
Annual Performance Report

Project/Programme title:	Mangroves for climate: Public, Private and Community Partnerships for Mitigation and Adaptation in Ecuador (FP235)
Accredited Entity:	Conservation International Foundation (CI)
Date of Report submission:	29 June 2026
Version number	V2.0



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RATIONALE

This report layout is designed to support the drafting of a structured report that assesses, evaluates, documents, and communicates the progress on Funding Proposal (FP) implementation and on its associated Funded Activity Agreement (FAA). The layout aims to provide a clear and comprehensive understanding of key objectives, progress, and risks, drawing on project implementation related data provided by Accredited Entities (AEs). Considering the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) evolving strategic direction toward a Risk-Based Approach, the report is intended to:

- Track quantitative and qualitative progress of the project implementation.
- Highlight critical findings and emerging trends.
- Identify risks and propose actionable mitigation strategies.
- Support evidence-based decision-making.
- Promote transparency and accountability.
- Align with strategic and regulatory frameworks.
- Serve as a foundation for AE engagement on project performance

METHODOLOGY

The report's layout mirrors, to the extent possible, the structure of the Funding Proposal (FP) to maintain coherence with the presented information. However, the FP and the Report differ in scope and strategic intent; thus, while the FP serves a functional role in informing the Report, it does not dictate a strictly parallel structure.

A. PROJECT DATA (Prefilled where possible)

Should any information/data prefilled from Section A.1 to Section A.12 be incorrect or require updating, please inform GCF's Project Lead of appropriate corrective action.

A.1. Date of report submission		29 June 2026														
A.2. Project or programme	Project	A.3. Sector	Public													
A.4. Total Financing (GCF + Cofinance)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>GCF Financing</td> <td>Mill. USD 36.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grants</td> <td>Mill. USD 36.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Co-Financing</td> <td>Mill. USD 9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grants</td> <td>Mill. USD 2.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>InKind</td> <td>Mill. USD 6.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Financing</td> <td>Mill. USD 45.9</td> </tr> </table>				GCF Financing	Mill. USD 36.4	Grants	Mill. USD 36.4	Co-Financing	Mill. USD 9.5	Grants	Mill. USD 2.7	InKind	Mill. USD 6.8	Total Financing	Mill. USD 45.9
	GCF Financing	Mill. USD 36.4														
	Grants	Mill. USD 36.4														
	Co-Financing	Mill. USD 9.5														
	Grants	Mill. USD 2.7														
	InKind	Mill. USD 6.8														
	Total Financing	Mill. USD 45.9														
A.5. Total GCF funding disbursed to this date	NA (draft)															
A.6. Implementation period	From NA to NA															
A.7. ESS Category (Refers to GCF revised <u>Environmental and Social Policy</u> and GCF ESS Standards to assess your FP category.)			Category B													
A.8. Executing Entity Information																
Full legal name	Country of registration (or, for intl orgs, country of HQ)	Entity type	Role in project	Focal Point(s) and email(s)												
Conservation International Ecuador	Ecuador	Non-Profit Organization	Responsible for the day-to-day management, administration, and execution of the project.	Project Director: María Fernanda Cortez - mfcortez@conservation.org												

A.9. Co-Financier information

Full legal name	Country of registration (or, for intl orgs, country of HQ)	Focal Point(s) and email(s)	Ownership Type	Beneficial Owner(s)
Government of Ecuador (Ministry of Environment and Energy)	Ecuador	Daisy Cardenas	Government	Public Sector Entity
Conservation International Foundation	United States	Steven Panfil	Non-Profit Organization	Public Benefit

A.10. Alignment with country NDCs & NAP <i>(NB Only populate if applicable, e.g., if your project/programme specifically contributes to a country's NDC or NAP target/s)</i>				
Country	Date of NDC/ NAP submission	NDC/ NAP objective	Brief description of project's alignment with NDC/ NAP objectives	Percentage of target met with proposed project.Beneficial owner(s)
Ecuador	6 February 2025	NDC Objective: Implement policies, actions, and measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while increasing resilience and decreasing vulnerability to climate change impacts, through coordinated action among national government institutions, decentralized governments, the private sector, academia, international cooperation partners, and civil society.	Ecuador's Second NDC identifies mangroves and coastal ecosystems as strategic ecosystems for both mitigation and adaptation, emphasizing ecosystem conservation, restoration, and community stewardship as key climate actions. The project contributes to its objectives by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from coastal ecosystems (mitigation), strengthening ecosystem-based adaptation, and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities (adaptation). Through mangrove conservation and restoration, the project is expected to reduce approximately 4.6 million tCO ₂ e over its lifespan while strengthening community-based management of 70,000 hectares of mangroves through community-based management agreements (AUSCEMs). It also improves climate-resilient livelihoods for artisanal fishers and coastal communities and engages the shrimp aquaculture sector in sustainable production practices that support mangrove protection.	30%
Ecuador	21 March 2023	NAP Objective: Integrate climate change adaptation into national, sectoral and territorial planning processes in order to reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems, populations and productive sectors to climate change impacts.	The project operationalizes Ecuador's NAP by implementing ecosystem-based adaptation in coastal zones, including where the project operates. Through mangrove conservation and restoration, the project strengthens natural coastal protection against flooding, sea-level rise and climate variability. It enhances the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities by supporting sustainable fisheries livelihoods, strengthening governance and enforcement mechanisms for mangrove protection through community-based management agreements (AUSCEMs), and integrating climate considerations into coastal management and land-use planning processes.	5%

A.11. Estimated duration of impact	
A.12 Report to be shared with NDA	Yes ☒ No ☐
15 April 2026	

B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Should any information/data prefilled in Section “B” be incorrect or require updating, please inform GCF’s Project Lead for appropriate corrective action.

B.1. Summary

During the reporting period, the project made substantive progress in establishing systems, partnerships, and governance arrangements required to deliver long-term climate benefits in Ecuador’s coastal ecosystems. While large-scale mitigation and adaptation impacts will accrue over time, the year delivered measurable early results.

A key achievement was the successful engagement of **46 community mangrove organizations (AUSCEMs)** through structured consultation and Free, Prior and Informed Consent processes, reaching **1,586 stakeholders (36% women)**. In parallel, 14 Mangrove Use and Stewardship Agreements were formalized, bringing **13,904 hectares of mangroves** under improved climate-resilient management. These results strengthened community ownership and directly support the project’s objective of expanding and consolidating community-based mangrove stewardship, which is key for reducing emissions and enhancing coastal resilience.

A major milestone for long-term sustainability was achieved through the establishment and capitalization of a **USD 4 million endowment sub-account** within the Socio Bosque Fund, managed by the national environmental fund, Fondo de Inversión Ambiental Sostenible (FIAS). This mechanism will generate interest-based financing to sustain community-based mangrove conservation beyond the project implementation period.

Implementation took place in a challenging context marked by **institutional restructuring** within Ecuador’s environmental authority and **evolving security conditions** in coastal areas. These factors temporarily slowed approvals and contracting and limited access to some field sites, contributing to lower than planned expenditure. The project mitigated these challenges through flexible planning, phased staff onboarding, strengthened coordination with national counterparts, and careful planning, ensuring that implementation and fiduciary standards were not compromised.

Key lessons from the year underscore the value of early investment in governance systems, community consent, and institutional alignment, as well as the need to adapt tools to local contexts and integrate security and stakeholder dynamics into implementation planning. Overall, the project is progressing as expected and has established a strong foundation for scaling climate impact in subsequent phases.

C. RESULTS AND IMPACTS

C.1. Overall Summary of the Project Progress

(This section provides a narrative report summarizing the overall progress of the implementation status of the funded activity progress during the reporting period. 1,500 words)

Component 1: Mangrove Areas Under Effective and Climate-Adapted Management Increased, Including Through Community-Based Management (AUSCEMs) and Protected Areas Implementing Climate Adaptation Plans

Output 1.1. Reduced exposure to flood risk for vulnerable people and reduced GHG emissions from mangrove restoration are achieved by strengthening community-based management through AUSCEMs and protected areas.

In 2025, capacity-building improved the safety and compliance of artisanal fishers, while institutional support enhanced governance and monitoring within AUSCEMs. National multi-stakeholder platforms strengthened coordination. Climate-management planning advanced for priority marine-coastal protected areas (MPAs), boosting readiness for mitigation and adaptation.

Activity 1.1.1 Strengthen and expand community-based mangrove conservation and management to reduce deforestation and increase mangrove restoration.

In 2025, **557 artisanal fishers** from the Gulf of Guayaquil completed International Maritime Organization (IMO) training on maritime safety, sustainable harvesting, and regulatory compliance. **19 AUSCEM associations** in El Oro received laptops and printers to strengthen administrative, reporting and community-based monitoring. National coordination, project visibility and public awareness were enhanced through the Second Ecuadorian Mangrove Congress (300 participants) which was convened together with the Global Mangrove Alliance and the Public Institute for Aquaculture and Fisheries Research (IPIAP) was held at the Universidad del Pacifico from 22 to 24 October in Guayaquil, and convened approximately 300 participants[4], to strengthen knowledge exchange, coordination, and collective action among communities, government, academia, and the private sector on mangrove conservation. A national campaign 'Mangrove Protects Us' was spearheaded by CI together with MAE highlighting the climate protection role of mangroves under community stewardship.

Activity 1.1.2 PAs have implemented mitigation and adaptation strategies in 64,913 ha of mangroves

In 2025, the project strengthened institutional readiness to integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into mangrove protected-area management. Climate-management planning was initiated for **four** marine-coastal protected areas (Cayapas Mataje, Churute, El Salado, and Muisne Estuary) covering **64,913 hectares**. A national workshop held on 30 June trained protected-area staff on climate integration, restoration methodologies, and geospatial tools, and identified concrete next steps for monitoring systems and baseline development. Terms of Reference for climate-management planning were finalized and submitted to MAE. Project participation in the XIX MPA Network Meeting held in Muisne in November provided an opportunity to coordinate with national protected area authorities and MPA managers, strengthening alignment between the project's climate planning process and broader strategic planning for Ecuador's protected area system, including the four target MPAs.

Output 1.2. Improved livelihood activities and more economically productive community businesses enable local people to become more resilient to climate change and incentivized to participate in, and maintain, mangrove conservation and restoration

The project hired Gender and Bioentrepreneurship specialists to foster climate-resilient, inclusive livelihoods. Field research shaped cooperative enterprise models emphasizing women's inclusion, while bio-entrepreneur mapping in Esmeraldas and El Oro identified viable business opportunities.

Activity 1.2.1 Technical and business development support to mangrove community associations, with an emphasis on women, youth and other vulnerable groups

During the reporting period, the project strengthened the technical and institutional capacities of mangrove community association through targeted staffing and gender-responsive planning. Notably, field based research conducted in collaboration with the University of Florida and the La Flora cooperative in the Churute Ecological Reserve identified strong collective leadership and resilience among women in mangrove communities, informing the refinement of cooperative livelihood models that emphasize collective action and inclusive entrepreneurship. Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes were implemented through community assemblies and outreach strategies, including childcare provision and engagement of both members and their spouses to promote women's participation. The project also supported gender inclusion through participation in the Second Meeting of Women Park Rangers, strengthening women's leadership and peer learning.

Activity 1.2.2 Establish and consolidate financial mechanisms in support of mangrove community associations (micro- and small enterprises)

Explored partnership structures to fund mangrove businesses. A new Bioentrepreneurship Specialist initiated Bio-entrepreneur mapping in Esmeraldas. Procurement of protective equipment for AUSCEMs was approved to ensure safe field operations.

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.

Output 2.1. Shrimp aquaculture farms adopt practices and production standards that require elimination of deforestation and active reforestation in coastal and mangrove areas

During the reporting period, the project strengthened the foundations for climate-smart shrimp aquaculture by advancing institutional alignment, technical readiness, and demonstration of integrated conservation practices. Collaboration with the National Chamber of Aquaculture (NCA) enabled the initiation of a sector-wide assessment and the design of a comprehensive consultancy framework addressing climate-smart business models, public-policy engagement, and communication and marketing strategies. These actions established the technical basis for adopting production standards that reduce deforestation and promote mangrove restoration. Simultaneously, on-the-ground demonstration activities in Isla Puná restored 85 hectares of mangroves, rehabilitated 21 tidal canals, and planted 5,200 mangrove seedlings, illustrating a scalable model that links responsible shrimp farming with ecosystem restoration and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

Activity 2.1.1 Technical assistance for development and promotion of climate-smart shrimp aquaculture practices in 20,000 hectares of farms

Developed a comprehensive consultancy framework with the NCA for climate-smart business models and market positioning. A newly hired Climate-Smart Aquaculture Specialist supported the Isla Puná demonstration, proving that shrimp production can align with conservation.

Activity 2.1.2 Facilitate partnerships and access to mechanisms for credit and investment in shrimp farms for expansion and consolidation of climate-smart aquaculture practices

Strengthened technical capacity for investment facilitation by mapping stakeholders like CONAFIPS, the Guayaquil Stock Exchange, and OMMA-Ecuador. OMMA-Ecuador was identified as a priority partner to channel climate finance to small/medium producers pursuing ASC certification.

Output 2.2. Sustainable management of mangroves is improved through agreements with the private sector, including direct financial support for mangrove conservation and restoration

The project significantly strengthened the financial sustainability of community-based mangrove conservation by establishing a durable mechanism to channel private-sector and project resources. A dedicated **Mangroves for Climate sub-account** was formally created and capitalized with **USD 4 million**, creating a long-term financing instrument to support conservation incentives under Ecuador's national mangrove protection program Grant Agreement_CI-FIAS Socio Manglar GCF. This milestone strengthens the enabling conditions for sustained mangrove restoration, community stewardship, and climate mitigation beyond the project implementation period

Activity 2.2.1 Establish agreements with businesses, including aquaculture companies, to contribute to mangrove restoration and financial sustainability of the national Socio Bosque Incentive Program (Mangrove Chapter)

In 2025, the project advanced private-sector engagement and long-term financing for mangrove conservation through close coordination with FIAS, following its leadership transition. Preparatory work focused on designing and securing approval for the Mangroves for Climate sub-account under the Socio Bosque framework. On 18 December 2025, Conservation International and FIAS formalized the grant agreement and capitalized the sub-account with USD 4 million, establishing a durable financing mechanism. The subsequent renaming of Socio Bosque to Proyecto de Conservación de Bosques confirmed continuity of all agreements and commitments.

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.

Output 3.1. Decision making for mangrove management by national government agencies and local governments is based on generation and provision of accurate and up-to-date data on mangrove condition and socio-economic information on mangrove dependent communities

The project established analytical foundations for national monitoring to ensure long-term data usability. Collaboration expanded with ESPOL, 14 Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs), and MAE to integrate ecosystem and socio-economic data into planning ^[1].

Activity 3.1.1 Monitoring of mangrove condition and socio-economic impacts in mangrove-dependent communities

Drafted ToRs with ESPOL for socio-economic, climate risk, and blue-carbon baselines. Engagement advanced toward formal 2026 cooperation agreements with six priority GADs (Guayaquil, Arenillas, Balao, Naranjal, Muisne, Eloy Alfaro)..

Output 3.2. Legal and regulatory frameworks at local and sectoral level are harmonized and include climate resilience and mitigation strategies and enforcement

Legal and regulatory frameworks are harmonized to include climate resilience and enforcement. The project advanced institutional readiness for environmental accountability, ensuring future enforcement aligns with human rights and due-process standards.

Activity 3.2.1 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 instruments that incorporate climate change adaptation and mangrove management applying a gender approach

A Local Governance Specialist aided Guayaquil in integrating mangrove protections into local ordinances. Territorial planning consultancies for two municipalities, two provinces, and five localities were strategically rescheduled to 2027 to align with the legally mandated Land Management Plan (PDOT) update cycle.

Activity 3.2.2 Strengthen regulatory framework and law enforcement by agencies and institutions responsible for control of mangroves, with a focus on human rights

A Legal Specialist developed ToRs for two 2026 initiatives: (i) digital case-management and legal training for MAE and AUSCEMs on environmental crimes, and (ii) a certification program for peace judges and expert witnesses.

^[1] Report on the support provided to MAE Report on Support from the Mangrove for Climate Project to the National Directorate of Climate Change.docx

C.2. Performance against the Funding Proposal Logical Framework Indicators

For each of the indicators please report only the 'annual value' for the reporting year; this means reporting solely the values achieved from January 1st, 2025, to December 31st, 2025. The "cumulative value" will automatically be updated by the system by aggregating reported annual values since project FAA effectiveness.

Please ensure that targets are clearly defined and reported using the following categories:

- *Midterm Target: The results to be achieved by the midpoint of implementation.*
- *Final Target: The results to be achieved by the conclusion of project or programme implementation.*
- *Lifetime Target: The total results expected over the entire operational period of the project or programme.*

Note that the baseline, midterm, final and lifetime targets will be prefilled based on your previous Annual Performance Report and/or Funding Proposal. It is imperative that you carefully review, verify and update where relevant.

Should the project be Multicounty, please report the achievement by Country.

Lastly, avoid using commas or periods as thousand separators. Periods should only be used as decimal separators.

For REDD+ Results-Based Payment (RBP) projects, you are only required to report on the progress of activities.

Should any prefilled information/data in the Logical Framework be incorrect or require updating, please inform GCF's Project Lead for appropriate corrective action.

GCF Outcome Level: Standardized Indicators

PMF/IRMF Results Management Framework

No indicators/questions defined.

(PMF) M1 Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) reduced as a result of GCF-funded projects/programmes (IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered

Provide the total GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (tCO₂eq) as a result of GCF support.

Unit						Tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent
Baseline	Target			Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value <i>(automatically calculated)</i>
	Mid-term	Final target	Lifetime			
0	195,186	732,111	4,609,470	0	0	0

(PMF) M1 Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ eq) reduced as a result of GCF-funded projects/programmes (IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered							
Provide the total GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (tCO ₂ eq) as a result of GCF support, disaggregated by result area.							
Unit							Tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent
Disaggregation by: Result Areas (Mitigation)	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Lifetime	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Forestry and land use	0	195,186	732,111	4,609,470	0	0	0

(PMF) M1 Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ eq) reduced as a result of GCF-funded projects/programmes (IRMF) Core 1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered							
Provide the total GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered (tCO ₂ eq), disaggregated by Country.							
Unit							Tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Lifetime	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Ecuador	0	195,186	732,111	4,609,470	0	0	0

Forestry and land use

No indicators/questions defined.

(PMF) M9.1 Hectares of land or forests under improved and effective management that contributes to CO ₂ emission reductions (IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices					
Provide the total degraded or converted ecosystems under restoration (ha).					
Unit					Hectares
Baseline	Target		Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value <i>(automatically calculated)</i>
	Mid-term	Final target			
0	60,000	156,633	8,208	13,904	22,112

(PMF) M9.1 Hectares of land or forests under improved and effective management that contributes to CO ₂ emission reductions (IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices					
Provide the total degraded or converted ecosystems under restoration (ha), disaggregated by country.					
Unit					Hectares
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Cumulative Value
Ecuador	0	60,000	156,633	8,208	22,112

(PMF) M9.1 Hectares of land or forests under improved and effective management that contributes to CO2 emission reductions (IRMF) Core 4: Hectares of natural resource areas brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices						
Provide the total degraded or converted ecosystems under restoration (ha), disaggregated by land type.						
Unit						Hectares
Disaggregation by: Land Type	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Coastal/marine ecosystems	0	60,000	156,633	8,208	13,904	22,112

(IRMF) Supplementary 4.1 Hectares of terrestrial-forest, terrestrial-non-forest, freshwater and coastal-marine areas brought under restoration and or improved ecosystems					
Provide the total land areas under sustainable management practices (ha).					
Unit					Hectares
Baseline	Target		Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value <i>(automatically calculated)</i>
	Mid-term	Final target			
0	2,200	4,850	0	0	0

(IRMF) Supplementary 4.1 Hectares of terrestrial-forest, terrestrial-non-forest, freshwater and coastal-marine areas brought under restoration and or improved ecosystems						
Provide the total land areas under sustainable management practices (ha), disaggregated by type.						
Unit						Hectares
Disaggregation by: Land Type	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Coastal/marine ecosystems	0	2,200	4,850	0	0	0

(IRMF) Supplementary 4.1 Hectares of terrestrial-forest, terrestrial-non-forest, freshwater and coastal-marine areas brought under restoration and or improved ecosystems						
Provide the total land areas under sustainable management practices (ha), disaggregated by country.						
Unit						Hectares
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Ecuador	0	2,200	4,850	0	0	0

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached						
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by result area.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Result Areas (Adaptation)	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Livelihoods of people and communities	4,311	43,950	44,800	0	3,093	3,093

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Gender.

Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Gender	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Male	43,100	43,950	44,800	0	2,031	2,031
Female	43,100	43,950	44,800	0	1,062	1,062

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached						
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Country.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Ecuador	86,200	87,900	89,600	0	3,093	3,093

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached						
Provide the total number of indirect beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by result area.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Result Areas (Adaptation)	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Ecosystem and ecosystem services	86,200	87,900	89,600	0	3,093	3,093

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached						
Provide the total number of indirect beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Gender.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Gender	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Male	0	0	1,730,600	0	3,502	3,502
Female	0	0	1,730,600	0	970	970

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached						
Provide the total number of indirect beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Country.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Ecuador	0	0	3,461,200	0	4,472	4,472

Livelihoods of people and communities

No indicators/questions defined.

(PMF) A1.2 Number of males and females benefiting from the adoption of diversified, climate resilient livelihood options (including fisheries, agriculture, tourism, etc.) (IRMF) Supplementary 2.1 Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options						
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) adopting diversified or strengthened climate-resilient livelihood strategies (including agriculture, fisheries, natural resource-based, and informal livelihoods), disaggregated by gender.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Gender	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Male	0	10,375	20,750	0	0	0
Female	0	10,375	20,750	0	0	0

(PMF) A1.2 Number of males and females benefiting from the adoption of diversified, climate resilient livelihood options (including fisheries, agriculture, tourism, etc.) (IRMF) Supplementary 2.1 Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options						
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) adopting diversified or strengthened climate-resilient livelihood strategies (including agriculture, fisheries, natural resource-based, and informal livelihoods), disaggregated by country.						
Unit						Enter unit
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Ecuador	0	10,375	20,750	0	0	0

Infrastructure and built environment

No indicators/questions defined.

(PMF) A1.1 Change in expected losses of lives and economic assets (US\$) due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters in the geographic area of the GCF intervention (IRMF) Supplementary 3.1 Change in expected losses of economic assets due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters in the geographic area of the GCF intervention					
Provide the total reduction in expected economic loss of physical assets (USD) due to climate-related hazards as a result of GCF support.					
Unit					United States dollars
Baseline	Target		Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value <i>(automatically calculated)</i>
	Mid-term	Final target			
250,600,000	256,700,000	281,000,000	0	4,550,400	4,550,400

(PMF) A1.1 Change in expected losses of lives and economic assets (US\$) due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters in the geographic area of the GCF intervention (IRMF) Supplementary 3.1 Change in expected losses of economic assets due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters in the geographic area of the GCF intervention					
Provide the total reduction in expected economic loss of physical assets (USD) due to climate-related hazards as a result of GCF support, disaggregated by infrastructure category.					
Unit					United States dollars
Disaggregation by: Infrastructure category	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Cumulative Value
Productive assets	250,600,000	256,700,000	281,000,000	0	4,550,400

Optional Co-Benefit Indicators

No indicators/questions defined.

Total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-resilient and low-emission development					
Provide the total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms.					
Unit					No. of Items
Baseline	Target		Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value <i>(automatically calculated)</i>
	Mid-term	Final target			
9	6	14	0	0	0

Total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms to support climate-resilient and low-emission development						
Provide the total number of established or strengthened institutional frameworks, policies, plans and coordination mechanisms, disaggregated by country.						
Unit						No. of Items
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Ecuador	9	6	14	0	0	0

Total number of decision-making positions actively held by women in climate-related governance					
Provide the total number of decision-making positions actively held by women in climate-related governance.					
Unit					No. of Positions
Baseline	Target		Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
	Mid-term	Final target			(automatically calculated)
0	120	240	0	0	0

Total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha)					
Provide the total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha).					
Unit					Hectares
Baseline	Target		Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
	Mid-term	Final target			(automatically calculated)
0	2,200	4,600	0	0	0

Total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha)						
Provide the total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha), disaggregated by country.						
Unit						Hectares
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Ecuador	0	2,200	4,600	0	0	0

Total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha)						
Provide the total ecosystems placed under conservation activities (ha), disaggregated by land type.						
Unit						Hectares
Disaggregation by: Land Type	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Coastal/marine ecosystems	0	2,200	4,850	0	0	0

Project Specific Indicators							
Indicator	Unit	Baseline	Target		Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value (automatically calculated)
			Mid-term	Final target			

Number of hectares under community stewardship and protected areas with management capacity assessment scores increasing by 50% or more	Hectares	0	60,000	120,000	8,208	13,904	22,112
tCO ₂ e emissions reduced from avoided deforestation over project implementation period	Tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent	0	140,005	467,075	0	0	0
tCO ₂ e emissions reduced through restoration in areas under community stewardship or PAs	Tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent	0	52,673	252,495	0	0	0
Hectares of mangrove restoration achieved on shrimp farms	Hectares	0	100	250	0	85	85
Hectares of shrimp farms adopting practices and production standards that eliminate deforestation (e.g. ASC or CSS)	Hectares	0	8,000	20,000	0	0	0
tCO ₂ e emissions reduced through restoration in areas by shrimp farms	Tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent	0	22,574	112,870	0	0	0
Amount of funding provided by the private sector to support mangrove conservation	United States dollars	0	150,000	300,000	0	0	0
National mangrove cover (hectares)	Hectares	156,633	159,208	166,110	0	2,844	2,844

Economic value of fisheries in additional mangroves protected or restored by the project	United States dollars	0	5,100,000	12,700,000	0	6,293,772	6,293,772
Number of local and provincial governments with zoning and development plans including criteria and indicators relating to mangrove protection, climate change mitigation or adaptation	No. of Actors	2	2	9	0	0	0
Number of males and females in mangrove areas benefiting from the adoption of diversified, climate resilient livelihood options and business practices linked to mangrove promoted by project	No. of Persons	0	20,000	41,500	0	0	0
Legal and regulatory frameworks at local and sectoral level are harmonized and include climate resilience and mitigation strategies and enforcement	No. of Policy Instruments	0	1,000,000	3,400,000	0	0	0
People with reduced exposure to climate change related flooding events due to the project	No. of Persons	86,200	87,500	89,600	0	3,093	3,093
Number of annual reports	No. of Studies/assessments	0	4	8	0	0	0

on mangrove cover and socioeconomic data shared with national government agencies and local government							
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Activities				
Activity Name	Implementation Progress (%)	Utilised GCF Budget	Allocated GCF Budget	% (Automatically calculated)
1.1.1 Strengthen and expand community-based mangrove conservation and management to reduce deforestation and increase mangrove restoration	16	522,694	932,557	56
1.1.2 Protected Areas (PAs) have implemented mitigation and adaptation strategies in 64,913 ha of mangroves	5	522,694	932,557	56
1.2.1 Technical and business development support to mangrove community associations, with an emphasis on women, youth and other vulnerable groups	13	140,178	350,108	40
1.2.2 Establish and consolidate financial mechanisms in support of mangrove community associations (micro- and small enterprises)	13	140,178	350,108	40
2.1.1 Technical assistance for development and promotion of climate-smart shrimp aquaculture practices in 20,000 hectares of farms	6	161,638	197,856	81
2.1.2 Facilitate partnerships and access to mechanisms for credit and investment in shrimp farms for expansion and consolidation of climate-smart aquaculture practices	6	161,638	197,856	81
2.2.1 Establish agreements with businesses, including aquaculture companies, to contribute to mangrove restoration and financial sustainability of the national Socio Bosque Incentive Program (Mangrove Chapter)	14	4,080,641	4,132,263	98
3.1.1 Monitoring of mangrove condition and socio-economic impacts in mangrove-dependent communities.	10	97,251	121,554	80
3.2.1 Support local governments (2 provincial governments, 2 municipalities and 5 parishes) to improve and/or implement Coastal Development	11	125,449	211,918	59

Activities				
Activity Name	Implementation Progress (%)	Utilised GCF Budget	Allocated GCF Budget	% (Automatically calculated)
and Zoning Plans (PDOTs) and other participatory planning instruments that incorporate climate change adaptation and mangrove management applying a gender approach.				
3.2.2 Strengthen regulatory framework and law enforcement by agencies and institutions responsible for control of mangroves, with a focus on human rights	15	125,449	211,918	59

C.2.1. Subprojects							
Where applicable, include information on sub-projects. For projects and programmes approved until B.31, the logical framework should focus on the mitigation and adaptation Performance Measurement Frameworks (PMF). For projects and programmes approved from B.32 onwards, the logical framework should reflect the Integrated Results Management Framework (IRMF).							
Title	Currency	GCF Funds	Co-Financing	Country	GHG Emissions Reduced	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
C.3. Compliance with FAA covenants				Yes ☒ No ☐			
No changes were made to the implementation arrangements outlined in the FAA. The project continued to be carried out by Conservation International as the Accredited Entity and Executing Entity in coordination with the Government of Ecuador and relevant project partners, in line with the implementation arrangements specified in the Funding Proposal and Schedule 3 of the FAA. During the reporting period, the Government of Ecuador renamed the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) to the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE). This change in administration does not change the ministry's legal duties or responsibilities as an institution. Executive Decree No. 94 mandates that MAE administers all programs, agreements, and legal instruments previously under MAATE. Therefore, existing collaboration arrangements and responsibilities under the project MoU remain intact, and no amendments to the FAA were necessary.							
C.4. Funded Activity Implementation Arrangements in the Following Year				Yes ☐ No ☒			
The project continues to be implemented in accordance with the implementation arrangements set out in the FAA. All core roles, responsibilities, and institutional relationships among the Accredited Entity, Executing Entity, and national counterparts remain unchanged. While adaptive management measures have been applied to sequencing and timing of activities in response to contextual and institutional developments, these adjustments fall within the scope of the existing implementation framework and do not constitute changes to the approved arrangements. Accordingly, no amendments to the implementation arrangements are envisaged at this time, and no additional GCF approval is required.							

D. RISKS ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

D.1. Risk and mitigation measures

As stated in the Board-approved "Risk Appetite Statement," a cornerstone of the GCF's Risk Framework is proactive risk management. This includes risk identification, assessment, monitoring, reporting and appropriate mitigation to minimize and respond to risks, both directly and through partners implementing GCF's projects and programmes.

Risk Management Matrix

A risk is the probability of an event to adversely affect the achievement of the project Impact (its objectives, outcomes, and results). "Inherent risk" refers to the level of risk present before any of the mitigating measures are applied. "Residual risk" represents the level of risk after mitigating measures have been implemented.

Please update the project risk matrix by reviewing and revising information for all previously identified risks, and adding any new risks identified during implementation by selecting the adequate Risk Area in the drop-down menu. For each risk, ensure you provide a clear risk description, outline the potential negative consequences, specify the mitigating measures in place, and complete the severity scoring as required.

For the Integrity Risk Area, an annual reporting (and more frequent and prompt reporting if stated in the legal agreements with the GCF) is required for each of its 3 Risk Sub-areas, as GCF has zero tolerance for Prohibited Practices, for SEAH in Fund-related Activities, and for working with parties and engaging in activities subject to sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council. The AE reporting obligations under GCF's policies and in the legal agreement(s) with the GCF include but are not limited to requiring AEs to take action to identify, mitigate and promptly disclose to the GCF any real or perceived Conflict of Interest, any alleged or suspected Prohibited Practice, promptly notify the Fund of any material risks or other indications of money laundering and/or financing of terrorism in relation to the Project and promptly take remedial steps in consultation with the GCF.

The AE shall also provide updates on the risks and mitigating measures under the other Risk Areas when changes to already identified risks or new risks have been identified.

Risk scoring:

For likelihood, please rate on a scale from 1 to 5: 1. Unlikely, 2. Possible, 3. Likely, 4. Almost certain, 5. Certain

For impact, please rate on a scale from 1 to 5: 1. Close to none, 2. Low, 3. Medium, 4. High, 5. Catastrophic

The severity of each risk is automatically computed based on the likelihood and impact of the risk.

Risk 1	Occupational health, safety, and environmental hazards in mangrove field activities		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Environmental and Social		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	This risk relates to occupational and environmental hazards inherent to mangrove and coastal field activities. These include exposure to dangerous wildlife (e.g. snakes and crocodiles), disease vectors, extreme weather conditions, tidal dynamics, and difficult terrain characteristic of mangrove ecosystems. While mangrove dependent communities routinely manage these conditions, increased field presence linked to project activities may elevate exposure risks for staff and community participants. Root causes include the physical characteristics of mangrove ecosystems, variable climatic conditions, and potential gaps in safety equipment, training, or protocols if not systematically applied. Without adequate occupational health and safety measures, these hazards could pose risks to personal safety and disrupt field implementation.		
Consequences	Occupational and environmental hazards may result in injuries or illness among staff and community participants, leading to temporary work stoppages, reduced field capacity, and increased safeguards and compliance requirements. Safety incidents could also undermine community confidence, necessitate additional training or equipment, and slow implementation of restoration and monitoring activities.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	4 - Almost certain	4 - High	16 - High
Mitigation Measure(s)	The project implements occupational health and safety protocols, including task-specific risk assessments, mandatory safety briefings, provision and use of personal protective equipment (PPE), first-aid training and kits, wildlife-risk awareness, health monitoring, and clear field Standard Operating Procedures. Activities are planned to avoid adverse		

	weather events, and supervision is strengthened during high-risk tasks. These measures primarily reduce the impact and frequency of incidents.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	2 - Low	4 - Medium
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	2 - Low	4 - Medium
Comments	N/A		
Risk 2	Safeguards and integrity capacity of FIAS / Socio Bosque		
Risk Origin	Partner Related		
Risk Area	Partner capacity and suitability		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	This risk relates to the possibility that FIAS and the Socio Bosque Project may delay or incompletely implement required safeguards and integrity measures for the Manglares sub account. These include alignment with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), establishment of an operational Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), compliance with anti money laundering and counter terrorism financing (AML/CFT) requirements, sanctions list screening, application of excluded practices clauses, and timely approval and implementation of the Operational Annex. Root causes include the procedural complexity of GCF requirements, the early operationalization phase of the sub account, and temporary capacity gaps during institutional transition and systems setup.		
Consequences	If this risk materializes, it may result in delays to disbursements, administrative reprocessing, and observations related to safeguards or integrity compliance. These issues could affect the timeliness of project implementation, reduce traceability of funds, and generate reputational risk for CI. Prolonged gaps could also slow the rollout of incentives to AUSCEM associations and place additional administrative burden on project management and partners.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	2 - Low	4 - Medium
Mitigation Measure(s)	To address safeguards and integrity risks, the project will prioritize approval of the Operational Annex (by 28 February 2026) and application of CI–GCF–FIAS comparative analysis recommendations prior to any AUSCEM disbursement. Planned measures include establishment of an operational GRM, mandatory sanctions and AML/CFT screening, due diligence on grant signatories, inclusion of exclusion clauses, targeted safeguards trainings for the Socio-Bosque Project and FIAS, and oversight by the Technical Committee to verify compliance and monitoring.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Comments	N/A		
Risk 3	Regulatory frameworks and enforcement are inadequate for protection and restoration of mangroves		
Risk Origin	External Factors		
Risk Area	Regulatory		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	This risk relates to gaps and weaknesses in the legal and regulatory frameworks governing mangrove protection and restoration, as well as their enforcement. Root causes include fragmented or outdated regulations, overlapping institutional mandates, limited institutional capacity and resources for enforcement, and weak judicial follow through on environmental violations. These conditions may limit the effectiveness of conservation and restoration measures supported by the project.		
Consequences	If not addressed, inadequate regulatory frameworks and enforcement could allow continued mangrove degradation, illegal activities, or non compliance with management measures, reducing the long term sustainability of restoration investments. Weak enforcement may undermine deterrence, slow achievement of climate mitigation and adaptation outcomes, and reduce confidence among communities and private sector partners in the durability of conservation efforts.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity

	3 - Likely	3 - Medium	9 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	The project addresses this risk primarily through Component 3 interventions, including support for legal and regulatory harmonization, integration of climate resilience and mitigation considerations into coastal and land use planning instruments, and strengthened institutional coordination among national and local authorities. Targeted technical assistance, development of regulatory and enforcement frameworks, and capacity building for relevant agencies and judicial actors are designed to improve consistency, clarity, and effectiveness of enforcement. These measures primarily reduce the impact of regulatory gaps over time.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Comments	N/A		
Risk 4	Tensions between actors in project intervention areas may place project staff and partners at risk		
Risk Origin	External Factors		
Risk Area	Political		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	This risk relates to existing and emerging tensions among actors within the project's intervention areas that may place project staff, partners, and community participants at risk. Root causes include pre existing conflicts over access to natural resources or territorial control, competition among user groups, and the presence of actors who may perceive project activities such as increased mangrove protection or enforcement as a threat to their economic or social interests. Broader security dynamics and criminal activity in coastal zones may exacerbate these tensions, even when not directly linked to project actions.		
Consequences	If this risk materializes, it may lead to intimidation, restricted access to sites, reduced participation of community members, and safety concerns for project staff and partners. Social tensions could delay or disrupt FPIC processes, restoration activities, monitoring, and capacity building efforts, requiring relocation, rescheduling, or redesign of activities and increasing operational costs.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	4 - Almost certain	4 - High	16 - High
Mitigation Measure(s)	The project applies proactive stakeholder-engagement and conflict-sensitive implementation approaches, including targeted FPIC processes, continuous dialogue through trusted community organizations, clear communication of project objectives and benefits, and adaptive planning to avoid high-risk situations. Activities are sequenced flexibly, and venues or modalities are adjusted as needed to ensure safe participation. Coordination with local authorities and community leaders further supports early identification and management of tensions. These measures reduce both exposure and severity of potential incidents.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	3 - Medium	9 - Medium High
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	3 - Medium	9 - Medium High
Comments	N/A		
Risk 5	Political instability and changes in government agencies		
Risk Origin	External Factors		
Risk Area	Political		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	This risk relates to political instability and institutional changes within government agencies relevant to project implementation. Root causes include frequent turnover of political authorities and technical staff, institutional restructuring (including mergers or mandate changes), shifting policy priorities, and administrative delays linked to transitions in leadership. In the current context, changes within environmental and sectoral institutions may affect continuity, coordination, and responsiveness in project related decision making.		

Consequences	The project has already experienced this challenge, which led to delays in approvals, procurement processes, and inter-institutional coordination, as well as interruptions in counterpart engagement. Changes in institutional leadership or mandates required re-orientation of new officials, slow implementation of planned activities, and extend timelines for technical clearances, affecting the pacing of some project results.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	4 - Almost certain	3 - Medium	12 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	The project mitigates this risk by maintaining multiple technical focal points within each relevant agency, ensuring institutional continuity beyond individual staff changes. Structured onboarding and briefings are provided to new authorities and technical teams as needed. Activities are aligned with national climate and environmental policy frameworks to preserve relevance across political transitions. In addition, a project supported specialist embedded within MAE provides day to day technical coordination and follow up, helping to reduce delays and sustain implementation momentum.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	3 - Medium	9 - Medium High
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	3 - Medium	9 - Medium High
Comments	N/A		
Risk 6	Unrealized or delayed co-financing		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Financial		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	This risk relates to the possibility that expected co financing commitments, whether financial or in kind may be delayed or not fully realized. Root causes include fiscal constraints within government institutions, reallocation of public resources in response to economic pressures or emergencies, and administrative delays linked to institutional restructuring and staff turnover (including recent mergers and leadership changes). Such factors may affect the timing and availability of counterpart contributions anticipated under the project design.		
Consequences	If co-financing is delayed or not delivered as planned, implementation of certain activities may need to be rescheduled, sequenced differently, or scaled down. This could slow overall progress, extend implementation timelines, and place additional pressure on GCF resources to maintain momentum in priority activities until co-financing is secured.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Mitigation Measure(s)	The project mitigates this risk by securing early confirmation and documentation of annual co-financing commitments, maintaining regular coordination with co-financing partners, and conducting biannual reviews of the status of financial and in-kind contributions. Flexible activity sequencing and prioritization will be applied to manage temporary gaps, ensuring that key project components can advance while co-financing is finalized.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Comments	N/A		
Risk 7	Access and Security Constraints in Coastal and Mangrove Intervention Areas		
Risk Origin	External Factors		
Risk Area	Political		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	This risk relates to deteriorating security conditions and access constraints in the project's coastal and mangrove intervention areas, particularly in border-adjacent and remote estuaries. The risk arises from the escalation of violence since 2024, including intimidation and criminal activity carried out by organized criminal groups (GDOs), attacks against fishers, theft and extortion, and intensified police–military operations. These dynamics create a volatile and rapidly changing security environment along		

	coastal corridors and access routes in locations such as Guayas, El Oro, and northern Esmeraldas. In addition to direct security threats, unpredictable conditions in certain estuaries and transport routes may render sites temporarily unsafe or inaccessible, even in the absence of active incidents. Together, these factors heighten the likelihood of restricted access, mobility limitations, and exposure of project staff, partners, and AUSCEM members to security-related risks during field implementation.		
Consequences	When this risk has materialized, it has limited the ability of staff and community participants to safely access mangrove sites for restoration, monitoring, and field based engagement, resulting in rescheduling, relocation, or suspension of activities. Reduced field presence slows data collection, restoration progress, and community participation, affecting implementation timelines and increasing logistical and operational costs.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood 4 - Almost certain	Impact 4 - High	Severity 16 - High
Mitigation Measure(s)	The project implements an integrated security management approach combining preventive and responsive measures. This includes the recruitment of a Risk and Security Specialist, delivery of HEAT training for staff, and monthly updating of a security risk matrix coordinated through designated Security Focal Points. Standardized protocols guide decisions on field entry, suspension, relocation, or evacuation, supported by a traceable incident reporting system. To address access constraints, the project applies comprehensive safe access planning, including use of pre evaluated and verified routes, real time security checks, and continuous situational monitoring through dedicated communication channels. When access is restricted, activities are relocated to secure venues or implemented through centralized or hybrid modalities, including transporting community participants to safe locations. Fieldwork is scheduled within identified safe operating windows, and coordination with local authorities enables supervised or escorted access when necessary. These measures reduce both the likelihood of unsafe exposure and the impact of disruptions.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood 2 - Possible	Impact 2 - Low	Severity 4 - Medium
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood 2 - Possible	Impact 2 - Low	Severity 4 - Medium
Comments	N/A		
Risk 8	Limited government institutional capacity to support mangrove conservation and enforcement		
Risk Origin	Partner Related		
Risk Area	Partner capacity and suitability		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	This risk relates to the possibility that government institutions responsible for mangrove conservation, monitoring, and enforcement may lack sufficient technical, operational, or financial capacity to fully support project implementation. Root causes include insufficient staffing levels or access to specialized technical expertise, limited budgets for patrols, monitoring, and community engagement, and competing institutional priorities that may reduce sustained attention to coastal and mangrove ecosystems. These constraints may affect the ability of institutions to perform regulatory, coordination, and enforcement functions effectively.		
Consequences	If this risk materializes, it may slow implementation of conservation and restoration activities, weaken enforcement of mangrove protection measures, and reduce the effectiveness of monitoring and compliance efforts. Limited institutional capacity could delay approvals, constrain field presence, and affect long term sustainability of project outcomes, requiring additional support from the project to maintain momentum.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood 4 - Almost certain	Impact 4 - High	Severity 16 - High
Mitigation Measure(s)	The project mitigates this risk through targeted technical assistance, capacity building, and operational support to government counterparts. Measures include provision of simplified reporting and monitoring tools, hands on technical support through project hired specialists embedded within key agencies, and structured coordination mechanisms to support day to day implementation and follow up. Clear operational guidance and alignment with national climate and conservation frameworks further		

	support institutional effectiveness. These measures primarily reduce the impact of capacity constraints while improving execution efficiency.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Comments	N/A		
Risk 9	Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT)		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	Money Laundering (ML) & Terrorist Financing (TF)		
Description	This risk relates to the possibility that project funds or sub-account disbursements could be misused for money laundering or terrorist financing purposes. Root causes include the complexity of multi-level fund flows, engagement with community-level organizations, limited financial management capacity among some beneficiaries, and potential exposure to high-risk geographic contexts where informal financial practices are common.		
Consequences	If materialized, this risk could result in misuse of funds, suspension of disbursements, legal and regulatory sanctions, reputational damage to the project, CI, and the GCF, and potential termination of funding agreements		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	3 - Medium	3 - Low
Mitigation Measure(s)	The AE applies CI's AML/CFT Policy and due-diligence procedures to all partners, grant recipients, and signatories prior to contracting and disbursement. These measures include verification of legal status, governance structures, and authorized signatories; restriction of payments to approved institutional bank accounts; prohibition of unjustified cash transactions; and traceable financial documentation. AML/CFT screening is conducted prior to disbursement and periodically thereafter, reducing the likelihood of illicit fund flows and ensuring full transaction traceability.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	3 - Medium	3 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	3 - Medium	3 - Low
Comments	During the reporting period, no AML/CFT incidents, allegations, red flags, suspicious transactions, or material changes in the risk profile were identified based on project due diligence, payment controls, procurement and contracting review, financial monitoring, and project oversight. The current residual risk therefore remains low, with no change from entry.		
Risk 10	Sanctions (UN Security Council and other sanctions regimes)		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	Sanctions		
Description	This risk concerns the possibility of engaging, directly or indirectly, with individuals or entities subject to international sanctions. Root causes include evolving sanctions lists, reliance on third-party partners, and potential gaps in real-time screening if procedures are not consistently applied.		
Consequences	Engagement with sanctioned entities could trigger immediate suspension of project activities, legal liabilities, reputational harm, and mandatory reporting to the GCF and relevant authorities.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Mitigation Measure(s)	Mandatory screening is conducted for all partners, signatories, and beneficiaries prior to contracting and disbursement. Screening is repeated periodically, and exclusion and termination clauses are embedded in all agreements, preventing engagement with sanctioned entities and significantly reducing legal and reputational risk.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity

	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Comments	During the reporting period, no sanctions matches, red flags, prohibited engagements, or material changes in the sanctions risk profile were identified. This assessment is based on due diligence and screening processes applied to project partners, suppliers, signatories, and payment recipients. The current residual risk remains low and unchanged.		
Risk 11	Fraud, Bribery, and Corruption (Prohibited Practices)		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	This risk relates to the possibility of fraud, corruption, bribery, coercion, collusion, obstruction, misrepresentation, misuse of project assets, or other prohibited practices in procurement, contracting, partner selection, grant or financial mechanism management, community-facing delivery, monitoring, or reporting. The risk is relevant given the project's decentralized implementation arrangements, multiple partners and stakeholders, procurement processes, equipment and service delivery, and financial transfers.		
Consequences	If this risk materializes, it could result in financial loss, misuse of GCF resources, compromised procurement or selection processes, suspension or cancellation of affected activities, audit findings, mandatory reporting to GCF, legal or disciplinary action, loss of stakeholder trust, reputational damage, and corrective or recovery actions.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood 2 - Possible	Impact 3 - Medium	Severity 6 - Medium
Mitigation Measure(s)	The project applies CI's Code of Conduct, prohibited-practices provisions, procurement rules, financial controls, segregation of duties, review and approval thresholds, documentation requirements, and monitoring procedures. Agreements include integrity, audit, reporting, and termination clauses. Procurement and contracting decisions are subject to review and documentation. Concerns may be raised through confidential reporting and escalation channels, with non-retaliation protections and corrective action procedures available where misconduct is suspected.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood 2 - Possible	Impact 2 - Low	Severity 4 - Medium
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood 2 - Possible	Impact 2 - Low	Severity 4 - Medium
Comments	During the reporting period, no prohibited-practice incidents, allegations, procurement red flags, audit findings, or material integrity concerns were identified. This assessment is based on procurement review, financial controls, partner due diligence, project monitoring, and the absence of reported allegations through available oversight and reporting channels. The current residual risk remains moderate because implementation involves procurement, contracting, partner engagement, and community-facing delivery, but there has been no material deterioration in the risk profile.		
Risk 12	Conflict of Interest		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	This risk relates to actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest that could affect procurement, consultant selection, partner engagement, technical decision-making, oversight, community benefit allocation, private-sector engagement, or financial mechanism governance. The risk is relevant because the project operates in a specialized sector with close institutional relationships among government agencies, community organizations, technical partners, private-sector actors, and conservation institutions.		
Consequences	If unmanaged, conflicts of interest could compromise fairness, transparency, and independence in project decisions; lead to procurement or selection challenges; undermine stakeholder confidence; generate audit findings; delay implementation; and create reputational risk for CI, the project, and GCF.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood 2 - Possible	Impact 3 - Medium	Severity 6 - Medium

Mitigation Measure(s)	The project applies CI's conflict-of-interest requirements, including disclosure obligations for staff, consultants, committee members, reviewers, and relevant decision-makers. Procurement and approval processes include separation of roles, documentation of decisions, review controls, and escalation of declared or suspected conflicts. Where conflicts are identified, mitigation measures may include recusal, independent review, reassignment of decision-making authority, additional documentation, or exclusion from the relevant process.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Comments	During the reporting period, no unmanaged conflict-of-interest incidents, allegations, or material red flags were identified. The assessment is based on the application of disclosure requirements, procurement and approval controls, project oversight, and the absence of reported concerns. The current residual risk remains moderate because the project involves multiple institutional and community actors, but there has been no material change in the risk profile.		

D.2. Report risk incidents

If any risk (previously identified or not) has materialized, please capture it here as a risk incident.

(this section is confidential)

E. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

E.1. GCF financing

In addition to the financial report in the annex, update the table with relevant GCF financial data for each country and instrument, including amounts and allocation percentages.

Country	Instrument	Currency (as per FAA)	Committed Amount	Disbursed Amount	Expenditure (reporting year)	Cumulative Expenditure	Mitigation	Adaptation
Ecuador	Grants	USD	72,826.56	10,800,000	5,348,161.3	5,463,490.81	48%	52%
Total		USD	72,826.56	10,800,000	5,348,161.3	5,463,490.81	N/A	N/A

E.2. Co-financing

Please populate the table with relevant Co-financing data for each Co-financier and instrument, including amounts and allocation percentages.

Co-financier	Instrument	Currency (as per FAA)	Committed Amount	Disbursed Amount	Expenditure (reporting year)	Cumulative Expenditure	Mitigation	Adaptation
Ministry of Environment and Energy (Formerly MAATE)	Grants	USD	2,694,000	0	206,069.45	241,838.82	48%	52%
Ministry of Environment and Energy (Formerly MAATE)	In-kind	USD	1,354,545	0	317,947.46	397,740.2	48%	52%
Conservation International Foundation	In-kind	USD	5,481,988	0	805,433.09	822,801.72	48%	52%
Total		USD	9,530,533	0	1,329,450	1,462,380.74	N/A	N/A

E.3. Additional Finance Mobilised Beyond Approved Co-financing

Report the realised (cumulative value) and/or expected volume (Final Target) of private/public finance leveraged as a result of GCF involvement in the investment, in addition to and beyond any co-financing originally committed at approval. This datapoint shall be reported separately from official co-financing figures and is intended to capture the catalytic effect of GCF investments and support institutional learning.

GCF Policy: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/policy-cofinancing.pdf>

No additional finance mobilized information provided.

File Name: APR 2025 for FP235 Mangroves for Climate Ecuador.xlsx

F. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS, GENDER, and INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This section provides an update against the ESS standards agreed as part of the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), as well as Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), Indigenous Peoples Plan Framework (IPPF), Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) when applicable.

F.1. progress on key challenges and updates regarding Environmental and Social Safeguards

Key Environmental and Social Changes

Have there been any changes in the key environmental and social risks and impacts? If you tick 'Yes,' please provide further information.

Yes ☒ No ☐

Environmental and Social Safeguarding Updates

Have there been any change/update on environmental and social safeguarding? you tick 'Yes,' please provide further information.

Yes ☒ No ☐

All updates described below were implemented within the approved ESMF and ESMP. No formal amendments were made, in accordance with **FAA Clause 10.02(o)**.

The significance of **ESS8 (Community Health, Safety, and Security)** increased from *medium* to *medium-high* due to deteriorating security conditions along Ecuador's coast, particularly in Guayas, Esmeraldas, and El Oro. These conditions include the presence of organized criminal groups, increased violence, and heightened risks associated with field operations in remote mangrove areas.

In response, the project strengthened **implementation of the existing ESMP**, without modifying its approved content. Key actions included reinforcement of security-related risk management measures identified jointly with the AE safeguards team; prioritization of security staffing and training, including Hostile Environment Awareness Training; introduction of territorial security risk matrices, updated monthly by province to inform preventive planning and decision-making; and strengthening of occupational health and safety measures for communities and AUSCEMs through first-aid training and provision of basic safety kits.

These adjustments respond to changes in the operational context rather than new or unforeseen risks and ensure that ESS8 continues to be implemented effectively, maintaining the project's overall risk profile within approved parameters.

The significance of **ESS9 (Financial Intermediaries / Private Sector Investment – Socio Manglar-FIAS)** was refined from *high* to *medium*, reflecting improved clarity and opportunities to strengthen coordination between institutional actors. Under the project design, FIAS manages the Manglares sub-account and screens safeguards compliance, while the Forest Conservation Program (PCB, formerly Socio Bosque) under the Ministry retains responsibility for evaluating, approving, and monitoring beneficiary organizations.

During implementation, it became clear that effective safeguards management requires a complementary and coordinated application of ESS requirements across both institutions. Accordingly, the project focused on strengthening due diligence, contractual and reporting processes, clarifying institutional roles across approval, disbursement, and monitoring stages, and strengthening the FIAS ESMS in alignment with Ministry processes.

F.2. Compliance with laws and regulations applicable to ESS. Gender and Indigenous Peoples.

Have there been any changes or updates regarding compliance with applicable laws and regulations of the country, as well as the relevant conditions or covenants under the FAA?

Yes ☐ No ☒

-

F.3. ESS standards implementation progress	
Does this reporting period include any ESS standards-related activities or updates?	Yes ☒ No ☐
<i>If you tick 'Yes', please provide further information to report on the progress made in complying with the requirements of the relevant ESS standards that were triggered during the approval of the funding proposal and during the reporting period, if any; and the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, if relevant, describing achievement and specifying details outlined in the tables below.</i>	
Activities implemented during the reporting period, including monitoring	
<i>During the reporting period, the project advanced compliance with environmental and social safeguards (ESS) and the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, aligning with the approved ESMF and ESMP. Key accomplishments include: ESS1–ESS3 (Risk & Habitat Management): Piloted restoration screening forms in Isla Trinitaria to identify site-specific risks, assess technical feasibility, and protect sensitive habitats. The pilot confirmed the tools' robustness, and lessons learned will inform refinements tailored to mangrove and coastal restoration contexts for future risk-based Restoration Plans. ESS4 (FPIC & Indigenous Peoples): Established Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a mandatory practice for all AUSCEM organizations. The project initiated in-person FPIC processes with 46 organizations—including Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and other mangrove-dependent communities—using culturally appropriate, validated tools during community assemblies. ESS8 (Health, Safety & Security): Strengthened health and safety management by updating provincial security risk matrices monthly, approving suspension and evacuation protocols, and delivering first-aid training to staff. Additional actions included preparing Terms of Reference for a Risk and Security Coordinator and utilizing security matrices to guide field access decisions. ESS9 (Financial Intermediaries/FIAS): Ensured compliance with safeguard preconditions by embedding environmental and social clauses into agreements, aligning grievance procedures with the Access Entity's ESMF, and linking documentation and reporting requirements to disbursements. Stakeholder Engagement: Maintained continuous community engagement across all activities and ensured the ongoing dissemination of an accessible, confidential grievance mechanism.</i>	
Outputs during the reporting period	
<i>During the reporting period, the project delivered key safeguards outputs aligned with the approved ESMF, ESMP, and GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy: ESS1–ESS3 (Risk & Habitats): Piloted restoration screening tools in Isla Trinitaria to systematically identify site-specific risks and assess technical feasibility. Lessons learned were used to adapt these tools for specific mangrove and coastal restoration contexts. ESS4 (FPIC): Completed FPIC processes with 46 AUSCEM organizations (1,586 participants) using culturally appropriate engagement. This also triggered targeted support to resolve identified administrative gaps within some local groups. ESS8 (Health & Safety): Operationalized a monthly territorial security risk management system. Approved evacuation and access protocols, and equipped and trained 24 staff members in first aid. ESS9 (Financial Intermediaries): Established a FIAS safeguards compliance framework by embedding environmental and social clauses into key agreements and defining mandatory pre-disbursement requirements. Capacity Building: Strengthened institutional capacity via two safeguards trainings and a structured review to clarify ESMP and IPPF operational roles.</i>	
Key environmental, social and gender issues, risks and impacts addressed during implementation	
<i>During the reporting period, the project proactively managed governance, social, security, and safeguards risks while maintaining strict alignment with the approved framework: Governance & Compliance: Several AUSCEM organizations lacked updated boards and complete records, which threatened the validity of FPIC processes. The project provided regularization support, temporarily recognized assembly-validated leaders to maintain momentum, and strengthened coordination with the newly merged Ministry of Environment and Energy to overcome administrative delays. Social & Resource Conflicts: Pre-existing community disputes over representation and mangrove access were handled with a strict neutrality approach. To prevent escalation, the project established uniform participation rules, facilitated differentiated dialogue spaces, and promoted participatory, community-based monitoring alongside environmental authorities. Security Context: In response to deteriorating national security, the project updated its operational protocols, reconfigured travel arrangements, and relied heavily on a monthly security risk matrix to guide field decisions. Preventive management is being further bolstered by preparations for Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) and the recruitment of a Risk and Security Coordinator. Safeguards & Accountability: Standardized environmental and social screening tools for restoration were successfully piloted to ensure consistent ESS application. Furthermore, an analysis of the FIAS ESMS identified fiduciary and compliance gaps. These are being mitigated through mandatory corrective measures, including a 60-day safeguard implementation window post-disbursement and mandatory trainings on AML/CFT, gender, SEAH, and prohibited practices.</i>	
Any pending key environmental, social and gender issues needing accredited entity's actions and GCF attention	

<i>The main pending issue concerns the formal institutional validation of the updated operational security risk matrix, a key tool for the consistent application of the triggered Environmental and Social Standards (particularly ESS8) and for safeguarding project staff and local stakeholders during field implementation. During the reporting period, the project completed a comprehensive technical review of the matrix to address limitations in the original version, which did not fully reflect the evolving security context, territorial variability, and access risks across intervention areas. The revised matrix incorporates updated security criteria, environmental and social risk considerations, access restrictions, and location specific alert categories, and is designed to guide decisions on authorization, rescheduling, or suspension of field activities. However, for official application, especially where operational decisions involve heightened security or safety risks, the matrix requires formal validation by the AE to ensure institutional consistency, regulatory backing, and audit traceability. Without this validation, gaps may arise in preventive decision making in high risk or rapidly changing contexts.</i>	
Remarks/Notes	
<i>The project prioritized operationalization and consistency of safeguards instruments, ensuring that procedures are usable in field conditions while maintaining compliance with GCF requirements. Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening traceability, documentation, and decision-making thresholds, especially for FPIC processes, restoration activities, and security related decisions. Revisions to the grievance mechanism have been made. A revised mechanism (Spanish and English Version) has been included in the Annexes together with a memo showing where the changes have been made.</i>	
F.4. Sub-projects information	
Have any subprojects been implemented?	Yes ☐ No ☒
N/A	N/A

F.5. Implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan	
Were any actions undertaken to increase engagement of relevant stakeholders in the project, particularly regarding environmental, social, and gender elements?	Yes ☒ No ☐
Activities implemented during the reporting period	
During the reporting period, the project enhanced inclusive stakeholder participation across multiple sectors, prioritizing environmental, social, and gender safeguards. Key achievements include: Community Organizations (AUSCEM): The project delivered extensive capacity-building and technical assistance. Activities included five management workshops for 73 organizations (133 participants, 41% women), support for new applications (113 participants), compliance reporting (69 participants), fisheries monitoring socialization (58 participants), and restoration planning (45 participants). Additionally, a major safety-at-sea workshop reached 557 participants. Inclusive & Gender-Responsive Engagement: To eliminate barriers to participation, the project utilized culturally appropriate materials, flexible scheduling, and provided child-friendly spaces with designated caregivers so parents could attend. In areas like Guayas, the project actively dialogued with community leaders to promote greater formal governance roles for women. Local Governments (GADs): The project engaged 14 Decentralized Autonomous Governments. Formal cooperation was initiated with seven GADs to integrate mangrove conservation and climate resilience into their local planning instruments. Private Sector & Academia: Coordination advanced with the National Chamber of Aquaculture to foster private-sector engagement in restoration. Furthermore, meetings with three universities (UTPL, UT Machala, UE San Espíritu) identified strategic synergies for research, monitoring, and innovation. Documentation & FPIC: All engagement spaces maintained strict traceability (minutes, participant lists). Crucially, an FPIC monitoring matrix was established under Component 1 to track participation modalities and ensure informed decision-making across all involved organizations.	
Dates and venues of engagement activities	

Between February and November 2025, extensive stakeholder consultations were held across Esmeraldas, Guayas, El Oro, Manabí, and Quito. Engaging community organizations, mangrove custodians, women's groups, government, and academia, activities included project socialization, territorial dialogues, and FPIC processes.

These consultations directly supported the project launch, restoration site identification, and inter-institutional coordination. Key milestones featured provincial kick-off meetings, FPIC implementation in priority estuaries, national women's forums, and International Day of Mangroves events, ensuring inclusive and geographically balanced participation across all intervention areas.

Sex-disaggregated data on stakeholder engagement participants (male + female = total)

In 2025, total recorded participation in stakeholder engagement activities reached 5,312 people, comprising 3,523 men (66%), 1,788 women (34%), and one participant identifying as 'other.' This distribution highlights a gender participation gap in certain governance, technical, and training spaces. Lower participation of women was observed in several activities and was largely associated with care responsibilities, time constraints, and cultural barriers affecting formal involvement in community organizations.

To address these challenges, the project implemented targeted gender responsive measures, including more inclusive calls for participation, flexible scheduling, provision of child friendly and safe spaces during meetings, logistical support, and awareness raising actions aimed at strengthening women's effective participation across environmental, social, and governance processes. These measures seek to reduce structural barriers and promote more equitable engagement.

Civil Society, Institutions, and Platforms Reached (Representative Sample, 2025)

Stakeholder engagement included a wide range of actors, such as:

- Community organizations and AUSCEM holders: e.g. ASORCMA, Soledad Grande, Caimital, Defensores del Manglar, San Lorenzo, La Flora, Costa Rica, Bellavista, 19 October, Hualtaco–Huaquillas, Estero Porteño, San Antonio, Nuevo Milenio, Las Huacas, among others.
- Networks and second and third tier organizations: e.g. FEDARPOM, FEDARPROVIN, REDAMUSLEA, Red Manglares;
- Partner NGOs and initiatives: Conservation International, GIZ, WCS, WWF, WildAid, Global Mangrove Alliance.
- Academic institutions: Universidad de Guayaquil (UG), ESPOL, UTMACH, UTPL, UEES.
- Public authorities: MAATE (DIMACO/SMCO), UPMA, IPIAP, municipal and parish GADs, Capitanías, and Provincial Governments; and
- Platforms and events: Project Management and Steering Committees, GCF–UNILEVER–GMA alignment workshops, and the Second Ecuadorian Mangrove Congress.

This inclusive engagement approach strengthened transparency, accountability, and informed participation across environmental, social, and gender dimensions of the project.

Information shared with stakeholders

During 2025, the project shared structured and comprehensive information with stakeholders through workshops, technical meetings, socialization sessions, and field activities. These engagement spaces were used to communicate the project's objectives, components, planned activities, and expected benefits, as well as associated environmental and social risks, safeguard requirements, and implementation timelines.

Stakeholders were informed about the environmental and social safeguards framework, community health and safety measures, and procedures for managing risks related to mangrove restoration and livelihood activities implemented in coordination with MAE. Detailed guidance was also provided on mangrove restoration criteria and site selection, management plans, compliance reporting formats, verifiable indicators, and methodologies for Participatory Fisheries Monitoring, clarifying roles and responsibilities of participating organizations.

As part of FPIC processes, information was shared in priority estuaries, planned interventions, commitments, co benefits, social and security considerations, and available communication channels. Stakeholders were also informed about the suggestions and grievance mechanism (CI Escucha) and how to access it safely and confidentially.

Gender information was integrated throughout consultations, including the project's GAP, leadership opportunities for women and youth, and violence prevention and referral under institutional monitoring mechanisms. Regular updates were also shared on technical progress, inter institutional coordination, annual planning, and synergies with partner initiatives.

Outputs including issues raised and addressed during the reporting period

In 2025, stakeholders raised several key clusters of concerns related to environmental management, governance, security, and institutional coordination. The project addressed these concerns through targeted responses agreed with

relevant actors. 1. Compliance with Management Plans and Reporting: Stakeholders reported low levels of implementation of Management Plans and limited understanding of indicators and means of verification. Response: The project validated standardized compliance reporting formats, delivered targeted trainings, and provided technical assistance to strengthen AUSCEM organizations' capacity for accurate and timely reporting. 2. Security Conditions in Intervention Areas: Concerns were raised regarding threats to community leaders and restrictions on mobility in high risk estuaries, particularly in Esmeraldas, Guayas, and El Oro. Response: The project applied dynamic security risk assessments, adjusted logistics (including entry and overnight protocols), coordinated with relevant authorities, and issued recommendations to reinforce security and safety procedures for field activities. 3. Shrimp Farming Pressure, Mangrove Degradation, and Contamination: Stakeholders highlighted conflicts related to mangrove cutting, environmental degradation, and pressures from shrimp farming activities. Response: The project acknowledged the need for joint working mechanisms involving MAE, local governments, and community organizations; promoted joint patrols; and strengthened Participatory Fisheries Monitoring (PFM) in collaboration with IPIAP to support evidence based decision making. 4. Legal and Administrative Gaps: Delays in AUSCEM administrative procedures and difficulties in reclaiming abandoned shrimp ponds were identified as barriers to effective management. Response: The project supported development of an inventory of inactive ponds, provided technical assistance for documentation, and strengthened coordination with environmental authorities to help unblock administrative processes. Across all themes, institutional governance and coordination were reinforced through the Management/Steering Committee and collaboration with allied initiatives (e.g. GCF–UNILEVER–GMA), helping avoid duplication, improve territorial planning, and prepare restoration interventions based on agreed mapping and criteria.
Remarks/Notes To strengthen preventive risk management, the project is prioritizing the recruitment of a Risk and Security Management Specialist and the contracting of specialized hostile environment training. To improve traceability and consistency, standardized Management Plan reporting formats will be consolidated and applied systematically across participating organizations. Given the evolving security context, it was recommended to avoid public dissemination of sensitive operational or territorial information and to prioritize direct, secure information delivery to community organizations and partners.

F.6. ESS forward planning and lessons learned	
Are there any planned ESS activities for the next reporting period or lessons learned to share from this period?	Yes ☒ No ☐
Provide planned activities on environmental and social safeguards for the next reporting period	
In 2026, the project will execute the following ESMP activities to maintain rigorous compliance with active safeguards and the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy: ESS1–ESS3: Operationalize updated safeguards tools through in-situ field visits at both high and low tides. Key deliverables include site-specific restoration plans coordinated with the MAE, four estuary-level restoration maps, and a Year-3 technical report on degraded mangroves. Compliance will be monitored via quarterly environmental reviews and biannual site verifications. ESS4 (FPIC & Indigenous Peoples): Execute and document Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes across all estuaries using tailored modalities, such as community assemblies. Socioeconomic assessments for each AUSCEM will be updated and integrated into the Process Framework. Progress will be tracked via a quarterly FPIC monitoring matrix ensuring culturally appropriate, gender-responsive participation. ESS8 (Health, Safety & Security): Enhance field safety by delivering first-aid training, distributing safety kits, and conducting participatory PPE assessments. The operational security risk matrix—including suspension and evacuation protocols—will be updated monthly, alongside quarterly incident reporting. ESS9 (Financial Intermediaries): Enforce safeguard screening findings within 60 days of any sub-account disbursement. The project will also deliver mandatory, one-time training on AML/CFT, safeguards, gender, SEAH, and Prohibited Practices for FIAS, PSB, and AUSCEM representatives, backed by semiannual compliance checks. Stakeholder Engagement & Grievance Mechanism (GRM): Strengthen community capacity through quarterly AUSCEM workshops. The GRM will be monitored via semiannual grievance reports and an annual performance review, maintaining systematic, gender-disaggregated documentation of all participation.	
Provide any success stories, good practices, or challenges, including those related to the engagement of Indigenous peoples and local communities, promoting Indigenous knowledge and benefits to Indigenous peoples and local communities	

A key success to demonstrate that mangrove conservation can be strengthened by placing communities at the center of decision making was the implementation of FPIC with 46 AUSCEMs engaging more than 1,500 people. Communities used their assemblies to decide their participation, ensuring restoration and conservation activities respected local governance systems, traditional mangrove use, and community priorities. Importantly, organizations could decline participation without negative consequences, reinforcing trust and autonomy. Another good practice was the strengthening of Participatory Fisheries Monitoring, which combines scientific methods with local ecological knowledge from fishers and shellfish gatherers. This approach improved understanding of mangrove health and fisheries dynamics and supported evidence based management rooted in lived experience. The project also made progress on gender inclusion. Practical measures such as childcare spaces, flexible schedules, and minimum participation targets helped reduce barriers for women's participation. A notable case of Asociación Bellavista formally admitted women as full members, expanding their role in mangrove governance and access to benefits. The project also promoted respectful inclusion of diverse identities, contributing to safer and more welcoming participation spaces. Challenges remain. Security risks, administrative bottlenecks, and uneven institutional presence continue to affect implementation. Addressing these challenges requires continued coordination and adaptive safeguards management.

F.7. Grievance Redress Mechanism - confirmation & grievances

Please indicate whether the project can confirm the following statement:

Fully functional and operational Grievance Redress Mechanisms are in place, have been communicated to and are accessible by all stakeholders applicable to this project

☒ The accredited entity confirms the statement above at project-level, AE-level, and GCF-level grievance mechanisms.

☐ The accredited entity does not confirm the statement above

Have there been any grievances received during the reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

No grievances were received during this reporting period.

F.8. Implementation of activities and actions agreed in the Gender Action Plan

The GAP focuses on strengthening women's participation, leadership, and equitable access to benefits in mangrove governance, livelihoods, and the private sector, while ensuring prevention and response to gender-based risks.

Key actions agreed under the GAP include promoting equal participation of women and men within AUSCEM organizations, supporting women's leadership through tailored training, and embedding gender-responsive practices within FPIC processes, safeguards implementation, and community engagement. The GAP also prioritizes the integration of GBV and SEAH prevention and survivor-centered response mechanisms into the project's grievance system, ensuring safe and confidential reporting pathways.

To support economic inclusion, the GAP includes actions to incorporate gender considerations into livelihood support, competitive funding mechanisms, and Socio-Manglar investment planning, as well as targeted assistance for women-only associations. Engagement with the aquaculture sector seeks to strengthen women's leadership and promote inclusive, climate-smart practices within the blue economy.

Institutionally, the GAP emphasizes capacity building for project staff and government counterparts, gender-responsive monitoring (including sex-disaggregated socioeconomic surveys), and documentation of lessons learned and good practices. All GAP actions are embedded within the work plan, aligned with the FAA and the GCF Gender Policy, and supported by dedicated gender expertise to ensure accountability, adaptive implementation, and progress toward gender equality outcomes.

Are there GAP implementation activities or progress to report for this period?		Yes ☒ No ☐
<i>Summary on Activities and Actions agreed in the Gender Action Plan (max. 200 words)</i> <i>Provide a progress report on the gender action plan developed during project preparation stage for the reporting period. This will primarily be a report on activities undertaken and results achieved because of completion of an activity. Further, it should also indicate if the project is on track to achieving the intended outcome(s). The reporting should be done for activities, targets and indicators already set in the action plan including on vulnerable groups (youth, poor, female heads of households, etc.) as would have been identified in the gender analysis and action plan. If activities or targets are not achieved as per plan, reasons should be provided, and recourse action should be proposed. Please include reporting on any changes or deviations. Include a Report on implementation challenges and lessons learnt and how these will inform on-going actions and what action will be taken by when to address the challenges faced. Incorporate both quantitative data and qualitative reports on the performance of such actions, and on progress on actions identified.</i>		
GAP Activity		
1.1 Revise existing mangrove use and stewardship agreements (and support new agreements) that supports women's and men's equal engagement in management and grants women and men equal rights to concessions and use of NTFPs in protected areas. This may include indicating a minimum number of seats on the association body for women.		
Indicator		
% of revised/new agreements with language that allows for equal decision- making, rights to concessions, and use of NTFPs.		
Rating of Indicator	AMBER (needs attention to be met)	
Baseline	0	
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	100	
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)		
Formal revisions to AUSCEM agreements have not yet been initiated. However, during the reporting period, gender-transformative practices were applied operationally through FPIC processes and women's leadership activities. These measures promoted women's participation, visibility, and decision-making in mangrove governance, establishing a solid foundation for future formal revisions aligned with the objectives of the GAP.		
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)		
Since project inception, gender-transformative practices have been progressively embedded in mangrove governance processes, despite formal revisions to AUSCEM agreements not yet commencing. Cumulatively, 73 women have received tailored leadership training, and FPIC processes have consistently promoted women's participation, visibility, and decision-making at community level. Practical enabling measures such as direct invitations, child-care support, and gender-responsive facilitation have strengthened women's engagement across estuaries.		
Budget	297,801	
Currency	USD	
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	31 December 2026	
Responsibility		
Project Mangrove, Gender, Safeguard and Social Specialists.		
Remarks/Notes		

This activity is planned to commence in 2026. Formal revisions to AUSCEM agreements depend on the completion of FPIC processes and administrative timelines with the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE). In the meantime, the project has applied inclusive governance practices through FPIC, leadership training, and gender-responsive engagement to advance GAP objectives while formal revisions are pending.

GAP Activity

1.2 Work closely with the project's mangrove association partners to support and encourage women's equitable and meaningful participation, recognizing and responding to potential elevation of GBV.

Indicator

% of women association members who have received tailored leadership training (e.g., technical skills, public speaking, etc.) and productive activities.

Rating of Indicator

GREEN (on track to be met)

Baseline

0

Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable

50

Annual progress update (Reporting Period)

During the reporting period, 73 women received tailored leadership training, including 11 women who participated in a national-level intercultural dialogue and 62 women from 6 AUSCEM-holding associations in El Oro who completed dedicated leadership workshops. Gender-responsive FPIC measures were applied in parallel, including direct invitations to women and childcare support during meetings, enabling meaningful participation and reinforcing the project's gender-transformative approach.

Cumulative progress update (Entire period)

Since project inception, 73 women have cumulatively benefited from tailored leadership and capacity-building activities linked to mangrove governance. These actions have strengthened women's confidence, visibility, and participation in decision-making spaces and established a solid foundation for scaling women's leadership and benefit-sharing as FPIC processes and livelihood activities advance.

Budget

349,278

Currency

USD

Timeline (Planned completion of activity)

31 December 2030

Responsibility

Project Gender, Safeguard and Social Specialists.

Remarks/Notes

The activity is rated GREEN, as progress is consistent with the project phase and plans. Expansion of training and increased coverage are planned following completion of FPIC processes and the rollout of livelihood and governance interventions, which will allow accelerated progress toward end-of-project targets.

GAP Activity	
1.3 Document and share lessons learned, examples of women leaders, success stories, etc. to inform and influence other mangrove conservation activities to be gender- responsive	
Indicator	
Number of communication pieces that share information on gender approach in this project	
Rating of Indicator	AMBER (needs attention to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	12
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
During the reporting period, gender practices were documented internally as part of ongoing safeguards and gender mainstreaming efforts. This included capturing lessons learned, participation approaches, and examples of women's leadership emerging through FPIC and capacity-building activities. Documentation focused on internal learning and preparation for broader dissemination once the updated Gender Action Plan is finalized.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Since project inception, initial internal documentation of gender-responsive practices and lessons learned has been established. These materials provide a baseline for future knowledge-sharing products and communication outputs aligned with the GAP objectives.	
Budget	0
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	14 February 2031
Responsibility	
Project Mangrove, Gender, Safeguard and Social Specialists.	
Remarks/Notes	
This activity is rated AMBER, as dissemination of gender-related communication products is sequenced for a later phase. External sharing of lessons learned, and case studies is planned following completion and approval of the GAP update consultancy, which will provide an updated analytical foundation. This activity budget is included within staff duties and does not have a separate budget line.	
GAP Activity	
2.1 Contribute to the development of Socio-Manglar investment plans to ensure gender considerations are incorporated in community mangrove conservation/ management initiatives.	
Indicator	
Number of Socio Manglar investment plans that include gender-responsive activities and the equitable input of women and men.	

Rating of Indicator	AMBER (needs attention to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	4
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
During the reporting period, preparatory coordination was initiated to integrate gender considerations into Socio-Manglar investment plans. This included internal planning and alignment discussions to ensure that future investment plans incorporate equitable participation and benefit-sharing for women and men, consistent with the Gender Action Plan.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Since project inception, progress on this activity remains at a preparatory stage, as Socio-Manglar investment plans are scheduled for later phases of implementation. Initial coordination has been established to enable the integration of gender-responsive criteria once plan development begins.	
Budget	0
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	31 December 2027
Responsibility	
Project Mangrove, Gender, Safeguard and Social Specialists.	
Remarks/Notes	
This activity is rated AMBER because implementation is sequenced under Component 2. Progress depends on the timing and rollout of Socio-Manglar investment plans. No delay has occurred; the activity will advance as planned once investment planning processes are initiated. This activity budget is included within staff duties and does not have a separate budget line.	
GAP Activity	
3.1 Provide tailored technical support for current economic activities, or new activities that are priorities for women and men.	
Indicator	
Number of males and females in mangrove areas benefiting from the adoption of diversified, climate resilient livelihood options and business practices linked to mangroves.	
Rating of Indicator	AMBER (needs attention to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	41500
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	

During the reporting period, this activity remained at the design and preparation stage. Gender-responsive criteria were embedded into the conceptual design of livelihood interventions to ensure equitable access and benefits for women and men once implementation begins. Preparatory work focused on aligning livelihood support with FPIC outcomes, safeguards requirements, and local priorities.

Cumulative progress update (Entire period)

Since project inception, progress on tailored livelihood support for women and men has focused on designing inclusive frameworks and criteria, rather than direct delivery. These preparatory steps establish the foundation for equitable livelihood interventions that will be rolled out in subsequent phases, targeting balanced participation and benefit-sharing.

Budget	0
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	31 December 2028

Responsibility

Project Mangrove, Gender, Safeguard and Social Specialists.

Remarks/Notes

This activity is rated AMBER because implementation is sequenced to follow completion of FPIC processes and the rollout of livelihood activities. No delays have occurred; the activity is progressing as planned according to project phasing. Delivery is expected to accelerate once community consent and livelihood components are fully operational. This activity is included within staff duties and does not have a separate budget line.

GAP Activity

3.2 Include gender consideration into the competitive fund for associations.

Indicator

% of accepted proposals that have gender considerations, as relevant.

Rating of Indicator	AMBER (needs attention to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	100

Annual progress update (Reporting Period)

During the reporting period, gender-responsive criteria were drafted for inclusion in the project's competitive funding mechanism. These criteria are designed to ensure that all relevant proposals incorporate gender considerations, equitable participation, and benefit-sharing once the fund is launched.

Cumulative progress update (Entire period)

Since project inception, progress on this activity has focused on preparing the gender-responsive framework for the competitive fund. While no proposals have yet been reviewed, the criteria are in place to ensure that gender considerations are systematically applied when the funding mechanism becomes operational.

Budget	0
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	31 December 2028
Responsibility	
Project Mangrove, Gender, Safeguard and Social Specialists.	
Remarks/Notes	
This activity is rated AMBER because implementation is planned for a later phase. The competitive fund has not yet been launched, and application of the gender criteria will begin once the fund is operational. No delays have occurred relative to the approved project timeline. This activity is included within staff duties and does not have a separate budget line.	
GAP Activity	
3.3 Provide tailored support to the 2 women-only associations to develop strong proposals.	
Indicator	
# of proposals developed by the women associations.	
Rating of Indicator	AMBER (needs attention to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	2
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
During the reporting period, advisory engagement was initiated to support women-only associations in preparing for future participation in project funding mechanisms. Initial guidance focused on identifying priority needs, strengthening organizational readiness, and aligning potential proposals with safeguards and gender criteria once funding opportunities become available.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Since project inception, progress under this activity has remained at an early preparatory stage. Engagement to date has focused on laying the groundwork for proposal development by women-only associations, ensuring they are positioned to benefit from targeted support once the competitive fund and related livelihood activities are launched.	
Budget	0
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	31 December 2028
Responsibility	
Project Mangrove, Gender, Safeguard and Social Specialists.	
Remarks/Notes	

This activity is rated AMBER because implementation is sequenced to follow the launch of the competitive fund and completion of FPIC processes. No delays have occurred relative to the approved timeline. Progress will accelerate once funding mechanisms are operational and eligible associations are formally confirmed. This activity is included within staff duties and does not have a separate budget line.

GAP Activity

4.1 Provide ongoing gender training/dialogue to CI and MAE personnel

Indicator

Number of regular training/refreshers/discussion sessions given to CI and MAE personnel on gender and mitigating/reducing GBV in the project.

Rating of Indicator

GREEN (on track to be met)

Baseline

0

Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable

8

Annual progress update (Reporting Period)

During the reporting period, two gender training sessions were delivered for CI and MAE staff, in June and September, focusing on gender-responsive implementation, prevention and mitigation of GBV/SEAH risks, and integration of gender considerations into safeguards and field activities. These sessions strengthened institutional capacity to apply the Gender Action Plan consistently across project components

Cumulative progress update (Entire period)

Since project inception, 2 of the planned 8 gender training sessions have been completed. These trainings established a baseline understanding of gender mainstreaming and safeguards among project and government counterparts, supporting consistent application of gender-responsive approaches in ongoing and future activities.

Budget

17,014

Currency

USD

Timeline (Planned completion of activity)

31 December 2030

Responsibility

Project Mangrove, Gender, Safeguard and Social Specialists.

Remarks/Notes

This activity is rated GREEN, as implementation is progressing according to the approved timeline. The remaining training sessions are scheduled for subsequent reporting periods, in line with the GAP implementation plan and institutional availability.

GAP Activity

4.2 Ensure project's Grievance Redress Mechanism is gender sensitive, prepared to respond to GBV-related incidents.

Indicator	
Number/% of grievances that are related to gender	
Rating of Indicator	GREEN (on track to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	1
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
During the reporting period, the project ensured that the Grievance Redress Mechanism (CI-Escucha) is fully gender-sensitive and equipped to address GBV and SEAH cases. Clear, survivor-centered procedures and referral pathways were integrated, including access to psychological, medical, legal, and protection services, in line with the AE safeguards requirements.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Since project inception, the GRM has been fully operationalized with survivor-centered GBV/SEAH pathways, ensuring safe, confidential, and appropriate handling of gender-related grievances. This establishes a robust mechanism for prevention, response, and accountability throughout project implementation.	
Budget	17,014
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	14 February 2031
Responsibility	
Project Gender, Safeguard and Social Specialists.	
Remarks/Notes	
This activity is rated GREEN, as the GRM is fully compliant with the AE Environmental and Social Management Framework and the GCF Gender Policy. No further corrective actions are required, beyond continued monitoring and staff awareness.	
GAP Activity	
5.1 Sensitize the members of the Chamber of Aquaculture on the Aquaculture Stewardship Council's social impact standards on inclusion, human rights, and equity.	
Indicator	
Percentage of aquaculture farm owners that attend the training.	
Rating of Indicator	GREEN (on track to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	30

Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
During the reporting period, 13 women members of the National Chamber of Aquaculture (NCA), participating through the Women in Aquaculture World Organization (OMMA), completed a targeted capacity-building workshop. The session strengthened awareness of mangroves as climate-critical ecosystems and introduced key concepts related to climate-smart shrimp production, blue bioeconomy, climate finance, blue carbon, and ESG criteria. In parallel, a needs assessment was conducted to identify priority training areas and inform the design of future engagement with the aquaculture sector.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Since project inception, initial progress has been achieved in engaging women within the aquaculture value chain. Training of OMMA members and completion of a needs assessment provide a foundation for scaling participation toward the target of 30% of NCA membership, once broader sector-level activities are implemented.	
Budget	280,259
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	31 December 2029
Responsibility	
Project Gender, Safeguard and Social Specialists. Private Sector	
Remarks/Notes	
This activity is rated GREEN, as progress aligns with the approved project phasing. Scaling of training activities is contingent on approval of the NCA consultancy, which will enable expanded outreach and accelerated progress toward the end-of-project target.	
GAP Activity	
6.1 Provide guidance and support to local governments on how to apply a gender approach to PDOT implementation.	
Indicator	
# of subnational PDOTs with gender approach	
Rating of Indicator	AMBER (needs attention to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	9
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
During the reporting period, preparatory coordination was initiated to support the integration of gender considerations into subnational PDOTs (Territorial Development and Land-Use Plans). Initial engagement focused on aligning project objectives with local government planning cycles and identifying entry points for incorporating gender-responsive approaches into coastal development and zoning processes under Component 3.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	

Since project inception, progress under this activity has remained at an early, preparatory stage, reflecting the sequencing of PDOT updates and institutional planning processes. Foundational coordination has been established to enable effective technical support once PDOT revisions formally commence.

Budget	39,884
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	31 December 2027
Responsibility	
Project Gender, Safeguard and Adaptation Specialists.	
Remarks/Notes	
This activity is rated AMBER, as implementation is linked to the PDOT update cycle under Component 3 and depends on the timing and readiness of subnational governments. No delays have occurred relative to the approved project timeline; implementation will advance as planned once PDOT processes are activated.	

GAP Activity	
7.1 Survey instrument is gender informed	
Indicator	
Gender & safeguard specialist is involved in survey design (Y/N)	
Rating of Indicator	GREEN (on track to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	1
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
During the reporting period, gender-informed socioeconomic survey instruments were applied, with the Gender Specialist actively involved in survey design and review. All data collection tools ensured systematic sex-disaggregation and integration of gender-relevant variables to capture differentiated impacts and benefits among mangrove-dependent communities.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Since project inception, gender-disaggregated socioeconomic data collection has been fully embedded in the project's monitoring framework. This has enabled consistent analysis of gender-related trends and outcomes and supports evidence-based adjustments to project activities and policy engagement.	
Budget	0
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	31 December 2030
Responsibility	

Project Gender and Safeguard Specialists.	
Remarks/Notes	
This activity is rated GREEN, as gender-informed surveys are fully integrated into the project's monitoring system and implemented on a continuous basis. No corrective actions are required beyond routine application and periodic review of survey instruments. This activity is covered under the project's socioeconomic survey budget and does not require a separate allocation	
F.9. Gender Action Plan implementation review	
Is the gender expert for the project/programme engaged to support the implementation of the gender action plan? If engaged previously, please advise if the gender expert has been retained by the project/programme, including plans to engage another expert if a previously engaged expert has left the project/programme.	Yes ☒ No ☐
<i>The Gender Manager was hired in May 2025 to lead the implementation of the GAP actions. This individual had not been previously engaged with CI.</i>	
Has the implementation of gender action plan/s being implemented according to Funding Activity Agreements and GCF's Updated Gender Policy? Please ensure that the budget is included in the reporting above if it was indicated in the approved or updated gender action plan.	Yes ☒ No ☐
<i>Yes. The implementation of the GAP is being carried out in accordance with the FAA and the GCF Updated Gender Policy. Gender-related activities and budgets reported above, consistent with the allocations included in the approved Funding Proposal and Annex 8. The GAP is operationalized through the following mechanisms: Alignment with Approved Project Documents: All GAP activities are derived directly from the Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan included in the approved Funding Proposal and its annexes. These documents define the actions, responsibilities, indicators, targets, and budgets, ensuring implementation remains consistent with approved commitments. Compliance with CI and GCF Gender and Safeguards Frameworks: Implementation is guided by the GCF Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and CI-GCF safeguards policies, which require the systematic integration of gender equality, social inclusion, and attention to vulnerable groups across project activities, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring. Dedicated Leadership and Institutional Oversight: A Project Gender Manager, hired in May 2025, leads GAP implementation. This role provides technical guidance, ensures compliance with AE standards, coordinates with project teams and partners, and monitors progress against GAP indicators. Integration Across Project Components: Gender actions are embedded within the project's overall work plan rather than implemented as stand-alone activities. This approach mainstreams gender considerations across FPIC processes, capacity building, safeguards implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Reporting and Accountability: Progress on GAP activities is tracked through project M&E tools and reported through donor-required templates and CI's internal safeguards compliance systems, ensuring transparency, accountability, and alignment with FAA and GCF requirements.</i>	
Are the planned activities, targets, indicators, timelines, etc. on track during the reporting period?	Yes ☒ No ☐
<i>Implementation of the revised GAP experienced delays during the reporting period due to the extended approval process for the TOR to update the gender analysis and GAP. Approval by MAE required approximately 110 calendar days and was granted in late November 2025. As a result, implementation of the updated GAP is scheduled to commence in June 2026, following submission and approval of the consultancy deliverables. Despite these delays, progress was made on several GAP related activities during 2025 under the existing approved framework. Four women's leadership workshops were delivered with AUSCEM organizations in the Jambeli Archipelago, strengthening leadership skills and participation in mangrove governance. In parallel, gender sensitization sessions were conducted for the project team to reinforce gender responsive implementation practices. Under Component 2, a gender awareness and capacity building session was held with members of OMMA, with the participation of 15 women, contributing to the promotion of inclusive approaches within the aquaculture value chain. In addition, gender and SEAH considerations were fully integrated into the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism, ensuring the availability of clear, survivor centered procedures and referral pathways consistent with GCF and CI requirements. Complementary internal coordination meetings were held, as well as technical exchanges with institutional counterparts from the Oceanic, Marine and Coastal Undersecretariat (SMCO) and the Public Institute for Aquaculture and Fisheries Research (IPIAP). These engagements aimed to progressively integrate gender commitments into the AUSCEM regulatory framework and into templates used for participatory</i>	

agreements and field implementation. Overall, while some activities were rescheduled due to institutional and procedural factors, the project remains on track, with startup actions completed and a clear pathway for accelerated GAP implementation in the next reporting period.	
Were there any revisions of the approved GAP during the reporting period? Please submit the updated GAP in Annex section of this APR and ensure that the updated GAP has details on each change.	Yes ☐ No ☒
No formal revisions to the approved GAP were made during the reporting period. However, preparation is underway to update the Gender Analysis and GAP through a dedicated consultancy, which will be contracted and implemented during the first semester of 2026. The update is necessary to strengthen the analytical depth and operational relevance of the GAP. The original Gender Analysis and GAP were developed during the COVID 19 period, which imposed limitations on field access, primary data collection, and stakeholder engagement. As a result, the updated documents will be informed by extensive primary data collection across all four estuaries, with targeted engagement of women and LGBTIQ community members. The revised analysis will also capture evolving gender dynamics linked to current security conditions affecting coastal areas of Ecuador, including implications for participation, livelihoods, and access to decision making spaces. Once completed, the updated GAP will provide a more robust and context responsive framework for gender responsive implementation in subsequent reporting periods. The updated GAP, including a detailed description of revisions and their justification, will be submitted as an Annex to a future APR following completion and approval of the consultancy deliverables.	
Are the reported results on track to contribute to meeting the sex-disaggregated targets for the direct beneficiaries in the funding proposal, if applicable?	Yes ☒ No ☐
Yes. The reported results are on track to contribute to meeting the sex-disaggregated targets for direct beneficiaries established in the Funding Proposal. All data collected by the project is systematically sex-disaggregated, and targeted measures are in place to promote equitable participation of women and men across activities. During the reporting period, the project reinforced its gender equality commitments during project socialization and FPIC processes with all participating associations. Communities were explicitly informed of the project's objective to ensure that women can fully access benefits and decision-making opportunities. Associations were also encouraged to support women's formal registration as members, which is a key pathway for accessing incentives and project-supported opportunities. To address structural barriers to women's participation, the project applied gender-responsive scheduling, designing invitations and activity timetables to avoid conflicts with domestic and caregiving responsibilities that disproportionately affect women. In addition, a child-care support approach was implemented during meetings, including designated caregivers and didactic materials, enabling women to participate actively and consistently. The project also adopted a practice of directly inviting women to activities rather than relying on invitations through spouses or male relatives. This ensured that women received information first-hand and could make autonomous decisions regarding participation. Finally, attendance and registration forms collect information on women's professional and livelihood activities, allowing the project to identify areas of expertise and create a pool of potential female trainers and peer facilitators. This support's peer-learning exchanges and contributes to women's empowerment beyond participation numbers. Together, these actions demonstrate steady progress toward achieving the project's sex-disaggregated beneficiary targets and establish a strong basis for scaling inclusive participation in subsequent reporting periods.	
Has the project/programme experienced any implementation challenges that affect gender-related activities? If yes, please include lessons learnt and how they are informing ongoing actions.	Yes ☒ No ☐
During the reporting period, the project experienced implementation challenges affecting gender related activities, primarily linked to institutional coordination processes. In particular, the review and approval of gender related deliverables required extensive and highly detailed inputs from the gender focal point within the MAE. Some requests exceeded the project's available time and resource envelope, resulting in longer approval timelines and the need for repeated clarification meetings. This experience highlighted a broader institutional challenge: while there is a strong demand for strong gender disaggregated data to inform policy and programming, corresponding public sector resources for data collection and analysis are limited. As a result, expectations placed on implementing partners can become disproportionate if roles, scope, and resource constraints are not clearly aligned from the outset. Key lessons learned include the importance of establishing early agreement on the scope, level of detail, and timelines for gender deliverables, as well as maintaining structured coordination mechanisms to manage expectations and avoid delays. In response, the project strengthened communication with MAE, clarified deliverable parameters, and adjusted internal planning to better anticipate review requirements. These lessons are informing ongoing and future gender activities to ensure both technical rigor and operational feasibility.	
Were there any best practices identified, or case studies prepared on benefits/activities undertaken as agents of action by women and the female heads of households during the reporting period?	Yes ☒ No ☐

Please share any case studies in the text boxes or in the Annex section of the APR.	
<i>During the reporting period, a notable good practice emerged from a women's leadership workshop in El Oro. Due to a logistical adjustment, participants from four AUSCEM associations attended a single joint session. As a result, some of the historically visible women leaders were unable to participate, which unexpectedly created space for women who typically have limited opportunities to engage. This configuration encouraged broader participation and more active involvement from women who are less frequently represented in leadership spaces. The session fostered peer learning, confidence-building, and mutual support, allowing new voices to emerge and share experiences related to mangrove governance, conservation activities, and community leadership. Based on this experience, the project has identified a replicable good practice: intentionally designing workshops that diversify participation beyond established leaders to strengthen inclusive capacity building. As a follow-up, the project plans to define participation criteria for future leadership workshops that prioritize the skill development of emerging leaders and less-visible members of community associations. This approach contributes to expanding leadership pathways for women, strengthening community ownership, and ensuring that project benefits reach a wider group of women, including those who may otherwise remain excluded from formal decision-making processes.</i>	
Provide planned activities on gender elements for the next reporting period	
<i>The following GAP activities will be implemented in 2026. An update of the GAP, followed by local workshops to operationalize the revised GAP with AUSCEMs. Continued engagement with MAE authorities will support the integration of gender-responsive criteria into AUSCEM renewal and governance processes. Capacity-building efforts will focus on strengthening women's leadership and community resilience through; best-practice workshops for women AUSCEM leaders, and sessions on gender equality, joint decision-making, and GBV prevention with community associations. A local mentoring program on positive masculinities will also be implemented to support shared leadership and reduce gender-based barriers. The project will finalize scholarship agreements for women and provide targeted technical support to two women-only associations. A Community of Practice will be launched to connect women leaders, alongside awareness-raising sessions for non-associated women and SEAH sessions for all AUSCEM organizations. In the private sector, gender-inclusion training will be delivered for shrimp SMEs and the National Chamber of Aquaculture, aligned with ASC social impact standards. Following the signing of agreements with local governments, capacity-building for GAD staff will be conducted. The project will also support a gender-capacity session and child-care provision during the III National Gathering of Women from the National System of Protected Areas.</i>	

G. ANNEXES (UPLOADED)
Annex 1: GHG emission reduction calculation methodology (for projects reporting GHG emission reductions) and details on the calculations of the annual and cumulative value.
File Name: Annex 1 FP235 GHG Emissions Estimates .xlsx
Annex 2: Communication and visibility material
File Name: Annex 2. FP235 Communication and Visibility Material.docx
Annex 3: List of grievances received
No annexes provided.
Annex 4: Procurement information
File Name: Annex 4 FP235 Procurement Information.xlsx
Annex 5: Updated implementation timetable for the Funded Activity for the following year
File Name: Annex 5 FP235 Updated implementation timetable 2026.xlsx
Annex 6: Updated Gender Assessment and/or Action Plan
No annexes provided.
Additional Annexes (if applicable)
File Name: Annex 7. FP235 Technical Assessment of Ecuador's Shrimp Sector, ASC Certification, Climate-Smart Shrimp, and Sustainable Shrimp Partnership.docx File Name: Annex 8. FP235 Baseline Management Effectiveness Assessment of Mangrove Protected Areas in Project Intervention Sites (2024).xlsx

File Name: Annex 6. FP235 Shrimp Sector in Ecuador, Aquaculture Stewardship Council, Climate-Smart Shrimp and Sustainable Shrimp Partnership Certifications Report.pdf

File Name: Annex 9 FP235 Memo_Alignment of the Project GRM with the national CI Escucha Accountability & Grievance Mechanism.docx

File Name: Annex 10 FP235 Memo_Justification of Operational Adjustments to the ESMP and Alignment with Annex 6 of the Funding Proposal.docx

File Name: Annex 11. FP235 Project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Operational Guide Spanish.docx

File Name: Annex 12. FP235 Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned.pdf

File Name: Annex 11a. FP235 Project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Operational Guide English.docx

File Name: Annex 13. FP235 ESMP Revised_English Version.xlsx