

# **Mangroves for climate: Public, private and community partnerships for mitigation and adaptation in Ecuador**

## **ANNEX 7: Stakeholder Consultation Report and Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

*Prepared by Conservation International and Asesoramiento Ambiental Estratégico (AAE)  
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## Acronyms and abbreviations

CI	Conservation International
CAN	National Chamber of Aquaculture
CONDESAN	Andean Region Development Council
CIIFEN	El Niño Phenomena International Research Center.
ESMP	Environmental and Social Safeguards Management Plan
ESIA	Social and Environmental Impact Assessment
FIAS	Sustainable Environmental Investment Fund
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
DNP	National Project Director
GADs	Decentralized Autonomous Governments
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIZ	German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH
INP	National Fisheries Institute
INOCAR	Oceanographic Institute of the Navy
INAMHI	National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology
IPLC	Indigenous People and Local Communities
JP	Project Board
PDOT	Development and territorial planning plan
MAATE	Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador
PPS	Social Participation Process
PMU	Project Management Unit
REM	REDD Early Movers Program
SSP	Sustainable Shrimp Partnership
SENPLADES	National Secretariat of Planning and Development
TC	Technical Committees
TNC	The Nature Conservancy

## 1. Introduction

This annex provides a summary of the Consultation Process and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan developed during the design of the Project **Mangroves for climate: Public, Private and Community Partnerships for Mitigation and Adaptation in Ecuador** for the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The Government of Ecuador has included as high priority the risk reduction of coastal communities and the provision of mangrove ecosystem services in its National Climate Change Strategy 2012-2025, the Adaptation Strategy, and other national frameworks. The project aims to build resilience and coordinated adaptive capacity throughout the coastal region and in the people most vulnerable to climate change and the economic sectors like fisheries and shrimp production that are in high-risk areas.

The goal of the project is to reduce the GHG emissions from mangrove ecosystems and reduce coastal communities' vulnerability to climate change impacts through sustainable management and restoration of mangrove ecosystems, with public-private partnerships.

If governance systems, legal protections, knowledge, and management capacity at multiple levels are strengthened and new sources of finance and private-sector support are mobilized for mangrove conservation and restoration and coastal areas, then coverage and quality of mangrove ecosystems will be increased, resulting in reduced climate change impacts on vulnerable coastal populations, increased economic resilience, and reduced GHG emissions because healthier and more extensive mangroves reduce flood impacts and sequester more GHG emissions.

The project has 3 components:

**Project Component 1: Mangrove areas under effective and climate-adapted management increased, including through community-based management (AUSCEMs) and protected areas implementing climate adaptation plans.**

**Project Component 2: The private sector becomes a transformational agent for change by reducing GHG emissions and providing financial support to conserve and restore mangroves that increase climate resilience for other coastal populations.**

**Project Component 3: Create the enabling conditions for sustaining reductions in mangrove deforestation and increased mangrove restoration by strengthening governance, climate change adaptation strategies, coastal management policies, and legal enforcement.**

This framework presents several options and modalities for a paradigm shift in coastal zone management considering climate change. In addition to its adaptation benefits, the project will also have a significant mitigation impact by not only halting the degradation of mangroves, salt marshes and coastal forests but also expanding mangrove forests through restoration activities.

CI is committed to ensuring meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of CI programs and projects. When properly designed and implemented, stakeholder engagement supports the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships

that are important for the successful management of a project's environmental and social risks and impacts.

Effective stakeholder engagement is a cornerstone to achieving sustainable development. Meaningful engagement with stakeholders hinges on transparency, including access to timely, relevant, and understandable information and grievance redress, which are key aspects of a human rights-based approach to programming. Government partners, civil society actors and organizations, local government actors, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders are crucial partners. Effective stakeholder engagement is also fundamental to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressing the principle of 'leave no one behind' in combatting inequality and ensuring equity and non-discrimination across all programming areas (CI, 2022).

## 2. The Stakeholder Consultation Report

### General description of the consultations

This consultation process was implemented to ensure the effective participation of key project stakeholders, including men and women of local mangrove associations and other disadvantaged or vulnerable stakeholders.

During the design of the project a total of 635 people were involved in consultations of which 460 were men and 176 women. Of the people involved 60% represented local associations that are managing mangrove areas, 7% of government, 8% private sector and 20% universities & NGO, and 5% women associations. Forty-six of the people (13 men and 33 women) involved in consultations belonged to an Afro-descendent community (recognized as Indigenous Peoples grouping in this project).

The consultation process was conducted during periods of COVID restrictions and therefore some meetings took place virtually in addition to in-person meetings when possible. A total of 20 meetings were held in a virtual format and 15 in person.

Conservation International has its own Manual for the Application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC, Buppert and McKeehan 2013). Travel and contact restrictions as a result of measures to limit further distribution of COVID-19, however, posed severe limitations to undertaking a complete FPIC process as part of full proposal preparation in line with CI's FPIC Manual. In response, CI Ecuador developed a document describing how FPIC under COVID-19 has been handled specifically for the present project. The document outlines the COVID-19 situation in Ecuador (at the time of preparation and consultations), limitations that arose from the pandemic and the FPIC process that was used. The guidance document is included as Appendix 3.

The main conclusion of the consultation process was that there is a strong desire among community groups to improve management of mangroves as planned by the project. In addition, there is a strong need to invest in the generation of climate change information and to communicate and share the knowledge on the possible impacts of climate change at a local level. Marine and coastal ecosystems in Ecuador have a strong gap of climatic information in Ecuador. This is a clear demand for several sectors consulted in this process for improved information and improved planning for responding to climate change threats, not only from local communities but also from local governments and the private sector who indicated they are unclear on how to respond to climate change threats. There is a strong interest in the project activities. CI received 17 letters from local community associations supporting the project.

Stakeholders were involved in the preparation of the full funding proposal in different ways (see Annex 7 for details), namely through:

- Stakeholder workshops held in 2016 in the early stages of project preparation (2 workshops);
- Stakeholder workshops held as part of the main consultation activities in 2019 (7 workshops);
- Targeted meetings with partners to discuss planning of specific activities (18 meetings);

The following sections provide summaries of the consultation workshops and meetings undertaken during the project preparation. Further details on individual meetings are provided in the Appendices to this document.

## National level meetings

### National workshops

During the consultation process CI organized five workshops to discuss mangrove conservation challenges in the country with the participation of a total of 73 men and 47 women. These workshops included the participation of several stakeholders from private and public sectors that are involved with mangroves. The main contributions from these workshops were the need to implement a comprehensive information and monitoring system for natural resources; develop inter-institutional coordination round tables and strengthen the capacities of local actors to respond to climate change challenges.

### *Workshops to analyze the general situation of mangrove (MARISCO).*

The following workshops were undertaken by experts of the inter-institutional alliance between the Ministry of Environment (MAATE), the Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN), Conservation International (CI) and the German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ), in relation to the project.

The workshops were held in two locations:

- Playas de Villamil, Provincia del Guaya (June-July, 2016)
- Ciudad de Guayaquil (September, 2016)

Both applied the MARISCO methodology (Adaptive Management of Risks and Vulnerability in Conservation Sites).

The main objective of the workshops was to develop an analysis of the policies of conservation and use of soils in the mangrove ecosystem, and their contribution in the generation of ecosystem services and the well-being of the population.

The specific objectives of the workshops were:

- To deliver a systemic analysis of the situation;
- Evaluate the existing strategies in the area;
- Develop complementary strategies to ensure conservation and human well-being;
- Develop a first version of a monitoring system, considering objectives, indicators, etc.

In both workshops, participants worked together in groups of 4-5 people, and were distributed as follows:

Workshop/Location		Stakeholders	Men	Women	TOTAL
1	Playas del Villamil, Provincia del Guayas	Representatives from the Secretary of Aquaculture, Association of Shellfish and Artisanal Fisherman Las Huacas, Ministry of Environment (MAATE), Ministry of Tourism, National Institute of Statistics and Census, German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ), Secretariat of Water, Provincial Directorate of Guayas Environment, CONDESAN, National Institute of Fishery, Catholic University of Guayaquil, Association of Users of the Manglar Cerrito de Los Morreños, SENPLADES, Litoral Polytechnic University (ESPOL), Municipality of Guayaquil, Conservation International (CI-Ecuador), Association of Crabbers and Artisanal Fisherman 21 de Mayo – Puerto Roma, National Institute of Biodiversity, Association of Crabbers 6 de Julio and National Secretariat of Planning and Developing.	21	11	32
2	Ciudad de Guayaquil	Representatives from the Ministry of Environment (MAE), National Institute of Biodiversity, CIIFEN, SENAGUA, Ministry of Tourism, National Institute of Fishery, ESPOL, Conservation International (CI-Ecuador), TNC and CONDESAN.	8	9	17

As a result of the workshops, the main recommendations provided by participants were:

- Implement a comprehensive information and monitoring system for natural resources;
- Develop inter-institutional coordination to improve natural resource management;
- Strengthen the capacities of local actors to manage natural resources.

The insights were taken into account in the early development of the project activities.

*Workshops to present and discuss the project.*

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) conducted 2 workshops in Guayaquil and one in Quito, in the framework of the Project **Mangroves for climate: Public, private and community partnerships for mitigation and adaptation in Ecuador.**



- Guayaquil city (July, 2019)
- Guayaquil city (September, 2019)
- Quito city (December, 2019 – three days)

The main objective of the workshops was to present the project to key organizations with a stake in mangrove management and elicit feedback on the proposed activities.

The table below summarizes the stakeholder participation:

Workshop/Location		Stakeholders	Men	Women	TOTAL
<b>1</b>	<b>Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador</b> 07-2019	Litoral Polytechnic University (ESPOL), Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS), Fisheries National institute (INP), GIZ, National Chamber of Aquaculture, Contecon Guayaquil, Conservation International (CI-Ecuador), CIIFEN, Heifer, Nuevo Porvenir, National Institute of Fishery, Ministry of Environment (MAATE).	14	10	<b>24</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador</b> 09-2019	WWF Ecuador, Oceanographic Institute of the Navy (INOCAR), National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI), Banco Pichincha, Conservation International (CI-Ecuador), FAO, Nuevo Porvenir, Ministry of Environment (MAE), University of Eloy Alfaro de Manabí (ULEAM), Fondo Agua, AAE (Strategic Environmental Advice), National Institute of Fishery, CIIFEN.	22	8	<b>30</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Ciudad de Quito, Ecuador</b> 12-2019	Ministry of Environment (MAE), AAE (Strategic Environmental Advice), CIIFEN, Conservation International (CI-Ecuador).	8	9	<b>17</b>

The stakeholders at these three workshops were receptive to the project as presented and provided feedback that was used to refine the project design and theory of change.

#### *Meetings with government representatives*

A series of meetings was held with government representatives and key stakeholders to design elements of the project as indicated in the table below. The process consisted of seven meetings, each developed in the locations and with the stakeholders and objectives as per the following table:

Location		Stakeholders	Objective	Men	Women	TOTAL
1	Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador 11/01/2020	Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management MAATE, CI Ecuador.	Discuss institutional arrangements for the project.	6	2	8
2	Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador 17/01/2020	Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management MAATE, CI Ecuador.	Review log-frame of the project, policy framework, management capacity, alignment with other projects and restoration goals.	7	2	9
3	Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador 24/01/2020	Aquaculture and Fisheries, CI Ecuador.	Discuss the project and the involvement of the Vice ministry.	2	3	5
4	Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador 12/02/2020	National Institute of Fisheries (INP), CI Ecuador.	Discuss the project and the information developed by INP; define topics and ways of collaboration between INP and CI for the project "Private-public partnerships for adaptation and mitigation of the mangrove".	3	1	4
<b>Topics discussed:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ways to guarantee that the mangrove-partner program will be maintained over time; interest of companies in investing in a public program such as the mangrove-partner.</li> <li>2. How to integrate monitoring into the project; include fishing as an indicator in the MRV section.</li> <li>3. Perceptions of artisanal fishing and its link to mangroves</li> <li>4. Workshop with ESPOL to establish needs of the coast.</li> <li>5. Meeting to establish INP role.</li> <li>6. Strategic partners that will have binding activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key indicators of shell, crab and shrimp to measure climate change impact;</li> <li>- Link with coalition of crabs and shellfish;</li> <li>- How to support productive entrepreneurship with women.</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Letter of co-financing and support for the initiative.</li> </ol>						
5	Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador 12/02/2020	DIRNEA, CI Ecuador.	Define topics and ways of collaboration between DIRNEA and CI for the project "Private-public partnerships for adaptation and mitigation of the mangrove".	3	1	4

### **Topics discussed:**

#### **1. Lines of action:**

- Mangrove restoration as a priority;
- Peanco with PMRC and Navy, strengthen coastal marine environmental education and conservation of fragile ecosystems such as mangroves;
- Regularization of the shrimp sector DE 1111. For the recovery of mangroves in shrimp pools, the areas have been commissioned to associations which contributed with control and surveillance activities and mediation with the trucking sector and communes;
- Competence DE 2015 for pollution prevention and control in the coastal marine zone. They work with the SGMC for the management of the mangrove vegetation cover.

#### **2. Projects to determine the quality of the mangrove:**

- Declaration of RAMSAR sites (in each geographical area there is naval activity), they support situation of oil spills and maritime insiders on the coast.

#### **3. *Glow Folling* project.**

#### **4. Storage for management and use of data (Logistics).**

#### **5. Committee for the protection of the marine environment (Copromar, national regulation).**

#### **6. Contamination of ships:**

- Marpol Annex 6;
- Emissions control into the atmosphere related to the use of fuel on ships by a certain technical standard. They are working with Universidad de Guayaquil to sample a port and a protected area to analyze the impact of maritime traffic (cost of devices, reagents for monitoring and training on this topic).

#### **7. Invasive species.**

#### **8. In AMP they support park rangers, training is required on issues of illegal fishing.**

#### **9. Reactivation of the conservation and surveillance unit by the port captain:**

- Management of the entire fishing area;
- Use online inspection tools (the Navy has a system to have a microsite, platform development is required).

#### **10. Costs to finance patrols (i.e. fuel), Orca System could be useful as input to analyze the type of fuel; SIGMAG for prevention and control. For aquaculture, the analysis of diesel is carried out, with Aquaculture and the Hydrocarbon Regulation and Control Agency.**

#### **11. INOCAR, tidal energy, in Baltra and the Peninsula of Santa Elena.**

#### **12. With CPPS they work as a funding implementing agency.**

#### **13. Pollution control laboratory on the presence/absence of hydrocarbons; microscopes for taxonomic identification to analyze species that are in the hooves (PhD person to analyze).**

#### **14. In 2009 7 variables of oceanographic buoys were purchased but were no longer used due to buoy maintenance. DIRNEA requires aids to navigation and data to have applicable standards at national level. National standards can be generated and received by the IMO in London, where they mention the specific resolutions.**

#### **15. Training for environmental lawyers.**

#### **16. Inspections of hydrocarbon contamination, energy efficiency and fuel use are carried out with international ports using MARPOL parameters (Annex 6 of Marpol).**

## Meetings with private sector

Thirteen meetings were held with private sector partners to develop aspects of the project. The table below indicates the stakeholders involved and the objectives discussed in each meeting.

Location		Stakeholders	Objective	Men	Women	TOTAL
<b>1</b>	<b>Ciudad de Quito, Ecuador</b> 11/12/2019	Fondo de Inversión Ambiental Sostenible (FIAS), CI Ecuador.	Analyze the potential collaboration and requirements to have the mangrove-partner subaccount within the Socio Bosque Fund; discuss the financial challenges of the Socio Bosque Fund.	2	2	<b>4</b>
<b>Topics discussed:</b>  Ecuador is designing a GCF mangrove project. For the project, co-financing can be proposed to capitalize the Socio Manglar subaccount. Possible co-financing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- REM;</li> <li>- Private sector.</li> </ul> Initial resources for the construction of the subaccount have been obtained in the design phase. Maintaining the State's contribution to the Socio Manglar program is key. Ideally, one part should be covered by the private sector and the other part by cooperation. 90 members will be paid with the resources of the Socio Bosque fund (to cover 20 years of the 2000 agreements). In the case of the Socio Manglar, it is required to have an endowment fund because the mangrove is a fragile ecosystem, and the total amount is not so much compared to other ecosystems. The contribution to the Socio Manglar is the same as the payment of the incentives (payment for 10 years; the calculation for the incentive is different). Cooperators are interested in having an “earnmarket” and a specific communication campaign (it avoids contributing to a generic topic). It is necessary to justify having a subaccount and not directly the Socio Bosque fund.						
<b>2</b>	<b>Ciudad de Playas de Villamil, Ecuador</b> 13/12/2019	GPS, CI Ecuador.	Discuss the involvement of the aquaculture sector and their main challenges.	2	2	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador</b> 21/01/2020	GPS, CI Ecuador.	Discuss the project and main challenges of the small and medium shrimp farms.	5	3	<b>8</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador</b> 21/01/2020	Produmar, Santa Priscilla, GPS, CI Ecuador.	Shrimp certification and interest in expanding the SSP and CSS.	3	3	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador</b> 21/01/2020	Exporcambrit, CI Ecuador.	Shrimp certification and interest in expanding the SSP and CSS.	3	2	<b>5</b>

6	<b>Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador</b> 22/01/2020	Santa Priscila, GPS, CI Ecuador.	Visit shrimp farm and review practices of the company.	3	3	6
7	<b>Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador</b> 22/01/2020	DPWorld Port, CI Ecuador.	Analyze their interest in mangrove restoration activities.	5	2	7
8	<b>Golfo de Guayas, Ecuador</b> 23/01/2020	Exporcambrit, GPS, CI Ecuador.	Visit to the shrimp farm	3	3	6
9	<b>Ciudad de Quito, Ecuador</b> 28/01/2020	REM, AAE (Strategic Environmental Advice), CI Ecuador,	Discuss co-financing, collaboration, and main targets of the project.	2	2	4

**Topics discussed:**

Availability of resources the REM Ecuador Program has for mangroves (Socio Manglar program) and for how long. 5 associations joined the mangrove partnership and their incentives will be covered by the REM Ecuador Program, through FIAS. The REM Ecuador Program can also be an ally and co-financier for the reforestation subcomponent (restoration) and the adaptation subcomponent (productive initiatives). Next steps are to work with the REM team to identify co-financing.

10	<b>Ciudad de Quito, Ecuador</b> 04/02/2020	Trase, CI Ecuador.	Initiative to review the platform and the information gathered.	2	1	3
11	<b>Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador</b> 11/02/2020	Universidad de Guayaquil (Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Naturales), CI Ecuador.	Discuss their work in the mangrove areas and potential involvement.	-	3	3
12	<b>Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador</b> 11/02/2020	Universidad Esspíritu Santo, CI Ecuador.	Discuss their work in the mangrove areas and potential involvement.	-	2	2
13	<b>Ciudad de Guayaquil, Ecuador</b> 28/02/2020	Aquaculture National Chamber (CNA), CI Ecuador.	Review their SPP initiative and the project design; identify levels of collaboration for the project by the can.	2	2	4

**Topics discussed:**

**1. Presentation of the project with emphasis on *Climate Smart Aquaculture***

- The project will support at the company level through trainings and information while the CNA will seek to amplify the impact to the entire sector;
- The project has some explicit elements regarding adaptation and mitigation to climate change;
- It involves both private sector and local communities.
- The project starts with a focus on the Gulf of Guayaquil where there are some important dynamics and is then extended to other regions.

Project's concept:

- Decrease in carbon emissions of companies;

- Commitment to mangrove zero deforestation;
- Enhance restoration of mangrove;
- Promote best practices in wastewater (including monitoring);
- Prepare the sector for processes of climate change, changes in sea level, pH, temperature, etc.;
- Involvement with local communities;
- Technical support;
- Support for financial access;
- Priorization of access to markets (the Ecuadorian shrimp is characterized by the quality of the shrimp).

## 2. Priority issues for the CNA

- The market is a key issue that analysis should focus on (connect the buyer where access to the market is guaranteed);
- It is necessary to reinforce the producer's commitment to climate change, in addition to including quality;
- Where possible, offset the carbon footprint through working with neighbors in mangrove use and custody associations. For this, the project will have work groups by component;
- Specific initiatives to expand the market: a) link with SSP (it incorporates the ASC certification and the link with the community. SSP rates farms on criteria: zero antibiotics, total traceability, neutral impact; but focuses on the product); b) the project focuses on sustainability; c) shrimp farms; d) fourth SSP criteria; e) meetings with small and medium producers to achieve ASC certification.

## 3. Next steps

- Magazine article (6000 - 7000 characters, 2 pages), *"Industry outlook against climate change"*;
- 220,000 ha. of shrimp farms;
- Activities with the CNA: participation with working groups; socialize, articulate and summon shrimp farmers; accompaniment to the initiative; map of flood risks from the Under-Secretariat of Aquaculture (risk susceptibility);
- CNA to be part of an advisory committee;
- Discussion of potential SSP role.
- Support member at SSP: USEC (Union of Soybean Producers of United States), NUTRECO (Nutrition Multinationals), BIOMAR, sustainability standards for protein producers with a significant amount of amino acids, CI may be a member.

## Regional level

### Workshops with local communities for the design of the project

A series of workshops were undertaken by AAE (*Asesoramiento Ambiental Estratégico*) and CIIFEN (*Centro Internacional para la Investigación del Fenómeno de El Niño*), who were engaged by CI to support development of the GCF Funding Full Proposal for the Project.

As part of the Project, **four** workshops were developed with local communities:

- Puerto Roma – Golfo de Guayaquil
- Balao – Guayas
- Puerto Bolívar – El Oro
- Bunche – Muisne – Esmeraldas

The workshops were developed by a team of consultants and facilitators, led by Ms. Francisca Carcelén and Mireya Pozo, CIIFEN's technical team and students from the School of Environmental Engineering at the University of Guayaquil. The inclusion of the *gender approach* was carried out by AAE's gender specialist Sarawasti Rodríguez, who comprehensively identified the specific role of men and women in each activity. Workshops were held between August 15, 2019, and September 15, 2019. Among the participants were also representatives of Afroecuadorian communities and Cholos Pescadores (fishermen in Guayas and Jambelí).

The specific objectives of the workshops were:

- Present the design of the Project and elicit feedback;
- Obtain participants' general information related to time of residence in the area, economic activity, organization and activities of women in the area;
- Obtain information on potential reforestation sites, types of mangroves to plant and their benefits;
- Identify the perceptions that men and women have of the impacts of current climate conditions (wind, rain, presence of useable freshwater, temperature, changes to presence or abundance of species, etc.) and marine conditions, within their communities and adjacent mangrove areas;
- Identify what kind of mangrove products are currently used and could be used in the future.

To achieve the specific objectives, each workshop ensured the participation of attendees from different locations and organizations/associations from different communities, distributed as following:

Workshop/Location		Stakeholders	Men	Women	TOTAL
<b>1</b>	<b>Puerto Roma – Golfo de Guayaquil</b>	Local people from communities and leaders from the communities of Puerto Roma, Cerritos de los Morreños, Santa Rosa, Bellavista, Puerto Salinas, Puerto Libertad and Guayaquil.	134	1	<b>135</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Balao – Guayas</b>	Leaders from the Asociación de Cangrejeros Balao, Nuevo Porvenir, Puerto El Morro Marines, Puerto El Morro Apamupen, Puerto El Morro Porteño and Puerto El Morro Forjadores de Futuro.	59	6	<b>65</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Puerto Bolívar – El Oro</b>	Local people from communities and leaders from the communities of Costa Rica, Mar de Galilea, Isla Pongalilla, Amor y Esperanza, Puerto Bolívar Unio, 17 de Enero, 24 de Octubre.	17	8	<b>25</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Bunche – Muisne – Esmeralda</b>	Local people from communities and leaders from the communities of Bunche – Muisne, Chamanga, Pedro Carbo, Salinas and Bellavista. Representatives of the German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ), Ministry of Environment (MAE) and the Tourism Association.	13	25	<b>38</b>

The topics covered in the workshops included:

- Impacts of climate on mangrove ecosystems;
- Mangrove ecosystem services;
- Impacts of human activity on mangrove ecosystems;
- Measures and strategies for adapting the mangrove ecosystem to climate change.

The workshops were extremely valuable to develop the basis for the project activities. The participants confirmed the importance of the approach of engaging communities through the proposed consolidation and expansion of the AUSCEM model for mangrove conservation and management (Project output 1.1). Support to improve livelihoods through small grants and micro business support was an important request from participants (integrated into the design as Project output 1.2). The importance of improved enforcement of existing regulation around mangrove management was also highlighted in the workshops (integrated into the project design as Project output 3.2). In addition, the workshops were important for strengthening relations with community leaders and trusted community organizers.

### Meetings with local associations during COVID

The FPIC process has taken place between June and July 2020, with local communities that are managing a mangrove custody and use agreement (AUSCEMS, according to its initials in Spanish). Given the Covid-19 emergency, the FPIC procedure included a set of good practices recommended by CI for interactions with IPLCs and considered the CI FPIC Guidelines and the Operational Guidelines of the GCF IP Policy. However, the pandemic situation only allowed to develop meetings with a maximum of 25 people, which included:

- 20 fishery associations.
- 3 local associations.
- 1 woman's associations.
- 2 local governments.

During these meetings 120 people were included: 99 men and 21 women.

The process included the following steps:

Step	Objectives	Procedure
<b>1: Initial Contact</b>	Understand the current local context, understand legal and customary rights, and identify and respect traditional decision-making strategies.	Presentation of Project and CI's need to gather opinions and establish consultation method (e.g.: best virtual platform, place, day, hour, number of people).
<b>2. Workshops with representatives</b>	Develop a culturally sensitive approach, promote far-reaching engagement and effective participation to the extent possible under the emergency, ensure	Presentation of Project's scope and objective to each local leadership to seek consent with the whole association on the formal support for the Project.



	information exchange, and reach consent on course of action.	
<p><b>2.a. Virtual meetings:</b> 15 virtual meetings in locations with access to cell phones or internet connection. The meetings were developed for 2 hours with time for a formal presentation and questions or recommendations from the participants.</p> <p><b>2.b. Intercultural communications:</b> virtual Zoom meetings with leaders from local associations.</p> <p><b>2.c. Technology and Transport:</b> meetings in the communities, so people do not have to mobilize. The meetings were held in field sport places or in the associations gathering houses. For the communities that are located far away from the connection areas, meetings were held on the day they travel to surrounding markets to sell their products.</p> <p><b>2.d. Workshop in Public Institute for Aquaculture and Fisheries Research (IPIAP, Guayaquil):</b> this meeting involved 8 local associations from islands inside the Guayas estuary. Twelve men and one woman representing 8 artisanal fishermen organizations joined the meeting. The following safety measures were implemented in the meeting: temperature check in the entrance before the meeting, obligatory use of masks and social distancing.</p>		
<b>3. Local Assemblies</b>	Develop a culturally sensitive approach, promote far-reaching engagement and effective participation to the extent possible under the emergency, ensure information exchange, and reach consent on course of action.	After the virtual meeting, usually with the main representatives of the associations, a discussion was promoted inside the local associations following the local governance structure. The representatives presented the Project inside the associations in regular meetings and received comments for support for the Project. This support was confirmed in the form of an act or letter of the organization.

### Follow-up meetings focused on the gender issues

In addition to information collected during workshops presented above, additional meetings were organized as part of developing the Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan. The following stakeholders were interviewed with regards to identifying activities to ensure better involvement of women in the project.

Workshop/Location		Stakeholders	Men	Women	TOTAL
1	Puerto Roma	Local women.	-	1	1
2	Balao – Guayas	Local women, Nuevo Porvenir, Campo Alegre, Asociación de Cangrejeros Balao	2	8	9
3	Puerto Bolívar – El Oro	Local women, Red de Socios Manglar,	-	8	8
4	Bunche – Muisne – Esmeralda	Local women, Asociación de Producción Pesquera de Bunche, Foro de Mujeres de Muisne.	-	8	8

Results of these interviews were integrated into the Gender Assessment and informed the Gender Action Plan, presented separately as Annex 8 of the Funding Proposal.

### 3. Main results of the stakeholder consultations

The main discussions during this process were related to:

- The importance of having clear guidelines for private sector involvement. The incentives that the private sector have for increasing their role in mangrove protection have not always been clear and so the project will need to provide clear incentives to get buy-in from the private sector. The Climate Smart Shrimp concept provides a clear anchor for involvement by shrimp farming companies.
- One of the concerns that was mentioned repeatedly by local communities and by local government stakeholders was mangrove deforestation, mainly due to shrimp farming followed by the development of infrastructure. Component 3 includes activities related to enforce the control, surveillance, and penalties for mangrove deforestation.
- There is a concern on how the shrimp farmers will be partners of the project as they have historically deforested. In some areas, especially in Jambeli estuary there are currently conflicts between fishermen and shrimp farmers for the access to the sea. This is a social concern that the project must consider for its strategy. It's important to design transparent participation bodies where the role of all the stakeholders is clear.
- How will an expansion of Socio Manglar be financed? This is a concern because there are current AUSCEMs that cannot apply for the program because there is not enough funding. Component 2 has a goal related to finance Socio Manglar incentive with the support of several actors, especially private sector and a proposal to grow a dedicated Socio Manglar subaccount within the successful Socio Bosque program.
- The use of antibiotics and other products in shrimp farms are affecting the mangroves and their resources. The project will work with shrimp farmers to improve their environmental practices through the promotion of the Climate Smart Shrimp concept and ASC certification and/or SSP practices.
- There were questions related to the date this project will go into implementation phase. Stakeholders want to be informed about the process.
- Is the project going to manage the problem of the red tide<sup>1</sup>? This is a problem that is concerning local fishermen, but the project is not going to include or address this.
- Is the project going to work with the problem of robbery of motors in the Gulf of Guayaquil? The project will not work with this problem directly but increasing the presence of the government (Army, Fishing authorities) will be better for the security in the area.
- Concerns were raised among some stakeholders regarding changes in the Ministry of Environment and Water. At the time there was not clarity who would oversee the AUSCEMS but this has since been clarified with the current MAATE structure.
- What communication channels will the project use to keep stakeholders informed of the project? The project has participatory bodies and a grievance mechanism. But communication is included in every component to enforce the work with stakeholders and there will be dedicated staff for the duration of the project to support its goals and maintain contact with local stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> Red tide is the common name for the increment of protozoans and unicellular algae that produce harmful effects on people, fish, and other organisms.

Community organizations managing AUSCEMS raised questions related to their involvement :

- Is there going to be a mechanism like a competitive fund for the local associations? What is going to be its scope of working? What kind of ventures would be supported? This funding has been included in outcome 1.
- Who are going to be the key beneficiaries of the Project? Only organizations with current AUSCEMS or others? The project has been designed to expand AUSCEMS to new areas where community groups desire it.
- On the mangrove areas to be restored, they recommended focusing on illegal shrimp areas and recently cleared areas from shrimp farmers. Restoration suitable areas were defined after an in-depth analysis of several ecological and social factors during the design phase. Further refinement of areas to be restored will be done during implementation on site and at the local scale.
- About the Socio Manglar Incentive, they recommended expanding the incentive to new AUSCEMS and request further explanation on how the fund would be created and what resources would be used. Expansion of the Socio Manglar program has been included in the design of the project.
- There are some AUSCEMS with agreements that are about to end. So, they ask if the project can include technical assistance to access a renewal. The project has included these renewal activities in component 1.

These questions were answered in the meeting to the extent that the design of the project allowed us to do. As noted above these questions helped to refine the design of the project such that the questions and concerns could be addressed in the project design.

## 4. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan seeks to (i) Identify, describe, and involve stakeholders in the project (ii) Define strategies for the participatory implementation of the project. (iii) Establish procedure and methodology for stakeholder involvement depending on their link to the project, and (iv) Identify dynamics, or problems, as well as inputs that could affect project implementation.

### Identification of the project stakeholders

For the involvement of stakeholders during the project, it is planned to incorporate the different stakeholder groups so that they are involved, and the project executors can gather their needs and contributions throughout the implementation of the project. Depending on the degree of involvement and interest of each of the key stakeholders, different participation strategies will be established. Table 1 below presents the stakeholder analysis:

**Table 1 Stakeholder analysis matrix**

Group of actors	Main features	Interest in participation	Influence of stakeholders	Role in the program	Proposed group strategy
National Environmental Authority: Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition.	MAATE is involved in national protected areas and conservation zones. They have technical personnel in each of the 4 estuaries defined for the implementation of the project. In addition, MAATE oversees AUSCEMs and administers the Socio Manglar Program: economic incentives for conservation.	MAATE is a key player as it is the institutional governing body for environmental policies.	Positive influence.	Institutional environmental policy governing body approves mangrove use and custody agreements (AUSCEMs). Financial incentives and technical assistance from the Socio Mangrove Program delivered	MAATE is part of the steering committee for the project and directly involved in implementing many of the activities.
Municipal GADs: Esmeraldas, Guayas and El Oro	To formulate land-use plans in coordination with provincial, regional and national authorities, as well as to manage the use of sea beaches, riverbanks and riverbeds, lakes and lagoons.	Positive in terms of generating planning documents in a participatory manner (PDOTs, budgets and other participatory planning instruments for mangrove ecosystem management).	Positive influence, they are interested in improving their capacities to address climate change issues, and it will also support the resilience of the population.	Support for the implementation of the Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Plan for continental Ecuador.	The GADs are part of the advisory committees and will also be able to count on technical and financial assistance for the management of their PDOTs.
Local communities and associations of fishermen and/or shell fishermen and/or shellfish gatherers	Afro-Ecuadorian, and Cholos Pescadores communities living in mangrove areas depend entirely on mangrove resources and ecosystem services.	Strengthen mangrove protection and conservation activities in AUSCEMs through training and capacity building on adaptation and good fishing practices ..	Positive influence by enhancing their capabilities for the management of mangroves and making their livelihoods more resilient by increasing value from their fishing and crustacean harvesting activities.	Local communities are the main beneficiaries of the project. The local population is the one who will implement the bioenterprises, as well as the strengthening of mangrove management through community-led action (through AUSCEM agreements)..	Renewing and creating new AUSCEMs, ongoing dialogue with AUSCEMs, development of community livelihood activities and micro enterprises .
NGOs:	They work on fisheries and mangrove control issues.	Positive	Coordination of specific activities.	Liaison through working groups.	These NGOs will be included within the

NAZCA Marine Research Institute	They are working to promote value chains in mangrove areas.				Project Governance structure in the working groups and in some areas in the Advisory committee.
Heifer Foundation	They work on environmental education, sustainable development and gender.				
Bioeducar Ecological Foundation.	Made up of small shrimp farmers from Balao, they work in reforestation.				
Califur Foundation	They are known to work on tourism issues in marine-coastal areas.				
ECOLAP					
GIZ	The purpose of this organization is to increase the population's capacity to manage and adapt to climatic risks. They are working in the estuaries at north.	Positive	Coordination of specific activities.	Liaison through working groups.	They will be included within the Project Governance structure.
HIVOS /CI	They have conservation areas, the strengthening of mangrove concessions and the integration of biodiversity conservation into fisheries management within conservation areas.				
ENSOL:	They support the strengthening of value chains.	Positive	Coordination of specific activities.	Liaison through working groups.	They will be included within the Project

UTPL:	They work in the Jambelí area, working in the area to support mangrove management plans.				Governance structure.
PUCESE:	They have coverage in the province of Esmeraldas. They carry out capacity building and knowledge management.				
National Chamber of Aquaculture (NCA)	The NCA represents aquaculture companies/the shrimp farming industry nationally. Champions of the Sustainable Shrimp Partnership (SSP)	The NCA has a strong interest in promoting sustainable shrimp farming practices to ensure quality and to maintain the attractiveness of Ecuador's "brand", especially for export markets such as the U.S and Europe where certification of shrimp is increasingly becoming a requirement.	High influence especially through the aquaculture companies / large shrimp farms actively involved in the NCA		The NCA will be included in several activities related to climate smart shrimp in Component 2. In particular in the roundtable with other stakeholders to promote CSS including the vision of the industry.
Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)	ASC runs the world's largest certification program for responsibly farmed seafood. ASC has a growing membership of shrimp producers in Ecuador.	The project, and in particular, Component 2, is well aligned with ASC's mission. The SSP approach is also based on ASC standards.	High influence due to the widespread international recognition of the ASC certification "brand"	There are opportunities to explain the ASC process and standards to small and medium shrimp farmers during project activities (in Component 2)	ASC to provide advice and technical resources on outreach to farmers/companies as part of Component 2
INOCAR	Develop the hydro-oceanographic characterization of jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional maritime spaces and maintain operational maritime systems, to contribute to guaranteeing the	They are interested in participating as advisors and support control in the estuaries.	High influence for the work with GADs and protected areas. Also, with the local fishing communities.	Support the vision of defense of sovereignty and the role of mangrove in that defense.	INOCAR will be part of the advisory committees and will also be able to count on the information developed by the project.



	safety of navigation, the development, defense and sovereignty of the Ecuadorian maritime territory, as well as how to execute expeditions and coordinate scientific research activities				
Vice-ministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries	Develop, prepare and apply policies, plans, programs and projects for the regulation, promotion and control of the production chain, and sustainable development of aquaculture	High interest of participation as is the regulatory body for the aquaculture activities i	High influence for the CSS targets.	Support and coordinate the modifications to legal framework.	VAP will be part of the advisory committees especially in the roundtable to modifications in the legal framework for CSS.

## Stakeholder engagement plan

All the activities under the project will involve engagement with stakeholders — including government, community, NGO, private sector, and academia. These critical engagements have been incorporated into the design of all project activities. The table below outlines how stakeholders will be engaged in each activity during project implementation. Further details on stakeholder engagement for each of the sub-activities listed in the table is provided in the narrative description of the project activities in **Annex 2** of the Funding Proposal, the **Feasibility Study** (section 5.4.3).

Activity	Sub-activity	Stakeholder Engagement	Key Stakeholders	Indicators and monitoring responsibility*	Budget (USD)
<b>Activity 1.1.1</b> Strengthen and expand community-based mangrove conservation and management to reduce deforestation and increase mangrove restoration.	Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1 Strengthening governance capacity and planning of existing AUSCEMs	Trainings on AUSCEM management (38 workshops planned over the course of 6 years). Workshops to be tailored to cover renewal of AUSCEMs for lapsed agreements, trainings on expansion of AUSCEMs for new groups, capacity building for existing and new AUSCEMs on all aspects of mangrove AUSCEM management and needs for integration into the Socio Manglar program. Eight (8) workshops are planned for years 2-5 for supporting AUSCEMs in the development of Socio Manglar investment plans and financial accounting training.	Community groups with existing AUSCEM agreements (current and in process of renewal), MAATE	Number of trainings organized (quarterly reporting, including subjects covered). Target: 38 trainings over first 6 years (2 in year 1, 8 for each year in years 2-5 and 4 in year 6).	812,841
	Sub-Activity 1.1.1.2 Expand areas under active AUSCEMs		Community groups with interest in entering into an AUSCEM agreement, MAATE	Number of participants (sex disaggregated, AUSCEM and community disaggregated, IP disaggregated)	
	Sub-Activity 1.1.1.3 Expand areas covered by Socio Manglar incentives		Community groups with AUSCEM agreements, MAATE	Responsible staff: Mangrove and Social coordinators, PUCSE and Component 1 Manager	
	Sub-Activity 1.1.1.4:		Community groups with AUSCEM agreements, MAATE	Number of trainings organized (quarterly reporting, including	

	Restoration of Mangrove Areas	provide training on mangrove restoration, including refinement of the pre-identified areas for restoration.		<p>subjects covered). Target: 18 trainings over first 6 years (4 for each year in years 2-5 and 2 in year 6).</p> <p>Number of participants (sex disaggregated, AUSCEM and community disaggregated, IP disaggregated)</p> <p>Responsible staff: Mangrove coordinators, PUCSE, Restoration specialist and Component 1 Manager</p>	
<b>Activity 1.1.2</b> Implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies in 64,913 ha of mangroves located in Protected Areas	Sub-Activity 1.1.2.1 Integrate climate-change scenarios into planning of protected areas and local management strategies.	16 workshops planned in years 2-3 for the 4 targeted protected areas (4 per protected area) to train staff and support them to integrate climate change planning into management plans	MAATE – protected areas staff (central, regional and in the 4 protected areas targeted by the project)	<p>Number of trainings organized (quarterly reporting, including subjects covered). Target: 16 trainings over first 3 years (8 each for years 2 and 3).</p> <p>Number of participants (sex disaggregated, Protected Area disaggregated)</p> <p>Responsible staff: Component 1 Manager and consultants</p>	220,657
<b>Activity 1.2.1</b> Technical and	Sub-Activity 1.2.1.1 Technical	Annual AUSCEM exchange visits planned for years 2-5	Community groups with AUSCEM	Number of exchange visits organized (quarterly	257,828

business development support to mangrove community associations, with an emphasis on women, youth, and other vulnerable groups	and business development assistance to 20 mangrove community associations for development of early-stage enterprises and livelihood activities, with an emphasis on women, youth, and other vulnerable groups.	(i.e. 4 total), to facilitate learning and best practice between community groups and strengthen collaboration between them. Annual AUSCEM exchange visits for women leaders/members of AUSCEMS planned for years 2-5 (i.e. 4 total), to facilitate learning and best practice between community groups and strengthen collaboration between them. Direct technical assistance and support in developing market studies provided to community associations by the CI sustainable production specialist; the social specialist will work directly with the associations and targeted consultant support (see Annex 2 of Feasibility Study, Section 5.4.3 for further details)	agreements, other community associations in mangrove areas targeted by the project, including those with a significant female membership or significant membership of a vulnerable group	reporting, including subjects covered). Target: 4 trainings (1 per year in years 2-5).  Number of participants (sex disaggregated, AUSCEM and community disaggregated, IP disaggregated)  Responsible staff: Social Coordinators, PUCSE and Component 1 Manager	
<b>Activity 1.2.2</b> Establish and consolidate financial mechanisms in support of mangrove community associations	Sub-Activity 1.2.2.1 Create and implement grant mechanism for financial and technical support to micro- and small enterprises of mangrove	A small grants program will be developed to support this sub-activity (USD 500,000 during years 2-5). Through the grants program there will be significant direct engagement with selected community groups and subgroups within them running enterprises (see	Community groups with AUSCEM agreements, other community associations in mangrove areas targeted by the project, including those with a	Small grants program to develop monitoring plan, including, at a minimum, number of projects funded, amount awarded to each project, number of beneficiaries, activities supported.	74,672

(micro- and small enterprises).	community associations.	Annex 2 of Feasibility Study, Section 5.4.3 for further details).	significant female membership or significant membership of a vulnerable group, small community enterprises	Responsible staff: Social Coordinators, PUCESE, Bio-entrepreneurship Specialist, Grants & Contracts Manager, Component 1 Manager	
	Sub-Activity 1.2.2.2 Support access to mechanisms and institutions providing credit and investment to micro- and small enterprises of mangrove community associations.	Stakeholder engagement for this subactivity will be through direct support with CI staff. CI will hire a Bioentrepreneur Specialist with expertise in small enterprise development to provide the technical support described in activity 1.2.2. This specialist will support local associations in designing and implementing strategies for improving enterprise governance and administration, access to finance and to markets for more resilient livelihood strategies.	Small community enterprises linked to mangrove community associations	Detailed monitoring plan to be developed for this activity by the Bio-entrepreneurship Specialist including, at a minimum, number of projects supported, amount of funding acquired by beneficiaries, number of beneficiaries, activities supported.  Responsible staff: Social coordinators, Bio-entrepreneurship Specialist, Component 1 Manager	
<b>Activity 2.1.1</b> Technical assistance for development and promotion of climate-smart shrimp aquaculture practices in	Sub-activity 2.1.1.1 Promote Sustainable Intensification Practices.	Engagement with the private sector in the project consists of enabling the adoption of improved shrimp production methods to reduce GHG emissions and advancing mangrove conservation and restoration through philanthropic support. CI will	National Chamber of Aquaculture, shrimp farm companies and individual farmers, financial institutions.	Number of trainings organized (quarterly reporting, including subjects covered). Target: 32 trainings (8 per year for years 2-5).	357,612

20,000 hectares of farms		work with the National Aquaculture Council to provide training on zero deforestation approaches to small and medium sized shrimp farms/aquaculture companies. CI will engage consultants to directly support small and medium sized shrimp farms to design on-farm mangrove restoration activities in Climate Smart Shrimp approaches.		Responsible staff: Climate Smart Aquaculture Specialist, Component 2 Manager	
	Sub-activity 2.1.1.2 Mangrove Restoration on 250 ha of demonstration farms.		Shrimp farm companies and individual farmers interested in applying Climate Smart Shrimp principles	Number of hectares restored by shrimp farms. Target of 250ha over project implementation period.  Responsible staff: Climate Smart Aquaculture Specialist, Component 2 Manager	
	Sub-activity 2.1.1.3 Education, Outreach and Enabling Conditions for Implementation of Sustainable Shrimp Aquaculture.		National Chamber of Aquaculture, shrimp farm companies and individual farmers, financial institutions.	Number of roundtables on sustainable shrimp production. Target is 5 meetings, 1 per year in years 2-6.  Responsible staff: Climate Smart Aquaculture Specialist, Component 2 Manager	
<b>Activity 2.1.2</b> Facilitate partnerships and access to mechanisms for credit and investment in shrimp farms for	Sub-activity 2.1.2.1 Education as a tool to facilitate access to credit and other investment to shrimp farms for expansion	CI will work with actors of the shrimp supply chain to address finance access barriers and facilitate the flow of credit and investment for farm operations that seek to transition their production models to more sustainable	National Chamber of Aquaculture, shrimp farm companies and individual farmers, financial institutions.	Nb. of educational resources included in knowledge hub (anticipated to be the eco.business Fund's Sustainability Academy, but could be expanded to others). Target of at least 5	14,686

expansion and consolidation of climate-smart aquaculture practices.	and consolidation of CSS practices.	ones. To strengthen successful investment cases, CI will provide technical support to businesses in the project feasibility and implementation phases. CI will support the Sustainability Academy by expanding its content to include CSS, good aquaculture practices, mangrove conservation and restoration, safeguards implementation, and other climate and conservation-oriented programs, such as Socio Manglar. CI will assist these needs through technical support from consultants to be selected based on a Request for Proposals during project implementation. Shrimp farmers will be eligible for project support if they comply with initial requirements: i) a concrete investment opportunity that can improve efficiencies as part of more sustainable shrimp production, and ii) a link to a financial institution interested in financing such investment. To address investment needs, CI will identify and support shrimp		resources provided over project implementation period.  Responsible staff: Climate Smart Shrimp Specialist, Component 2 Manager.	
	Sub-activity 2.1.2.2 Project feasibility as a tool to mobilize capital towards CSS production.		National Chamber of Aquaculture, shrimp farm companies and individual farmers, financial institutions.	Number of businesses supported to adopt sustainable shrimp practices (Target is at least 4 over project period). Additional indicators to collect for each business should include, at a minimum, amount of private finance unlocked, area of mangrove restored (linked to and recorded in sub-activity 2.1.1.2), changes in production yields. Further indicators may be appropriate depending on the exact support to be provided and which can only be determined during implementation.  Responsible staff: Climate Smart Aquaculture	

		farmers on the design of sustainability efforts as a tool to mobilize capital towards CSS, ASC and SSP models CI will assess all requests and prioritize opportunities based on a series of eligibility criteria (See Annex 2, Section 5.4.3).		Specialist, Component 2 Manager	
	Sub-activity 2.1.2.3 Commercial commitments as a risk management tool to facilitate access to financial services.	The CI project staff (Climate Smart Aquaculture Specialist) will facilitate agreements between retailers, importers/exporters, processors, and farmers to guarantee purchase of climate smart shrimp. CI will work with NCA and ASC to continually strengthen training materials for the climate smart shrimp concept and to refine the concept itself based on industry feedback. CI will engage a consultant in year 3 to develop a marketing strategy for Climate Smart Shrimp in Ecuador.	National Chamber of Aquaculture, shrimp farm companies and individual farmers, financial institutions.	<p>Number of agreements facilitated between stakeholders in the supply chain (retailers, importers/exporters, processors and farmers)</p> <p>Number of marketing strategies for climate smart shrimp designed and implemented with stakeholders</p> <p>Responsible staff: Climate Smart Aquaculture Specialist, Component 2 Manager.</p>	
<b>Activity 2.2.1</b> Establish agreements with businesses,	Sub-activity 2.2.1.1 Restore mangroves using	This sub-activity is closely related to the sub-activities under activity 1.1.1 on community management and	Private companies interested in supporting mangrove restoration,	Training activity indicators included in sub-activity 1.1.1.4	83,154



including aquaculture companies, to contribute to mangrove restoration and financial sustainability of the national Socio Bosque Incentive Program (the Socio Manglar Program).	private sector funding.	restoration of mangroves and the activities have also been mentioned in that section. The same approaches of strengthening AUSCEM management and mangrove restoration will be used.	Community groups with AUSCEM agreements, MAATE.	Responsible staff: Mangrove coordinators, Restoration specialist, Component 1 Manager and Component 2 Manager	
	Sub-activity 2.2.1.2 Grow the Socio Manglar subaccount of the Socio Bosque Fund to support long-term community management of mangroves.	CI will work with ASC, the corporate partners of their value chain and their membership (aquaculture enterprises) to secure voluntary commitments to contribute to the Socio Manglar program. To strengthen private sector action, CI will develop a communications strategy highlighting the importance of mangroves and the role the private sector can take in protecting and restoring them. Four meetings to present the Socio Manglar program (including the Socio Manglar subaccount) and the opportunities for private sector engagement with it will be organized in Years 2 and 3 in both Quito and Guayaquil	Aquaculture Stewardship Council and its members in, and with an interest in, Ecuador; private companies interested in supporting mangrove restoration; private companies looking for investment 'offset' opportunities under Ecuador's Carbon Neutrality program; MAATE.	<p>Number of communication materials on Socio Manglar Account designed with stakeholders (target is 4 over project period).</p> <p>Number of workshops with stakeholders to promote the Socio Manglar Program and Carbon neutrality program (Carbon Zero Program (PECC).</p> <p>Amount of funding provided to Socio Manglar Program by private sector stakeholders.</p> <p>Responsible staff: Component 2 Manager</p>	
<b>Activity 3.1.1</b> Monitoring of mangrove condition and	Sub-activity 3.1.1.1 Demonstrate the impact of	Engagement on this subactivity will mostly be in the form of providing reports on monitoring activities to	MAATE, regional and local government, local communities,	Number of training workshops provided to stakeholders (1 planned on blue carbon monitoring)	69,496

socio-economic impacts in mangrove dependent communities.	mangrove conservation and restoration on national mangrove cover, stocks, and socio-economic indicators through monitoring linked to the national MRV, and build long-term monitoring capacity.	stakeholders. In addition universities and/or research NGOs will be selected to help with data collection and analysis for some of the activities and a training workshop is planned for these stakeholders in year 2.	national universities and NGOs	<p>Number of reports provided to stakeholders</p> <p>Responsible staff: Subgrantee (to be determined through call for proposals), Spatial Analysis Senior Manager, Component 3 Manager</p>	
<b>Activity 3.2.1</b> Support local governments (2 provincial governments, 2 municipalities and 5 parishes) to improve and/or implement Coastal Development and Zoning Plans (PDOTs) and other participatory planning	Sub-Activity 3.2.1.1 Provide technical assistance to subnational governments for improvement of PDOTs and other participatory planning instruments to integrate climate-change adaptation and mangrove management measures.	CI will work with 9 local government/administrations to integrate natural climate change adaptation measures into their planning, including mangrove conservation and restoration. The local governments have been prioritized based on the extent of their mangrove cover. To support this work, CI will provide a subgrant in year 2 to a local organization (university or NGO to be selected based on proposal) to generate climate risk information to inform local	MAATE, regional and local 'governments'	<p>Number of workshops for incorporation of mangrove ecosystem management into local planning documents (PDOTs). Target is 9 workshops</p> <p>Number of reports providing climate risk information to inform local planning (target is 1 report)</p> <p>Responsible staff: Local governance and Integrated Coastal Management</p>	103,178

instruments that incorporate climate change adaptation and mangrove management, applying a gender approach.		planning. A workshop for this activity with local government staff has been planned for each of the local governments/administrations (i.e. 9 in total).		Specialist, Component 3 Manager	
<b>Activity 3.2.2</b> Strengthen regulatory framework and law enforcement by agencies and institutions responsible for control of mangroves, with a focus on human rights.	Sub-activity 3.2.2.1 Provide technical and legal support for harmonization and adoption of improved sectoral policies and regulations and technical assistance for implementation of CODA (Código Orgánico del Ambiente).	CI staff and consultants engaged by CI will conduct an analysis of multi-sectoral legal framework for mangroves and climate change and the creation of multi-sectoral working groups (“mesas técnicas”) to generate proposals for regulatory changes in Environment, Aquaculture, Navy, Ports, and GADs. CI will also support the discussion of legal reforms and new regulations in the context of the Roundtable for Sustainable Shrimp (see Activity 2.1.1), to be convened by the MAATE and the Vice-ministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries. CI will provide staff time and cover workshop costs to implement this roundtable.	MAATE, Regional and local ‘governments’, law enforcement agencies	Number of working group meetings organized on the harmonization of public policies related to the management of the mangroves (target is 8; 2 per year in years 2-5).  Responsible staff: Legal specialist, Component 3 Manager	310,355

	<p>Sub-activity 3.2.2.2 Provide technical and legal support leading to reforms to Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) processes of complaints, enforcement and sanctions for infractions affecting mangroves.</p>	<p>In years 2-5, the project's CI Legal Specialist and Local Governance &amp; Integrated Coastal Management Specialist will work with partners to re-establish the strategy of the Operational Control and Surveillance Units (UOCVs - <i>Unidades Operativas de Control y Vigilancia</i>) for law enforcement and sanctions for illegal activities affecting mangroves. In years 2-5, the project's CI Legal Specialist and Component 3 Coordinator will support 140 MAATE staff members with responsibilities for mangrove administration, planning, protected areas, and provincial districts by providing them training on the laws and regulations relating to mangroves and the administrative procedures for enforcement and sanctions.</p>	MAATE	<p>Number of trainings provided (target is 8; 2 per year in years 2-5).</p> <p>Number of people receiving training (gender and organization type disaggregated)</p> <p>Responsible staff: Legal specialist, Component 3 Manager</p>	
	<p>Sub-activity 3.2.2.3 Provide training for judges and other institutions regarding regulations and</p>	<p>CI will engage a consultant to develop a training curriculum relating to mangroves specifically aimed at judges and other staff of the judiciary system, including from the Public Prosecutor, Navy, and</p>	MAATE, law enforcement agencies, judiciary		

	sanctions for crimes involving mangroves.	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Training workshops will be conducted by CI's Legal Specialist and the Local Governance & Integrated Coastal Management Specialist for judges and judiciary staff. This training will be integrated into the regular training curriculum of the named institutions.			
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\*Monitoring note: All monitoring information will be consolidated and stored by the project's Monitoring and Evaluation Manager. The staff member indicated in the "Indicator and monitoring responsibility" column indicates the staff member responsible for collecting the information. In addition, each component has a dedicated Manager and part of their responsibilities will be to ensure that monitoring information is being collected as required.

For all measures of meeting attendance, information on participants should be collected including their gender, institutional affiliation and contact details. Depending on the meeting, it may be relevant to collect other data too (e.g. type of stakeholder, whether they are Indigenous Peoples or not, the community or AUSCEM represented, etc.).

In addition to the activity implementation indicators that are provided in this table, Annex 11: the Monitoring and Evaluation plan, focuses on project impact indicators with a focus on the project results achieved at the output level and the impact achieved at the outcome level of the project's logical framework.

#### **Budget Notes:**

It is important to note that stakeholder engagement is not a separate activity and is fundamental to the design of this project. Almost all the project activities include significant stakeholder engagement. As such it is difficult to separate out project costs that are related to stakeholder engagement to those that are not. The table above included the direct costs of meetings and travel for the activities that are described (USD 2,304,480 in total). In addition to these direct costs of meetings and travel, the activities represent significant work of several project staff members. These are:

- Manager Component 1
- Manager Component 2

- Manager Component 3
- Safeguards Manager
- Gender Manager
- Adaptation Specialist
- Bio-entrepreneurship Specialist
- Climate Smart Aquaculture Specialist
- Local governance and Integrated coastal management Specialist
- Restoration Specialist
- Mangrove Coordinator Guayas
- Mangrove Coordinator Jambeli
- Social Coordinator Guayas
- Social Coordinator Jambeli

The combined salary costs of these staff over the project implementation period are USD 4,972,057, although most of them have responsibilities that go beyond stakeholder engagement.

All the activities of PUCESE, the partner executing Output 1 activities in the northern estuaries involve a strong element of stakeholder engagement and we therefore consider that the entire PUCESE subgrant of USD 1,098,230 contributes to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

The overall costs of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan are therefore estimated to be USD 8,374,767 (with the caveat that staff costs included are not only for stakeholder engagement).

## Appendices

### 1. Notes of the discussions between CI and other institutions during the preparation of the Funding Proposal

Organization	Main result
TRASE Feb 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Trase develops information to access trade flows for shrimp farms at the level of company and municipality to the countries that imports. Also, it can show information on environmental quality and deforestation rates for each municipality.
Ecobusiness Feb 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	<p>Investment fund that works from 2015 with an agricultural portfolio and now 70% includes aquaculture investments. The fund works in Ecuador, Honduras, and Panama.</p> <p>Ecobusiness provides technical assistance to support companies that demand investments. It works through banks, but it could be direct investments such as corporate investments like Santa Priscila.</p> <p>Activities to collaborate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainability Academy: customized training and knowledge for bank officers and clients.</li> <li>- Internal team with expertise.</li> <li>- Pre-approval of the environmental system of Santa Priscila and training with CER</li> <li>- Open for creating a partnership with the project.</li> </ul>
Redd Early Movers Project Jan 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	<p>Purpose of the meeting: Present the project and identify lines of collaboration and co-financing.</p> <p>They will invest in Socio-Manglar program for 5 years. The collaboration goes through FIAS.</p> <p>On the other hand, the REM Ecuador Program can also be an ally and co-financer for the reforestation goals and the adaptation through the productive initiatives in mangrove associations.</p>
National Chamber of Aquaculture Feb 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	<p>Purpose of the meeting: Identify levels of collaboration of the project with the NCA.</p> <p>The market is a key issue that the project should focus on. Connecting to key buyers is a high priority of the farmers and the Chamber.</p> <p>It is necessary to reinforce the producer's commitment to climate change, in addition to that the carbon footprint can also be offset by working with the neighbors in associations for the use and custody of the mangrove.</p> <p>The initiatives of the NCA are related to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link with SSP, including the ASC certification and the link with the community. SSP qualifies the farms in the criteria: zero antibiotics, total traceability, neutral impact. But it focuses on the product.</li> <li>• This project focuses on sustainability.</li> <li>• Key shrimp farms working with SSP Produmar, and Expocambrito.</li> <li>• The main activity to collaborate can be the meetings with small and medium producers to achieve ASC certification.</li> </ul>
<p>DELTARES April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020</p>	<p>Key aspects analyzed by Deltares in the Gulf of Guayaquil is the problems originated by increase sedimentation in the confluence of Daule and Babahoyo rivers.</p> <p>They modeled the hole system and included mangroves. The main result is that the increase development of aquaculture increased sedimentation. The system is flood dominant. There is more sediments from the coastal areas than from the upper basin. The material is marine sand. Changing the shape of the estuary was the main driver.</p> <p>Contract for dredging is focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estero salado.</li> <li>• Dredging for harbor of Posorja DP World</li> <li>• Dredging for Guayaquil Harbor</li> </ul> <p>Flooding system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The tide gets amplified without mangroves.</li> <li>- Restoring mangroves lowers the tide levels and flood levels.</li> <li>- Mangrove restoration will not reduce the possible impacts to harbors but can stabilize the sediments and reduce the risk of flooding in the surroundings.</li> </ul>
<p>Thai Union May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</p>	<p>Purpose of the meeting: Support the projects with market links for Climate smart shrimp farms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social responsibility in other fisheries around the world</li> <li>• Marketing climate smart shrimp with social media, press release.</li> <li>• Education with consumers and buyers. Communicate improvement</li> </ul>
<p>GPS March 10<sup>th</sup> 2021</p>	<p>Purpose of the meeting: Discuss the interest of GPS in CSS and identify key considerations for the project.</p> <p>To implement the concept of public-private alliances to require mobilizing practices with technical support and access to financing resources for investment.</p> <p>Also, international markets are a key incentive for the sector.</p> <p>GPS works with small and medium-sized companies. The bottleneck now is the financial structure for implementing good practices. One of the main barriers for the sector, especially in small farms, is the collateral for the credits.</p>



	<p>During the year it was seen that dependence on China is detrimental. But it is necessary to see other markets such as the USA and Europe that require not only improving production processes but also added value, packaging, and others.</p> <p>Diesel will continue to rise in price and the cost will continue to increase, so electrification will be a way to stabilize costs and if we add aeration, productivity will increase. GPS supports the electrification of shrimp farms.</p>
<p>Municipio de Guayaquil Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020</p>	<p>Purpose of the meeting: Discuss the main objectives of the municipality in relation to mangrove conservation and restoration.</p> <p>The main objectives of the municipality are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase of the urban mangrove by participatory processes.</li> <li>• Mangrove restoration and potential recovery areas.</li> <li>• Mangrove areas under participatory processes.</li> <li>• Solid waste management plans implemented on the islands.</li> <li>• Garbage collection barge, made by Omarsa and the community of Cerritos de los Morreños.</li> <li>• Design of the garbage collection and management system in local communities.</li> <li>• Beach management plans with tourism potential.</li> <li>• Participation of young people in drug rehabilitation to participate in cleanups and mangrove reforestation.</li> <li>• Water desalination plant in Puna.</li> <li>• Artisanal fishermen: awareness for responsible consumption, heritage gastronomy.</li> <li>• Tourism can be managed with responsible fishing. Signing of commitments with restaurants.</li> </ul> <p>Next steps: Letter of support from the Municipality of GYE.</p>
<p>DIRNEA Feb 12, 2020</p>	<p>Purpose of the meeting: Identify key goals and collaboration in the framework of the project.</p> <p>Key activity for collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mangrove restoration</li> <li>• Improve environmental education of the coastal areas.</li> <li>• REGULARIZACIÓN of the shrimp sector. Restore mangrove in former shrimp ponds.</li> <li>• Control and surveillance of the shrimp and local associations. Reinstall Copromar. Dirnea supports the Ministry of Environment in the DENUNCIAS for mangrove deforestation.</li> <li>• Prevention and pollution control in the coastal areas, especially the ones produced by boats.</li> <li>• Training MPA guard parks in several topics.</li> <li>• Oceanographic buyouts for 7 variables.</li> </ul>
<p>Instituto Nacional de Pesca</p>	<p>Purpose of the meeting: Discuss forms of collaboration between INP and the project.</p>

Feb 12, 2020	<p>Discussion Summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to guarantee that the socio-mangrove program will be maintained over time. Business interest in investing in a public program such as the mangrove partner program.</li> <li>2. In monitoring impacts it would be interesting to include fishing as an indicator.</li> <li>3. Strategic partners that will have binding activities in relation to the impact of CC on clams, crabs, and shrimp.</li> <li>4. Support productive entrepreneurship with women</li> </ol>
Universidad Espíritu Santo Feb 11 2020	<p>Purpose of the meeting: Identify lines of collaboration with UESS.</p> <p>Main research related to the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assessment of the state of the mangroves. When there are more sediments there is the presence of insects. Bioindicator to know the status of mangroves.</li> <li>2. Reforestation activities: Seeds 5,000 mangrove plants in one year.</li> <li>3. Molecular taxonomy of mangrove species, structure of the mangrove areas, bioacoustics study for bats, herpetology (all groups of mammals, birds, spiders, and insects).</li> <li>4. A survey of ancestral knowledge of the mangrove is carried out.</li> <li>5. Ethnobiology experts on crab cycles.</li> <li>6. Collect and deposit in the herbarium</li> <li>7. Carbon analysis. In the five main estuaries.</li> </ol>
Universidad de Guayaquil Feb 11 2020	<p>Purpose of the meeting: Identify the lines of work in mangroves areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with the communities: Students must complete 160 community outreach hours to graduate. They work in Puerto Roma, Cerrito de los Morreños, Balao, Nuevo Porvenir, 6 de Julio and Isla Santay.</li> <li>2. Research in microplastic and plastics</li> <li>3. Economic issues: they are promoting oyster management in the markets. Sampling the fishing effort, embryonic development, and biology of the oyster.</li> <li>3. Wastewater treatment plant in the communities.</li> <li>4. Research in the presence of coliforms and heavy metals in crabs.</li> <li>5. Bluecarbon measurements in soil and forests in Puerto Roma and Cerrito in Puerto Libertad.</li> </ol>
Aquaculture Steward Council (ASC) Oct 22, 2021	<p>Purpose of the meeting: support the establishment of an endowment to cofinance incentives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentive program - mangrove partner: Goal 40,000 hectares. Now there are 60,000 hectares under conservation agreements.</li> <li>• We are focusing on environmental and social targets, improving livelihoods is important.</li> <li>• The fund can also combine a sinking fund with the trust fund.</li> <li>• Aligns market incentives to this approach.</li> <li>• Shrimp footprint to mitigate the impact of the shrimp farms.</li> <li>• Other private companies in the shrimp chain can also contribute.</li> <li>• The fund can work in conservation and restoration to increase mangrove areas.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASC farms and be included in this initiative, partner to stop deforestation.</li> <li>• Identify packages for people can invest research, social, restoration, put numbers to each activity in terms of carbon, people, hectares.</li> </ul>
Xpert Sea Oct 18 2021	<p>Purpose of the meeting: Analyze the bottlenecks to access to key markets in USA and Europe.</p> <p>Xpert sea: help farmers in the intensification. Shrimp counter, purchasing and sales.</p> <p>They want to be included as high value shrimp for the environmental goals.</p> <p>Other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intensification</li> <li>- Restoration - Engineering.</li> <li>- Monitoring and evaluation protocols and implementing</li> <li>- Financing and banking</li> </ul>

## 2. Discussions with local associations during COVID

AUSCEM Date	Main results	Men	Women
11 de enero 19 de octubre  June 23, 2020	Concerned about the felling of mangroves by the shrimp industry and that they do not see results, they made complaints to the Ministry of the Environment and the Prosecutor's Office. He worries that the shrimp farmers are the "godfathers" of the project and that they will be left out. project seeks to create alliances with various actors, including private, public and community. Mangroves are greatly affected by the shrimp sector; fishermen are worried about the impact of metabisulfite that is used in shrimp farms in the estuaries and that he finds it difficult to work. CI make direct alliances with Socio Bosque, so that the financing of the Socio Manglar program is for life and that it is a state policy	7	2
24 de octubre  June 24, 2020	The organization's desire is to have greater mangrove productivity. They want to reactivate the production of shell, blue and red crab and take advantage of the mangrove area for tourism activities. They have areas for mangrove reforestation, between 10 and 16 ha approximately to reforest. They have seen how some mangrove areas have been affected by human and natural activities, forming swamps where there were mangroves before. This AUSCEM does not receive the economic incentive Socio Manglar. They are interested in raising sea bass and sea bass, through artisanal aquaculture, to take advantage of these crops for tourism purposes and the production of bee honey in the mangrove swamp. In Bajo Alto there are artisanal white-fishing fishermen who are also interested in mangrove protection, in this sense the Aso. October 24 can sponsor the Jesús del Gran Pescador Cooperative to be part of the project.	7	0
Campo Alegre  June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	They are interested in the Project proposal as it focuses on protecting mangroves, an ecosystem that provides the main economic support for their families. There are new leaders in their youth, eager to learn. What worries them most is the deforestation of the mangrove swamp and the lack of sanction by the authorities.	5	1
Cerritos de los Morreños  June 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Concern for the solid waste that exists in the mangroves and the need to address this problem through integrated work between authorities, communities, and private companies.  The main concerns regarding the deforestation of mangroves by shrimp farming, the non-existence of sanctions and maritime insecurity due to the presence of pirates, make communities very vulnerable, especially island communities such as Cerrito de los Morreños. In addition, you are concerned about natural events	6	1

	such as the red tides that occurred on May 28, 2020, and on other occasions. The cases denounced by the Association, which have never been sanctioned by the environmental authority.		
Costa Rica  7 de Julio de 2020	They are concerned with polluted water from mining, aquaculture, ports, etc., and ask about the treatment that must be done. The commercial species have decreased due to the impact of wastewater from shrimp farms. The shrimp lords have continued logging, and the fishermen have not felt support from the authorities, they believe that the illegally occupied lands need to be recovered.  The waters are becoming acidic, and fishing will be affected. They propose to support a laboratory for the study and monitoring of water quality, to find out about primary productivity and verify if the results of the project are being achieved.	8	1
El Morro  9 de junio de 2020	We appreciate being consulted about the project, and if would be good if, in the same way, the authorities of MAATE, consulted users before authorizing mangrove deforestation. There must be a mechanism for compensation.  Transition of new local and national authorities are going to come; they are concerned that support for these actions can diminish with new authorities. The need to integrate these actions in the local planning is key. There are some local experiences on mangrove reforestation done by DP World, that can support this initiative.  There are institutions that are disappearing, like the Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management, everyone is concerned about the deforestation of mangroves and authorities must demand that users be consulted in the process, since they find out when deforestation is occurring.	14	7
Isla Escalante  Isla Pongalillo  10 de Julio de 2020	The project was discussed with leaders in a meeting and then they presented it to the entire organization. A letter of support was delivered to CI later.	7	1
Las Huacas  20 de julio del 2020	Associations need support to implement the management plan for the mangrove areas. They hope that the project can support them.	3	1
Los Isleños  19 de junio de 2020	The problem that they are facing now is the environmental impact caused by the shrimp farms due to the discharge of metabisulfite into the estuaries.  There is motivation for organizations to be considered from their ancestral vision. So, it is necessary to define the role of the organization and think about the economic development of each region. Also, they need support for strengthening their organizations.	5	4
Mar de Galilea	They are concerned about the chemicals that shrimp farmers release into the environment and the bad experiences with other	7	2

25 de junio de 2020	<p>projects, because they have been postponed and they have not felt benefited when their execution begins; however, they state that the Association likes to cooperate and if they are interested in supporting this proposal.</p> <p>Also, there are concerns about what kind of mangroves are going to be planted, since there have been unsuccessful experiences in El Oro, because they have been planted on unsuitable land.</p> <p>Many organizations with Agreements for the Sustainable Use and Stewardship of the Mangrove Ecosystem (AUSCEM) are happy to participate but there are other fishing organizations that do not have these Agreements, and that would be interested in participating in the project.</p>		
Sabana Grande 9 de junio de 2020	They are interested in mangrove reforestation, since there are areas available abandoned by shrimp farms and concerned that the deforestation of mangroves in the country is not sanctioned, and that there are many cases where "nothing happens."	7	0
San Antonio 26 de junio de 2020	<p>The leadership of San Antonio Association indicated that they are going to hold an Assembly, they consider that the response will be favorable and that they are going to support the proposal.</p> <p>They delivery a letter of support on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.</p>	9	0
Cooperativa Paraíso del Cangrejo Cooperativa Cangrejo Lindo Buena Vista APAREBAFIE 21 de Mayo Puerto Roma Los Ceibos Cooperativa Jehová es mi Pastor 15 de junio de 2020	<p>During the presentation, the main questions were focused on four activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote sustainable economic activities with men and women: competitive funds to improve access to markets.</li> <li>• Support the management of concessions: support to improve management such as rotation of areas, identification of areas of erosion or other problems, etc.</li> <li>• Restore mangrove: nurseries and planting</li> <li>• Finance Socio Manglar: to have a long-term mechanism</li> </ul> <p>In this regard, they requested more information on:</p> <p>The competitive fund mechanism and its scope. What type of ventures would be supported.</p> <p>The beneficiaries of the Project. They asked if only organizations that mangrove concessions have can participate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On the mangrove areas to be restored. Here they recommended focusing on illegal shrimping areas and recently logged areas.</li> <li>- Socio Manglar: they recommended extending the incentive to new concessions and requested further explanation on how the fund would be created and what resources would be used.</li> <li>- Management of concessions. They indicated that many of the agreements are about to end their validity period and that technical assistance is being provided to guide their renewal.</li> </ul>	14	1

### 3. FPIC process under COVID-19 emergency

#### Introduction

Since February 2020, coronavirus has rapidly moved to the 24 provinces in Ecuador. Between April and July Ecuador has had 84370 people infected and 5657 deaths<sup>2</sup>. While COVID-19 is currently focused on Quito, Guayaquil, Manta and other cities, the virus is making its way into local communities as well.

The economic meltdown generated by the COVID-19 pandemic is widely felt in local populations living on coastal fisheries. There are several impacts:

- Fishing activities have decreased in frequency and catchment of fish.
- Sales and prices have fallen, mainly because restaurants have been hit by the emergency. Prices fell in the first stage of the quarantine from USD15 to USD5 the *atado* (12 crabs) and from USD20 to USD10 for the 100 units of black cockle (Mejillones, 2020).
- Other activities like tourism that complemented the family income are banned in most of the coastal area.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are particularly vulnerable to health impacts, including COVID-19, because of inadequate access to healthcare and underlying health conditions such as diabetes, heart and respiratory diseases (Degawan, 2020). This is also a reality that we can find in Ecuador. In Guayas province, the access to health services in rural areas is difficult, there are only 2 doctors per 10000 people, in contrast with the national rate that is 20.3 doctors per 10000 people (INEC, 2014.).

For the project *Transformative public-private partnerships for adaptation and mitigation of climate change through the protection of mangroves and other coastal wetlands*, local communities that are managing a mangrove custody and use agreement (AUSCEMS according to its initials in Spanish) are the key actors. By July 2020, there were 59 active AUSCEMS that covered 69317 hectares. 59,7% of this area face a high flood susceptibility and 35,6% a medium flood susceptibility (Ecodecision, 2020).

Without the current pandemic, it would have been part of the GCF full proposal preparation to conduct an FPIC process. We understand Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as “A framework for ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples are guaranteed in any decision that may affect their lands, territories or livelihoods. Composed of four separate components: (i) Free—Without coercion, intimidation, manipulation, threat, or bribery. (ii) Prior—indicates that consent has been sought sufficiently in advance, before any project activities have been authorized or commenced, ..., (iii) Informed—Information is provided in a language and form that are easily understood by the community, covering the nature, scope, purpose, duration and locality of the project (iv) Consent—The right of indigenous peoples to give or withhold their consent to any decision that will impact their lands, territories, resources, and livelihoods.” (Buppert & McKeehan, 2013).

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<sup>2</sup> Data for July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and World Health Organization guidance, Conservation International currently recommends the following set of good practices (Degawan, 2020) to work with IPLCs during the COVID-19 emergency. These recommendations have been considered as the methodological framework for the FPIC process implemented for the project: *Transformative public-private partnerships for adaptation and mitigation of climate change through the protection of mangroves and other coastal wetlands*.

The 6 topics of recommendations for interactions with IPLCs are:

1. Intercultural Communications
2. Inclusiveness in Emergency Response
3. Intercultural Approaches to Health, Safety and Care
4. Technology and Transport
5. Respecting Indigenous Peoples Rights
6. Post-quarantine Stage

### Safeguards and applicable FPIC process

This document is part of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that has been developed for the project *Transformative public-private partnerships for adaptation and mitigation of climate change through the protection of mangroves and other coastal wetlands*. The ESMP and its annexes includes detail on the analysis and the mitigation action plan as well as the stakeholder engagement, accountability and grievances, capacity building, information disclosure, gender, and monitoring and evaluation (Bertzky, 2020).

The Project Preparation Facility (PPF) Application that was submitted for the present project included results from an initial risk screening (Annex 1). This screening has been expanded in the ESMP document as part of the development of the full proposal.

### CI's and GCF's FPIC procedures

The FPIC procedure included in this process considered the CI FPIC Guidelines and the Operational guidelines of the GCF IP policy.

CI FPIC Guidelines (Buppert & McKeehan, 2013) is a process developed in three phases (i) Gather information to understand the current local context, understand legal and customary rights and identify and respect traditional decision-making structures. (ii) Collaborate on design and implementation, when we develop a culturally sensitive approach, ensure full and effective participation, ensure information exchange and reach consent on course of action. And (iii) Ensure accountability to incorporate FPIC into grievance mechanism and monitor and adapt commitments.

Also, for this process we have considered the operational guidelines of the IP policy (Green Climate Fund, 2019):

- (a) Consider formal and informal leaders and decision-making bodies of the affected communities;



- (b) FPIC should rely on identification, recognition and engagement of greater numbers or representativeness of stakeholder sub-groups;
- (c) Identify and assess the occurrence of conflicts within the affected communities and with other stakeholders;
- (d) The role, responsibilities, and participation of external stakeholders with vested interests in the outcome; and
- (e) The possibility of unacceptable practices (including bribery, corruption, harassment, violence, retaliation, and coercion) by any of the interested stakeholders both within and outside the affected communities of indigenous peoples.

## Indigenous Peoples and local communities

In Ecuador there are around 21% of people that has self-determined as Indigenous, Afro Ecuadorian or Montubios. The Constitution of Ecuador includes the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to their “ancestral traditions and forms of social organization”. This applies also to other self-determined groups as Afroecuadorian and Cholos from the coastal areas. These three groups are mainly representatives from the mangrove areas included in this project: Afro-Ecuadorian in the Cayapas-Mataje estuary and Cholos in Muisne-Cojimies, Guayas and Jambeli estuaries with less level of political representation (Table ).

Table 1: Number of AUSCMS per estuary and self-determination

Estuary	Self-determination	# AUSCMS <sup>3</sup>
<b>Cayapas-Mataje</b>	Afroecuadorian	15 non active
<b>Muisne-Cojimies</b>	Cholos	6 active
<b>Guayas</b>	Cholos and mestizos	23 active 6 non active
<b>Jambeli</b>	Cholos and mestizos	24 active 12 non active

Source: (Ministerio de Ambiente, 2020)

## Stakeholder engagement plan

The project design included a stakeholder engagement plan that described the strategy to include all stakeholders: government, non-government, universities, and local communities. During this process of engagement there have been 27 workshops and meetings and interviews, in four moments:

1. Stakeholder workshops held in 2016; 2 workshops with government, non-government, universities, and local communities

<sup>3</sup> According to the RO 319 (August 26th, 2014) AUSCEMS are agreements signed for 10 years. After that time, the associations must present a file for the renovation of the agreements. The associations that have current signed agreements that have less than 10 years are active, the associations that have not file for the renovation of the agreement are considered non active.

2. Stakeholder workshops held in 2019; 3 workshops with NGOs, GOB and universities and 4 workshops with local communities
3. Targeted interviews with key stakeholders conducted between April and May 2020.
4. Meetings and workshops included in this FPIC process from June to July 2020.

## Current COVID-19 situation in Ecuador

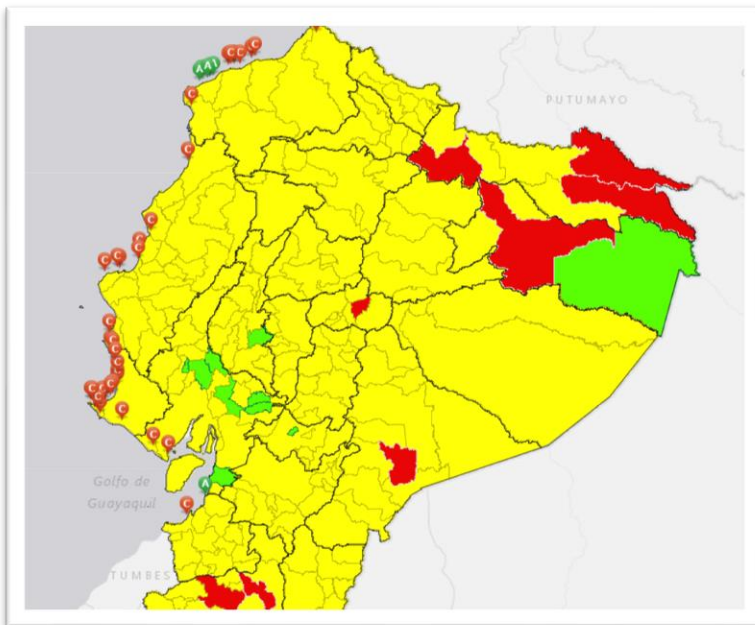
### Intercultural Approaches to Health, Safety and Care

During this process we have worked with safety measures regulated by three institutions: The Government of Ecuador (GoE), the CI-GCF recommendations and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Government of Ecuador has included regulations related to the social distance, the use of masks and constant hand wash. Also, before June 2020, Ecuador was classified as red light and did not allow meetings with more than 6 people. After June 2020, that number increased to 25 people (Ministerio de Salud Pública, 2020).

In Figure 1: COVID-19 light at municipalities and beaches in Ecuador Figure 1 there is information of the light system, only one Municipality (Balao) was in green light at the coast and 4 beaches were open.

*Figure 1: COVID-19 light at municipalities and beaches in Ecuador, July 30<sup>th</sup> 2020*



In Table 2, the information of the allowed activities per light color are included. During the FPIC process described in this document all the areas reached were under yellow light. This situation allowed to develop meetings with no more than 25 people.

Table 2: Activities allowed per light color

Light	Activities
<b>RED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curfew from 18h00 to 05h00</li> <li>• Private vehicles road twice a week from Monday to Friday, according to license number.</li> <li>• No private vehicles allowed on weekends.</li> <li>• Taxicabs and other transports are allowed according to license odds and even numbers. Weekends all allowed to move.</li> <li>• Urban transportation is able to move according to each Municipality but with 30 % of capacity and with biosecurity standards.</li> <li>• Health service is allowed to any external consultancy and programmed surgeries.</li> <li>• Interprovincial transportation is not allowed.</li> <li>• Health and lawyers can road with credentials.</li> <li>• Free pass is required to any other economic sector that requires to move.</li> <li>• Public and private economic activities can be in person only for 30% of the staff.</li> <li>• Social gathering is not allowed.</li> <li>• Commercial activities are allowed at 30% of the capacity.</li> </ul>
<b>YELLOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curfew from 23h00 to 05h00, except for Quito city that will be 21h00 to 05h00</li> <li>• Private vehicles are allowed to road according to license odds and even numbers and also during weekends.</li> <li>• Taxicabs and other transports can move all days as well as any institutional transportation.</li> <li>• Urban buses can road with 50% of its capacity.</li> <li>• Interprovincial transportation can road with 50% of its capacity only among municipalities with the same light.</li> <li>• Waterborne transportation is allowed with 50% of the capacity.</li> <li>• Free pass is required for health services, productive chain, exports and food transportation. Not free pass is yet required for home delivery.</li> <li>• Malls and restaurants can work at 50% of the capacity, except for Quito city (which will apply 30%).</li> <li>• Public and private economic activities can be in person only for 50% of the staff, except for Quito city (which will apply 25%).</li> <li>• Wakes are allowed with 25 people max.</li> <li>• Social and work gatherings are allowed with no more than 25 people, with social distance (2 meters), not IC systems and with the implementation of biosecurity measures. For Quito city any gathering is not allowed.</li> <li>• Movies and theaters are allowed to work with 30% of the capacity, except for Quito city.</li> <li>• Parks and museums are open to public with 30% of capacity.</li> <li>• Training activities are allowed, also in pools and close spaces but following biosecurity measures.</li> </ul>

GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sale of liquor is prohibited from Friday to Sunday.</li> <li>• Curfew is removed</li> <li>• 70% of the private vehicles can move according to registration number and days.</li> <li>• Taxicabs and other transports can move all days</li> <li>• Institutional transportation can road all days applying biosecurity measures.</li> <li>• Urban transportation can road with 50% of the capacity.</li> <li>• Interprovincial transportation is allowed between municipalities with the same color.</li> <li>• Free pass is required only for food chain transportation, medicines, and exports.</li> <li>• Malls and restaurants are allowed to operate with 50% of the capacity.</li> <li>• Gyms can start operations according to guidelines of each municipality</li> <li>• Wakes are allowed with 25 people max.</li> <li>• Social and work gatherings are allowed with no more than 25 people, with social distance (2 meters), not IC systems and with the implementation of biosecurity measures.</li> </ul>
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Source: (Servicio Nacional de Gestión de Riesgos y Emergencias, 2020)

In addition to these recommendations, for this process we considered the ones from CDC webpage (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020), especially the ones related to social distancing, protection and recommendations to keep distance at events and gatherings.

- Wear cloth face coverings when less than 6 feet apart from other people or indoors.
- Take precautions – like wearing a cloth face covering as much as possible when not eating and maintaining a proper social distance if you are dining with others who don't live with you.
- Maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more in any entryway, hallway, or waiting area.
- When possible, sit outside at tables spaced at least 6 feet apart from other people.
- When possible, choose food and drink options that are not self-serve to limit the use of shared serving utensils, handles, buttons, or touchscreens.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when entering and exiting the restaurant. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

### Inclusiveness in Emergency Response

Since March 2020, CI Ecuador developed an emergency response campaign, to fundraise and provide health and food resources for the associations that have been seriously affected by the quarantine.

It is important to highlight that one month before entering the quarantine those associations were facing the non-take season. With this internal fundraising effort (Annex 4), we were able to reach 1084 families from 17 associations. This campaign allowed us to keep the contact with associations during this difficult period.

## Adjusted FPIC procedures implemented considering COVID-19 conditions

We present here the three steps we developed for the FPIC process during the COVID-19 emergency. The engagement process with IPLCs has been constant during the last years, but we take seriously not to create high expectations of a future intervention.

### Step 1: Initial contact

In this initial contact with the leaders we presented the project and the need to establish communication to gather their opinion on the project and discuss with them how they wanted to be consulted. For example, what is the best virtual platform, best place, day, hour, number of people. During these conversations it was clear that zoom is a platform that fishermen are used to, and we discussed how they were going to connect: cell phone or computer.

The main objective in this step was: (Buppert & McKeehan, 2013)

- Understand the current local context
- Understand legal and customary rights
- Identify and respect traditional decision-making structures

### Step 2: Workshops with representatives

This step was focused on presenting/socializing to each local leadership the scope and objective of the Project to then seek consent with the whole association on the formal support for the Project. Before this virtual meeting CI sent all the Project information (presentations). We supported two types of meetings: virtual and in person.

#### **Virtual Meetings**

We supported the development of 15 virtual meetings in locations where they can have access to cell phones or internet connection. The meetings were developed for 2 hours with time for a formal presentation and questions or recommendations from the participants.

#### **Intercultural Communications**

To develop an FPIC process during the COVID-19 emergency has been a big challenge, especially to respect customary practices while enforcing the need to quarantine and implement other safety measures, but also concerning the need to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible. The main concern was to develop a communication that respects local views and the emergency, and at the same time leads to a holistic picture of the landscape of stakeholder views with regards to the project.

In Ecuador there are 15,7 million cell phone lines, 24,5% of those lines are in Guayas province, 89,6% is the national density of active lines. Also, 10.34% have access to internet, Pichincha and Guayas provinces have the highest subscription percentages with 31.55% and 27.05% respectively (Agencia de Regulación y Control de las Telecomunicaciones., 2017.)

Also, 51.7% of the people have access to mobile internet, but these percentages have increased during the quarantine (Agencia de Regulación y Control de las Telecomunicaciones., 2017.).

This situation has allowed us to develop a good communication with leaders from the local associations. As per their request they preferred to use zoom as the channel for the virtual meetings, because in most cases they were already familiar with this platform. For some cases we financed the cell phone time for the people involved in the calls. In annex 3 we include photos of the meetings.

There are some communities that have computer centers. This was a policy to reduce digital illiteracy. This was the case of Cerrito de los Morreños, Puerto El Morro, 6 de Julio, among others, that have this service in their district.

### **Technology and Transport**

In this process we prioritized the meetings in the communities, so people do not have to mobilize. The meetings were held in field sport places or in the associations gathering houses.

For the communities that are located far away from the connection areas, meetings were held on the day they travel to surrounding markets to sell their products.

### **Workshop in Public Institute for Aquaculture and Fisheries Research (IPIAP)**

On 15 June 2020, CI supported a workshop in the meeting room of the IPIAP in Guayaquil City. This meeting involved 8 local associations from islands inside the Guayas estuary. The meeting was necessary as the internet connection in those areas is very unreliable. 12 men and one woman representing 8 artisanal fishermen organizations joined the meeting.

The following safety measures were implemented in the meeting: temperature check in the entrance before the meeting, obligatory use of masks and social distancing.

### **Step 3: Local Assemblies**

After the virtual meeting, usually with the main representatives of the associations, we promoted the discussion inside the local associations following the local governance structure. The representatives presented the project inside the associations in regular meetings and received the comments for support for the project. This support was confirmed in form of an act or letter of the organization.

The associations have to follow a governance structure according to the AUSCEM agreement. In most of the cases there is (Superintendencia de Economía Popular y Solidaria, 2012): <sup>4</sup>

- **A government body** that consists of all the members of the association. Legally they have to meet once a year but usually they meet once a month;
- **A board or management body** that is elected by the government body and has between 3 and 5 members. They meet when there are important issues for the association;
- **A supervisory council;**

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<sup>4</sup> Decree No. 1061, RO 648 February 27th, 2012. Articles 18 to 23 of the Ministerial Decree of the Superintendence for Popular and Solidarity Economy.

- The Management; and
- Special commissions.

The main objective of step 2 and 3 was:

- To develop a culturally sensitive approach
- To promote far-reaching engagement and effective participation to the extent possible under the emergency situation
- To ensure information exchange
- To reach consent on course of action (Buppert & McKeehan, 2013)

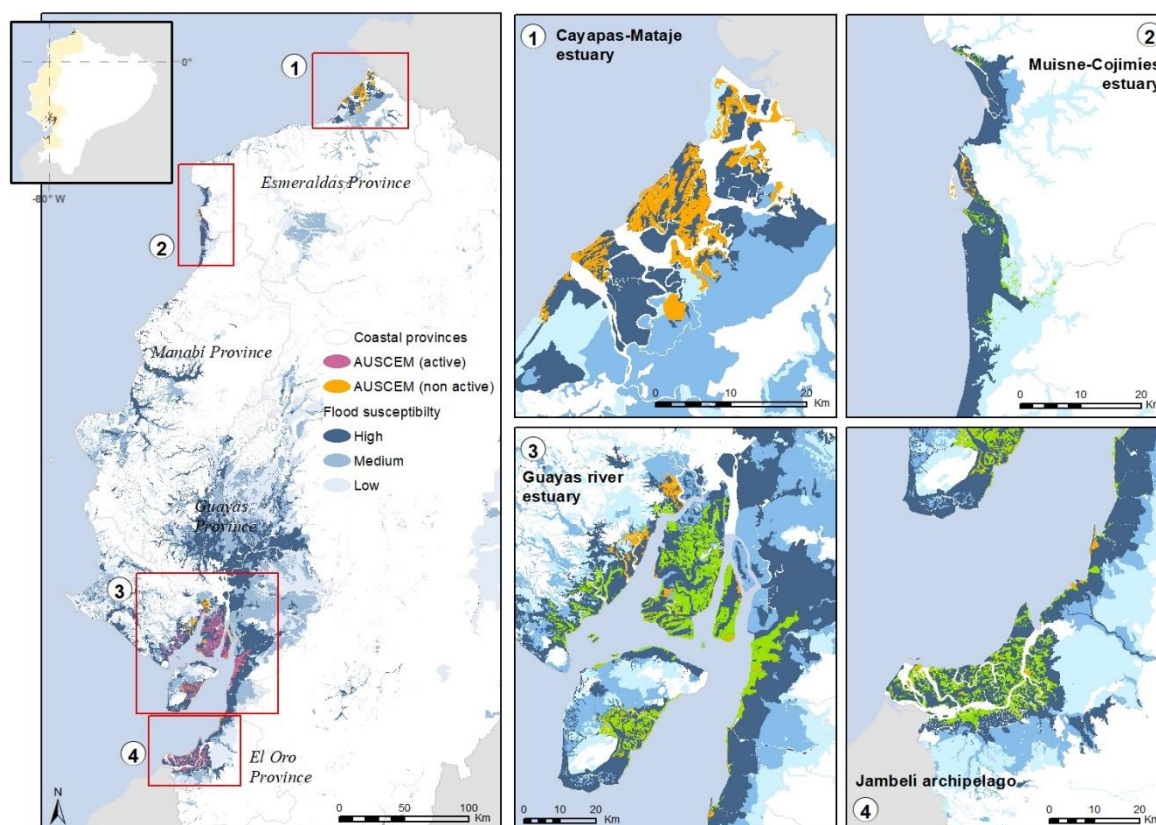
## Main findings and conclusions

By July 2020, we have been able to reach 20 fisheries associations (with AUSCEMS), 3 local associations, 1 women's association and 2 local governments. By the end of July 2020, we have received 18 letters of support from local associations (a couple of examples included in annex 5). Those letters represent 47760 hectares of mangroves (39% of the project area and 69% of the current active AUSCEMS) and are mainly representatives of Guayas and Jambeli estuaries. The list of the associations is presented in Annex 2.

It is important to highlight that we have included in this list the associations that have currently active agreements with the government. We include the areas of AUSCEMS per estuary by different level of flood susceptibility that are active.



Figure 2: Type of AUSCEMs per flood susceptibility



Source: (Secretaría Nacional de Gestión de Riesgos., 2018), (Ministerio de Ambiente, 2020)

In Ecuador there are currently 59 AUSCEMs that are active. Of those 59% are located in areas with high flood susceptibility and 35% in medium. Therefore, is important to work with these associations. The other areas that have high level of flood susceptibility are under marine protected areas that are included in the project. In Table 3 this information is included.

Table 3 Mangrove areas per flood susceptibility

TYPE OF AREAS	TOTAL	FLOOD SUSCEPTIBILITY (HA)					
		HIGH	%	MEDIUM	%	LOW	%
<b>Active AUSCEMS (Ha) – Until June 2020</b>	69317,1	41.402,7	59,7	24.654,4	35,6	585,6	0,8
<b>Other mangrove areas (Ha)</b>	83159,3	54.499,6	65,5	16.317,5	19,6	3.362,5	4,0

Source: (Secretaría Nacional de Gestión de Riesgos., 2018), (Ministerio de Ambiente, 2020)

## Main concerns as the result of the FPIC process

During the weeks that this process took place, the main comments that were registered in the context of Indigenous Peoples Rights were the following:



1. One of the concerns that was mentioned repeatedly was the mangrove deforestation, mainly due to shrimp farming followed by the development of infrastructure. (11 de Enero, 19 de Octubre, Cerrito de los Morreños). Component 3 includes activities related to enforce the control, surveillance, and penalties for mangrove deforestation.
2. There is a concern on how the shrimp farmers will be partners of the project as they have historically deforested. In some areas, especially in Jambeli estuary there are currently conflicts between fishermen and shrimp farmers for the access to the sea. This is a social concern that the project must consider for its strategy. (19 de Octubre). It's important to design transparent participation bodies where the role of all the stakeholders is clear.
3. How Socio Manglar is going to be financed? This is a concern because there are current AUSCEMS that cannot apply for the program because there is not enough funding. (11 de Enero). Component 2 has a goal related to finance Socio Manglar incentive with the support of several actors, especially private sector
4. The use of antibiotics and other products in shrimp farms are affecting the mangroves and their resources. (Mar de Galilea, 11 de Enero). The project will work with shrimp farmers to improve their environmental practices.
5. There were questions related to the date this project will go into implementation phase. They want to be informed on the process. (Mar de Galilea)
6. Is the project going to manage the problem of the red tide<sup>5</sup>? This is a problem that is concerning local fishermen, but the project is not going to include. (Cerritos de los Morreños)
7. Is the project going to work with the problem that the motors robbery causes in the Gulf of Guayaquil? The project will no work with this problem directly but increasing the presence of the government (Army, Fishing authorities) will be better for the security in the area.
8. Concern on the last changes in the Ministry of Environment and Water. There is not clarity who is going to oversee the AUSCEMS. (Cerritos de los Morreños).
9. What communication channels the project is going to implement to keep them informed of the project? (Cerritos de los Morreños). The project has participatory bodies and a grievance mechanism. But communication is included in every component to enforce the work with stakeholders.

In this sense, they requested more information about:

- Is there going to be a mechanism like a competitive fund for the local associations? What is going to be its scope of working? What kind of ventures would be supported?
- Who are going to be the key beneficiaries of the Project? Only organizations with current AUSCEMS or others?
- On the mangrove areas to be restored, they recommended focusing on illegal shrimp areas and recently cleared areas from shrimp farmers. Restoration areas will be defined after a depth analysis of several ecological and social factors.
- About the Socio Manglar Incentive, they recommended expanding the incentive to new AUSCEMS and requested further explanation on how the fund would be created and what resources would be used.

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<sup>5</sup> Red tide is the common name for the increment of protozoans and unicellular algae that produce harmful effects on people, fish, and other organisms.

- There are some AUSCEMS with agreements that are about to end. So, they ask if the project can include technical assistance to access a renewal. The project is including these activities in component 1.

These questions were answered in the meeting in the extent that the design of the project allowed us to do. But we have highlighted these questions to include them in the post-quarantine stage of the engagement process.

Until July 30, 2020 we have received 18 letters from the associations. In Annex 4 we have included some letter or minutes of the Assembly Meetings that includes the discussions and the decisions.

## Post-quarantine stage

Even as Ecuador starts to relax measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and opens businesses and industries, safety concerns may continue to affect the seafood artisanal sector. Fishing boats, markets and other parts of the value chain do not easily allow for physical distancing, so this activity will be still a potential vector of COVID-19 to remote communities. Also, meetings can only include 25 people in green light, so the project will still have to comprehensively analyze the possible safety implications. The below list shows the main activities that we have to pursue to have a good and complete FPIC process.

1. One of the main activities that needs to be strengthened in the post-quarantine stage is a more pro-active inclusion of women and other vulnerable groups. Although some women were included in the meetings, for this group it was particular difficult to attend meetings because of the quarantine restrictions on the extra amount of work women are facing (Paskin, 2020).
2. Also, we have to re-engage with the AUSCEMS and promote meetings with all the members of the associations. The present limited FPIC process has been developed mainly with the representatives so making an effort to include all the members is important.
3. In order to ensure accountability it will be important to incorporate FPIC into the grievance mechanism and monitor and adapt commitments (Buppert & McKeenan, 2013).

The massive impact the COVID-19 outbreak has in Guayaquil and surroundings has been important economically and socially. Its impact is still hard to grasp or even predict, yet we know that COVID-19 will affect project preparation and project implementation greatly.

Some questions are still pending:

- How does it affect project consultations?
- Will the government be able to play a significant role as previously envisaged?
- What is the impact of an economic depression on the government/the shrimp sector/community involvement in the project?
- Does the economic and financial analysis still hold?
- A Harvard publication estimates that for 1.5 to 2 years COVID-19 will resurge in Ecuador. Most probably until a vaccine is invented and available in the quantities needed. The expected resurgence will be accompanied by restrictions in movement, lock downs, curfews and protocols for gatherings and meetings; How to address this issue in the project document and workplan?

- The government of Ecuador is not only facing one of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks - especially in the project area of Guayaquil, it is also facing tumbling oil prices putting the country in a massive economic depression. As a result, ministries are already repurposing funds and reorganizing to go to minimum capacity. We need to address expectation from the government counterparts in the project document.
- The government may like to see the relationship between climate change and pandemics addressed in this proposal. Do we (and how) accommodate that?

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