

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Strengthening NPAS Uruguay**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4832 |
| GEF ID | 4841 |
| Title | Strengthening the effectiveness of the National Protected Area System by including a landscape approach to management. |
| Country(ies) | Uruguay, Uruguay |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| This project will consolidate a shift in the way that PAs in Uruguay are planned and managed, from their current situation that keeps them largely functionally isolated within a highly modified landscape to one in which they merge gradually, and are integrated into, the wider landscapes that surround them; and where the management of the PAs and that of the surrounding landscape is progressively harmonized. This is increasingly necessary as expansion of commercial monocultures and intensified production systems (in the agriculture, livestock and forestry sectors is making the landscapes surrounding PAs increasingly hostile to BD and accentuating their biological isolation, while at the same time increasing the threats posed to native species and ecosystems by invasive alien species (IAS). Phenomena associated with climate change are leading to increased threats to natural habitats from fire, and to modifications of the relative equilibrium between productive practices and biodiversity that characterize traditional production systems. The project will fill a programmatic gap and bridge the landscape-PA divide, thereby build upon and optimising other investments by GEF in the country, namely the GEF/UNDP project ‘Catalyzing the implementation of Uruguay’s National Protected Area System’ and the GEF/IBRD project ‘Rural Development and Biodiversity Management. It will take advantage of the opportunity presented by the country’s new policies on spatial land use planning to harmonize, at central and site levels, policies related to environmental protection, so as to incorporate the landscape approach to management, strengthening the effectiveness of PAs as nuclei for the conservation of globally important species and ecosystems. |

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| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

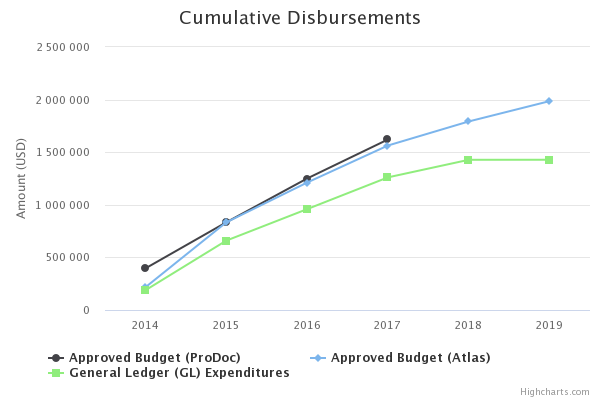
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | High |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **The Uruguayan Protected Areas System incorporates a landscape approach to management, strengthening the effectiveness of PAs as nuclei for the conservation of globally important species and ecosystems** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Area and condition (as measured by the Pasture Conservation Index ICP) of natural pasture habitat for important bird species in PAs and surrounding areas: | Area (ha) under natural pasture by site:  Farrapos + Mafalda = 13,384 ha  Queguay = 111,225 ha  Lunarejo + Laureles = 230,369 ha  Rocha + Garzón = 104,695 ha  Total = 459,673 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | No net loss in area or condition of natural pastures in the target areas. | Cumulative progress in 2018 is similar to the progress reported in 2017. The indicator will be measured in the first trimester of 2019, in order to determine its value at the end of the Project.  Currently, satellite imagery availability (required for the indicator's measurement) is being researched for further purchase process. | The satellite imagery acquisition and the recruiting process for an expert on satellite image processing have been completed and the indicator is currently being measured. Results will be available for the Project Final Evaluation in October 2019 ( final value at the end of the Project).    It is worth mentioning that several activities aimed at enhancing livestock practices for the conservation of natural pasture were carried out in this period.    Among others (see Communicating Impact for further details) the project funded SNAP´s participation in the project promoted by MGAP: “More Technologies for Family Production”, which seeks to expand the availability of adequate technologies for family production.The project also funded SNAP´s technical staff who participated in co-designing the project, promoting the implementation in target zones and technically supporting the following initiatives to introduce the landscape approach and biodiversity considerations: “Alternatives to the sustainable management of the natural grassland in family farming. Sierras del Este (target zone Lagunas Costeras); and “Productive and environmental assessment of non-traditional grazing strategies on natural grassland in family livestock productive units (target zone Quebradas del Norte).  The project also supported additional efforts aimed at the development of collaborative research for ecosystem degradation assessment. The project funded SNAP participation in: “Participatory analysis of land degradation and sustainable land management in grasslands and grazing systems project”, promoted by MGAP – MVOTMA – FAO. Based on a participatory method that integrates academic knowledge with producers´ and field workers´ expertise, degradation status indicators and common evaluation criteria were designed with the participation of local cattle producers in both target zones of Quebradas del Norte and Lagunas Costeras. |
| Area and condition of other natural ecosystems, by site: | Canyon forest:  Queguay = 295 ha  Lunarejo + Laureles = 38,914 ha  Rocha + Garzón = 25,280 ha  Total = 64,489 ha    Gallery forest:  Farrapos + Mafalda = 7,919 ha  Queguay = 4,891 ha  Lunarejo + Laureles = 13,469 ha  Rocha + Garzón = 5,818 ha  Total = 32,097 ha    Park forest:  Farrapos + Mafalda = 3,868 ha  Queguay = 10,849 ha  Lunarejo + Laureles = 38,914 ha  Total = 53,631 ha    Psammophyll forest:  Rocha + Garzón = 210 ha    Wetlands/reedbeds:  Farrapos + Mafalda = 8,682 ha  Queguay = 2,538 ha  Rocha + Garzón = 7,497 ha  Total = 18,717 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | No net loss in area or condition of each ecosystem | Cumulative progress in 2018 is similar to the progress reported in 2017. The indicator will be measured in the first trimester of 2019, in order to determine its value at the end of the project.  Currently, satellite imagery availability (required for the indicator's measurement) is being researched for further purchase process. | The indicator is currently being measured and results will be available for the Project Final Evaluation in October 2019 ( final value at the end of the Project).    In addition to the activities aimed at enhancing productive practices for the conservation of natural ecosystems (mentioned for the previous indicator), it is worth mentioning the project +Water+Identity, (Valle del Lunarejo, Quebradas del Norte) funded by Coca Cola International and implemented by the NGO INDRA in coordination with SNAP and Rivera Government aimed at the recovery and preservation of at least 3000 hectares of native forest. The project funded SNAP´s participation in the project to faciliate implementation in the field. |
| Reductions in the incidence of IAS in PAs | Incidence of Gleditsia triachanthos in Farrapos:  1-40% / 49 ha  40-61% / 40 ha  61-100% / 110 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | Incidence of Gleditsia triachanthos in Farrapos:  1-40% / 49 ha  40-61% / 80 ha  61-100% / 70 ha | A new survey was carried out in September 2017:    Indicator 1.  Relative abundance in invasion focus areas: 22 ind./80 m2    Indicator 2.  Relative abundance in slightly invaded area: 8 ind./80 m2    Indicator 3.  Relative abundance in consolidated invaded area: 36 ind./80 m2    Indicator 4.  % of surface of invasion focus areas under species control: 31.5 % (since no additional surface of invasion focus areas was included between 2016 - 2018, in the program for controlling invasive species).    (\*) It is worth mentioning that the 2017 survey includes new procedures proposed by Universidad de la República (Faculty of Sciences) in order to include more sampling stations. For this reason the end of Project indicator will contrast the averaging the values obtained by SNAP and by the Faculty of Sciences during 2015, with the data collected in 2017 (presented here), and the new measurements to be made in September 2018.    It should be added that a decrease in specific richness of tree species has been detected according to the degree of invasion. Of a total of 31 species surveyed, 23 were recorded in the slightly invaded area, while some 19 species were recorded in the consolidated invasion area, and up to 21 species in the invasion foci area.    In addition to the program for controlling invasive species started in 2015 and implemented directly by SNAP staff in Esteros de Farrapos, in this reporting period, a booklet containing information on good practices for controlling and erradicating Gleditsia Triacantos was printed and communicated among producers in protected areas and surroundings, in order to encourage a participatory approach for reducing the incidence of IAS in PAs. | The program for controlling Gleditsia triacanthos in Esteros de Farrapos continued in 2018 and 2019, according to the methods and techniques stated in the booklet: "Good practices for controlling and eradicating the IAS", prepared and published by SNAP during the previous reporting period.    In March of this year, field work for data collection for the calculation of the indicator was carried out. Currently the data are being processed. The results will be available for the Project Final Evaluation in October 2019 ( final value at the end of the Project). |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **System level Protected Area frameworks consolidated to adopt the landscape approach** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Capacity index of staff related to planning, management and enforcement in PAs and their surrounding landscapes | % of PA staff with inadequate core capacities (see details of variables in table below)    Higher management  1 | 29%  2 | 31%    Technical/ supervisory  3 | 24%  4 | 35%    Park guards  5 | 36%  6 | 29%    Field staff  7 | 60%  8 | 0%    % of DINAMA staff with capacities for interaction with landscape level actors and processes: baseline values to be quantified through staff assessment at project start | *(not set or not applicable)* | % of PA staff with inadequate capacities (see details of variables in table below)    Higher management  1 | 10%  2 | 10%    Technical/ supervisory  3 | 10%  4 | 10%    Park guards  5 | 10%  6 | 10%    Field staff  7 | 10%  8 | 10%    % of DINAMA staff with capacities for interaction with landscape level actors and processes: target values to be quantified on the basis of staff assessment at project start] | 1. Accompanying the Montes del Queguay protected area management plan elaboration, strong emphasis was placed on strengthening capacities for PA planning, including the landscape approach. The following activities were carried out in this period: a) Workshops for peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge, involving managers and technical staff from different protected areas. b) Workshop for the definition of issues that need to be amended and resolved in the PA Planning Guidelines to include landscape considerations; c) Workshop for the definition of a methodology for designing a stakeholders map in protected areas planning processes; d) Training workshops for the application of the new PA Planning Guidelines (these are expected to be finalized by end of 2019). These training activities were aimed at higher management level staff, technical staff, park guards, technical staff from departmental governments and technical staff from NGOs related to PA management.    2. Previously established DINAMA internal protocols for the inclusion of SNAP's conservation priorities at the landscape level in Strategic Environmental Assessment (EAE) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) were consolidated during this period by a continuous exchange of knowledge and information between SNAP's staff and EAE and EIA technical staff. The protocols are part of the routine activities of both EAE and EIA environmental regulations processes.    In addition, a new protocol for the analysis and impact evaluation of building or urbanization projects in Laguna Garzón PA is being jointly developed. This protocol will improve institutional capacities to address one of the most relevant threats to the environmental values of this site: urban development.    These indicators will be measured again in the first trimester of 2019. This is consistent with the ProDoc which had planned for three rounds of measurement, one at the beginning of the project, one in the middle and one at the end. Since the project has been extended, the measurement of this indicator and various others will now take place in 2019. | The indicator is currently being calculated. Results will be available for the Project Final Evaluation in October 2019.    Some of the activities carried out during this reporting period aimed at improving staff capacities were:    Indicator 1:  - Two training workshops (in Litoral Oeste and Lagunas Costeras) were held to improve capacities in control and surveillance procedures in protected areas. They were focused on improving the knowledge about the competencies of institutions with applicable jurisdiction in the target zones; identifying specific prohibited activities in protected areas, and improving coordination strategies with the institutions involved in control and surveillance at the national and local levels. The activity was implemented in coordination with the Biodiversity Division (MVOTMA) and the General Directorate of Forests (MGAP). The target audience was SNAP local officials, DINAMA staff from the Department of Species Control and Biosecurity, local staff from the Ministry of the Interior (local police and community police) and the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fishery (MGAP).    - Specific ranger courses supported: a) A call was made for 6 scholarships to participate in the Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course with international accreditation: “First Aid in remote locations” September 2018. b) Participation of 4 rangers in the Nautical Course aimed at obtaining the Navigation License for sailing (August 2018), organized and funded by the SGP project.    - Institutional agreements (MVOTMA - Departmental Government) for the definition of staff profiles, roles and responsibilities; and criteria for performance assessment in co-administered protected areas. Under this agreement, the new director and ranger entered in Valle del Lunarejo PA received a specific induction using peer-to-peer exchange methodology.    Indicator 2.  The protocol for the analysis and impact evaluation of building or urbanization projects in Laguna Garzón PA is under implementation. This protocol contributes to the improvement of institutional capacities to address one of the most important threats to the environmental values of this site: urban development. |
| Reduction in financial gap for SNAP: | Financial gap for SNAP as a whole: 30% ($999,000) | *(not set or not applicable)* | 20% reduction in financial gap for SNAP as a whole, to 24% ($800,000) | During the Project implementation (since 2014) SNAP has incorporated 4 new areas, has enlarged 1 area and still continues the process of integrating new areas in the short term. The inclusion of these new areas has increased by almost 180,000 ha the territory managed by SNAP (2.4 times more than the territory managed in 2014). This extraordinary change required an adjustment of the "basic management budget" variable (denominator of the Financial Gap indicator) in order to correctly estimate the financial gap. At the moment a new basic management budget, according to SNAP’s current and projected structure, is being calculated. As a result, the indicator will be measured during the second semester 2018 and first semester 2019. | The estimation of the basic and optimal management scenarios of each protected area, necessary to estimate the financial gap, is being calculated. Results will be available for the project Terminal Evaluation in October, 2019.  In this period, the focus to reduce the financial gap was on the search for opportunities to increase the Protected Areas Fund resources and the generation of self-generated revenues for PAs (some examples were reported for the indicator “Amount of resources from Protected Area Fund received by SNAP”.)  It should be noted that one of the challenges of reducing the financial gap is the fact that the protected areas system in Uruguay is currently under expansion. |
| Area of land with tax exemptions due to inclusion in SNAP | 0ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | Lunarejo: 3,321ha  Laguna de Rocha: 707ha | As mentioned in previous PIRs, the achievement of the expected target at the end of Project does not seem feasible, as a consequence of the rejection of SNAP's incentives schemes proposal for inclusion in the National Budget Law 2016-2020.    However, alternative strategies continue to be implemented. For example, technical and financial support through MGAP projects to producers in protected areas and landscapes applying sustainable practices continued to be provided during this period. As per the next indicator the project has also supported the process of tax exemptions due to native forest.    In addition, a new Project, funded by Coca Cola International, is technically financially supporting rural producers in Valle del Lunarejo. Its main objective is to encourage good practices and institutional arrangements for a sustainable use of the natural resources of the pampa biome, including soil, native forest and water sources. | As a consequence of the rejection of the "Incentives schemes proposal" presented by SNAP for inclusion in the National Budget Law 2016-2020, the target is not expected to be achieved.    However, alternative strategies were implemented in order to support private conservation initiatives in protected areas and surrounding landscapes. In this period SNAP strongly cooperated with other international projects led by MGAP, FAO and Coca Cola (among other institutions) for technical and financial support to livestock producers willing to implement sustainable productive systems in target zones: Lagunas Costeras (Más Tecnología) and Valle del Lunarejo – Quebradas del Norte (Más Agua Más Identidad Project and Más Ganadería Project). (See Communicating Impact Impact for detailed information on these initiatives). |
| Area of land in Laureles Cañas and Queguay with tax exemptions due to native forest cover | None of the 6,790ha native forest in Laureles and Queguay is declared for tax exemption | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4,074ha (60%) of the native forest in Laureles and Queguay is declared for tax exemption | The expected end of Project target level for Montes del Queguay was already achieved and surpassed (100 % of native forest was already declared for exemption) through project support.    However, in Laureles Cañas where SNAP has faced some difficulties in promoting the establishment of a protected area, a different approach was adopted. In order to promote voluntary conservation (including conservation of native forest) a new strategy aimed to promote a network of voluntary privately owned protected areas is being implemented. (See also Partnership with ONG Vida Silvestre for more details on this activity and its results). | The expected end of Project target level for Montes del Queguay was already achieved and surpassed (100 % of native forest was already declared for exemption) through project support.    However, in Laureles Cañas where SNAP has faced some difficulties in promoting the establishment of a protected area, a different approach was adopted: the identification of motivations for private voluntary conservation in order to develop a strategy aimed at boosting a network of voluntary privately owned protected areas. In addition two workshops were implemented in cooperation with IICA and Departmental Development Board for awareness-raising on native forest and other ecosystem services, aimed at producers in Laureles-Cañas. |
| Amount of resources from Protected Area Fund received by SNAP | 50000 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 100000 | The new indicator presented in previous PIRs relates protected areas' self-generated revenues to the cost of managing the protected area. In the first trimester 2018 SNAP started a general revision of the variable "cost of management"(denominator of the indicator) for each protected area in system. This process is not completed to date, so the indicator will be measured during the second semester of 2018 (for the 2017 level) and in the first semester of 2019 (for the 2018 level).    In addition, it should be mentioned that until now, only Cabo Polonio and Quebrada de los Cuervos had self-generated incomes and were the only protected areas considered in the indicator’s baseline. Since the end of 2017, and as a result of the signed agreement between MVOTMA and the Rural Promotion Society of San Javier (reported in PIR 2017), Esteros de Farrapos has started to earn revenues from cattle grazing (in adherence with the guidelines of the management plan supported by the project). This new situation, which would imply an improvement of the indicator level, requires a revision of the indicator's variables and baseline. Adjustments are expected to be ready in the second semester of 2018. | New indicator:  Annual amount (in US dollars) of self-generated revenues at area level being managed by protected areas administrators.    2012: US$ 205,500 (\*)  2016: US$ 224,490  2019: US$ 347,000    The expected end of project target level, which was US$ 308,250, has already been achieved and surpassed.    The total amount (347,000 US$) corresponds to Esteros de Farrapos, Cabo Polonio and Quebradas de los Cuervos protected areas.  For the first protected area  the revenues were generated through the grazing payment of the Sociedad de Fomento de San Javier, according to the Agreement for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources of Esteros de Farrapos signed in 2016. These revenues are integrated into the Protected Areas Fund.  For the other protected areas the revenues are generated mainly by tourism, and are self-managed by the protected area administration. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Protected area management integrated with adjacent landscapes** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Increase in METT scores in 7 PAs covering 214,336ha | Farrapos = 50  Lunarejo =45  Laureles -Cañas = 11  Rocha = 45  Garzón = 11  Queguay = 24  Mafalda = 60 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Farrapos = 83  Lunarejo = 76  Laureles-Cañas = 46  Rocha = 80  Garzón = 46  Queguay = 49  Mafalda = 75 | The indicator will be measured in the first trimester of 2019, in order to determine its impact at the end of the Project. | The process for METT evaluation in all SNAP protected areas started in June 2019 and will be finished by July 30.  Indicator results will be available for the Project Final Evaluation in October 2019.  The project has carried out a number of activities to improve SNAP and PA planning and management practices, which are expected to be reflected in the METT results. |
| Effectiveness of mechanisms for stakeholder participation in planning and management | CAEs exist in all three target PAs declared to date, with broad participation but no mechanisms for feedback or evaluation of effectiveness and satisfaction | *(not set or not applicable)* | All 7 PAs to be included in the project have CAEs with functioning mechanisms for feedback and evaluation of effectiveness and satisfaction, and CAEs receive consistent positive rating from stakeholder participants | During this period each of the declared CAEs (Special Advisory Commissions) in the target zones carried out at least 2 meetings, with the inclusion of new themes of debate. A remarkable example is the role of Laguna de Rocha CAE in the definition of the electric energy supply for the fisher's community. A process for establishing mechanisms for evaluation of the effectiveness and for the improvement of governance has been undertaken with Laguna de Rocha CAE's members, during the last two years.    In addition, during 2017 and 2018, two workshops aimed at improving governance capacities of the local team and CAE members were implemented in Esteros de Farrapos e islas del rio Uruguay protected area.    This indicator was not estimated in this period as one of the involved variables (see Methodological Reference for Logical Framework Indicators report) requires the results of the METT evaluation which is planned for the first trimester of 2019. | All 6 protected areas included in the Project target zones have CAEs (Special Advisory Commissions) with functioning mechanisms for feedback and evaluation of effectiveness. In this period, Laguna Garzón and Esteros y Algarrobales (the remaining areas that did not have functioning CAEs) established their respective Special Advisory Commissions. Since it was not possible to declare Laureles-Cañas as a protected area of SNAP, a seventh Special Advisory Commission (CAE) could not be set up in this area.    13 meetings were held in the Project target zones from July 2018 to June 2019:  Valle del Lunarejo: 3 meetings (20/09/2018, 22/11/2018 y 21/03/2019).  Montes del Queguay: 2 meetings (3/09/2018 y 1/01/2019).  Esteros de Farrapos: 2 meetings (20/09/2018 y 2/05/2019).  Esteros y Algarrobales 2 meetings, held jointly with Esteros de Farrapos.  Laguna de Rocha: 2 meetings (20/12/2018 y 6/06/2019).  Laguna Garzón: 2 meetings (7/06/2019 and 21/06/2019).    The most outstanding achievement of this period is the agreement for the establishment of the joint administration of Laguna Garzon (formed by Maldonado Department, Rocha Department and MVOTMA). The key milestone in this process was the formation of the CAE, as requested by local stakeholders and with extensive participation (about 40 people per meeting) in the two meetings held.    The indicator is a combination of four variables: a) existence of a formal agreement for administration of the PA, b) number of formally functioning CAEs, c) Degree of social approval of the CAEs and d) participation of SNAP in institutional boards at landscape scale. The indicator requires the results of the METT evaluation, which is planned for July 2019. The final value will be available for the Project´s Final Evaluation in October 2019 . |
| Number of Departmental-level zoning plans that make specific reference to PAs and their areas of influence | Coastal Lagoons:  - Coastal Lagoons Local Plan (covering Rocha and Garzón lagoons)  Western Littoral:  - Guichón Micro-Region Local Plan for Zoning and Sustainable Development (covering Montes de Queguay) | *(not set or not applicable)* | Coastal Lagoons:  - Coastal Lagoons Local Plan (covering Rocha and Garzón)  Western Littoral:  - Guichón Micro-Region Local Plan  - Departmental zoning plan covering Farrapos  Northern Canyons:  - Departmental Zoning Plans for Rivera and Tacuarembó (covering Lunarejo and Laureles Cañas) | As no new departmental zoning plans in target zones were presented for formal approval , cumulative progress on this indicator is similar to what was reported in 2017.    The Project continues the joint work with Rio Negro Departmental Government for the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in local spatial plans for San Javier and Nuevo Berlin (Western Littoral target zone). (See Communicating Impact). This plan is expected to be delivered for approval at the end of 2018 or early 2019.    In this reporting period new collaborative work for the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in local spatial plans was agreed with Paysandu Departmental Government, whose technical team is actively participating in the design of the Montes del Queguay and landscape Management Plan.    The indicator will be measured when the target zone's zoning plans currently under development are delivered for official approval by national and local authorities. | The joint work carried out with Rio Negro Departmental Government for the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in the local spatial plan for San Javier and Nuevo Berlin (Western Littoral target zone) was completed during this period. All required documents (Information Report, Ordinance Report, Management Report and Environmental Impact Assessment) were developed with the technical support on biodiversity and conservation issues provided by SNAP. Currently, the plan is proceeding with the required process of public hearing according to National laws.    New collaborative work started this period between SNAP and Paysandu Departmental Government for the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in the Local Spatial Plan for Montes del Queguay that includes the protected areas and surrounding landscape.    The final indicator´s value will be available for the Project Final Evaluation in October 2019. It should be noted that the project team has actually been tracking variables that beyond the scope of the original indicator (which focuses on the “number” of plans), including the extent to which the plan is taking into account biodiversity considerations, SNAP requirements and the landscape approach. |
| Levels of staff assignment in Departmental governments for supporting integration of PA management with land use planning | 3 of the 6 Departmental Governments covering the target areas have staff with specific responsibilities for planning and management of rural areas, including those in or adjoining PAs | *(not set or not applicable)* | All 6 of the Departmental Governments covering the target areas (Río Negro, Paysandú, Maldonado, Rocha, Rivera and Tacuarembó) have staff with specific responsibilities for planning and management of rural areas, including those in or adjoining PAs | Cumulative progress is similar to the progress reported in 2017:    5 of the 6 departmental governments covering the target zones have staff with specific responsibilities for planning and management of rural areas, including those in or adjoining PA.    As the Land Use Planning Division of the Tacuarembo Departmental Government is not keen on protected area declaration or on the development of new land use plans in the zone, it is unlikely to reach the expected result at the end of the Project in this area. A different strategy has been adopted as an alternative approach: SNAP is working with other divisions from the Departmental Government such as the Rural Development Division and the Environmental Development Division in order to promote, among local producers the inclusion of conservation issues in the Soil Management Plans that are required by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP). | Indicator level: 6 of the 6 departmental governments covering the target zones have staff with specific responsibilities for planning and management of rural areas, including those in or adjoining PA.    From 2018, SNAP and the Environmental Development Division (Prodema) of Tacuarembó Department have been jointly working on the definition of a conservation strategy for Laureles-Cañas area. By the end of 2019 a document of agreement is expected.  In addition, the Rural Development Division of Tacuarembó has been working to promote the inclusion of conservation issues in Soil Management Plans required by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP). |
| Area of forestry properties where design and management of set-asides incorporate landscape-wide BD considerations (such as the size and spatial configuration of pasture areas in relation to vertical barriers such as forestry plantations, and the spatial configuration, condition and flowering/ seeding status of pasture grasses, which determine the value of the set-asides for pasture birds) | 188,688ha of forestry plantation properties in target landscapes, of which an estimated 15% is set-asides (28,303ha), all of which are planned and managed on individual basis | *(not set or not applicable)* | 50% of set-asides (14,152ha) in forestry plantations in target landscapes are planned and managed in accordance with landscape-wide considerations | This indicator is not being tracked as the agreement with forestry companies for planning and management in high value zones of conservation has not been achieved.    However, during this reporting period an agreement was signed between SNAP and UPM-Forestal Oriental, for the development of the Management Plan for Esteros y Algarrobales del rio Uruguay. This joint planning work will provide the opportunity to define criteria for landscape-wide BD considerations mainstreaming in UPM forestry plantations's high value zones.    The guides for the evaluation of new forestry projects, officially approved by DINAMA, which include SNAP's conservation priorities and criteria agreed with EIA Division are being implemented.    At the moment new guides for extractive activity projects and wind parks are being prepared with the participation of the SNAP Division, which incorporate landscape and BD considerations. | This indicator is not being tracked as the agreement with forestry companies for planning and management in high value conservation zones was not reached.    Among other strategies adopted to improve the management of forestry plantations by including landscape considerations, during this reporting period SNAP and UPM-Forestal Oriental have been developing the Management Plan for Esteros y Algarrobales del rio Uruguay. This plan includes criteria for the mainstreaming of landscape-wide biodiversity considerations in UPM forestry plantations's high value zones. It is expected to be completed by November or December. The content of the plan can be used as a methodological reference for other forestry companies located in the target zones. The idea is to use these advances with UPM to continue working on the improvement of the Forest Certification process, in which all forestry companies are interested. We also plan to integrate these agreed criteria in the protocol for environmental authorizations (EIA) carried out by DINAMA. |
| Areas with public use and tourism plans in accordance with the national guidelines on tourism in protected areas (currently being prepared) | None, as the guidelines are still under preparation | *(not set or not applicable)* | To be determined | The national guidelines on tourism in protected areas were previously prepared.  The indicator will be measured in the first trimester of 2019, in order to determine its real impact at the end of the Project.    During this reporting period two South-South Cooperation projects aimed at strengthening SNAP's capacities in management for sustainable tourism and other productive activities in protected areas were executed: Cooperation Project SNAP (Uruguay) - National Service of Protected Natural Areas of Peru (SERNANP); and Cooperation Project SNAP (Uruguay) - National Parks of Colombia. (See also Communicating Impact / South-South cooperation efforts). | The process of Public Use Evaluation in all SNAP protected areas started in June 2019 and will finish by July 30. The indicator results will be available for the Project´s Final Evaluation in October 2019 .    The complementary project funded by the French Facility for the Global Environment, (Development of sustainable modalities of production and consumption of goods and services in the protected areas of the Uruguayan SNAP and its surrounding territory) started a joint effort to provide strategic orientation for public use in protected areas, using a landscape approach. In this period, the main activities were focused on Montes del Queguay and Esteros de Farrapos (Litoral Oeste target zone ). Tourism infrastructure (eco-trails, signage for environmental interpretation) and organization of tourism activities were jointly supported by both projects (GEF and FFEM).  Work was carried out to deveop sustainable tourism guidelines for the two areas and there are also national tourism guidelines that have been approved. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 88.1% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 88.1% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 1,428,178 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 99,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 1,621,000 |
| Co-financing | 7,191,475 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | May 7, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Dec 23, 2013 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jun 4, 2014 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Oct 14, 2014 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 1, 2017 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | May 12, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Sep 4, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jun 4, 2018 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Dec 4, 2019 |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-10-04 |
| 2018-11-22 |
| 2019-05-31 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Environmental | Risk:. Climate change reduces the viability of BD-friendly production systems and increases the risk of ecosystem fragmentation and wildfires.    1. In addition to previously reported initiatives to address climate change risks, in this reporting period the Project +Water+Identity was finalized. Its main objective was to encourage good practices and institutional arrangements for the sustainable use of the natural resources of the pampa biome: soil, native forest and water sources. Performed activities are aligned with climate change adaptation measures in protected areas to increase the viability of BD-friendly production systems. More than 1400 ha of native forest are under conservation management considering adaptation for climate change and variability.    2. A specific Chapter for Climate Change approach in protected areas planning was included in the final draft of the "SNAP´s Protected Areas Planning Guidelines", which has been under revision during the project implementation.    3. A bi-national project (Argentina-Uruguay) was presented to Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina (CAF), aimed to introduced climate change adaptation measures based in ecosystems (NBS) in target zone Litoral Oeste. The climate change approach introduces (among other socio-environmental measures) the use of the hill (albardón) to absorb flooding impacts and the improvement of exotic species control that are spreading as a consequence of the climate variability. The project approval will be defined in next August. |
| Political | Risk: Limited commitment among policy makers at national, regional or local levels to the introduction of fiscal and other incentives for conservation.    Besides the achievement of the amendments to the law 17.234 (in 2017), aimed at enhancing efficiency of the implementation of the National Protected Area System Policy, the political risk persists as the Project's expected output related to "incentive schemes for resource management in accordance with PA sustainability" will not be fulfilled.    However, besides the strategies that have been implemented in previous years to address this risk (which continued during 2018-2019, in this reporting period a new approach was adopted based in the streghtening of the Communication Strategy: In 2018, the SNAP turned 10 years old. This milestone in the system consolidation process was an opportunity to develop an intense communication campaign. A cycle of activities was planned around a common objective: to generate a sense of pride and appropriation over protected areas to foster commitment and greater willingness to support the System, among different sectors of society, but focusing on policy makers and decision-making partners from different institutions and sectors (see also Overall Assessment). |
| Organizational | Risk: Limited or lack of support from private land users and managers.    1.  The project implemented in collaboration with the NGO Vida Silvestre Uruguay in the Northern Canyons target zone, aimed to identify private land users motivations for private conservations initiatives, finalized in this period. The results were considered for the development of a SNAP General Strategy for the promotion of a privately owned reserves network; strategy that is now better supported after the SNAP´s law amendments approved in 2017.    2.  The forestry company UPM-FOSA is developing the Management Plan for Esteros y Algarrobales del río Uruguay protected area (draft to be finished and presented for approval at the end of 2019). The Plan includes criteria for the design and management for priority conservation areas located in forestry plantations, both in protected areas and in surrounding landscapes. This document is expected to serve as a methodological reference to other forestry companies operating in protected areas and surrounding landscapes. |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| According to the new closing date (December 2019), the terminal evaluation will be carried out in the second semester of 2019. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| There were no delays during this reporting period. The project will end on December 2019 so during the second half of this year (October 2019), the final evaluation of the project will be held, for which the UNDP is preparing the Terms of Reference. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| As mentioned by the other PIR contributors, there were no delays in this reporting period in key project milestones. The TE will be carried out as planned before the project closure date of December, 2019 and to this end, Terms of Reference are already being prepared. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | Being the last year of Project implementation, many relevant activities aimed at the fulfillment of the Project´s objectives were finalized and important progress was made toward achieving the target level of the Project's indicators.    General Objective:    The Project promoted several agreements with key institutions that have been central to achieving expected results in the territories not directly under the SNAP (Natinional Protected Areas System) administration, including the landscape approach.  The adopted strategy based on the joint work with other international cooperation projects under implementation in the same target zones, allowed for a greater presence of SNAP in agricultural and livestock activities located in protected areas and landscapes, and a better opportunity for the integration of biodiversity conservation concepts among producers of surrounding landscapes.    Outcome 1:    a) Strengthening and expanding the communication strategy  The concentration of activities around the "10 years of SNAP" campaign was the appropriate space to implement the enhanced and expanded SNAP Communication Strategy that had been developed during previous years as one of the main Project outputs. A communication plan specially designed for this celebration was developed and implemented, involving various strategies and approaches to reach all sectors of the population, including the political level. SNAP had wide visibility throughout the year in different media, activities took place that involved various institutions linked to conservation and sustainable production, and neighbors of local communities were convened: producers, tourist operators, children, volunteers, visitors and inhabitants of protected areas and their landscapes. Natural heritage was placed in a direct link with cultural heritage.  1. The book "The first 10 years of SNAP" was published and widely distributed. http://www.mvotma.gub.uy/ambiente/conservacion-de-ecosistemas-y-biodiversidad/areas-protegidas/areas-protegidas/documentos/publicaciones/item/10011602-primera-decada-del-snap  2. The main diffusion main event held in September 2019 was broadcasted from the Blanes Museum by various TV channels. Both the book and the event focused on the dissemination of the benefits generated by SNAP, the relevance of ecosystem services at the landscape level, and the value of the natural and cultural resources that are conserved by the System.  3. The events "A Single Heritage" were held as part of Las Llamadas (carnival parade). Partnering natural heritage with cultural heritage displays (like tango and candombe), enabled the recognition and value of SNAP to be strengthened as part of the national identity and heritage.  Learned lessons from this campaign and its results are currently being used to improve the national protected areas system communication strategy both at the national and area level.    b) Raising awareness of BD-friendly practices among producers in target zones  The inter-institutional cooperation for the implementation of various multi-stakeholder projects and agreements (including the public sector, private land owners, family local producers and managers) enabled progress in implementing programs to support production systems that are respectful of biodiversity.    The Project played a crucial role by facilitating SNAP staff participation in the projects, as co-designers of the adopted methodologies and supervisors of project implementation and impact assessment. As a result, the projects´ resources were partially allocated to pilot cases in the GEF Project Target Zones aiming at the fulfilment of Project objectives and introduction of sustainable productive practices in protected areas and landscapes.    (i) The More Technology Project (MGAP) was implemented, which through a participatory research methodology of sustainable practices in the natural field, allowed the knowledge to be deepened and measures to be implemented related to: restoration of natural fields, weed management in natural fields, incorporation of native species, among others. This work was carried out with producers of protected areas and landscapes in Quebradas del Norte and Lagunas Costeras; ii) the “Participatory assessment of land degradation in grasslands and grazing systems and sustainable land management” Project (MGAP – MVOTMA – FAO) strengthened the capacity of livestock producers to assess soil degradation and make informed decisions for sustainable soil management with the aim of preserving the various ecosystems provided by pastures. iii) The +Water+Identity project (Valle del Lunarejo, Quebradas del Norte) (SNAP-INDRA-Rivera Government) completed the implementation phase during this period: a total amount of 2,500 ha of native forest are currently under restoration and 25 livestock and forest producers have received incentives, financial and technical support for the implementation of native forest recovery measures, designed accordingly to their land characteristics and environmental situation.  Two research reports were published in collaboration with other institutions: a mapping of cultivated areas under sustainable production systems focused on ecosystem integrity; and a study of ecosystem services restoration based on native pasture in Montes del Queguay.    c) Improving capacities of staff related to planning and management in PAs and surrounding landscapes  Although it is a young system when compared with others in the region, in its 10 years of development, and especially through the implementation of the "Paisaje and SNAP Project", the SNAP has developed specific strengths that are highly valued at a regional level by other protected areas systems. As a result, the involvement of SNAP Uruguay in South-South cooperation projects is increasing every year, leading to better opportunities to learn from other countries´ experiences, and strengthen SNAP´s weaknesses. During this reporting period, the Project supported SNAP´s participation in the following cooperation projects :  i) One of the distinctive characteristics of SNAP is related to the design and development of different strategies for improving capacities for conservation planning and management in protected areas and surrounding landscapes. In November 2018, SNAP Uruguay organized the IV Annual Meeting of the Latin American Network for Technical Cooperation of National Parks and Other Protected Areas of Flora and Wildlife (Redparques) and introduced this topic as a central topic in the Agenda. The Redparques Council agreed on creating the Thematic Group for Capacity Development, which will be led by SNAP-Uruguay. The purpose of this group is to generate a workplan to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of individual and institutional capacity-building actions of the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region through reflection, planning, sharing resources and lessons learned.  ii) Cooperation Project: SNAP (Uruguay) - National Service of Protected Natural Areas of Peru (SERNANP). "Strengthening the capacities in management for sustainable tourism and other productive activities in protected areas, with special focus on valuation of ecosystem services provided by protected natural areas". Four missions were held: In June 2018, Peruvian technicians came to Uruguay to learn about SNAP's approach and experience in the management of natural grassland in protected areas and surrounding landscapes. In September, Uruguayan technicians went to Peru to improve their competencies to address tourism development in protected areas and the design of value chains based on products from protected areas (related to the Peruvian strategy "Heritage from Perú"). In September, Uruguayan technicians visited Peru to share experiences of pasture management and strategies applied for promoting the sustainable production of livestock and real tourism activities in landscapes. In May, Peruvian technicians visited Uruguay to jointly work on the definition of the tourism strategy in a pilot area.  iii) As part of the Cooperation Project: Uruguay – Chile “Strengthening institutional capacities for the sustainable use of oceans and seas, with emphasis on marine protected areas and adaptation to climate change”, the second mission was carried out in Uruguay, involving 3 technical representatives from Chile (Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Sernapesca and the Ministry of the Environment). Three marine areas were visited, including Laguna de la Rocha in the Lagunas Costeras target zone. Afterwards (in December), a video conference was held to identify the pilot cases to be developed, which could be applied in marine protected areas of both countries, with an emphasis on monitoring, environmental education programs, and training and capacity building of local leaders.  iv) Cooperation Project: SNAP (Uruguay) - National Parks of Colombia. One field trip in Uruguay was carried out in this period. Three delegates from Parques Nacionales de Colombia and the National Board for Peasant Compromise visited protected areas in Uruguay /Esteros de Farrapos and Laguna de Rocha to better understand the Uruguayan experience in the management of socio-environmental conflicts in protected natural areas and surroundings. Cases were presented related to: coordination among national and departmental levels for land use planning (Litoral oeste and Lagunas Costeras target zones); agreements with local producer organizations for the production, conservation, regulation and collective use of natural grassland in protected areas (Esteros de Farrapos).    Outcome 2:    a) Ensuring effective stakeholder participation in PA management.  The process of institutionalization of the Special Advisory Commissions (CAEs) in the 6 areas located in the target zones was completed. In this period, Laguna Garzón and Esteros y Algarrobales established their respective Special Advisory Commissions. In the case of Laguna Garzon, where political and institutional issues have delayed the establishment of the Area Administrative Body, an agreement for the joint administration of the area (formed by Maldonado Department, Rocha Department and MVOTMA) was signed and the key milestone in this process was the active participation of local stakeholders who requested the establishment of the CAE and actively participated in the meetings (about 40 people per meeting). The plans for improving governance in Esteros de Farrapos, Laguna de Rocha and Valle del Lunarejo were fully implemented. The frequency of meetings improved: 13 were held in the last 10 months, and the level and diversity of stakeholder participation and their effectiveness improved and the issues covered by the CAEs are more diverse. In this period, the members of the CAEs of the three protected areas of Litoral Oeste target zone, after following a training process through different workshops, are actively participating in decision-making in the identification of target objects of conservation, development of a hierarchy of threats, and other key aspects to include in the management plans of Esteros de Farrapos, Montes del Queguay and Esteros and Algarrobales del Río Uruguay.    b) Incorporating the landscape approach in protected areas management plans  The process of updating the "Protected Areas Planning Guidelines" document is complete. The final draft is ready for legal revision and approval. For the preparation of these guidelines, several workshops were carried out as part of the preparation of the management plans in the protected areas of the Litoral Oeste target zone (Esteros y Algarrobales, Montes del Queguay and update of Esteros de Farrapos Management Plan), in order to assess the viability of the new criteria and proposed new guidelines, leading to direct benefits for both processes (i.e., the process of development of the guidelines and of the management plans): the new proposed guidelines were already validated, and staff in charge of the planning process were trained in the use of the new planning tool while actively contributing to its development.    Currently three management plans are being prepared in the protected areas of the Litoral Oeste: Montes del Queguay: In January and April 2019, two workshops were carried out for the threat analysis in the protected area and surroundings and for the definition of management strategies. At the same time, the Paysandú Departmental Government started the process of developing a local spatial plan for the microregion of Montes del Queguay, enabling the joint (SNAP and Intendancy) definition of spatial development strategies in complementary legal tools at the national and local level. The management plan final draft will be ready by the end of 2019. UPM, a private forestry company, is leading the management plan for Esteros y Algarrobales del Río Uruguay. Conservation objects were identified, and the first draft was presented to the CAE. In this plan, criteria for the mainstreaming of landscape-wide biodiversity considerations are included, a relevant reference for other forestry companies located in the target zones. The revision and update of the Esteros de Farrapos management plan is taking advantage of these new issues considered for Montes del Queguay and Esteros y Algarrobales. In addition, a spatial master plan was developed for the microregion San Javier-Nuevo Berlín by the Rio Negro Departmental Government including biodiversity conservation issues at a landscape level, allowing a set of complementary plans for the spatial development of the target zone. It is worth mentioning that a Public Use Plan is being developed as part of the update process of the management plan.    c) Environmental education and communication programmes in support of participation and governance  Within the framework of the 10th year of the SNAP, the "Protected areas are shown" strategy was implemented, with various activities carried out in the target zones as part of the communication and dissemination plan. Litoral Oeste: In Montes del Queguay 40 people participated as volunteers in the planting of trees in the surroundings of the Visitor Center. Esteros de Farrapos showed, in an open accountability event, what had been achieved in the 10 years since its creation and discussed new challenges in the future. The "Nature Detectives" photo contest was organized and the winners were announced at the event. Lagunas costeras: In Laguna de Rocha, neighbors and social organizations participated in the maintenance of trail infrastructure and signage. In Laguna Garzón, volunteers and social organizations collaborated to build a natural barrier that prevents vehicles from entering the beach. During the National Natural Field Day we toured pastures and productive systems, visiting productive establishments of the target zone and the Laguna de Rocha protected area . Quebradas del Norte: An exchange was carried out between children in protected areas. In this context, the students of the School Group of Quebradas del Norte visited the Rincón de Franquía protected area .    d) Developing the capacities for surveillance  One of the main priorities of the Project, the consolidation of the National Park´s Ranger Body (CNG) continued its consolidation, achieving new targets in the fulfillment of its vigilance and control role. Currently, 37 park rangers are formally certified by MVOTMA. In order to improve their capacities, six rangers were awarded with scholarships to participate in the Wildlife First Aid (WFA) course with international accreditation: “First Aid in remote locations” and another 4 rangers participated in the Nautical Course aimed to obtaining the Navigation Brevet organized and funded by the PPD (SGP) project. The inter-institutional relations are also being formalized and standardized in order to ensure their sustainability and replicability. Two training workshops (Litoral Oeste and Lagunas Costeras) for the improvement of capacities in control and surveillance procedures in specific protected areas with a focus on improving the knowledge about the competencies of institutions with applicable jurisdiction in target zones were implemented; aiming at the recognition of specific prohibited activities in the mentioned protected areas, and improving coordination strategies with institutions involved in control and surveillance at the national and local levels. The activity was implemented in coordination with the Biodiversity Division (MVOTMA) and the General Directorate of Forests (MGAP). The target audience was SNAP local staff, DINAMA staff from the Department of Species Control and Biosecurity, local staff from the Ministry of the Interior (local police and community police) and the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fishery (MGAP).    2. Annual Workplan    The Project Annual Workplan for 2018 was elaborated according to the Project Logical Framework and also included as part of the general SNAP Division Annual Working Plan, which addresses the "SNAP Strategic Plan 2015-2020" structure. As was mentioned in previous reports, this approach adds complexity to the planning process, but both working plans gain in strength.    The SNAP Division 2018 Annual Plan included 12 highlighted goals (out of 15 for the whole plan) directly related to "Landscape and SNAP Project" outputs. Out of these, 11 were fully achieved. The output not fully implemented is the updating of the Esteros de Farrapos management plan, including the development of the Public Use Plan. The planning process for this protected area is still undergoing. In 2019, the Perú-Uruguay cooperation project "Capacity building in sustainable tourism management and alternative productive activities" partially supported this process, within the framework of the assessment of the ecosystem services of the Protected Natural Areas of Uruguay and Peru. In this period 3 technical staff from SNAP visited Peru in order to share experiences and improve their capacities to address tourism planning in protected areas and better understand value chain components based on products from protected areas.This experience will enrich the management plan updating process and the development of the Public Use Plan for this protected area.    3. Main risks addressed    a) One of the observations that arose from the Mid-Term Review was the need to diversify the use of communication and collaboration channels between SNAP teams (and other institutions) that had limited opportunities for interaction and exchange of management experiences given that they are distributed in remote territories,. In this reporting period the virtual interaction platform Go to meeting (videoconferences and webinar) was created and the necessary equipment was acquired allowing meetings with multiple attendees distributed throughout the national territory.    b) As mentioned in the previous PIR, some risks were identified for the achievement of synergies among this Project and the “Development of sustainable modalities of production and consumption of goods and services in the protected areas of the Uruguayan SNAP and its surrounding territory“ project, funded by French Facility for the Global Environment. In this reporting year, the FFEM project advanced and the respective project teams have regular meetings for the coordination of activities in relation to public use planning and development of value chain components for tourism, fishery and meat products in target zones. In addition, the design of indicators for monitoring the fishery value chain in Lagunas Costeras target zone advanced. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The Project showed relevant progress in applying the landscape approach to management, strengthening the effectiveness of protected areas management and the effectiveness of key stakeholders with a focus on the forestry, cattle and tourism areas.    In this annual period, the Project Board met three times, on 4 October 2018, 22 November and 31 May.    The implementation progress of this project is adequate, as its cumulative delivery rate is 88% of its budget. A delivery rate of 100% is expected for the project at its completion. During the second half of this year, the terminal evaluation of the project will be carried out, for which the UNDP is preparing the Terms of Reference. The Project Management Unit has a relatively small team which is very efficient in the attainment of the project goals. The government ownership of this project is absolute, and the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment interacts with numerous other ministries, including the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Tourism. The Project Board is effective as the governance mechanism. It is truly plural in its composition and it is functioning smoothly so far. The level and effectiveness of adaptive management and risk management are pertinent.    Outcome 1    The capacities of staff related to planning, management and enforcement of protected areas have been strengthened through training workshops and courses. This included staff of the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment, Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Ministry of the Interior, protected areas, rangers, land owners and the private sector. Some of the topics of the workshops were: improving knowledge about the competencies of institutions with jurisdiction in the target zones, improving coordination strategies with institutions involved in control and surveillance at the national and local levels, urban development in Protected Areas and awareness-raising on native forest and ecosystem services.    The expected end-of-Project target level for self-generated revenues has already been achieved and surpassed by 12%, as the target was to raise USD 308,250 and the total amount raised was USD 347,000. The revenues were generated by payments for the grazing of cattle and tourism in Protected Areas.    Outcome 2    In this period, Laguna Garzón and Esteros y Algarrobales del Río Uruguay established their respective Special Advisory Commissions (CAE). As a result, all 6 protected areas included in the Project target zones now have CAEs, with functioning mechanisms for feedback and evaluation of effectiveness.    One new land use plan for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in Montes del Queguay was developed, in the Western Littoral target zone.    South-South cooperation activities in this period included technical exchange with the National Service of Protected Natural Areas of Peru about pasture management and strategies applied for promoting sustainable production of livestock and ecotourism, cooperation with the Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the Ministry of the Environment of Chile about marine protected areas of both countries, with an emphasis on monitoring, environmental education programs, and training and capacity building of local leaders, and the cooperation with the National Parks and National Peasant Compromise Board of Colombia about the management of socio-environmental conflicts in protected natural areas and surroundings zones.    Futhermore, with the support of the project SNAP Uruguay organized the IV Annual Meeting of the Latin American Network for Technical Cooperation of National Parks, Other Protected Areas of Flora and Wildlife (Redparques).    Regarding gender, the Project supported the creation of female-managed entrepreneurial ventures in the target zones. Some of them are a restaurant in an artisanal fisheries community, the preparation and marketing of native fruit jam and honey, and tourism ventures.    In relation to improving the lives of inhabitants of local communities, producers and organizations, the most significant achievements are related to the fostering of local economic development through training, collaborative research and dissemination of good practices among farmers and small cattle producers, to implement sustainable productive systems based on the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem service protection together with the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, FAO and private sector (Coca Cola Company and land owners).    In all the target zones progress was achieved regarding topics such as restoration and weed management in grasslands, exotic invasive species control in riverine woods (Gleditsia triacanthos), the implementation of accessible interpretation trails for ecotourism, sustainable soil management and conservation of native forest. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | Progress toward Development Objectives- Satisfactory (S)    The project objective is for the Uruguayan Protected Areas System (SNAP) to incorporate a landscape approach to management, strengthening the effectiveness of PAs as nuclei for the conservation of globally important species and ecosystems. The project is granted a rating of Satisfactory in terms of progress toward its Development Objectives, meaning that it is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure and can be presented as 'good practice'. This rating is consistent with the rating provided by the Project Manager and the UNDP Country Office and with the rating I provided last year on DO Progress.    In terms of Outcome 1, "System level protected area frameworks consolidated to adopt the landscape approach”, the project raised awareness of BD-friendly practices among producers in target zones, working closely with other projects funded by international cooperation to support their implementation, to ensure that actions were carried out in the project´s target zones, and to maximize impact. These projects involved multiple stakeholders such as the public sector, private landowners, family local producers and managers.    The project also played an important role in strengthening the capacities of staff in terms of the planning and management of PAs and surrounding landscapes. Some of the topics of the workshops held included: improving knowledge about the competencies of institutions with jurisdiction in the target zones, improving coordination strategies with the institutions involved in control and surveillance at the national and local levels, urban development in PAs and awareness-raising on native forest and ecosystem services.    Despite the barriers faced in terms of gaps in the enabling environment with regard to incentives for private sector conservation and despite the expanding national protected areas system, the project continued to work to promote private conservation, to increase the PA revenue stream and reduce the SNAP financial gap. The target in terms of the annual amount of self-generated revenues at the area level being managed by protected areas administrators has been surpassed.    This year saw a substantial emphasis on supporting a strong communication strategy on the part of the project team, which served to raise awareness about the National Protected Areas System and the services it provides. As such, the project supported the "10 years of SNAP" campaign, which included a book on the first ten years of SNAP and a main event that was disseminated by TV channels, with the aim of increasing the visibility of SNAP with decision makers, among other audiences.    Progress was made on various fronts under Outcome 2, “Protected area management integrated with adjacent landscapes”. This included the completion of the process of institutionalizing the Special Area Commissions (CAEs) in the six protected areas located in the target zones. These CAEs are meeting regularly and play a vital role in ensuring effective stakeholder participation in PA management. Environmental education and communication programmes supporting participation and governance have been carried out. In addition, the landscape approach is being incorporated in protected areas management plans and three management plans are currently being prepared in the protected areas of the Litoral Oeste and in Lagunas Costera and one management plan is being updated. The project supported training and workshops to strengthen the capacities for PA monitoring and control. Moreover, the process of updating the "Protected Areas Planning Guidelines" document has been finalized. One new land use plan for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation was developed for San Javier and Nuevo Berlin and work is ongoing on a second local spatial plan for Montes del Queguay.    It is important to note that the project will be measuring the Objective-level environmental impact indicators over the coming months, including the area and condition of natural pasture habitat, the condition of other natural ecosystems, and incidence of invasive alien species. In order to work toward these targets, the project carried out activities to enhance livestock practices for the conservation of natural ecosystems and to control Gleditsia triacanthos, among others.    It is worth noting that the project has been very effective at facilitating effective South-South exchange, including with Peru, Chile and Colombia. These exchanges serve as positive experiences to strengthen PA planning, management and governance throughout the region. In addition, the project supported SNAP´s organization of the IV Annual Meeting of the Latin American Network for Technical Cooperation of National Parks, Other Protected Areas of Flora and Wildlife (Redparques), which featured the participation of 19 countries.    The project continues to recognize the importance of gender mainstreaming in its activities. In addition to its earlier support for the establishment of two female-run businesses, various activities were carried out in this reporting period, such as support for two female producers to showcase their products in the main event of the "10 years of the SNAP" campaign. There is substantial participation of women within the Coordinating Commission of the National Rangers Body, management positions of SNAP and as chairs of the Special Advisory Commissions. Furthermore, gender considerations were included in the final draft of SNAP´s Protected Areas Planning Guidelines.    The project worked effectively with a number of other partners to increase its impact, including in terms of enabling SNAP´s participation in various projects funded by other donors. It has also partnered with civil society organizations, the Small Grants Program and the private sector.    Implementation Progress- Moderately Satisfactory (MS)    The project has been granted a rating of Moderately Satisfactory on Implementation Progress. This is because cumulative financial delivery, the timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are mostly on track and the project is well managed. This rating is consistent with the rating provided by the Country Office but represents a slight decrease compared to the rating of Satisfactory that I gave last year, as a result of minor delays in financial delivery in 2019.    Cumulative project delivery stands at 88%, with 5 months remaining until closure. The project team will need to plan the final activities carefully to ensure that they are executed on time. The delivery for 2018 stood at 73% and most of the activities included in last year´s annual work plan were carried out. The delivery this year so far is low at 8%; this is related to the late approval of the budgetary revision, however, the project has careful planning in place to spend the remaining GEF funds by December, 2019, the date of operational closure. It should be noted that the project continued to carry out activities for the first half of 2019 using co-financing from the Ministry of Housing, Land Management and the Environment (MVOTMA). In terms of AWP implementation in 2019, most of the activities included in the AWP for this year are being implemented and are expected to conclude in November, with the exception of two that have already been completed. Although progress is being made, there have been delays in systematizing the data on project indicators and biodiversity monitoring indicators, but it is expected that all the results will be ready by the end of the year.    The project is very well managed. In addition, as has been consistently the case throughout this project´s implementation, the level of government ownership is very high. The team at the National Environment Direction (DINAMA) is actively engaged in the implementation of the project and the project is fully integrated into the Division´s Strategic Plan and program of work. Monitoring and evaluation are carried out diligently and the project employs a results-based approach. Various issues that were recommended in the MTR in 2017 have been taken into consideration, such as the importance of advancing on the promotion of private sector conservation within landscapes and the need to develop strategic guidance to manage tourism in protected areas and surrounding landscapes. In terms of monitoring, it should be noted that many of the project´s indicators will be measured in the coming months to determine the level of achievement of the end-of-project targets. These measurements will then feed into the Terminal Evaluation to be carried out at the end of this year.    Risk management is carried out effectively by the project team, and risk management measures put in place in so far as possible. The project has no critical risks. The risk of insufficient support from policy makers for fiscal and other incentives, and the risk of inadequate support from private land users continue to be relevant, but the project has worked to identify other ways to gain support for private conservation and to raise public awareness of the importance of the ecosystem services provided by PAs. Adaptive management has been employed throughout project implementation. Project governance is effective and there have been three Steering Committee meetings during this reporting period, two in conjunction with meetings of the National Protected Areas Committee. The participation of stakeholders in these meetings is strong.    The project team has recognized the importance of ensuring the sustainability of its results. To that end, it has worked to ensure that positions related to protected areas management and a landscape approach that were initiated through this project are institutionalized. A total of 10 new positions have been incorporated into the government structure as a result of the efforts of this project through open, competitive processes. This represents an important achievement to ensure that the human resources are in place to build upon the work implemented by the project. Other elements of the project´s strategy to ensure continuity after the GEF funds are used up at the end of this year include the fact that the project in and of itself still has one more year of funds from the Ministry and from the French Facility for the Global Environment (FFEM). Furthermore, with the support of UNDP, the National Environment Direction (DINAMA) within MVOTMA has successfully mobilized funds for a follow-up GEF-7 project that aims to further strengthen the systemic, financial and institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, and promote effective stewardship of private lands, among other elements. The project will include an important focus on increasing the economic incentives available for conservation, which has been one of the more challenging aspects for this project to address.    I would like to commend the government of Uruguay, the project team and the UNDP Country Office for a successfully implemented project that has played a key role in enhancing the role of protected areas as pillars of biodiversity conservation within the broader landscape. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

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

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN2:** gender equality as significant objective |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| N/A |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| / Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources  / Targeting socioeconomic benefits for women:    1.DINAMA-SNAP supported the female managed business La Cocina de la Barra to participate in a call for competitive funds promoted by the Gender Commission of MVOTMA. The group obtained the funds and carried out a meeting for women: Our link with La Laguna, in which the following questions were discussed: How do we bond as women with the Lagoon? How do we interact (as women) with that living environment that is the Lagoon?  La Cocina de la Barra is a restaurant established and managed by women from the artisanal fishers community in Laguna de Rocha PA (Coastal Lagoons target zone).    2. The main event of the campaign &quot;10 years of the SNAP&quot; (held at the Museo Blanes) offered the opportunity for producers of protected areas to share their experiences as producers in a protected area and showcase (and sell) their products and services. Two female producers were selected: Ana Maria brought samples of her jams from Arazá produced in Quebradas de los Cuervos and showcased her tourism venture in the Sierras del Yerbal. Silvia came from the surrounding landscape of Esteros de Farrapos and brought samples of her native forest honey. In addition, the catering service was provided by “La cocina de La Barra” from Lagunas Costeras. See the last paragraph in: https://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10011599-una-decada-del-snap    3. The Project Paisaje y SNAP supported the development of a bi-national project proposal (Argentina-Uruguay) presented to the Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina (CAF), aimed to introduce ecosystem-based climate change adaptation measures (NBS) in the Litoral Oeste target zone. Among the proposed strategies to be developed by the project is the diversification of economic activities among the cattle producers by integrating their families in alternative businesses (such as tourism). This strategy aims both to adopt climate change adaptation measures and to promote gender equality among local communities in access to natural resources.    4. A specific gender perspective approach was included in the final draft of &quot;SNAP´s Protected Areas Planning Guidelines&quot;, to promote consideration of women´s access to resources and economic benefits derived from their sustainable use.    / Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance:    1. The promotion of gender equality among rangers that has been encouraged by the Project over the last years, has had direct results within the National Rangers Body: a) A female ranger proposed herself as representative of the National Rangers Body to the Coordinating Commission and was elected by her male peers. In addition, the representation of DINAMA to the Coordinating Commission is composed of 3 women and 1 man b).The Uruguayan Association of Park Rangers proposed the creation of a Gender Commission and invited SNAP to join the initiative.    2. The presence of women in the highest positions of local participatory structures continued during this reporting period: 50% of the highest management positions at SNAP are occupied by women, including the Director of the SNAP Division. Out of the 7 CAEs (Special Advisory Commissions) functioning in the project's target zones, 4 are chaired by women. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| Strengthening the participation of women in the implementation of new economic activities in protected areas and surrounding landscapes has increasingly promoted the sustainable use of resources from protected areas. On the one hand, because women-driven activities tend to diversify the type of use of natural resources, this reduces the pressure derived from the intensive exploitation associated with a single activity. Examples of this diversification are Flor de Lana in Valle del Lunarejo, Cocina de la Barra in Laguna de Rocha, and multiple tourist ventures located in the 3 target zones.  Likewise, these new ventures contribute to strengthening larger product-value chains and thus increase the economic resilience of local communities.    Women have also demonstrated a great capacity for participation in dialogue and decision-making structures, leading to a greater commitment to the environment and a greater knowledge of the resources that must be protected, not only among themselves but also within the communities to which they belong. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

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

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| n/a |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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

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| **SESP:** [PIMS 4832 BD Uruguay SNAP II ESSP Checklist and Summary November 17th 2013.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4832/213593/1717938/1724711/PIMS%204832%20BD%20Uruguay%20SNAP%20II%20ESSP%20Checklist%20and%20Summary%20November%2017th%202013.docx)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| Not Applicable |

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

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| Landscape and SNAP Project aims to consolidate the landscape approach in SNAP management, by strengthening the effectiveness of protected areas as centers for the conservation of biodiversity. The direct beneficiaries of this project are a) rural communities, farmers, cattle producers and artisanal fishers, farmers organizations and local tourist operators in the target zones; and b) SNAP Division staff, PA administrators and technical staff, institutions such as MGAP, MINTUR, departmental governments and other divisions of MVOTMA.    1. In relation to improvements in the lives of the first group of beneficiaries (local communities, producers and organizations), the most significant achievements are related to the fostering of local economic development through training, collaborative research and dissemination of good practices among farmers and small cattle producers for the implementation of sustainable productive systems based on the respectful use of natural resources and ecosystem services.    The following activities were implemented through inter-agency coordination and the synergistic implementation of this Project´s resources jointly with other international cooperation funds. This collaborative implementation strategy allowed not only for a better and efficient use of the project´s resources, but also for a greater presence of SNAP in agricultural and livestock activities located in protected area landscapes and a better opportunity for the integration of biodiversity conservation concepts among producers of protected areas and surrounding landscapes.    The Project funded SNAP co-participation in the following activities:    a) More Technologies for Family Production Project, promoted by the MGAP (through the IDB 2595/ OC-UR Rural Productive Development Program), which seeks to expand the availability of appropriate technologies for family production, promote dialogue and the integration of knowledge (academic and local), achieving mutual learning based on local problems. SNAP supported producers participating in 2 projects:    “Alternatives to the sustainable management of the natural grassland in family farming. Sierras del Este&quot;. In this case a participatory research methodology of sustainable practices in natural grassland allowed knowledge to be deepened and measures to be implemented related to natural grassland restoration, weed management in natural fields, incorporation of native species, involving the engagement of local producers of the Lagunas Costeras target zone, both in protected areas and the surrounding landscapes. In this project the following were also involved: Sociedad de Fomento Rural Ruta 109, the Eastern Regional University Centre (CURE / FAGRO / UdelaR) and the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA).    “Productive and environmental assessment of non-traditional grazing strategies on natural grassland in family livestock productive units.&quot; The project aimed to quantitatively evaluate productive, socio-technical and environmental changes that occurred on production units implementing non-traditional grazing strategies and compare them to neighbors’ units managed under traditional grazing. To assess these changes, the properties were quantitatively compared over time (before and after their conversion to the new grazing system). The activity was carried out with producers of Quebradas del Norte, in coordination with the Uruguayan Association of Livestock on Grassland (AUGAP), the Alianza del Pastizal NGO and the Faculty of Agronomy (UdelaR), among other institutions.    In both cases, the required tests were carried out on the lands of family producers promoting the active role of local producers and their families in the test’s implementation, registration of results and dissemination of lessons learned.      b) GCP/GLO/530/GFF Project: “Participatory analysis of land degradation and sustainable land management in grasslands and grazing systems”, promoted by MGAP – MVOTMA – FAO. The objective of the project was to strengthen the capacity of producers involved in grazing on grassland areas to assess soil degradation and make informed decisions for sustainable soil management with the aim of preserving the various ecosystems provided by pastures. Based on a participatory method that integrates academic and technical knowledge with the experience of producers and field workers, common criteria of evaluation and conservation were agreed upon. A number of training workshops for the identification of conservation / degradation status indicators and good practices for grassland use and conservation were held with the participation of local cattle producers in Quebradas del Norte and Lagunas Costeras.      c) The ECCOSUR project URU 16/G/32, implemented by MVOTMA in coordination with NGOs and departmental governments, with the support of the Uruguay Small Grants Programme (PPD/MVOTMA/MINTUR/FMAM/UNDP), made a call for socio-environmental management projects. SNAP supported the participation of rural producers from the Lagunas Costeras target zone for the initiative &quot;Promoting improvements in the management of the natural grassland with family cattle producers from Sierras del Este”: Society for Rural Development of Route 109. The project will be implemented in the coming months.      d). The +Water+Identity project (Valle del Lunarejo, Quebradas del Norte), funded by Coca Cola International and implemented by the NGO INDRA in coordination with SNAP and the Rivera Government completed its implementation phase during this period. The specific objectives were: i) to strengthen good farming practices in partnership with 35 rural producers (from the cattle and forestry sectors) and b) to recover and preserve at least 3000 hectares of native forest areas and soils. Beside these objectives the project also supported tourism activity through the implementation of accessible interpretation trails for ecotourism. In addition, it was decided by participant producers to design (in accordance with the SNAP signage manual) a specific sign to identify land plots where conservation measures were implemented. This initiative was particularly innovative as it was the first funding cooperation achieved at the PA management level without the support of SNAP central management.  Project funds were allocated to SNAP´s human resources required to support the project implementation in the field.    e) Various activities for the improvement of capacities for sustainable productive systems were held in Laureles-Cañas (Quebradas del Norte), with local producers of the future protected area. The training component of the “Sheep Project” was implemented and aimed at sheep management and improvement of meat and wool marketing knowledge (in collaboration with the Uruguayan Secretariat of Wool). In addition, a workshop was held in conjunction with IICA and the Development Board (Mesa de Desarrollo) for awareness-raising on ecosystem services, aimed at groups of neighbors of Laureles-Cañas.      2. Related to the second group of beneficiaries (staff of the SNAP and other institutions working coordinately with SNAP staff):    a. Institutionalization of the Project through SNAP staff qualification    An important issue of the Landscape and SNAP Project is to achieve the sustainability of results over time. To this end, the institutionalization of knowledge and good management practices acquired and developed during the project´s implementation is being achieved through the institutionalization of the Project´s temporary staff. In this reporting period 3 professionals who had been temporarily hired for Project implementation, were permanently hired and joined SNAP´s team: one as Regional Director of SNAP for the West Coast and two as park rangers (West Coast and Coastal Lagoons). Thus far, 10 members of the staff originally hired by the Project were fully incorporated as part of the permanent staff of SNAP. This achievement ensures not only the institutionalization of the acquired knowledge, but the continuity of the tasks needed to achieve the Project´s objectives and sustain its results over time. The benefits are evident not only at a system level, by improving the quality and quantity of SNAP's technical staff qualified in the landscape approach for PA management, but at the individual level, as a result of the project-driven improvement of personal capabilities in PA management.    The Project implementation demonstrated the relevance of the landscape approach in SNAP management and, as a result, the need to incorporate new personnel with specific capabilities to ensure the sustainability of the project´s results.    b. New IT technologies to facilitate staff functions    One of the observations and suggestions made in the Mid-Term Review was the need to diversify the use of communication and collaboration channels between SNAP teams (and other institutions) that had limited opportunities for interaction and exchange of management experiences as a result of being distributed in remote territories. In this reporting period the virtual interaction platform &quot;Go to meeting&quot; (videoconferences and webinar) was created and the necessary equipment was acquired allowing meetings with multiple attendees distributed throughout the national territory. In this way, all SNAP technical teams in protected areas have access to agile media that enable more efficient use of their time and resources and improved capacities for collaborative work and the effective participation of all levels of management in SNAP decision-making.  This acquisition was fully supported by the Project.    c. Improving staff capacities for protected areas planning    The exchange of knowledge among peers, initiated in 2017 as part of the process of updating Protected Areas Planning Guidelines (reported also in the PIR 2017) continued in 2018 with different activities such as:    - Training workshops for the planning of protected areas    -Debates and sharing of local experiences, allowing the recognition of diverse type of knowledge and exchange of information of different management situations in protected areas, in order to build a unique planning framework at the system level (SNAP).    - Discussion workshops with different protected area CAEs for the agreement of definitions to be included in the Management Plans    These activities were fully supported by the Project. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| News and information was posted on DINAMA´s and other institutions´ accounts (Youtube, Twitter, Facebook)    1. 10 years of SNAP    https://ciencia.ladiaria.com.uy/articulo/2018/9/el-sistema-nacional-de-areas-protegidas-celebro-su-primera-decada/    Youtube Video: https://youtu.be/scowHwvXbs8    https://www.presidencia.gub.uy/comunicacion/comunicacionnoticias/snap-10-anios-alejandro-nario-dinama-avances-guardaparques-incorporacion-areas-protegidas  https://www.presidencia.gub.uy/comunicacion/comunicacionnoticias/snap-diez-anios-incorporacion-dos-primeras-areas-protegidas-eneida-de-leon-alejandro-nario  https://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10011688-10-anos-en-los-territorios    Activities in August 2018  http://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10011474-arrancamos-por-montes-del-queguay  https://www.eltelegrafo.com/2018/08/celebran-10-anos-del-snap-con-plantacion-de-especies-nativas-en-montes-del-queguay/  https://voluntariado.mides.gub.uy/noticia/plantacion-de-arboles-en-montes-del-queguay-paysandu    Activities in September 2018  https://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10011688-10-anos-en-los-territorios  https://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10011599-una-decada-del-snap  Youtube Video: https://youtu.be/eL6exC4fC-Y  https://www.elpais.com.uy/opinion/columnistas/hernan-sorhuet-gelos/emblematica-quebrada.html  Ten years Book  https://www.mvotma.gub.uy/ambiente/conservacion-de-ecosistemas-y-biodiversidad/areas-protegidas/areas-protegidas/documentos/publicaciones/item/10011602-primera-decada-del-snap    Activities in November 2018  https://www.eltelegrafo.com/2018/11/pedidos-de-incorporacion-voluntaria-avalan-los-beneficios-del-snap-afirmo-su-directora/  https://www.eltelegrafo.com/2018/11/celebran-los-10-anos-de-esteros-de-farrapos-y-su-incorporacion-al-snap/  https://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10011815-humedales-de-santa-lucia-festejo-10-anos-del-snap    Activities in February 2019 - Closing activity: &quot;Las Llamadas&quot; Parade  Videos  https://youtu.be/0YdswaXhTTc  https://youtu.be/qTH9Ran3tt4  Interviews  https://youtu.be/OKzA3lBDIXY  https://www.vtv.com.uy/aca-te-quiero-ver/biodiversidad-y-cultura-sistema-de-areas-protegidas-festeja-sus-10-anos-por-isla-de-flores/  Media notes:  https://youtu.be/RUQBLFsP0Z0  https://youtu.be/rtf2\_veR0wI  http://www.canal4.com.uy/programas/vespertinas/videos/unas-llamadas-naturales    https://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10012134-llamadas-por-la-naturaleza-nuestro-patrimonio  https://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10012001-cerramos-el-ano-en-laguna-garzon    2.  FAO - MGAP - MVOTMA project: Participatory Assessment of the Degradation and Sustainable Management of Grasslands. (the project funds the participation of SNAP to support implementation of this FAO project in target zones and supports achievement of the GEF project objectives.)    Livestock producers participate in the development of a protocol to assess the degradation of grasslands in Uruguay and promote its sustainable management  http://www.mgap.gub.uy/noticia/unidad-organizativa/direccion-general-de-recursos-naturales/11-12-2018/productores-ganaderos    Training and Guidance Workshop for &quot;Analysis of Priorities and Identification of Indicators for monitoring and information on processes related to the degradation of grassland&quot;.  http://www.fao.org/uruguay/noticias/detail/es/c/1147997/    http://www.fao.org/uruguay/noticias/detail/es/c/1069473/    TWITTER coverage  https://twitter.com/i/moments/1023994417575813122  https://twitter.com/FAOUruguay/status/1126581073796837376  https://twitter.com/FAOUruguay/status/1113798786663485442?      3. South-South Cooperation supported by the Project:    Uruguay - Chile: http://www.subpesca.cl/portal/617/w3-article-101420.html  Uruguay - Perú: http://www.sernanp.gob.pe/noticias-leer-mas/-/publicaciones/c/peru-y-uruguay-comparten-experiencias-en-turismo-sostenible-y-443301  Redparques: http://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10011771-representantes-de-areas-protegidas-de-la-region-se-reunieron-en-montevideo      4. TV Programs presenting protected areas  Tweet de @MonteCarloTV: https://twitter.com/MonteCarloTV/status/1101553207304769536?s=08    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DB0fqpcvgeI  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7cMG9fPPUo&list=PLFAbF5fnlR1S7D8\_Q8IeJxw\_MyRmxMOfx&index=14&t=165s  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmUtDpCPkrE&list=PLFAbF5fnlR1S7D8\_Q8IeJxw\_MyRmxMOfx&index=17  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5--cLWnK38&list=PLFAbF5fnlR1S7D8\_Q8IeJxw\_MyRmxMOfx&index=18  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iU6uX30kOA&list=PLFAbF5fnlR1S7D8\_Q8IeJxw\_MyRmxMOfx&index=19  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S96Z\_FVmvzo&list=PLFAbF5fnlR1S7D8\_Q8IeJxw\_MyRmxMOfx&index=20      5. News related to Project activities on different national and local media websites    +Agua+Identidad Project. Valle del Lunarejo  http://www.indra.org.uy/blog/index.php?category=%2BAgua\_%2BIdentidad  http://www.indra.org.uy/blog/index.php?1er-concurso-fotografico  https://www.coca-coladeuruguay.com.uy/historias/medio-ambiente-valle-del-lunarejo-al-rescate-del-monte-nativo-y-las-nacientes-de-agua  https://www.coca-coladeuruguay.com.uy/historias/medio-ambiente-valle-del-lunarejo--un-proyecto-de-conservacion-modelo-para-urug    Conservation on private lands:  http://www.uy.undp.org/content/uruguay/es/home/presscenter/articles/2018/12/blog\_areas\_protegidas\_F\_Scasso.html?\_lrsc=997155f9-bf82-44f1-86e8-8184021da8d7  Laguna de Rocha: https://ciencia.ladiaria.com.uy/articulo/2019/5/tan-pequenos-tan-importantes-investigacion-abordo-el-rol-del-crustaceo-neomysis-americana-en-la-laguna-de-rocha/  Park Rangers:: https://www.elobservador.com.uy/nota/entre-bosques-dunas-y-cazadores-la-vida-de-los-guardianes-de-los-parques-2019118174256  Tourism activities and employment: https://ladiaria.com.uy/articulo/2018/12/sello-profesional-un-llamado-a-baquianos-turisticos-permitira-detectar-sus-fortalezas-y-les-brindara-herramientas-para-su-empleabilidad/  Natural pasture / Grassland:  http://www.tardaguila.com.uy/site/index.php/es/informes-diarios/ganaderia/item/10420-por-primera-vez-se-celebro-el-dia-nacional-del-campo-natural  http://www.tardaguila.com.uy/site/index.php/es/informes-diarios/ganaderia/item/10427-por-que-un-dia-nacional-del-campo-natural  http://www.iica.int/es/prensa/noticias/d%C3%ADa-nacional-del-campo-natural      6. News related to Project´s activities on MVOTMA website    Eccosur Project. Small Grant Programme  https://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10012615-resultados-de-la-convocatoria-eccosur    FFEM Project in target zones  https://www.mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10012220-el-valor-diferencial-de-las-areas-protegidas    Biodiversity conservation in Valle del Lunarejo  http://mvotma.gub.uy/novedades/noticias/item/10012901-ayudar-a-la-naturaleza-nidales-para-garzas-en-valle-del-lunarejo    7. Project information on MVOTMA website  http://www.mvotma.gub.uy/portal/publicaciones-de-areas-protegidas/itemlist/category/404-proyectos-y-cooperacion.html |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 4832 Uruguay NPAS CEO request final.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4832/213593/1672943/1673224/PIMS%204832%20Uruguay%20NPAS%20CEO%20request%20final.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| In accordance with the document above, the most important mechanisms for ensuring the adequate and appropriate participation of stakeholders in the project were implemented during this reporting period. Other mechanisms, not mentioned here, but mentioned in previous reports are still in progress.    The Project Board met three times during this reporting period; two of the meetings were held jointly with the National Advisory Committee (CNA). Different issues were discussed in the meetings, such as periodic reports of activities and Project results, discussion and agreement on the design and implementation of the “10 years of SNAP” communication campaign, or the proposal for amendment of the Regulatory Decree 52/005, required to maintain coherence with recently approved amendments to Law 17.234, among others.    The Expanded Implementation Unit did not meet, but some of its members (MVOTMA, MGAP, MINTURD, Intendancies) met bilaterally or multilaterally for operational reasons when a coordinated action was needed for the implementation of joint activities. Examples are mentioned in Communicating Impact and DO Progress.    Special Advisory Commissions: All 6 protected areas included in the Project´s target zones have institutionalized their Special Advisory Commissions (CAE). In this period, Laguna Garzón and Esteros y Algarrobales (the remaining areas which did not have functioning CAEs) established their respective CAEs. A total of 13 meetings were held in the Project target zones from July 2018 to June 2019, with a large participation of local stakeholders. The most outstanding achievement of this period is the agreement for the establishment of the joint administration of Laguna Garzon (formed by Maldonado Department, Rocha Department and MVOTMA).    Environmental education and communication: The “10 years of SNAP” communication campaign was the most noteworthy activity and it was designed to reach different stakeholders at different levels, from national policy makers to local communities in protected area landscapes. See Communicating Impact for the media links and coverage. In addition, several TV programs were produced highlighting the values of protected areas (like En Foco or Periplo)    Ad hoc mechanisms for promoting participation and joint inspection and enforcement teams: Among other strategies it is worth mentioning the implementation of two training workshops at site level aimed at improving capacities in control and surveillance procedures in protected areas. The activity was implemented in coordination with the Biodiversity Division (MVOTMA) and the General Directorate of Forests (MGAP). The target audience was SNAP local officials, DINAMA staff from the Department of Species Control and Biosecurity, local staff from the Ministry of the Interior (local police and community police) and DINARA from the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP).    Building institutional agreements is a key issue for achieving results under a landscape approach in territories that are not directly under the administration of SNAP. The Project succeeded in strengthening the engagement of multiple stakeholders. However, the consolidation of the required agreements and the process of harmonizing the agendas of multiple stakeholders take time, which was not considered in the Project's original schedule and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. It is a lesson learned to take into account in future projects. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

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

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

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

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

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

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