance, helping to promote free, prior and informed consultation processes.

These can also help build capacities to help promote effective and transparent decision-making processes at the local level.

Likewise, output A.1 which focuses on establishing and consolidating Forest basins for timber and non-timber products, will provide an opportunity for multi-stakeholder participation processes, involving the different beneficiaries of the relevant value chains, with a particular focus on those who have not yet been able to access management plans or financing due to conditions of land tenure.

The MBGI National Technical Committee and Provincial Technical Committee described previously, as related to project implementation arrangements, will also be key to ensuring effective participation processes related to Component B, informed by expert inputs. The committees will work together to meet the objectives of the National Plan, mainly oriented to training, monitoring the implementation of projects and developing marketing strategies.

The Expanded Forest Advisory Council and Local Forest Advisory Councils described previously are also key to supporting provinces in project identification, development of activities, evaluation, monitoring, and implementation of social and environmental safeguards, and enabling wider participation – for example, from institutes or ministries of indigenous affairs, representatives of *campesino* organizations, and others.

Ongoing consideration will be made to ensure that relevant stakeholders are appropriately identified and involved in all stages of the project cycle for all activities. The Project Management Unit will be responsible of reporting stakeholder participation in all activities, supporting the implementation and compliance with environmental and social safeguards. That will also contribute to maintain adequate documented evidence of stakeholder engagement in all processes related to the Environmental and Social Risk Management.

7.3 Gender Analysis and Action Plan

There have been significant efforts to integrate a gender approach into activities related to the Forest Law, and PANByCC development – described in detail in the ESA annex – which have informed the gender approach of this project proposal. In addition, a number of specific outputs related to gender form part of the proposed activities:

- A.1.1 Creation of forest basin councils with a gender perspective;
- A.1.2 General plan for forest management at the basin level with a gender perspective;
- A.2.2 Elaboration of Integral Community Plans (technical support for the formulation and implementation) with a gender perspective;
- A.2.3 Management of rights of legal use of the forest with gender equality;
- B.1.2 Presentation of MBGI projects at the provincial level with greater inclusion of women;
- D.1.1 Improve inspection and surveillance capacity, ensuring non-discrimination associated with the division of gender tasks;
- D.2.3 Targeted training, including activities associated with the gender plan.

The Gender Analysis prepared to accompany this project proposal helps identify the main gender gaps in Argentina, which are linked to income levels and working conditions. Recommendations are included for ensuring project activities incorporate a gender perspective, and contribute to women's equality:

- Ensure that activities will not discriminate against women, nor will they reinforce inequalities based on gender.
- Identify the different needs of women, men, and other actors regarding the activities to be carried out.

- Guarantee the effective participation of women in decision-making so that the benefits of implementation are equitable.
- Guarantee access to economic, financial and training resources in an equitable manner through the positive discrimination mechanisms necessary to reduce gender gaps in access to resources.

Likewise, the Gender Action Plan, which has been prepared to accompany the proposal, aims to support the implementation of these recommendations in project design and implementation, suggesting a number of gender-responsive indicators to help generate information and monitor performance of the project as related to gender. These can also contribute to promoting effective initiatives to help reduce the gender gap in the country's forest management.

Following the Gender Action Plan (see separate document, annex to the Funding Proposal) the project will support specific activities to develop gender assessments at the local level, in order to understand real and perceived gender differences in interests and needs, and anticipate potential threats or risks. A gender dimension will be mainstreamed in all forest-related interventions and according to their objectives and goals, this Project will promote women's active participation and will address women's and men's differentiated needs

8 Indigenous peoples planning framework

Indigenous Peoples (also referred to as *pueblos originarios* in Argentina) are recognized as key stakeholders and as such, it is crucial to engage them during the design, implementation and monitoring phases of the project. In line with relevant GCF, FAO and UNFCCC standards, the project will be developed and implemented in such a way that it fosters full respect, promotion, and safeguarding of indigenous peoples so that they benefit from the activities in a culturally appropriate manner; and do not suffer harm or adverse effects from the design and implementation of activities financed by this project. This indigenous peoples planning framework (IPPF) will serve as a key input for project design and implementation. It will also be a key input for the development of an Indigenous Peoples' Plan (IPP), which will be undertaken at the project inception phase. An indicative index of the IPP is included in Annex II.

8.1 Background information

According to the Argentinean legal framework, indigenous peoples are defined as "groups of families that recognize themselves as such because they are descendants of peoples that inhabited the national territory at the time of the conquest or colonization; and defines indigenous peoples as the members of said community" (article 2, Law 23302 on *Indigenous Policy and Support to Indigenous Communities*). Based on this definition, the [2010 Census](#) of Indigenous Peoples identified 955,032 people who recognized themselves as members or descendants of indigenous peoples, with 31 different indigenous ethnicities, accounting for 2.38% of the country's total population. Of this indigenous population, the Mapuche in Patagonia; the Kolla in Jujuy and Salta and the Wichí people in Chaco, Formosa and Salta have the largest populations, accounting for 53% of the total population of indigenous peoples in Argentina.

The map below indicates the distributions of indigenous peoples along the country, and their link to the Territorial Planning of Native Forests (OTBN) categories.

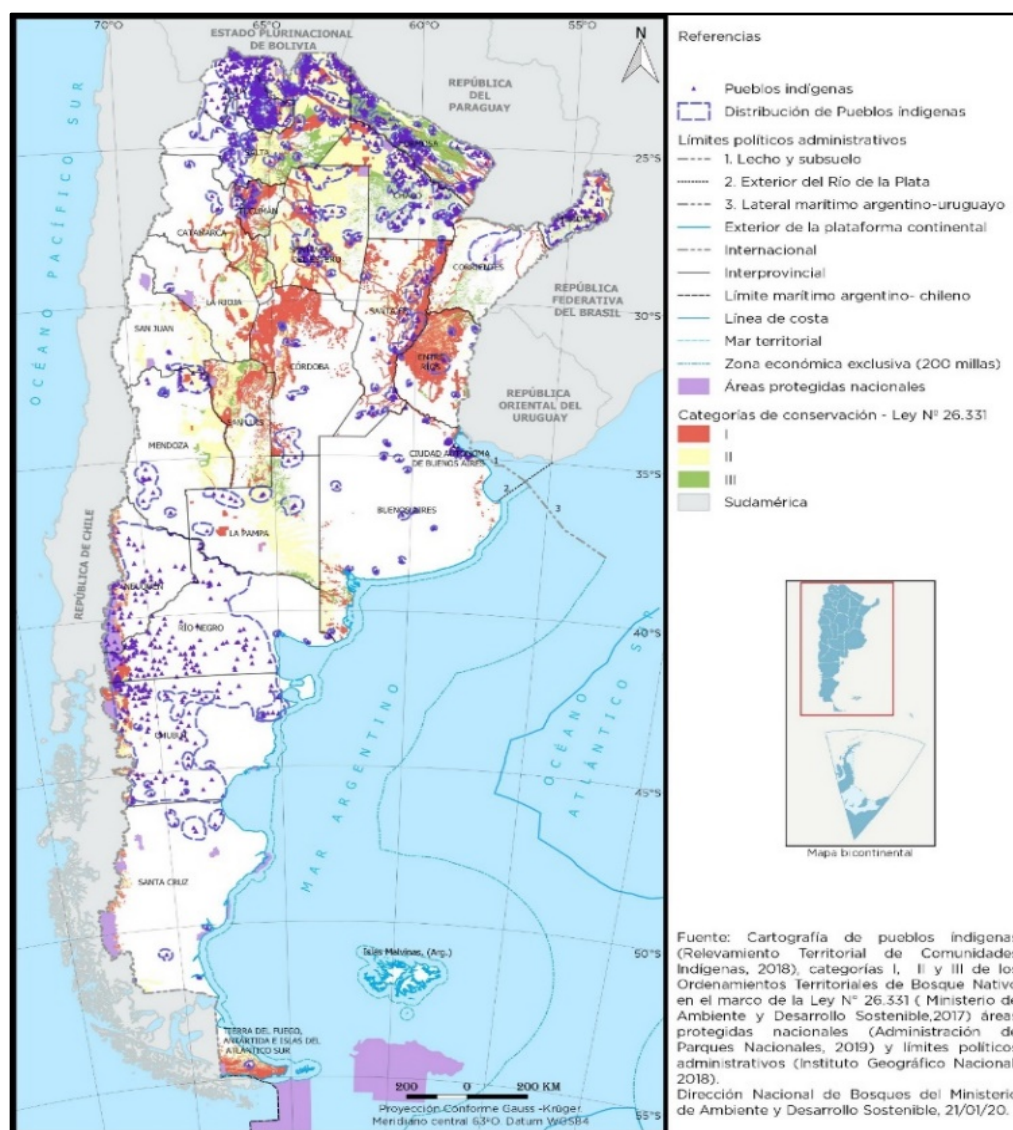


Figure 13. Distribution of indigenous peoples and OTBN categories. Source: Dirección Nacional de Bosques del Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible.

More than half of Argentina's forests are inhabited by indigenous peoples and local communities. Among Argentina's indigenous communities, 57% live in departments with native forests and 80% of the indigenous rural population lives within forests.

As mentioned in the Environmental and social baseline section, according to the 2010 National Census 89% of the rural population have unsatisfied basic needs. The forest communities of *Parque Chaqueño* are among populations with the highest unmet basic needs in the country.

In general, the land tenure situation in Argentina is more precarious in regions with native forests. The 2018 National Census of Agriculture noted that more than 40% of the native forest cover is found in areas without clearly defined tenancy. These can include community pastures, indigenous communities and other areas that generally coincide with precarious forms of land tenure.

Since 2006 the government of Argentina has been working to improve legal security in land tenure. In this year, Emergency Law No. 26160 on *possession and ownership of lands traditionally occupied by indigenous communities* (OG of 23 November 2006) was enacted: it suspends the execution of judgments and procedural or administrative acts involving eviction from, or removal of lands traditionally occupied by indigenous communities, and requires National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI) to conduct a technical, legal and cadastral survey of the situation regarding the ownership of the lands occupied by indigenous communities. This law has been extended until 2021.

In compliance with this law, through Resolution No. 587/07 the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI) launched the National Program of Territorial Survey of Indigenous Communities (RETECI), with the aim of carrying out the technical, legal and cadastral of the dominion situation of the lands that they occupy in a traditional, current and public way, being in charge of it the Directorate of Lands and National Registry of Indigenous Communities of the INAI. By September 2016, this agency had surveyed 702 communities, representing 74% of the objectives set at the start of the program (950 communities) and 46% of the number of communities currently identified (1 532 communities). This means that around 7 829 750 hectares of those initially identified (9 000 000 hectares) have been surveyed, which represents 86.99%. This is a very relevant effort in helping to generate sufficient knowledge about land tenure for indigenous communities.

8.2 Relevant legal framework

Argentina has a broad national and international framework related to indigenous peoples. It should be noted that while the law acknowledges the rights of indigenous peoples to be consulted on matters that may affect their rights, the country has no specific law on the implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consultation. The main elements of the legal framework related to indigenous peoples include the following:

- *National Constitution*: recognizes the ethnic and cultural pre-existence of indigenous peoples; guarantees respect for their identity, the right to bilingual and intercultural education and recognizes the legal status of their communities (Article 75, par. 17);
- *ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, (ILO Convention 169) of 1989* (Law No. 24071; O.G. of 07 April 1992): United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that “indigenous peoples have the right to participate in the adoption of decisions on matters that affect their rights” (article 18) and State Parties shall adopt special measures “to safeguard” their people, institutions, property, labour, “cultures and environment” (article 4). Additionally, in applying the provisions of this Convention, “(...) governments shall: a) consult the peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, whenever consideration is being given to legislative or administrative measures which may affect them directly; The consultations carried out in application of this Convention shall be undertaken, in good faith and in a form appropriate to the circumstances, with the objective of achieving agreement or consent to the proposed measures (article 6).
- *Law No. 23302 on Indigenous Policy and Support to Aboriginal Communities* (O.G. of 08 November 1985): It defines indigenous peoples as groups of families that recognize themselves as such because they are descendants of peoples that inhabited the national territory at the time of the conquest or colonization; and defines indigenous peoples as the members of said community” (article 2); and establishes INAI (article 5) as the enforcement authority of this Law. Additionally, the Law proposes the implementation of plans to foster agriculture, forestry, mining, industries and crafts of indigenous peoples, preserving their cultural beliefs in education plans and protecting the health of community members.

As described previously, the National Fund for the Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests (FNECBN), created through the Forest Law, aims to strengthen control agencies and help to compensate forest users, owners and/or holders for the implementation of sustainable forest management practices that help ensure the maintenance and increasing of forest cover, according to the activities allowed in each conservation category. However, an analysis of the National Registry of Plans between 2014-2018 has shown that only 2% of this financing has reached indigenous peoples and *campesino* communities. Part of this low participation rate can be associated with precarious land tenure conditions in many cases. Since 2014, however, a clarification has been made to the new Plan Regulation, in [Annex I of Resolution 277/14](#) of COFEMA, establishing that owners and holders of land and indigenous communities with current, traditional and public occupation, may access financing from the FNECBN, as long as they have a plan approved through appropriate channels related to the Forest Law. Since 2014, the figure of “Grouped Beneficiaries” was also created to help facilitate the planning of small-scale production units under the same technical assistance. This represented an important advance in the regulatory framework, since it allows the scope of management plans to be extended to the entire OTBN surface, including beneficiaries who may have been previously excluded due to tenure status.

Argentina is a Party to ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (Law No. 24071). United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states: “indigenous peoples have the right to participate in the adoption of decisions on matters that affect their rights” (article 18) and the Convention states that governments shall consult them using appropriate procedures when legislative or administrative measures may affect them (article 6). Although the country has not passed a law on free, prior and informed consultation within the framework of the national policy on indigenous peoples, significant progress has been made in this matter, including the establishment of institutions in which indigenous peoples participate, such as the National Indigenous Affairs Institute (INAI) and the Council on Indigenous Participation (CPI), mentioned above. Furthermore, with the consultation protocols and other tools that were developed, the country has progressed towards the realization of this important right.

Particularly concerning forests, the *Forest Law* (O.G. of 26 December 2017) includes several provisions to promote the participation and to safeguard the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, among them:

- It exempts the law from being enforced on all those uses on areas under 10 hectares, owned by the indigenous communities or small farmers (article 2);
- It recognizes indigenous communities as forest-dependent populations and forest inhabitants and, thus, establishes that MAYDS must consider them in designing measures for the sustainable use of native forests, within the National Programme on Native Forest Protection (article 12);
- It indicates that 30% of the resources collected by the Forest Law Fund must be allocated to developing and operating a monitoring network, together with “the implementation of financial and technical assistance programmes aiming at the sustainability of unsustainable activities carried out by small farmers and/or indigenous communities and/or peasants” (article 35);
- Specifically regarding participation, article 19 states that “all native forest clearing or sustainable management projects shall recognize and respect the rights of the original indigenous communities that have traditionally occupied these lands”; moreover, to implement this safeguard, article 26 mandates the law’s sub-national enforcement authorities to ensure that the provisions enshrined in the above article are fulfilled before authorizing any clearing of native forests, when allowed by the law.

In this regard, within the framework of the participatory processes for outlining the first versions of the provincial OTBNs around 2012-2013, DNB’s Social Participation Unit warned that the participation of

indigenous peoples was one of the weaknesses of the process. Therefore, it included in the Guidelines for OTBN Participatory Processes, a dialogue structure recommended for consultation with the Indigenous Peoples.

8.3 Consultations with indigenous peoples

In addition to the efforts to increase the participation of indigenous peoples in the Forest Law, as detailed above, since 2014, the National Directorate of Forests hold meetings with representatives from the indigenous peoples, with a view to identifying the difficulties when it comes to participating in the OTBN preparation processes, and in the Forest Law management, use and conservation plans. Meetings were held with:

- Seven *Wichi* communities in Nueva Pompeya, Province of Chaco, at the Nueva Pompeya Community Association;
- Ancestral Committee of the Lago Rosario Community, *Mapuche* peoples, in Lago Rosario, Chubut;
- Territorial Organization of Indigenous Peoples in Córdoba (OTEPOC, in its Spanish acronym);
- Vera and Colipan communities, *Mapuche* peoples, in Neuquén;
- Chieftain of the Valle de Santa María Community, *Diaguita* peoples, in Catamarca.

(SAyDS, 2017).

The extensive stakeholder engagement activities of the Forest and Community project, led by MAyDS and closely linked with the present Project, described in detail in the ESA annex, have also been very relevant for generating ongoing spaces of participation and discussion with indigenous peoples. The methodological aspects of key consultations are also included in the [Comprehensive Community Framework](#) for the project, which currently has a portfolio of 80 Integral Community Plans, reaching out to over 2,500 families, 60% of them are indigenous, covering an area of 400,000 Ha. Some key aspects of participation as related to indigenous peoples include:

- Public consultations with indigenous peoples were undertaken in each of the territories included in the project to help inform project design
- A National Advisory Council (CCN) was set up to ensure participation in the project, with Local Advisory Councils (CCL) in each province covered by the intervention, made up of local institutions dealing with forests, land and production, and representatives of indigenous and *campesino* communities in the areas of application.

In addition, throughout the development of the PANByCC, Argentina has paid special attention to the engagement of indigenous peoples. In the context of the PANByCC development a working Group on safeguards was set up, comprising different stakeholders that could contribute their knowledge and experiences to help the country address and respect the Cancun safeguards. In this regard, that same year, representatives of the Indigenous Peoples at the “Parliament of the Indigenous Peoples of the American Chaco and ZICOSUR (South American Center-West Integration Zone)” said the following: “We find the proposal to form thematic working groups attractive, since in this way specific participation spaces can be generated that address each of the topics in a more focused way and thus contribute to deeper discussions.”⁵⁴

⁵⁴ UN-REDD National Programme Argentina. (2015). *Informe Anual 2015*.

In response to the above suggestions of the Indigenous Peoples' Parliament, in 2016, MAYDS started working with the National Native Peoples Directorate, and other MAYDS technical units, NGOs, INAI, the Ombudsperson's Office – supported by the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme, to support dialogue and reflection on the participation of indigenous peoples within the REDD+ process, which resulted in the creation of the working group on indigenous peoples. This process was technically supported by the Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Participation and Consultation, within the National Ombudsperson's Office, comprising several civil society organizations, the Public Ministry for the Defense, and the Ombudsperson's Office. Furthermore, a decision was made to prepare guidelines for the participation of indigenous peoples, meant for technicians who will be implementing REDD+ projects, with a view to strengthening their capacities to ensure effective participation, respecting inter-cultural dialogue and establishing the rights of the international and national frameworks on the matter.⁵⁵ These "Guidelines for the free, prior and informed consultation of indigenous peoples" were developed with an extensive participation of key stakeholder and will soon be available for downloading from the [Argentina national Approach REDD+ Safeguards website](#).

The Multi-Sectoral Dialogue Meetings held in 2017 and 2018 described extensively in the ESA and reported in previous sections promoted specific participation and engagement of representatives from the indigenous peoples and local communities. Particularly to ensure appropriate and active participation of the indigenous peoples at these meetings, coordination and planning meetings were held among the partners, facilitator team and indigenous peoples' institutions to agree on a roadmap, criteria and methodologies engaging. Among other aspects, the indigenous peoples' institutions helped prepare the stakeholder mapping to ensure appropriate representation. Among the many guidelines, it was agreed that when convening these meetings, the aim should be to have a balanced presence of indigenous leaders, and at least one must be "younger" and the other an "older" representative for each community. This methodology led to ensuring that indigenous participation in the PANByCC development process reflected the voice, interests and knowledge of the different generations within a community, as well as the participation of women and the possibility of mainstreaming gender.⁵⁶

Apart from these efforts, during the preparation of the PANByCC, four workshops were held specifically to design a manual with guidelines on free, prior and informed consultation of indigenous peoples. The Working Group on Indigenous Peoples and the Working Group on Safeguards worked actively to develop the Country Approach to Safeguards, promoting the engagement of indigenous peoples, and building capacities especially in the field of FPIC.

Through this active participation of indigenous peoples, the PANByCC and guidelines that are to accompany its implementation, were developed in line with indigenous perspectives, priorities and realities, and include specific objectives related to respecting the right to FPIC of the communities that are either forest-dependent and/or live within forests and, in turn, reinforcing such processes. In this regard, one of the strategic pillars of the PANByCC (EEE 2) refers to *Strengthening local communities*, and aims at improving the situation of local communities, building and strengthening capacities; likewise, another of its pillars, that of *Strengthening Governance*, promotes and reinforces participatory spaces (EEE 1, Action 1.7)

In 2020 new dialogues and consultations related to organization of a process for free, prior and informed consultation with indigenous peoples also progressed with INAI, resulting in the agreement on March 13th

⁵⁵ FCPF Argentina. (2019). *Mid-term Progress Reporting*, 15 July 2019.

⁵⁶ FCPF Argentina. (2019). *Mid-term Progress Reporting*, 15 July 2019.

(minutes in Annex III) for the organization of consultation events, to be jointly called by INAI and MAYDS (minutes of the meeting available – in Spanish – as annex of this document). Tentative dates for the first meeting (April 2020), as well as initial ideas on agenda, venue and participants was agreed upon. This event would have been a four-day meeting, with the *Mesa Nacional del Consejo de Participación Indígena* (the council of indigenous participation, approximately 25 persons) and the same number of IP organizations. A second one would have been held with a larger number of participants/representatives (approximately 130) or at regional level.

8.3.1 Projected participatory process with indigenous peoples and local communities

As also indicated in the ESA Annex to this funding proposal and in the description of the participative process in section 8.3 of this ESMF, the implementation of actions that led to the reduction of emissions during the results period was carried out with respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with the Cancun safeguards and the legal framework of the country.

In this context, and in agreement with the Argentine legal framework, consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities was carried out ensuring rights to free, prior and informed consultation (within the scope of ILO Convention 169), given that the implementation of the Forest Law and other actions that led to emissions reductions, did not involve any type of displacement or relocation of indigenous peoples during the period of results (aspects which would require free, prior and informed consent of potentially impacted indigenous peoples). Argentina recognizes that for any project activity that may pose a risk of displacement, relocation or impact to indigenous peoples and communities, necessary measures to ensure free, prior and informed consent for the related implementation will have to be carried out, in full accordance with ILO Convention 169, and in strict compliance with the ESS of FAO and the GCF indigenous Peoples Policy.

Consultation during the COVID-19 pandemic

As anticipated in section 7.1.1 on Participation and socialization process of the proposal Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016 dialogue and consultations progressed with INAI related to organization of a process for free, prior and informed consultation with indigenous peoples (this would aim at achieving consent in case of actions with risk of displacement or relocation, , as per ILO convention 169), resulting in the agreement for the joint-organization of a series of consultation events, the first of which should have been held in early April with the Mesa Nacional del Consejo de Participación Indígena (the Council of Indigenous Peoples Participation). A second meeting would have been held with a larger number of participants/representatives (approximately 130) at the regional level. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the related lock-down in the country, face-to-face meetings had to be put on hold, limiting the ability to carry out consultations as planned. Following the initial exchange started up in March with INAI, a virtual meeting was held, held on July 8th, and its objective was to present the main concepts and content of the proposal to gather inputs, queries, suggestions and exchanges. The meeting received high attendance and participation, with more than 50 representatives from indigenous peoples. At the meeting MAYDS and INAI stressed the key role of IP to continue boosting the reduction of deforestation in the country, and also announced the online survey and foster the provision of inputs also through that channel. The meeting was [recorded](#) and it is available for dissemination to other interested stakeholders.

It should be noted that under the ongoing pandemic and lock-down, indigenous peoples are following recommendations from UN and international organizations and are postponing, until date to be confirmed, any contact with external actors. In person meetings will have to be planned as soon as the pandemic will allow it.

In the unfortunate scenario of a continued pandemic and lock-down in future months to come or during implementation phase, MAYDS and FAO will take provisions to ensure appropriate consultation with stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, in a manner appropriate to meet National, FAO and GCF requirements. In this scenario:

- Printed material will be dispatched for ease of reference and consultation in possible manners, and provided the community is not in a state of COVID-19 risk self-imposed isolation;
- Attempts will be made for the online meetings to be organized in such manner that the community could be brought together in their own meeting space, provided it does allow for social distancing
 - For such online consultations, most appropriate facilitators will be engaged to boost smooth dialogue;
 - Online discussions will be recorded, and the recording retained for the record;
 - Minutes of the meetings will be also recorded and approved by the communities.
- Consultations sessions will be repeated in order to ensure proper participation;
- In case needed, the project might facilitate for internet access to allow the participation to the video conferencing.

8.4 Relevant institutions and organizations

Given the heterogeneity of indigenous populations, as well as the large size of the country, in Argentina there is no single forum or organization representing all communities or indigenous peoples across the country, although there are several relevant government, grassroots and civil society organizations.

Relevant sector institutions include:

- [National Indigenous Affairs Institute](#) (INAI), created in 1985, is the enforcement authority for Law No. 23302 on Indigenous Policy and Support to Aboriginal Communities. An important characteristic is that it is partly made up of indigenous peoples' representatives;
- **Indigenous Participation Council** (IPC), created in 2004 in the remit of INAI, is a part of the Indigenous Participation System at the national level, and includes representatives of indigenous peoples by provinces, being the main authorized voice to communicate with the state on behalf of the indigenous peoples. IPC was created to address "the urgent need for participation of the indigenous peoples' representatives" (INAI Resolution 152/2004), especially "for indigenous consultation and participation in public policy matters in the field, particularly land surveying" (Sterpin, 2017). The IPC must be convened when necessary to consult the indigenous peoples on the implementation of measures that may affect them directly or indirectly, although their opinions are not binding.

The National Meeting of Territorial Organizations of Native Peoples (ENOTPO) created in 2009, includes 45 organizations which bring together 27 indigenous ethnicities, over 1,500 communities, in 20 provinces. It is a forum for putting forward proposals and coordinating indigenous territorial policies at the national level.

The Organization of Indigenous Nations and People (ONPIA), founded in 2003 is one of the first organizations to represent several communities. It aims to politically and technically strengthen indigenous peoples, communities and organizations in Argentina, according to their worldview (cosmovision), for the formulation, negotiation, execution and evaluation of development policies, programmes, projects, and the management of financing with the national and provincial states, governments, international cooperation and private companies. By the time of the results period for this

proposal, ONPIA included 20 indigenous peoples' organizations from 15 provinces in Argentina (see ESA Annex for more information).

In the case of *campesino* communities, the [Santiago del Estero Campesino Movement](#) (MOCASE, in its Spanish acronym) is one of the most important organizations at country level. There are also important family agriculture farmer associations, such as The Northern Campesino and Indigenous Assembly (ACINA), the National Campesino and Indigenous Movement (MNCI) or the [Chaco Agro-forestry Network](#) (REDAF) that works with different organizations linked to the issue.

8.5 Gender and indigenous peoples

Indigenous women and girls often face additional challenges related to access to resources and project benefits. To ensure that projects reflect their needs, priorities and realities and in line with the key issues raised and recommendations of the Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan, special attention will be focused throughout project design and implementation to ensure that the project promotes gender equality, and works to reduce the gender gap between women and men. Efforts will be made to ensure that this takes place in a way that reflects the needs and priorities of indigenous women and girls.

Strengthening women's equitable access to natural resources and promoting their role in decision-making will also help to address the main gender gaps identified in the project's Gender Analysis, which are related to income levels and working conditions. Activities related to component A of the project, specifically the development of Integral Community Plans, can provide an important space for the needs of indigenous women and girls to be communicated and reflected in project design and implementation.

8.6 Special provisions for IP of the Grievance redress mechanism (GRM)

Relevant grievance redress mechanisms for the project are discussed in [section 5.4](#). To ensure indigenous peoples, local communities and vulnerable groups can adequately access the grievance mechanism, the project will ensure that the mechanism put in place is consistent with the guidance provided in the [GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy](#). This includes the development of a culturally appropriate, accessible and effective grievance redress mechanism at the project level to address indigenous peoples' project-related concerns, designed in consultation with the affected or potentially affected communities. As discussed previously, and in line with GCF guidance, the mechanism will utilize existing formal or informal grievance mechanisms, supplemented as needed with project-specific arrangements – in this case, building on the mechanism established through the Forests and Community project. Additionally, the GCF independent Redress Mechanism and the GCF Secretariat's indigenous peoples' focal point will be available for assistance at any stage, including before a claim has been made, as required by paragraph 70 of the [GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy](#).

In addition to the components and characteristics of the Project GRM indicated in section 5.4.3. (Project-level grievance mechanism

), other elements of GCF guidance will help inform the development of the project GRM, including:

- a) Different ways in which indigenous peoples can submit their grievances, and taking into account language barriers/limitations and the need for anonymity if a complainant fears retaliation or submission by an authorized representative or civil society organization;
- b) Provision to keep complainants' identities confidential, especially in instances where the complainants fear retaliation;
- c) Provision for interpretation/translation to overcome language barriers/limitations;

- d) A log where grievances are registered in writing. The database should include information about the complaint and the resolution of the complaint, including the remedy provided, taking into consideration that complainants' identities can be kept anonymous if requested;
- e) Publicly advertised procedures, identifying the means for submitting grievances, setting out the length of time users can expect to wait for acknowledgment, response, and resolution of their grievances, descriptions of the transparency of the procedures, and the governing and decision-making structures;
- f) An appeals process to which unsatisfied grievances may be referred when the resolution of grievance has not been achieved;
- g) Information about other available grievance mechanisms, including the GCF independent Redress Mechanism and the accredited and implementing entities' grievance mechanisms; and
- h) Measures in place to protect complainants from retaliation.

In addition to the above, during the inception phase of the project and beyond, in order to ensure an effective access of indigenous peoples to the Project GRM, and in accordance to the Paragraph 69 of the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, MAYDS and FAO will put in place a culturally-appropriate informational and capacity-building campaign, aimed at avoiding possible technical, material or others gaps that may obstruct indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities from asking for information or initiating a claim related to the Project.

8.7 Potential impacts of project activities on indigenous peoples

The activities proposed in this project proposal which involve or could affect indigenous peoples have been reviewed, with consideration of impacts as well measures to reduce impacts. Screening of activities and sub-activities at project inception will also consider impacts for indigenous peoples to inform their design and implementation.

Table 19. Potential impacts of project activities on indigenous peoples

Project Activities relevant for IP	Potential positive impacts for IP	Potential negative impacts for IP	Mitigation measures
A.1.1 Designing strategic management plans for forest basins and their value chains (including participatory processes with gender perspective, market and value chain studies, business plans, supplier development plan, benefit distribution and creation of forest basin councils)	Optimize the potential of agricultural and value chain development, including natural resources management, to create more and better employment opportunities, including indigenous peoples who may live in situations of poverty, particularly in rural areas. These plans can help clarify issues related to land tenure, particularly significant for indigenous communities and access to natural resources.	(1) Negative employment effects, or inequitable effects for women, girls and youth from IP. (2) Basin plans do not reflect IP's interest or visions.	(1) Efforts should be made to optimize the employment effects of projects' activities on indigenous peoples, with direct efforts to engage and empower them, with special attention to gender. All project activities will respect the core labour standard of the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. (2) When projects involve IPs, appropriate consultation, including free prior and informed consultation processes are required.
A.1.2 Elaborating general forest management plans at the basin level	This could help to ensure IPs in the project area identified and adequately engaged in participatory processes to develop	(1) Technical complexity and transaction costs could serve to exclude indigenous peoples from the project	(1) Sub-activity design should be focused on building participative methodologies to involve IPs, implementing technical, organizational and financial capacity-

(including social, economic and environmental diagnostic analyses), using a gender perspective; determining the possibility of ensuring sustainable use and having monitoring instruments	plans; The diagnostic studies can also help to develop updated information about indigenous peoples, and their potential involvement in project activities. This can help clarify issues related to land tenure, strengthen local governance and organization, and help identify opportunities to facilitate equitable and sustainable access to natural resources.	benefits. (2) Diagnostic studies might not adequately cover all IP populations.	building as needed. (2) Organizations and institutions with knowledge and understanding of the context of IPs in the region should be involved in developing
A.2.1 Identification of eligible territories at the local level. Dissemination workshops and announcements to communities they submit expressions of interest.	This could help to obtain updated information about the expectations, opportunities and challenges related to ensuring IPs are able to participate in and benefit from the project. It can also help to strengthen indigenous participation in key processes related to the project and the Forest Law.	(1) Diagnostic studies might not adequately cover all IP populations.	(1) Organizations and institutions with knowledge and understanding of the context of IPs in the region should be involved in developing these studies.
A.2.2 Participatory development of PIC mainstreaming gender. It includes technical support for formulation until the submission to ALA for approval.	Avoid rural migration or exodus and offer economic opportunities for IP. Help to secure forest tenure in communities at the territorial level.	(1) PICs might not reach or involve the most vulnerable communities. (2) There could be insufficient support from authorities for IPs to formulate PICs. (3) PICs might not reflected the interests of IPs in the area, if they are not adequately consulted and involved in their development.	(1) Carry out studies to identify and prioritize IP and communities in situations of vulnerability and with greater pressure on native forests. (2) Training and capacity-building programmes for PIC development should consider the needs of IP, and targeted support and outreach should be available for IPs in this process. (3) Efforts should be made to engage and empower IPs so they can be involved in this process. This should build on the extensive experience of the Forests and Community Project.
A.2.3 Management support to statutory community rights over forests at the provincial level.	This may present opportunities for IPs to clarify or strengthen land tenure or rights to use natural resources. This may help to reduce land conflicts.	(1) If not adequately planned and implemented, this could increase the gender gap regarding land rights holders or over natural resources, affecting indigenous women and girls. (2) It could also exclude those with less technical or legal capacity or training.	(1) Authorities will systematically address the gender dimensions, especially on roles to achieve sustainable natural resources management. (2) Training and capacity-building programmes for PIC development should consider the needs of IP, and targeted support and outreach should be available for IPs in this process.

8.8 Considerations for benefit sharing

As described above, in many cases indigenous peoples are among the most economically marginalized and vulnerable populations in Argentina. Issues such as insecure land tenure and project design that does

not consider culturally appropriate aspects for IPs can affect their abilities to participate in and access relevant projects and benefits. This project seeks to develop and implement specific interventions aimed at increasing indigenous peoples' participation and equitable access to benefits.

As previously mentioned in the project description, this project seeks to ensure the implementation of funds from a landscape-level perspective (with approximately 72% of funds allocated to investments at territorial level in the provinces/regions, and approximately 28% at the national level) so that investments are consistent at multiple scales. This will require an articulation of different components from the national level and their coordination at the level of provincial governments and local communities/producers, with special focus on the needs and priorities of indigenous peoples.

Once the project sub-activities have been defined, a participatory and technical process will be carried out to define the benefit distribution mechanism, which will be designed to safeguard transparency and efficiency in the management and allocation of resources, preserving low transaction costs, while being appropriate to the conditions and possibilities of the different actors involved in the project, especially indigenous peoples and other vulnerable populations.

8.9 Activity design and monitoring

Throughout the process to define sub-activities and areas of interventions, and to implement activities through the use of proceeds, the following measures will be applied to help foster the full respect, promotion, and safeguarding of indigenous peoples' rights so that they (a) benefit from activities and projects in a culturally appropriate manner; and (b) do not suffer harm or adverse effects from the design and implementation of project activities. These are in line with both the [GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy](#), as well as [FAO's ESM](#).

Some of the guiding principles for the design and implementation of activities are included below:

1. *Consultation with the purpose of reaching agreement, or where needed a consent (in line with the ILO Convention 169):* In line with national regulations and with the guiding principles of both GCF and FAO on indigenous peoples, the project will develop and apply appropriate consultation processes through appropriate procedures whenever activities will affect indigenous peoples' lands, territories, resources, livelihoods and cultures. Such process will aim at ensuring effective free, prior and informed agreement or, in the case of actions and activities that might bring the risk of displacement or relocation as per ILO convention 169, a consent.
2. *Governance and self-government:* Recognizing the importance of strengthening indigenous peoples' governance capacities, project activities will respect and support indigenous peoples' rights related to land, territories, resources, as well as cultural and spiritual heritage, values, traditional knowledge, resource management systems and practices, occupations and livelihoods, customary institutions, and overall well-being. The project will involve indigenous peoples' representatives in the planning and implementation of the project's sub-activities, particularly relevant for project components A and C, in order to understand and incorporate into the project the vision, objectives, and realities of IPs, including developing the capacity of indigenous representatives and leaders to participate in the project.
3. *National and international regulations:* According to the national policy framework, Project activities that involve indigenous peoples and local communities and/or are developed in indigenous territories will be executed respecting the relevant national laws and international agreements, including the National Constitution and the ILO Convention No. 169.

4. *Access to resources and capacity-building:* In order to facilitate access to resources and capacity building for indigenous peoples, activities under Component A and C will support Indigenous Peoples with technical assistance for the formulation and implementation of projects, including financial and management capacities for local leaders, organizations and communities. Sub-activities will be designed and agreed upon through participative processes, aiming to meet the needs and priorities of IPs to strengthen local capacities of deforestation monitoring, project formulation, implementation of conservation agreements and improvement of forest management, among others.

Taking into account that this project is considered Moderate Risk, potential adverse impacts of project activities and sub-activities will be continually screened and monitored, with close attention to those activities that involve or may affect indigenous peoples. In this regard, immediate actions will be taken to avoid and if not feasible, minimize any potential adverse effect on indigenous peoples.

A monitoring plan will be developed once the sub-activities and areas of intervention are defined, at project inception. This will help define specific indicators and other measures to ensure negative impacts are avoided, mitigated or reduced, and benefits of project implementation are enhanced. This will also draw from the indicators developed in the Gender Action Plan.

A more specific monitoring plan and procedures related to indigenous peoples will be developed in the Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) (an indicative outline for this plan is included in Annex II), which will define the activities and sub-activities involving indigenous peoples' in each of the components of the project, with a corresponding monitoring and evaluation scheme. The IPP, and the monitoring plan included therein, will be developed in accordance with FAO, GCF and UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards requirements. The IPP will be developed at project inception, and will involve participatory processes and technical studies to help ensure the vision, objectives, and realities of IPs are adequately reflected in the plan.

Safeguards, indigenous peoples and gender specialists supporting the PMU will help to develop the plan, and will have a key role in monitoring, evaluation and reporting related to indigenous peoples.

9 Conclusions

The ESMF includes the results of an initial assessment of potential environmental and social risks associated with activities to be implemented with the use of the proceeds of payments for results, and identifies proposed measures to mitigate the risks, as well as different safeguards policies and standards and relevant elements of the legal framework that will be applied. The proposal has been screened against FAO, as AE, ESS checklist and considered as Moderate Risk.

Building on this risk screening, as well as other assessment exercises, a detailed analysis is included to help identify potential risks and impacts of project activities as well as mitigation measures to ensure that risks are avoided, mitigated or reduced in project implementation. This has been informed by extensive participatory risk analyses exercises and safeguards screening processes.

Throughout the document, there is a focus on stakeholder engagement processes that have informed the selection of activities in the proposal, with information on how stakeholders will be engaged during the planning and implementation of the project, with an important focus on gender. An indigenous peoples Planning Framework is also included, to help ensure that project activities are developed and implemented in such a way that fosters full respect, promotion, and safeguarding of indigenous peoples so that they benefit from the activities in a culturally appropriate manner, and do not suffer harm or adverse effects from the design and implementation of activities financed by this project.

The ESMF will be a key resource to help ensure the project is designed and implemented in a way that avoids or mitigates potential negative impacts, while promoting benefits.

Considering the categorization of the project as Moderate risk, at project inception the ESMF results will also be used for further screening of project activities and sub-activities. An Environmental and Social (ES) Analysis for Moderate Risk Projects will be developed at project inception, and once the areas of intervention as well as all relevant stakeholders who could be involved in or affected by project activities have been identified. Based on recommendations of the ES Analysis, and in line with FAO guidance on Moderate Risk projects, an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will be prepared to set out the measures and actions required for the project to manage and effectively mitigate environmental and social risks and achieve compliance with the ESM.

Annex I: FAO environmental and social screening checklist

Environmental and Social Risk Identification – Screening Checklist

Annex 1: Trigger questions

	Question	YES	NO
1	Would this project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • result in the degradation (biological or physical) of soils or undermine sustainable land management practices; or • include the development of a large irrigation scheme, dam construction, use of waste water or affect the quality of water; or • reduce the adaptive capacity to climate change or increase GHG emissions significantly; or • result in any changes to existing tenure rights⁵⁷ (formal and informal⁵⁸) of individuals, communities or others to land, fishery and forest resources? 		X
2	Would this project be executed in or around protected areas or natural habitats, decrease the biodiversity or alter the ecosystem functionality, use alien species, or use genetic resources?	X	
3	Would this project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce crops and varieties previously not grown, and/or; • Provide seeds/planting material for cultivation, and/or; • Involve the importing or transfer of seeds and or planting material for cultivation or research and development; • Supply or use modern biotechnologies or their products in crop production, and/or • Establish or manage planted forests? 		X
4	Would this project introduce non-native or non-locally adapted species, breeds, genotypes or other genetic material to an area or production system, or modify in any way the surrounding habitat or production system used by existing genetic resources?		X
5	Would this project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • result in the direct or indirect procurement, supply or use of pesticides⁵⁹: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ on crops, livestock, aquaculture, forestry, household; or ▪ as seed/crop treatment in field or storage; or 		X

⁵⁷Tenure rights are rights to own, use or benefit from natural resources such as land, water bodies or forests.

⁵⁸ Socially or traditionally recognized tenure rights that are not defined in law may still be considered to be 'legitimate tenure rights'.

⁵⁹ Pesticide means any substance, or mixture of substances of chemical or biological ingredients intended for repelling, destroying or controlling any pest, or regulating plant growth.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ through input supply programmes including voucher schemes; or ▪ for small demonstration and research purposes; or ▪ for strategic stocks (locust) and emergencies; or ▪ causing adverse effects to health and/or environment; or • result in an increased use of pesticides in the project area as a result of production intensification; or • result in the management or disposal of pesticide waste and pesticide contaminated materials; or • result in violations of the Code of Conduct? 		
6	Would this project permanently or temporarily remove people from their homes or means of production/livelihood or restrict their access to their means of livelihood?		X
7	Would this project affect the current or future employment situation of the rural poor, and in particular the labour productivity, employability, labour conditions and rights at work of self-employed rural producers and other rural workers?	X	
8	Could this project risk overlooking existing gender inequalities in access to productive resources, goods, services, markets, decent employment and decision-making? For example, by not addressing existing discrimination against women and girls, or by not taking into account the different needs of men and women.	X	
9	<p>Would this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have indigenous peoples* living outside the project area¹ where activities will take place; or • have indigenous peoples living in the project area where activities will take place; or • adversely or seriously affect on indigenous peoples' rights, lands, natural resources, territories, livelihoods, knowledge, social fabric, traditions, governance systems, and culture or heritage (physical² and non-physical or intangible³) inside and/or outside the project area; or • be located in an area where cultural resources exist? <p>* FAO considers the following criteria to identify indigenous peoples: priority in time with respect to occupation and use of a specific territory; the voluntary perpetuation of cultural distinctiveness (e.g. languages, laws and institutions); self-identification; an experience of subjugation, marginalization, dispossession, exclusion or discrimination (whether or not these conditions persist).</p> <p>¹The phrase "Outside the project area" should be read taking into consideration the likelihood of project activities to influence the livelihoods, land access and/or rights of Indigenous Peoples' irrespective of physical distance. In example: If an indigenous community is living 100 km away from a project area where fishing activities will affect the river yield which is also accessed by this community, then the user should answer "YES" to the question.</p> <p>²Physical defined as movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, group of structures, natural features and landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic or other cultural significance located in urban or rural settings, ground, underground or underwater.</p> <p>³Non-physical or intangible defined as "the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith that communities, groups, and in some cases individuals, recognize as part of their spiritual and/or cultural heritage"</p>	X	

Annex 2: Second Level Questions FAO ESS

SAFEGUARD 1 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Question	Management of soil and land resources	No	Yes	Comments
1.1	Would this project result in the degradation (biological or physical) of soils	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Demonstrate how the project applies and adheres to the principles of the <u>World Soil Charter</u>	Project activities will promote the maintenance of ecosystem services resulting in benefits for the biological and physical characteristics of soils in the areas of intervention. It is expected that activities related to forest management with integrated livestock (MBGI) will help reduce the degradation of soils by improving existing management practices in forest that already has some livestock management.
1.2	Would this project undermine sustainable land management practices?	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	The project supports sustainable land management practices both at the forest basin and local levels.

	Management of water resources and small dams	No	Yes	Comments
1.3	Would this project develop an irrigation scheme that is more than 20 hectares or withdraws more than 1000 m3/day of water?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Specify the following information: a) implementation of appropriate efficiency principles and options to enhance productivity, b) technically feasible water conservation measures, c) alternative water supplies, d) resource contamination mitigation or/and avoidance,	The programme will not involve any irrigation scheme nor will it finance the construction of dams.

			<p>e) potential impact on water users downstream,</p> <p>f) water use offsets and demand management options to maintain total demand for water resources within the available supply.</p> <p>g) The <u>ICID-checklist</u> will be included, as well as appropriate action within the project to mitigate identified potential negative impacts.</p> <p>h) Projects aiming at improving water efficiency will carry out thorough water accounting in order to avoid possible negative impacts such as waterlogging, salinity or reduction of water availability downstream.</p>	
1.4	Would this project develop an irrigation scheme that is more than 100 hectares or withdraws more than 5000 m3/day of water?	LOW RISK	<p>HIGH RISK</p> <p>A full environmental and social impact assessment is required.</p> <p>Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.</p>	The project will not entail development of irrigation schemes.
1.5	Would this project aim at improving an irrigation scheme (without expansion)?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>The <u>ICID-checklist</u> will be included, as well as appropriate action within the project to mitigate identified potential negative impacts.</p> <p>Projects aiming at improving water efficiency will carry out thorough water accounting in order to avoid possible negative impacts such as waterlogging, salinity or reduction</p>	No irrigation is expected as part of this project.

			of water availability downstream.	
1.6	Would this project affect the quality of water either by the release of pollutants or by its use, thus affecting its characteristics (such as temperature, pH, DO, TSS or any other?	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	Project activities will promote the maintenance of ecosystem services resulting in benefits for the provision of water and for the regulation of the water cycle.
1.7	Would this project include the usage of wastewater?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Demonstrate how the project applies and adheres to applicable national guidelines or, if not available, the WHO/FAO/UNEP Guidelines on Safe Usage of Waste Water in Agriculture	No wastewater will be used as part of the project.
1.8	Would this project involve the construction or financing of a dam that is more than 15 m. in height?	LOW RISK	CANNOT PROCEED	No dam construction is included in this project.
1.9	Would this project involve the construction or financing of a dam that is more than 5 m. in height?	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	No dam construction is included in this project.

	Tenure	No	Yes	Comments
1.10	Would this project permanently or temporarily deny or restrict access to natural resources to which they have rights of access or use? Could this project result in any changes to existing <i>tenure rights</i> ¹ (<i>formal and informal</i>) of individuals, communities	LOW RISK	PROCEED TO NEXT Q	No, it is not envisaged that this project will permanently or temporarily deny or restrict access to natural resources to which individuals, communities or others have rights of access or use. Project activities related to sustainable basin management and the design and implementation of Integral Community Plans and other schemes, will

	or others to land, fishery and forest resources? ¹Tenure rights are rights to own, use or benefit from natural resources such as land, water bodies or forests ²Socially or traditionally recognized tenure rights that are not defined in law may still be considered to be 'legitimate tenure rights'.				be designed and implemented in such a way that denial or restriction of access to natural resources is not contemplated.
	1.10.1	Could this project result in a negative change to existing legitimate tenure rights?	MODERATE RISK Demonstrate how the project applies and adheres to the principles/framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	No, it is not foreseen that any project activities will result in a negative change to existing legitimate tenure rights.
	Climate		No	Yes	Comments
1.11	Could this project result in a reduction of the adaptive capacity to climate change for any stakeholders in the project area?		LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	No, on the contrary - the project aims will contribute to enhance resilience in the short-term and adaptive capacity in the long-term.
1.12	Could this project result in a reduction of resilience against extreme weather events?		LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact	No, on the contrary - the project will contribute to improve resilience in the short-term and adaptive capacity in the long-term.

			assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	
1.13	Could this project result in a net increase of GHG emissions beyond those expected from increased production?		LOW RISK	PROCEED TO NEXT Q No, on the contrary - REDD+ is a process that, among other things, create financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. It is envisaged that this project will enable further efforts to reduce GHG emissions.
	1.13.1	Is the expected increase below the level specified by FAO guidance or national policy/law (whichever is more stringent)?	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	LOW RISK Not applicable
	1.13.2	Is the expected increase above the level specified by FAO guidance or national policy/law (whichever is more stringent)?	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance. Not applicable

SAFEGUARD 2 BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL HABITATS

	Protected areas, buffer zones or natural habitats	No	Yes	Comments
2.1	Would this project be implemented within a legally designated protected area or its buffer zone?	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	There are a number of protected areas which are located near areas which might be sites of target interventions related to forest basin management and local level management schemes, as well as forest fire prevention and forest restoration activities. However, the nature of the project is to improve/increase natural forests.

				<p>The Forest Law, through the OTBN, determines the areas of high conservation value (including protected areas) and defines that in these areas (red category) no activities apart from conservation can be carried out in such zones. The law establishes that only subsistence livestock in red category areas is permitted, livestock production cannot be carried out on a commercial basis.</p> <p>The activities envisaged in this proposal will not be located in these areas, and in those cases where they are located in nearby areas, the conservation criteria established by the Forest Law will be considered and applied (further information in Annex IV). In addition, the implementation of the project (due to its own primary objective which is to support continues reduction of deforestation and forest degradation as well as contributing to enhance forest carbon stocks) will ensure that no negative impact will exist on protected areas.</p> <p>In cases where a Forest Law plan or an activity of this project is located in the buffer zone of an area of high conservation value or a protected area, native grass seeds will be used, if they are available. If they are not available, only those approved by SENASA and with local adaptation and customary use will be used.</p>
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	Biodiversity Conservation	No	Yes	Comments
2.2	Would this project change a natural ecosystem to an agricultural/aquacultural/forestry production unit with a reduced diversity of flora and fauna?	LOW RISK	<p>HIGH RISK</p> <p>A full environmental and social impact assessment is required.</p> <p>Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.</p>	<p>The project aims to support the implementation of the REDD+ strategy in the country therefore, to reduce deforestation, degradation and – in certain areas – enhance forest carbon stocks, in such a way that natural ecosystems are safeguarded.</p> <p>The REDD+ national strategy of Argentina (PANByCC for its acronym in Spanish) has been</p>

				prepared and will be implemented in the framework of the Forest Law (Law 26331) which, as indicated in the ESA and in this document, seeks to preserve natural forests based on their conservation value which is categorized as high (red), medium (yellow) or low (green). Clearing is only allowed in forests of low conservation value (article 14), with prior authorization and only after approval of the relevant sustainable management plan and environmental impact assessment. The COFEMA Resolution 277/2014 indicates that the objectives and the proposals included in the Management Plans need to ensure that: native forest is not replaced; that actions will be sufficiently moderated as to maintain ecosystem services of the native forests (further information in in Annex IV of this document)
2.3	Would this project increase the current impact on the surrounding environment for example by using more water, chemicals or machinery than previously?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Demonstrate in the project document what measures will be taken to minimize adverse impacts on the environment and ensure that implementation of these measures is reported in the risk log during progress reports.	It is not envisaged that the project activities will support the increase in the use of resources, nor it will bring any additional machinery. The potential impacts of MBGI activities on the use of water will be evaluated before approval of the specific activity.

	Use of alien species	No	Yes	Comments
2.4	Would this project use an alien species which has exhibited an invasive* behavior in the country or in other parts of the world or a species with unknown behavior? *An invasive alien species is defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity as "an alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	The project supports the conservation of native species and will not use invasive alien species or species with unknown behaviour.

	diversity" (see https://www.cbd.int/invasive/terms.shtml).			
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	Access and benefit sharing for genetic resources	No	Yes	Comments
2.5	Would this project involve access to genetic resources for their utilization and/or access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that is held by indigenous, local communities and/or farmers?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>Ensure that the following issues are considered and appropriate action is taken. The issues identified and the action taken to address them must be included in the project document and reported on in progress reports.</p> <p>For plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) falling under the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty), ensure that Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) has been signed and comply with SMTA provisions.</p> <p>For genetic resources, other than PGRFA falling under the MLS of the Treaty:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that, subject to domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or other regulatory 	No. It is not foreseen that project activities will involve access to genetic resources for their utilization. Project activities, particularly related to forest management at the forest watershed level and the design and implementation of Integral Community Plans and other schemes, as well as forest fire prevention and forest restoration, may promote the use of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that is held by indigenous, local communities and/or farmers. These activities will be carefully designed and implemented, in accordance with applicable domestic law; knowledge will only be accessed with the involvement of the indigenous and local communities, and through prior and informed consultation, with the purpose of reaching an agreement or consent; and mutually agreed terms will be established. Benefits arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources will be shared, upon mutually agreed terms, in a fair and equitable way with indigenous and local communities holding such knowledge.

			<p>requirements, prior informed consent has been granted by the country providing the genetic resources that is the country of origin of the resources or that has acquired the resources in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, unless otherwise determined by that country; and</p> <p>2. Ensure that benefits arising from the utilization of the genetic resources as well as subsequent applications and commercialization are shared in a fair and equitable way with the country providing the genetic resources that is the country of origin of the resources or that has acquired the resources in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity; and</p> <p>3. Ensure that, in accordance with domestic law, prior informed consent or approval and involvements of indigenous and local communities is obtained for access to genetic resources where the indigenous and local communities have the established right to grant such resources; and</p> <p>4. Ensure that, in accordance</p>	
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			<p>with domestic legislation regarding the established rights of these indigenous and local communities over the genetic resources, are shared in a fair and equitable way with the communities concerned, based on mutually agreed terms.</p> <p>For traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that is held by indigenous and local communities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure, in accordance with applicable domestic law, that knowledge is accessed with the prior and informed consent or approval and involvement of these indigenous and local communities, and that mutually agreed terms have been established; and 2. Ensure that, in accordance with domestic law, benefits arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources are shared, upon mutually agreed terms, in a fair and equitable way with indigenous and local communities holding such knowledge. <p>Ensure that the project is aligned with the Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing for Different</p>	
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			Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture when it is the case	
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SAFEGUARD 3 PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

	Introduce new crops and varieties	No	Yes	Comments
3.1	Would this project introduce crops and varieties previously not grown?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow appropriate phytosanitary protocols in accordance with IPPC Take measures to ensure that displaced varieties and/or crops, if any, are included in the national or international <i>ex situ</i> conservation programmes 	No

	Provision of seeds and planting materials		No	Yes	Comments
3.2	Would this project provide seeds/planting material for cultivation?		LOW RISK	PROCEED TO NEXT Q	No. Planting material of native species will be encouraged to support native forest restoration-related activities. For MBGI, the development or promotion of seed banks for native pastures is envisaged.
	3.2.1	Would this project involve the importing or transfer of seeds and/or planting materials for cultivation?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid undermining local seed & planting material production and supply systems through the use of seed voucher schemes, for instance Ensure that the seeds and planting materials are from locally adapted crops and varieties that are accepted by farmers and consumers Ensure that the seeds and planting materials are free from pests and diseases according to agreed norms, especially the IPPC Internal clearance from AGPMG is required 	No. It is not envisaged that this project will involve the importing or transfer of seeds or planting materials, but rather that they will be sourced locally, and make use of native species.

				<p>for all procurement of seeds and planting materials. Clearance from AGPMC is required for chemical treatment of seeds and planting materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify that the seed or planting material can be legally used in the country to which it is being imported Clarify whether seed saving is permitted under the country's existing laws and/or regulations and advise the counterparts accordingly. Ensure, according to applicable national laws and/or regulations, that farmers' rights to PGRFA and over associated traditional knowledge are respected in the access to PGRFA and the sharing of the benefits accruing from their use. Refer to ESS9: Indigenous peoples and cultural heritage. 	
	3.2.2	Would this project involve the importing or transfer of seeds and/or planting materials for research and development?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>Ensure compliance with Access and Benefit Sharing norms as stipulated in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biodiversity as may be applicable. Refer also to ESS2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats.</p>	No

	Modern biotechnologies and the deployment of their products in crop production	No	Yes	Comments
3.3	Would this project supply or use modern plant biotechnologies and their products?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of the Convention on Biological Diversity to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern 	No

			biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to biosafety requirements in the handling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) or Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) according to national legislation or⁶⁰ • Take measures to prevent gene flow from the introduced varieties to existing ones and/or wild relatives 	
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	Planted forests	No	Yes	Comments
3.4	Would this project establish or manage planted forests?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to existing national forest policies, forest programmes or equivalent strategies. • The observance of principles 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Voluntary Guidelines on Planted Forests suffice for indigenous forests but must be read in full compliance with ESS 9- Indigenous People and Cultural Heritage. • Planners and managers must incorporate conservation of biological diversity as fundamental in their planning, management, utilization and monitoring of planted forest resources. • In order to reduce the environmental risk, incidence and impact of abiotic and biotic damaging agents and to maintain and improve planted forest health and productivity, FAO will work together with stakeholders to develop and derive appropriate and efficient response options in planted forest management. 	<p>No. There are no plans to support forest plantation, and less with exotic species.</p> <p>Restoration of native forests will be implemented only through native species and only to restore degraded native forest areas; the activities will not be used to establish commercial plantations. In addition native forest restoration activities will adhere to the Forest Law and other relevant national forest policies.</p>

⁶⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2011. Biosafety Resource Book. Rome,

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i1905e/i1905e00.htm>

SAFEGUARD 4 ANIMAL (LIVESTOCK AND AQUATIC) GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Introduce new species/breeds and change in the production system of locally adapted breeds			No	Yes	Comments
4.1	Would this project introduce non-native or non-locally adapted species, breeds, genotypes or other genetic material to an area or production system?		LOW RISK	PROCEED TO NEXT Q	No
	4.1.1	Would this project foresee an increase in production by at least 30% (due to the introduction) relative to currently available locally adapted breeds and can monitor production performance?	CANNOT PROCEED	LOW RISK	Not applicable
	4.1.2	Would this project introduce genetically altered organisms, e.g. through selective breeding, chromosome set manipulation, hybridization,	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	Not applicable

		genome editing or gene transfer and/or introduce or use experimental genetic technologies, e.g. genetic engineering and gene transfer, or the products of those technologies?			
4.2	Would this project introduce a non-native or non-locally adapted species or breed for the first time into a country or production system?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK A genetic impact assessment should be conducted prior to granting permission to import (cover the animal identification, performance recording and capacity development that allow monitoring of the introduced species/ breeds' productivity, health and economic sustainability over several production cycles) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0970e/i0970e00.htm• ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/i0970e/i0970e03.pdf	No introduction of new non-native or non-locally adapted species will be supported by project activities	
4.3	Would this project introduce a non-native or non-locally adapted species or breed, independent whether it already exists in the country?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the project imports or promotes species/breeds with higher performance than locally adapted ones, ensure: feed resources, health management, farm management capacity, input supply and farmer organization to allow the new species/breeds to express their genetic potential• Follow the OIE terrestrial or aquatic code to ensure the introduced species/breed does not carry different diseases than the local ones	The project will not support the introduction of non-native or non-locally adapted species or breeds.	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a health risk assessment and farmer/veterinary capacity development in the project to ensure the introduced species/breed do not have different susceptibility to local diseases including ecto-and endo-parasites than the locally adapted/native species/breeds. 	
4.4	Would this project ensure there is no spread of the introduced genetic material into other production systems (i.e. indiscriminate crossbreeding with locally adapted species/breeds)?	MODERATE RISK Introduce a) animal identification and recording mechanism in the project and b) develop new or amend existing livestock policy and National Strategy and Action Plan for AnGR	LOW RISK	Not applicable. The project will not introduce genetic material

	Collection of wild genetic resources for farming systems	No	Yes	Comments
4.5	Would this project collect living material from the wild, e.g. for breeding, or juveniles and eggs for on-growing?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Guidance to be provided	No

	Modification of habitats	No	Yes	Comments
4.6	Would this project modify the surrounding habitat or production system used by existing genetic resources?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Guidance to be provided	It is foreseen that most project activities will not modify the surrounding habitat or production system; the effects of the introduction of livestock into native forests (as a measure to reduce deforestation while enhancing livelihood and income to communities) will be carefully designed and closely monitored for MBGI activities to help avoid negative impacts. The restoration of native forest in degraded land or as part of silvopastoral systems will also be carefully designed and closely monitored so not to modify surrounding habitat.
4.7	Would this project be located in or near an internationally recognized conservation area e.g. Ramsar or World Heritage Site, or other nationally important habitat, e.g. national park or high nature value farmland?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Guidance to be provided	Certain territorial plans and activities might be implemented in the vicinity or in internationally recognized areas, however that would be with the aim of boosting and fostering their protection or restoration (therefore the effect would be positive)
4.8	AQGR Would this project block or create migration routes for aquatic species?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Guidance to be provided	No

4.9	Would this project change the water quality and quantity in the project area or areas connected to it?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Guidance to be provided	No. There may be positive effects on water quality and quantity related to project activities. Potential impacts of MBGI on water quality and quantity will be carefully assessed and monitored.
4.10	Would this project cause major habitat / production system changes that promote new or unknown chances for gene flow, e.g. connecting geographically distinct ecosystems or water bodies; or would it disrupt habitats or migration routes and the genetic structure of valuable or locally adapted species/stocks/breeds?	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	No
4.11	Would this project involve the intensification of production systems that leads to land-use changes (e.g. deforestation), higher nutrient inputs leading to soil or water pollution, changes of water regimes (drainage, irrigation)?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Guidance to be provided	No, on the contrary. The project fosters the reduction of the deforestation and – in certain areas the enhancement of forest carbon stock

SAFEGUARD 5 PEST AND PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT

	Supply of pesticides by FAO	No	Yes	Comments
5.1	Would this project procure, supply and/or result in the use of pesticides on crops, livestock, aquaculture or forestry?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preference must always be given to sustainable pest management approaches such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), the use of ecological pest 	No pesticide use is foreseen in the programme.

			<p>management approaches and the use of mechanical/cultural/physical or biological pest control tools in favour of synthetic chemicals; and preventive measures and monitoring,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When no viable alternative to the use of chemical pesticides exists, the selection and procurement of pesticides is subject to an internal clearance procedure http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/E_SS5_pesticide_checklist.pdf • The criteria specified in FAO's ESM Guidelines under ESS5 must be adhered to and should be included or referenced in the project document. • If large volumes (above 1,000 litres of kg) of pesticides will be supplied or used throughout the duration of the project, a Pest Management Plan must be prepared to demonstrate how IPM will be promoted to reduce reliance on pesticides, and what measures will be taken to minimize risks of pesticide use. • It must be clarified, which person(s) within (executing) involved institution/s, will be responsible and liable for the proper storage, transport, distribution and use of the products concerned in compliance with the requirements. 	
5.2	Would this project provide seeds or other materials treated with pesticides (in the field and/or in storage)?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>The use of chemical pesticides for seed treatment or storage of harvested produce is subject to an internal clearance procedure [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/E_SS5_pesticide_checklist.pdf]. The criteria specified in FAO's ESM Guidelines under ESS5 for both pesticide supply and seed treatment must be</p>	No

			adhered to and should be included or referenced in the project document.	
5.3	Would this project provide inputs to farmers directly or through voucher schemes?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO projects must not be responsible for exposing people or the environment to risks from pesticides. The types and quantities of pesticides and the associated application and protective equipment that users of a voucher scheme are provided with must always comply with the conditions laid out in ESS5 and be subject to the internal clearance procedure [link]. These must be included or referenced in the project document. Preference must always be given to sustainable pest management approaches such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), the use of ecological pest management approaches and the use of mechanical or biological pest control tools in favour of synthetic chemicals. 	Not applicable as no pesticide use is envisaged for activities; this project will not provide such inputs to farmers directly or through voucher schemes.
5.4	Would this project lead to increased use of pesticides through intensification or expansion of production?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>Encourage stakeholders to develop a Pest Management Plan to demonstrate how IPM will be promoted to reduce reliance on pesticides, and what measures will be taken to minimize risks of pesticide use. This should be part of the sustainability plan for the project to prevent or mitigate other adverse environmental and social impacts resulting from production intensification.</p>	No
5.5	Would this project manage or dispose of waste pesticides, obsolete pesticides or pesticide contaminated waste materials?	LOW RISK	<p>HIGH RISK</p> <p>A full environmental and social impact assessment is required.</p> <p>Please contact the ESM unit for further</p>	No

			guidance.	
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SAFEGUARD 6 INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT AND DISPLACEMENT

		No	Yes	Comments
6.1	Would this removal* be voluntary? *temporary or permanent removal of people from their homes or means of production/livelihood or restrict their access to their means of livelihoods	CANNOT PROCEED	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	The project does not consider any voluntary nor involuntary resettlement and/or displacement, whether temporary or permanent, as part of activities.

SAFEGUARD 7 DECENT WORK

		No	Yes	Comments
7.1	Would this project displace jobs? (e.g. because of sectoral restructuring or occupational shifts)	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	No
7.2	Would this project operate in sectors or value chains that are dominated by subsistence producers and other vulnerable informal agricultural workers, and more generally characterized by high levels "working poverty"?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Take action to anticipate the likely risk of perpetuating poverty and inequality in socially unsustainable agriculture and food systems. Decent work and productive employment should appear among the priorities of the project or, alternatively, the project should establish synergies with specific employment and social protection programmes e.g. favouring access to some social protection scheme or form of social insurance. Specific measures and mechanisms should be introduced to empower in particular the most vulnerable /disadvantaged categories of	Yes. However it is expected that the project will bring positive impact on such sector, supporting livelihoods of smallholders. In addition, the project will be implemented through a highly participatory process.

			rural workers such as small-scale producers, contributing family workers, subsistence farmers, agricultural informal wage workers, with a special attention to women and youth who are predominantly found in these employment statuses. An age- and gender-sensitive social value chain analysis or livelihoods/employment assessment is needed for large-scale projects.	
7.3	Would this project operate in situations where youth work mostly as unpaid contributing family workers, lack access to decent jobs and are increasingly abandoning agriculture and rural areas?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>Take action to anticipate likely risk of unsustainably ageing agriculture and food systems by integrating specific measures to support youth empowerment and employment in agriculture. A youth livelihoods/employment assessment is needed.</p> <p>Complementary measures should be included aiming at training youth, engaging them and their associations in the value chain, facilitating their access to productive resources, credit and markets, and stimulating youth- friendly business development services.</p>	The programme will foster livelihoods in rural areas, and will facilitate the inclusion of gender youth and minorities into the participation process
7.4	Would this project operate in situations where major gender inequality in the labour market prevails? (e.g. where women tend to work predominantly as unpaid contributing family members or subsistence farmers, have lower skills and qualifications, lower productivity and wages, less representation and voice in producers' and workers' organizations, more precarious contracts and higher informality rates, etc.)	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>Take action to anticipate likely risk of socially unsustainable agriculture and food systems by integrating specific measures to reduce gender inequalities and promote rural women's social and economic empowerment. A specific social value chain analysis or livelihoods/employment assessment is needed for large-scale projects.</p> <p>Facilitation should be provided for women of all ages to access productive resources (including land), credit, markets and marketing channels, education and TVET, technology, collective action or mentorship. Provisions for maternity protection, including child care facilities, should be foreseen to favour women participation and anticipate potential negative effects on child labour,</p>	Yes - specific measures to reduce gender inequalities and promote rural women's social and economic empowerment will be integrated into the design and implementation of project activities (as per description in the Gender assessment and action plan document and reflected in the Funding Proposal document)

			increased workloads for women, and health related risks for pregnant and breastfeeding women.	
7.5	Would this project operate in areas or value chains with presence of labour migrants or that could potentially attract labour migrants?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>Take action to anticipate potential discrimination against migrant workers, and to ensure their rights are adequately protected, with specific attention to different groups like youth, women and men.</p>	The project does not explicitly operates with migrants. To implement territorial actions the project will work with local communities. In any case the project activities are designed to be gender-sensitive and will be implemented in such a way to anticipate potential discrimination, especially of women and minorities.

		No	Yes	Comments
7.6	Would this project directly employ workers?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>FAO projects will supposedly guarantee employees' rights as per UN/FAO standards as regards information on workers' rights, regularity of payments, etc. Decisions relating to the recruitment of project workers are supposed to follow standard UN practices and therefore not be made on the basis of personal characteristics unrelated to inherent job requirements. The employment of project workers will be based on the principle of equal opportunity and fair treatment, and there will be no discrimination with respect to any aspects of the employment relationship, such as recruitment and hiring, compensation (including wages and benefits), working conditions and terms of employment, access to training, job assignment, promotion, termination of employment or retirement, etc.</p>	Yes, the programme will employ project personnel, especially at national and provincial level and mainly for technical and managerial support of the project implementation and execution.. Employees' rights will be guaranteed as per UN/FAO standards.
7.7	Would this project involve sub-contracting?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>Take action to anticipate likely risk of perpetuating inequality and labour rights violations by introducing complementary measures. FAO</p>	This project will involve contracting of services (for example via Letter of Agreements) – which will follow complementary measures to avoid

			projects involving sub-contracting should promote, to the extent possible, subcontracting to local entrepreneurs – particularly to rural women and youth – to maximize employment creation under decent working conditions. Also, FAO should monitor and eventually support contractors to fulfil the standards of performance and quality, taking into account national and international social and labour standards.	perpetuating inequality and labour rights violations.
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		No	Yes	Comments
7.8	Would this project operate in a sector, area or value chain where producers and other agricultural workers are typically exposed to significant occupational and safety risks ⁶¹ ?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Take action to anticipate likely OSH risks by introducing complementary provisions on OSH within the project. Project should ensure all workers' safety and health by adopting minimum OSH measures and contributing to improve capacities and mechanisms in place for OSH in informal agriculture and related occupations. For example, by undertaking a simple health and safety risk assessment, and supporting implementation of the identified risk control measures. Awareness raising and capacity development activities on the needed gender-responsive OSH measures should be included in project design to ensure workers' safety and health, including for informal workers. Complementary measures can include measures to reduce risks and protect workers, as well as children working or playing on the farm, such as alternatives to pesticides, improved handling and storage of	No

⁶¹ Major OSH risks in agriculture include: dangerous machinery and tools; hazardous chemicals; toxic or allergenic agents; carcinogenic substances or agents; parasitic diseases; transmissible animal diseases; confined spaces; ergonomic hazards; extreme temperatures; and contact with dangerous and poisonous animals, reptiles and insects.

			pesticides, etc. Specific provisions for OSH for pregnant and breastfeeding women should be introduced. FAO will undertake periodic inspections and a multistakeholder mechanism for monitoring should be put in place.	
7.9	Would this project provide or promote technologies or practices that pose occupational safety and health (OSH) risks for farmers, other rural workers or rural populations in general?	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK A full environmental and social impact assessment is required. Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.	No

		No	Yes	Comments
7.10	Would this project foresee that children <u>below</u> the nationally-defined minimum employment age (usually 14 or 15 years old) will be involved in project-supported activities?	LOW RISK	CANNOT PROCEED	No.
7.11	Would this project foresee that children <u>above</u> the nationally-defined minimum employment age (usually 14 or 15 years old), but under the age of 18 will be involved	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK Take action to anticipate likely risk of engaging young people aged 14-17 in child labour ⁶² by changing design or introducing complementary measures. For children of 14 to 17 years, the possibility to complement education with	No.

⁶² Child labour is defined as work that is inappropriate for a child's age, affects children's education, or is likely to harm their health, safety or morals. Child labour refers to working children below the nationally-defined minimum employment age, or children of any age engaging in hazardous work. Hazardous work is work that is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of a child. This work is dangerous or occurs under unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed, or injured and/or made ill as a consequence of poor health and safety standards and working arrangements. Some injuries or ill health may result in permanent disability. Countries that have ratified ILO Convention No.182 are obligated to develop National lists of hazardous child labour under Article 4.

	in project-supported activities?		skills-training and work is certainly important for facilitating their integration in the rural labour market. Yet, children under the age of 18 should not be engaged in work-related activities in connection with the project in a manner that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with their compulsory child's education or be harmful to the child's health, safety or morals. Where children under the age of 18 may be engaged in work-related activities in connection with the project, an appropriate risk assessment will be conducted, together with regular monitoring of health, working conditions and hours of work, in addition to the other requirement of this ESS. Specific protection measures should be undertaken to prevent any form of sexual harassment or exploitation at work place (including on the way to and from), particularly those more vulnerable, i.e. girls.	
7.12	Would this project operate in a value chain where there have been reports of child labour?	LOW RISK	<p>HIGH RISK</p> <p>A full environmental and social impact assessment is required.</p> <p>Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.</p>	No

		No	Yes	Comments
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7.13	Would this project operate in a value chain or sector where there have been reports of forced labour ⁶³ ?	LOW RISK	<p>HIGH RISK</p> <p>A full environmental and social impact assessment is required.</p> <p>Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.</p>	No
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SAFEGUARD 8 GENDER EQUALITY

		No	Yes	Comments
8.1	Could this project risk reinforcing existing gender-based discrimination, by not taking into account the specific needs and priorities of women and girls?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>Take action to anticipate likely risk of perpetuating or reinforcing inequality by conducting a gender analysis to identify specific measures to avoid doing harm, provide equal opportunities to men and women, and promote the empowerment of women and girls.</p>	It is not expected that the project will reinforce existing gender-based discriminations nor gaps. On the contrary, the project will support gender responsive approaches and mainstreaming in all activities, taking into account the specific needs and priorities of women and girls. However, the project took and will take action to anticipate such risk. Further details are included in the Gender assessment and action plan,, and reflected into the FP document..
8.2	Could this project not target the different needs and priorities of women and men in terms of access to services, assets, resources, markets, and decent employment and decision-	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>Take action to anticipate likely risk of socially unsustainable agriculture practices and food systems by conducting a gender analysis to identify the specific needs and priorities of men and women, and the</p>	To anticipate such risk, the project developed a detailed gender analysis and action plan, which will take account of and aim to target the different needs and priorities of women and men. Further details are included in the Gender assessment and action plan, and reflected

⁶³ Forced labour is employed, consists of any work or service not voluntarily performed that is exacted from an individual under threat of force or penalty. It includes men, women and children in situations of debt bondage, suffering slavery-like conditions or who have been trafficked. "In many countries, agricultural work is largely informal, and legal protection of workers is weak. In South Asia, there is still evidence of bonded labour in agriculture, resulting in labour arrangements where landless workers are trapped into exploitative and coercive working conditions in exchange for a loan. The low wages associated with high interest rates make it quite difficult for whole families to escape this vicious circle. In Africa, the traditional forms of "vestiges of slavery" are still prevalent in some countries, leading to situations where whole families (adults and children, men and women) are forced to work the fields of landowners in exchange for food and housing. In Latin America, the case of workers recruited in poor areas and sent to work on plantations or in logging camps has been widely documented by national inspection services and other actors." (ILO, Profits and poverty: the economics of forced labour / International Labour Office. - Geneva: ILO, 2014)

	making?		constraints they may face to fully participate in or benefit from project activities, and design specific measures to ensure women and men have equitable access to productive resources and inputs.	into the FP document.
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SAFEGUARD 9 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

		No	Yes	Comments
9.1	Are there <i>indigenous peoples*</i> living <i>outside the project area**</i> where activities will take place? ⁶⁴	LOW RISK	GO TO NEXT QUESTION	Yes; FPIC and consultation processes will be part of the project activities.
	9.1.1 Do the project activities influence the Indigenous Peoples living outside the project area?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK A Free, Prior and Informed Consent Process is required Project activities should outline actions to address and mitigate any potential impact Please contact the ESM/OPCA unit for further guidance.	No
9.2	Are there indigenous peoples living in the project area where activities will take place?	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK A Free Prior and Informed Consent process is required. If the project is for indigenous peoples, an Indigenous Peoples' Plan is required in addition to the Free Prior and Informed Consent process. Please contact the ESM/OPCA unit for further guidance. In cases where the project is for both, indigenous and non-indigenous peoples, an Indigenous Peoples' Plan will be required only if a substantial number of beneficiaries are Indigenous Peoples. project activities should outline actions to	Yes; FPIC and consultation processes will be part of the project activities. The project aims at reducing deforestation, while also enhancing livelihood of local communities and indigenous people if in the area of the project.

* FAO considers the following criteria to identify indigenous peoples: priority in time with respect to occupation and use of a specific territory; the voluntary perpetuation of cultural distinctiveness (e.g. languages, laws and institutions); self-identification; an experience of subjugation, marginalization, dispossession, exclusion or discrimination (whether or not these conditions persist).

** The phrase "Outside the project area" should be read taking into consideration the likelihood of project activities to influence the livelihoods, land access and/or rights of Indigenous Peoples' irrespective of *physical distance*. In example: If an indigenous community is living 100 km away from a project area where fishing activities will affect the river yield which is also accessed by this community, then the user should answer "YES" to the question

			<p>address and mitigate any potential impact. Please contact ESM/OPCA unit for further guidance.</p> <p>A Free, Prior and Informed Consent Process is required</p>	
9.3	<p>Would this project adversely or seriously affect on indigenous peoples' rights, lands, natural resources, territories, livelihoods, knowledge, social fabric, traditions, governance systems, and culture or heritage (<i>physical*</i> and <i>non-physical or intangible**</i>) inside and/or outside the project area?</p> <p><i>*Physical defined as movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, group of structures, natural features and landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic or other cultural significance located in urban or rural settings, ground, underground or underwater.</i></p> <p><i>**Non-physical or intangible defined as "the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith that communities, groups, and in</i></p>	LOW RISK	<p>HIGH RISK</p> <p>A full environmental and social impact assessment is required.</p> <p>Please contact the ESM unit for further guidance.</p>	<p>No, on the contrary. The project will be implemented in the framework of the PANByCC (REDD+ National strategy) which was prepared through an extensive participatory process, also including IPs.</p>

	<i>some cases individuals, recognize as part of their spiritual and/or cultural heritage"</i>			
9.4	Would this project be located in an area where cultural resources exist?	LOW RISK	<p>MODERATE RISK</p> <p>To preserve cultural resources (when existing in the project area) and to avoid their destruction or damage, due diligence must be undertaken to: a) verify that provisions of the normative framework, which is usually under the oversight of a national institution responsible for protection of historical and archaeological sites/intangible cultural heritage; and b) through collaboration and communication with indigenous peoples' own governance institutions/leadership, verifying the probability of the existence of sites/intangible cultural heritage that are significant to indigenous peoples.</p> <p>In cases where there is a high chance of encountering physical cultural resources, the bidding documents and contract for any civil works must refer to the need to include recovery of "chance findings" in line with national procedures and rules.</p>	Sub-activities of the project will be screened to check if they are located in an area where cultural resources exist, and appropriate actions and mitigation measures will be designed accordingly in the ESMP.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	YES	NO
Is there any other potential environmental and/or social risk of this project that has not been captured in the screening checklist?		X
Is the proposed project considered potentially controversial?		X

Annex II: Indicative outline of Indigenous Peoples Plan

1. Introduction

Indigenous Peoples are recognized as key stakeholders that should be engaged during the design, implementation and monitoring of the project. The Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) will ensure that project activities are developed and implemented in such a way that fosters full respect, promotion, and safeguarding of indigenous peoples so that they benefit from the activities in a culturally appropriate manner; and do not suffer harm or adverse effects from the design and implementation of activities financed by this project.

2. Baseline information

2a. Project activities and sub-activities

Baseline information about the socioeconomic and environmental features of the areas in which project activities and sub-activities will be implemented will be provided.

2b. Indigenous Peoples in the project area

Baseline information about Indigenous Peoples in the project area, disaggregated by indigenous group and geographic location, and relevant social and environmental information, will be provided.

2c. Community-based natural resource management

Baseline information on the natural resource management practices used by indigenous groups will be provided.

2d. Tenure arrangements

Baseline information on the tenure situation in the project area, particularly of the indigenous groups, will be provided.

2e. Gender

Baseline information on the situation of indigenous women will be provided. This will be linked to the Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan.

3. Key findings and analyses of impacts, risks and opportunities

Key findings and analyses of impacts, risks and opportunities of project activities and sub-activities, conducted in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, will be detailed here.

4. Measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate negative impacts, and enhance positive impacts and opportunities

Information on recommended measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate negative impacts, and enhance positive impacts and opportunities, as related to IPs, the natural resources upon which Indigenous Peoples depend, and their cultural heritage, will be detailed here. A time frame for the implementation of mitigation measures will be included. ESMPs will be developed as needed.

5. Stakeholder engagement

Steps will be taken for promoting the full and effective participation of IPs during the development, implementation of the project.

5a. Results of consultation

This section will include information on the results of consultations, including a list of people and organizations that participated, a timetable of consultations and who was responsible for each consultation, information related to free, prior and informed consultation according to ILO convention 169, and future engagement plans.

5b. Evidence of consultation

This section will include details on the means to provide evidence of consultation, which may be included as an annex.

5c. Benefit sharing plans

This section will include information on how project activities and sub-activities have been designed and will be implemented in a manner that provides IPs (key collaborators and potentially affected communities) with equitable access to project benefits, as appropriate, and how this has been consulted. The determination, delivery and distribution of compensation and shared benefits to IPs will take account of the institutions, rules and customs of these IPs, capacities and gender equality.

5d. Grievance redress mechanism

This section will detail the grievance redress mechanisms applicable for the project and how it will be ensured that these can be accessed by IPs and allow for issues raised by these stakeholders to be addressed in a culturally appropriate way. Alternative grievance redress mechanisms traditionally used by IPs will be identified, documented, promoted and, if possible, applied as a first instance for addressing issues related to the implementation of the project.

6. Costs, budgets, workplan and timetables, organizational responsibilities and relevant personnel

Information on the costs of the IPP, the budget related to its development, implementation and monitoring, a workplan with timetables for relevant activities, and organisational responsibilities will be included in this section. A summary of relevant personnel will be included here, with ToRs in an annex.

7. IPP Monitoring plan and procedures

7a. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting measures

This section will outline specific measures for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the IPP.

7b. Institutional arrangements

This section will outline the institutional arrangements for implementation and monitoring of the IPP, as well as for relevant ESMPs.

7c. Analysis of results of the monitoring process and procedures for adjustment of the IPP

This section will include an analysis of results of monitoring, and outline procedures to integrate the results and recommendations into the IPP.

7d. Reporting mechanisms

This section will include information on reporting on the IPP.

Annex III: Minutes of key socialization meetings: COFEMA and INAI

Forest commission and General Assembly of Federal Council of the Environment (COFEMA in its Spanish acronym): 3-4 March 2020, Buenos Aires.

On March the 3rd in the framework of the Forest commission of the COFEMA, MArDS presented to environmental authorities of all the provinces the concept idea of the RBP funding proposal, objectives, initial elements and concepts for use of proceeds, and the proposed distribution of benefits.

As a key result of consultation and socialization with COFEMA, on March 4th the COFEMA General Assembly declared, at unanimity, the interest for the preparation of the proposal and agreed for the MArDS to undertake those efforts, with FAO as Accredited Entity. At the same meeting all participants agreed to support the approach for the distribution of benefits (use of proceeds) of the proposal in accordance with the strategic technical guidelines of the Forest Law included in the PANByCC as operational strategic pillars with a proportion of approximately 70% to support interventions at regional/provincial level and of approximately 30% towards application at national level (minutes of the meeting included in Annex III: Minutes of key socialization meetings).





Buenos Aires, 4 de marzo de 2020

VISTO:

La Ley 26.331 de Presupuestos Mínimos de Protección Ambiental de los Bosques Nativos y su Decreto Reglamentario N° 91/2009 y,

CONSIDERANDO:

Que constituye una prioridad del CONSEJO FEDERAL DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE (COFEMA) coadyuvar a la implementación de acciones que devienen de la Ley N° 26.331.

Que la plena vigencia de la Ley N° 26.331 y el logro de sus objetivos requieren de un proceso de desarrollo institucional que debe darse a través de aplicaciones concretas y efectivas en los bosques nativos de las distintas jurisdicciones.

Que Argentina cuenta con un Plan de Acción Nacional de Bosques y Cambio Climático presentado a la Convención Marco de Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático (CMNUCC).

Que el Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Nación, en adelante el MAYDS, estableció el nivel de referencia de Emisiones Forestales (NERF) en base a un periodo analizado entre los años 2002 y 2013 para cuatro regiones forestales del país.

Que el Anexo Técnico (AT) Redd + presentado junto al 3er Reporte Bienal de Actualización (BUR) se reportaron resultados de reducción de emisiones por deforestación evitada para el periodo 2014-2016.

Que en el año 2019 el MAYDS elevó una nota conceptual ante el Fondo Verde del Clima para solicitar el primer pago de resultados REDD+.

Que se encuentran presentes en esta asamblea las Autoridades de Aplicación de la Ley N° 26.331 tanto locales como nacionales.





Artículo 1º.- Declarar de Interés Federal Ambiental la preparación de la "Propuesta de Financiamiento (Funding Proposal) al Fondo Verde del Clima" presentada por el MAYDS para la solicitud del pago por resultados por reducción de emisiones provenientes de la deforestación y degradación forestal.

Artículo 2°. – Acompañar la propuesta de distribución de beneficios del MAYDS para la aplicación de los Fondos priorizando la implementación de los Lineamientos Técnicos Estratégicos de la Ley N° 26.331, plasmados en el Plan de Acción Nacional de Bosques y Cambio Climático como ejes estratégicos operativos, en una proporción de 70% de aplicación regional/provincial y un 30% de aplicación de estrategias nacionales.

Artículo 3.- Apoyar la implementación de la propuesta a través del MAYDS, con el acompañamiento de la FAO como agencia acreditada ante el Fondo Verde del Clima.

Artículo 4.- Regístrese, comuníquese y archívese:

Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016 project. National Institute for Indigenous Affairs and MAYDS. 13 March, Buenos Aires

Dialogue and consultations related to organization of a process for free, prior and informed consultation with indigenous peoples also progressed with INAI, resulting in the agreement on March 13th (minutes in Annex III) for the organization of consultation events, to be jointly called by INAI and MAYDS (minutes of the meeting available – in Spanish – as annex of this document). Tentative dates for the first meeting (April 2020), as well as initial ideas on agenda, venue and participants was agreed upon. This event would have been a four-day meeting, with the *mesa nacional del Consejo de Participación Indígena* (the council of indigenous participation, approximately 25 persons) and the same number of IP organizations. A second one would have been held with a larger number of participants/representatives (approximately 130) or at regional level.

- Official minutes of the meeting (Spanish only) in external PDF (within Funding proposal package)

Minutes of online information meeting/consultation with INAI, 8 July 2020

Summary included in the body of the text

Available upon request in original language (can be translated in case of need)

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NELeHeHTwiY&feature=youtu.be>

Participants: 65 - Views: 455

Minutes of the online meeting with MAGyP, 27 July 2020

Summary included in the body of the text

Available upon request in original language (can be translated in case of need)

Minutes of online information meeting/consultation with CTA, 10 August 2020

Summary included in the body of the text

Available upon request in original language (can be translated in case of need)

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=623c_SjnIAM

Participants: 34 - Views: 151

Minutes of online information meeting/consultation with FAIF, 14 August 2020

Summary included in the body of the text

Available upon request in original language (can be translated in case of need)

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMNz_Jm5Hfo

Participants: 86 - Views: 319

Minutes of online information meeting/consultation with NGO/OSC, 14 September 2020

Summary included in the body of the text

Available upon request in original language (can be translated in case of need)

Participants: 41

Minutes of online information meeting/consultation with REDFOR.ar, 15 September 2020

Summary included in the body of the text

Available upon request in original language (can be translated in case of need)

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9INpDK0dSY>

Participants: 152 – Views: 117

Annex IV: Forest Law and MGBI environmental standards

The activities foreseen in this proposal will be carried out in accordance with the land use planning spelt out in the provincial OTBNs, that is to say, the conservation categories defined in each case will be taken into account and the management guidelines outlined in the current regulations will be respected (specifically the minimum contents of management plans (MP) and conservation plans (CP) established in [Annex I to COFEMA Resolution 277/2014](#)). This resolution indicates that the objectives and proposals included in the MPs should ensure the following: that the forest is not replaced; that the interventions are moderate enough so the forest continues to maintain at least the minimum conservation attributes of the category under which it has been classified; and, in the case of interventions intensely affecting conservation attributes, that the system can recover (either naturally or artificially) and that said recovery is technically based on MPs.

Furthermore, article 22 of the aforementioned resolution establishes that the local enforcement authority must make sure the plans include admissible activities for the indicated modality, excluding those activities that do not contribute to the plan's objectives or **that have an unfavorable or significant impact on the native ecosystem**. Likewise, following the precautionary principle set forth in the Law, activities should be promoted only if the acceptable thresholds of disturbance have been defined for the category in which they are carried out.

On the other hand, article 23 of the above resolution establishes that the plan's approval procedures must at least envisage the obligations imposed by the Law and its Decree concerning the environmental impact of the proposed activities.

With regard to the activities to be carried out under the **MBGI modality**, the technical proposal is based on adaptive management, and will be implemented following the National Principles and Guidelines for MBGI, defined within the framework of the Forest Law, and in accordance with the general procedures and minimum requirements for the submission of the above-mentioned management and conservation plans, approved under COFEMA Resolution No. 277/14. MBGI plans must be developed in accordance with three sustainability principles: a) The productive capacity of the ecosystem must be maintained or improved; b) The integrity of the ecosystem and its ecosystem services must be maintained or improved; c) The well-being of the communities associated with its use must be maintained or improved. The following is worth highlighting within the general guidelines for the implementation of MBGI:

- The plans must comply with the minimum requirements for Sustainable Native Forest Management Plans;
- They must ensure an exclusive area for biodiversity conservation, maintenance of connectivity, the preservation of the genetic wealth of species that live on the property, and the protection of associated fauna.
- The importance attached to all strata that are a part of a forest's vertical structure as vital elements in the functioning of the ecosystem and productive system. In this regard, it is worth underscoring the functionality of the shrub layer in the nutrient cycle, in the way of forage supply, soil and biodiversity protection, the water cycle; and as a source of non-timber products and food, as well as for wildlife protection.
- Any method for seeding non-invasive forage species may be used, but only in the specific intervention areas.
- The organization of activities includes a forest management plan that allows the forest structure to be geared, and its status to be periodically monitored.

- Livestock management specified in the comprehensive management plan must be adapted to the actual possibilities of the system, in a time horizon that takes into account the interannual variability of environmental conditions.
- It is of utmost importance for MBGI plans to have a system for prevention and control of fires affecting forests and associated grasslands, and of prolonged droughts, including a specific early response action, as a means to prevent or control the impact of the above on the system.
- The recommendation is for MBGI plans to appropriately design waterpoints so as to achieve efficient productive use, without affecting the functioning of the forest. The water management plan is integrated into the MBGI and pursues the following objectives: reduce the impact of livestock on the forest and its regeneration (grazing, trampling, etc.), ensure a better use of forage stocks, support the increase in the carrying capacity and meat production, improve animal well-being, ensure a better use of water, avoiding the contamination and erosion of water courses.

Additional information on the technical guidelines, case studies and a guide to recommended forage species are available at: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/tierra/bosques-suelos/manejo-sustentable-bosques/ganaderia-integrada>

Additional information / text through external PDF:

COFEMA Resolution N.277 : Rules of procedure of the Forest Law The COFEMA Resolution N.277 : The resolution states that the objectives and proposals included within the projects should ensure that the forest is not replaced; that the interventions are moderate enough so at least to maintain the forest the conservation attributes of the category under which it has been classified; in the case of interventions that severely affect conservation attributes, the system can recover (either naturally or artificially) and that such recovery is technically substantiated by the projects.

- For full information please refer to the external PDF (Spanish only)

Official agreement on the principles and national guidelines on the MBGI in alignment with the Forest Law : The official agreement on the principles and national guidelines on the MBGI (official translation) in alignment with the Forest Law indicates that MBGI plans should be developed according to three principles of sustainability: (a) The productive capacity of the ecosystem should be maintained or improved; (b) The integrity of the ecosystem and its ecosystem services should be maintained or improved; (c) The well-being of the communities associated with their use should be maintained or improved.

- For full information please refer to the external PDF (Spanish only)

Annex V: List of stakeholders consulted for this RBP Proposal

The table below lists the different organizations that were contacted by email with the online survey in relation to this RBP Proposal (several people were reached within each institution). Note that representatives of the forest offices of provincial governments are not included in the table below, as consultations with them are channeled through COFEMA.

This table also reflects an initial step in the construction of a stakeholder map relevant for the present RBP Proposal that will be further developed. Due to the impossibility to hold meetings in person in the current pandemic, only the indigenous peoples with e-mail access have been included in the list below.

Organism	Sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible - Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas - Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca (Incluye Secretaría de Agricultura Familiar, Dirección de Desarrollo Foresto Industrial y Secretaría de Ganadería) - Ministerio de las Mujeres, Género y Diversidad - Administración de Parques Nacionales (APN) - Dirección de Lucha contra los Incendios Forestales y Emergencias (DLIFE) - APN - Instituto Nacional de Asociativismo y Economía Social (INAES) 	National government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA) - Incluye las sedes regionales y Estaciones Experimentales Agropecuarias distribuidas a lo largo de todo el país" - Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas de Argentina (CONICET) - Centro de Investigación y Extensión Forestal Andino Patagónico (CIEFAP) - Universidad Nacional de Entre Ríos Fac. De Cs. Agrarias en Oro Verde CONICET - Universidad Nacional de Formosa, Facultad de Recursos Naturales - Universidad Nacional del Comahue - Centro Regional Universitario Bariloche (CRUB) - Universidad Nacional del Comahue. Instituto de Investigaciones en Biodiversidad y Medioambiente (INIBIOMA) - Universidad Nacional de Tucumán. Instituto de Ecología Regional (IER)-CONICET - Universidad Nacional de San Luis - Universidad Nacional de Misiones - Facultad de Ciencias Forestales - Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco - Centro de Validación de Tecnologías Agropecuarias (CEDEVA) - Formosa - Centro de Investigación Esquel de Montaña y Estepa Patagónica (CIEMEP) - Universidad Nacional del Comahue - Asentamiento Universitario San Martín de los Andes (AUSMA) - Universidad Nacional de Salta - Universidad Nacional del Litoral - Universidad Nacional del Nordeste - Universidad Católica de Santiago del Estero - Universidad Nacional de Misiones. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas Químicas y Naturales. Profesorado Universitario en Biología - Universidad Católica de Salta - Universidad Nacional de Misiones - Instituto de Biología Subtropical (IBS) - Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Humanidades y ciencias - Universidad Nacional del Comahue - CCT-Patagonia Norte (CONICET) - Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM) - CONICET - Universidad Nacional de Jujuy - Centro Austral de Investigaciones Científicas (CADIC)-CONICET - Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral - Universidad Nacional de La Pampa - Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral (Cecoal) - Universidad Nacional del Nordeste - Universidad Nacional de Río Cuarto 	Academic/ Technical

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundación INVAP - Instituto de Botánica del Nordeste (IBONE) - Universidad Nacional del Nordeste - Universidad Nacional de La Rioja - Universidad Nacional de Cuyo. Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias. IANIGLA, CONICET Mendoza - Universidad de Buenos Aires - Universidad Nacional de La Plata - Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias y Forestales - Centro de Investigación del Bosque Atlántico (Ceiba) - Universidad Nacional de Río Negro - Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de Zonas áridas (IADIZA) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PROADAPT Gran Chaco / MPA Formosa - Asociana - Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina - Ente Patagonia Argentina - Turismo - Asociación Civil Tepeyac - Red Agroforestal Chaco Argentina (REDAF) - Asociación ambiental Cuña Piru y Rios Libres. - Asociación Civil Cedrus - Fundación Patagonia Natural - FSC ARG - Asociación Consejo de Manejo Responsable de Bosques - Fundación ProYungas - Instituto de Cultura Popular - ASOCIACIÓN CIVIL RINCÓN NAZARÍ - CoDeBoNa (Coordinadora en Defensa del Bosque Nativo) - AVINA - Fundación Flora y Fauna - The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - Asociación Argentina de Guías de Montaña (Proyecto de Restauración Soy Parte del Bosque Fuegoño) - Fundapaz - Asociación Cultural para el Desarrollo Integral (ACDI) - Fundación Gran Chaco - Árbol de pie - Fundación ACERCAR - CEIBAL AC - Asociación de Turismo Activo de la Patagonia - Agrupación Ecologista Tamandú - Fundación Huellas para el Futuro - Grupo Ambiental para el Desarrollo (GADE) - Fundación para el Desarrollo en Justicia y Paz - Grupo de Diálogo Neuquino - Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) - Consejo Empresario Argentino para el Desarrollo Sostenible (CEADS) - Cruzada Patagónica - Asociación de Productores de Agroturismo de Alto Río Percy "APAARP" 	NGO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movimiento Campesino de Santiago del Estero (MOCASE) - MOCASE Vía Campesina - Cámara de Industria, Comercio y Turismo de Tolhuin - Mesa de Tierras provincial de Santiago del Estero - Organización Campesinos Federal - Entre Ríos - Grupo Cambio Rural El Nilson - Chubut 	Small land-owners/ producers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sociedad Rural Pampa del Indio - Chaco - TERE A - Fundación Cambium 	Private sector, including

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apostillas Ambientales - Colegio de Ingenieros Forestales de Misiones - Colegio de Graduados en Ciencias Forestales de Santiago del Estero - Reserva Natural privada Curindy - Asociación de Productores Foresto Industriales y Comerciales de la Provincia de Salta (APROFICSA) - Citrícola San Miguel - Tucumán - Sociedad Rural de Esquel - Corporación Forestal Neuquina (CORFONE) - Federación de Entidades Rurales de Salta (FEDERSAL) - Cámara Faguina de Fabricantes de Muebles y Afines (CAFUFAMA) - Puerto Laharrague SA - Cooperativa de madereros del Noroeste de Chubut - Asociación Ganadera del Alto Paraná - Consejo de Profesionales de Ingenieros Agrónomos - Chaco - Asociación de Plantadores de Tabaco de Misiones (APTM) - Federación de Asociaciones Agrarias de Santiago de Estero (FAAS) - Asociación Empresaria Forestal del Oeste Chaqueño - Sociedad Rural Junín de los Andes - Federación De Asociaciones De Productores e Industriales Forestales del Chaco - Confederaciones Rurales Argentinas (CRA) - Corporación interestadual Pulmarí - Centro de Obrajeros del Norte - Empresa Forestal Rionegrina S.A. - Bosques del Plata y EVASA - TABACAL Agroindustrias - Consejo Profesionales de Médicos Veterinarios Chaco - Pindó SA - Cin.co.tur. (Tierra del Fuego) - Federación Agraria - Geoingeniería - Tierra del Fuego - PROGRAMA 	<p>medium- or large-scale agricultural producers</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comunidad Huarpe - Comunidad Rural Arabela - Subcoordinadora de educación intercultural EIB - Asociación de Productores de agroturismo de Alto Rio Percy: Comunidad Alto Rio - CPI - Pueblo Huarpe - Lonco Comunidad Ancalao - Referente Diálogo Intercultural Lof Paicil Anriao - Representante Legal de los Lotes 515 hcs, 900 hcs y 3100 hecs del Pueblo Guarani - Comunidad Indígena Solco Yampa - Werquen PM Cipres de las Guaitecas. Los repollos. - Mesa de Diálogo Mapuche - Comunidad Yasitatareta - Representante de CPI Guaraní - Comunidad Mapuche - Representates de CPI 	<p>Indigenous peoples, local communities, and relevant organizations</p>