

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Safeguarding Endangered Species**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4956 |
| GEF ID | 5089 |
| Title | Strengthening Management of the PA System to Better Conserve Endangered Species and their Habitats |
| Country(ies) | Mexico, Mexico |
| 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** |
| Mexico is a megadiverse country, which is home to a number of endangered and critically endangered species, the populations of some of which have been reduced to a few hundreds of individuals as the result of a range of pressures including land use change, habitat and ecosystem fragmentation, invasive species, overexploitation of natural resources and pollution. To address this problem, SEMARNAT, through CONANP, established the Programme for the Conservation of Endangered Species (PROCER), covering the period 2007-2012. PROCER recognises that the continued existence of these species is highly dependent on the existence of effectively managed protected areas in their remaining areas of natural distribution. As now framed, however, the PA system excludes critical habitats for these endangered species; second, PAs are too small to sustain populations of some endangered species, which move between PAs and unprotected habitats, meaning that there is a need to secure corridors and seasonal dispersal areas; and third, there is a need to strengthen threat managementÔÇöincluding through better enforcement. The solution to this situation will involve a strategic expansion in the PA system; management of critical habitats in the landscape as buffer areas by instituting a stewardship framework; engaging stakeholdersÔÇöprivate sector and communities to engage in stewardship, and developing incentives to encourage stewardship. This project will build on the achievements of PROCER, ensuring that instruments and capacities are established that will ensure the effective and sustainable functioning of these PAs with regards to the conservation of priority endangered species. Key aspects on which it will focus, in order to achieve this effectiveness and sustainability, are i) an ecosystem and landscape-wide approach to PA design, planning and management; ii) the involvement of local communities in the management of endangered species and their habitat; and iii) financial sustainability. |

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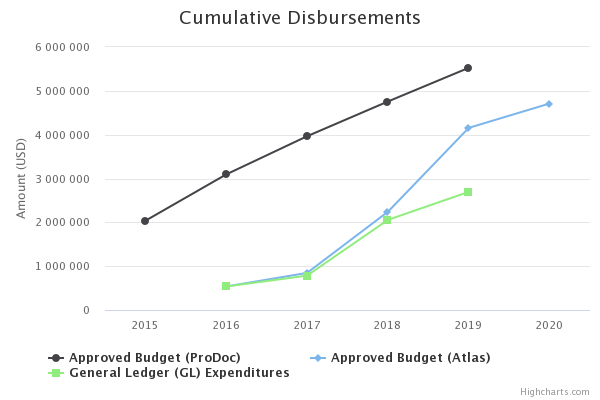
# Overall Ratings

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

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **PAs in Mexico contribute effectively to the conservation of endangered species** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Change in policy, institutional and regulatory conditions in support of conservation of endangered species. | 0 PAs have adequate operational capacity to implement the PROCER  The opinion of CONANP is not binding for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) results | *(not set or not applicable)* | 21 PAs have adequate operational capacity to implement the PROCER  Proposed amendment to the internal rules of the SEMARNAT such that the resolutions of the EIA reflect the opinion of CONANP | 13 PAs have strengthened their operational capacity for the implementation of PROCER. During the second semester of 2017 and the first semester of 2018, basic tools and materials were used to facilitate the implementation of actions, and 17 field technicians were incorporated to strengthen the operational capacity of CONANP for the species within the project. Nine additional PAs began implementation of actions in June 2017.    In collaborative work with PA directors, the needs of species have been identified through a review of what has been done, the current status and what is yet required to be achieved. This ensures that Work Plans complement the actions proposed by PROCER.    Regarding the regulatory framework, in 2016 it was determined that in order for CONANP's opinion to be binding, direct changes to the laws and regulations on environmental matters were required, not only at the level of internal regulations. Thus in 2016, a new biodiversity law was introduced by the chamber of deputies and senators, in which among other aspect, it aimed to make the opinion of CONANP binding: This law was approved by the Senate but it was detained in the House of Representatives (cámara de diputados). For the next administration, it is contemplated to make the necessary arrangements so that the opinions issued by the CONANP are binding. | 19 PAs have strengthened their operational capacity for the implementation of PROCER. During the 2018-2019 cycle, the 13 PAs that already had been strengthened continued to be so, in addition, 6 PAs were also strengthened by implementing multiannual priority management strategies, increasing the area under improved management in favor of endangered species conservation, impacting in biological corridors, increasing communitarian participation and benefits, as well as, generating local synergies with NGO’s governments. Some examples of the synergies are with Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México, Kutzari, Tarahumara Sustentable, Quintana Roo Government, Arizona Game and Fish Department, as well as other GEF Projects, such as Resiliencia and Paisajes Sustentables, amongst other actors.  The PAs have also been strengthened with 20 field officers and 6 field technicians who have strengthened operational capacities in 20 PAs by helping to implement the already mentioned actions in terms of habitat management, restoration and protected coverage increase, mitigation of threats and increasing communitarian participation and involvement towards to better conserve the species and its habitat.  The already reported biodiversity law (proposed in 2016), in which among other aspects aimed to make the opinion of CONANP become legally binding, it is still detained in the Chamber of Deputies.  A legal analysis will be concluded in the second half of 2019, since it is not in the Project’s nor CONANP’s attributions to make its opinion legally binding, other opportunity areas have been explored with CONANP’s legal department, therefore, it has been stablished that the analysis will also determine other the legal needs to strengthened PAs towards the species at risk conservation. |
| Change in CONANP’s financial capacity to address endangered species conservation | 0 Revolving fund. Financial resources governed by the norms and procedures of the Ministry of Finance; their availability does not relate to the timing of operational needs at the field level. Other resources are not predictable and/or available with the appropriate timing | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1 Revolving fund established (Fund for the Conservation of Endangered Species, FONCER) allowing timely access to resources  14 activities / projects supported by the Fund | Completed    The Species at Risk Conservation Fund (FONCER) was created with the 1 million contribution from GEF at the end of 2016. Progress has been made to achieve the 1 million contribution of the Government of Mexico to this financial instrument and it is expected it can be completed by the second semester of 2018.    The Technical Committee of FONCER was integrated, with the participation of 13 members. The committee is in the planning stage to set the rules to prioritize and channel resources according to the needs of the areas and the different species.    0 activities supported by the fund. The technical committee is in the process of proposing the rules for accessing resources for the implementation of actions for the conservation of species in the different PAs. It is expected to have a proposal to consult these bases in the second semester 2018. It is planned that the resources from the fund begin to be used once the established and authorized mechanisms of access to resources are in place (first semester 2019). Work is being done with the FMCN to prepare a proposal for the financial sustainability strategy. | As previously reported, the Species at Risk Conservation Fund (FONCER) was created at the end of 2016. Nevertheless, the contribution from the Mexican Government to the instrument has not been obtained yet, due to the budget limitations established by the new administration. Even though the project has provided inputs for the internal negotiations to achieve this commitment, it has not been possible at the moment. The project will support the design and implementation of a financial sustainability strategy, in order to support the Government of Mexico to comply with the full amount that was compromised for the FONCER through the attraction of private funds.  The Technical Committee of FONCER was integrated since 2017, with the participation of 13 members. The new government administration is reviewing the operation of the CTFONCER in order to identify if any modifications will be needed.  0 activities/projects supported by the Fund. So far, the FONCER does not meet the total amount established for the fund, due to the already explained reasons. In addition, the FMCN project’s partner has not achieved an efficient operation of the FONCER. Therefore, following up to the Mid Term Review recommendations, the collaboration and commitment with the partner towards the Project will have to be reconfirmed with CONANP’s leadership and UNDP’s support. The financial sustainability strategy, planned to be implemented in 2019-2020, will support the attraction of private investment in order to finance activities/projects throughout the fund. In addition, the Project in collaboration with CONANP and UNDP’s guidance, is already working with private sector in order to attract investment for the species at risk’s conservation. |
| # of hectares under improved management in favor of endangered species conservation | 0 ha (total PA 25,394,779 ha in 176 PAs) | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2,000,000 ha in 21 PAs | Approximately 568,387 hectares in 15 Protected Areas are under improved management in favor of endangered species.    California pronghorn-Valle de los Cirios- There is a fenced area of 54,000 hectares which is free of livestock, here a scheme of differentiated management is implemented (semi-intensive, extensive, etc.). Additionally, actions for predators control takes place in the area.    Mule deer-Isla Cedros-4,361 ha. Species monitoring and predators control in distribution areas of the species.    Vaquita-Alto Golfo- The species refugee area was increased by 57,785 hectares. Acoustic monitoring is being implemented in this area to estimate the population tendency and the efficacy of the conservation measures being implemented.    California condor-SSPM- In an area bigger than 36,000 ha the species is being monitored. Precautionary measures to eliminate flammable materials takes place in the Park.    Golden Eagle- Monitoring the territory for sighting breeding pairs and identification of nesting territories:  Janos-94,000 ha  El Vizcaíno-98,000 ha  Maderas d Carmen-94,000 ha    Mexican wolf – Janos, A Friendly Ranchers scheme in 27,500 ha. is implemented to support the conservation actions in the region (example, species monitoring and environmental education activities).    Jaguar-Marismas Nacionales- Monitoring adjacent territory of 20,000 ha to identify the species use and establish it as a connectivity corridor.  Jaguar/ baird´s tapir:  Montes Azules- 60,000 ha – Surveillance and species monitoring by community committees. Surveillance patrols for the prevention of fire.  Sian Kaan-27,260 – ADCV schemes implemented and payment for environmental services in private land.    Sea turtles: leatherback, olive ridley, green, kemp’s ridley hawksbill. Daily surveillance for the protection of turtle population (day/night), relocation, nest cleaning, temperatures monitoring and release.  Tierra Colorada-138  Rancho Nuevo-120  Chenkan-90  Cahuitán-90  El Verde Camacho-96 | 540,008.88 hectares were added, summing a total of 1,108,395.88 hectares in Protected Areas under improved management in favor of endangered species conservation in terms of strengthening conservation actions such as habitat management, strengthening biological corridors, increasing participation of local communities, implementation and creation of conservation protocols.  72,000 hectares in Sierra de San Pedro Mártir improve the monitoring, surveillance and management activities for the California Condor and Golden Eagle conservation and its habitat. These activities include the implementation of fire management programs (mainly focused in prevention) and habitat restoration, as well as elaboration and implementation of 4 protocols including monitoring, surveillance and emergency actions for California Condor and Golden Eagle. In addition, a conservation committee for these two species was formed including members from local universities, government authorities and local communities in order to follow up with conservation actions including surveillance (illicit detection and threat mitigation).  6,019.1 hectares under improved management for the Isla Cedros’ Mule Deer. During the reported period CONANP and local authorities have strengthened its capacities for Monitoring of the species, predators control (alien and feral species) and urban waste management as the key actions held for the species conservation.  54,000 hectares free of livestock for California Pronghorn in Valle de los Cirios and Vizcaíno; a scheme of differentiated management is implemented in order to increase Pronghorn population. Additionally, other actions for conservation, in collaboration with local communities, take place such as predator’s control and waste management. Around 25 Pronghorns have been integrated to the wild from November 2018 and May 2019. In addition, for the second half of 2019, up to 8 or 10 Pronghorns will be released into the wild. Local communities, have allocated strategic feeding areas in the wild in order to support Pronghorn’s reintegration.  At the end of 2018, the last administration, modified the polygon of the Vaquita’s Refugee Area (184,100 hectares) responding to the biological monitoring results, therefore the Project provided: 1) Proposal of the Vaquita Protection Program within the modified Refuge Area in the Western portion of the Upper Gulf of California and 2) Update of the Management Program’s diagnosis in collaboration with fishing communities and other key actors. In the new administration, CONANP collaborates with other dependencies of the Federal Executive in the elaboration of the Sustainability Initiative for the North Gulf of California. According to its attributions CONANP implements actions in three axes: 2)Security and Governance by eliminating “ghost fishing nets”, 4)Monitoring and conservation of ecosystem and species, by contributing with the acoustic monitoring of the Vaquita, delimitation of the Refugee Area and restoration of relevant ecosystems, 5) Sustainable productive diversification by promoting amongst communities alternatives to fishing activities. Supporting activities oriented in axe 2, it is planned within the Project’s activities, for the second half of 2019, to support removing “ghost fishing nets”, contributing to mitigate one of the main threats of the Vaquita.  164,770 hectares were added, summing a total of 450,770 hectares in 5 PAs in which conservation and habitat management for Golden Eagle are carried out, sighting breeding pairs and identification of nesting territories, preys’ monitoring, delimitation areas for cattle, as well as, synergy encouragement with the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE, for its acronym in Spanish) in order to mitigate Golden Eagle’s electrocution. Additionally, work is made to improve hydrological conditions in terms of improving water catchment through water reservoirs, cleaning water bodies, water troughs in order to have water availability for Golden Eagle’s preys and favoring water infiltration through keyline.  84,239.5 hectares were added increasing the involvement of 2 additional PAs (Tutuaca-Papigochic y Campo Verde), summing a total of 111,739.5 hectares in 3 PAs within the State of Chihuahua, strategically selected to work in the Mexican Wolf’s corridor for its conservation. The mentioned hectares include areas where landowners have permitted conservation strategies to be carried out, 4 landowners have collaborated by allowing wolf re-introductions to be in their lands, 5 more are already implementing “friendly wolf practices”, for cattle management, impact from both actions sum 22,000 hectares with diminished threats for the species. Additionally, 36 ranchers are actively participating and trained through wolf conservation workshops towards the Wolf’s acceptance and re-integration to its natural habitat, including friendly wolf practices and training on livestock insurance for cattle predation (CNOG, for its acronym in Spanish). Monitoring and surveillance of the Mexican Wolf is also done with help of local committees. In addition, ecosystem restoration activities are held, such as promoting water infiltration and preventing erosion.  130,383 hectares were added, summing a total of 234,643 hectares for Jaguar and Tapir in 6 PAs (64,000 hectares in Calakmul, 31,204 hectares in Sian Ka’an, 66,686 in Montes Azules, 1,489 hectares in Chacahua, 31,264 in Marismas Nacionales, 40,000 hectares in Sierra del Abra Tanchipa) under management for conservation actions, such as monitoring and surveillance of the species. In Sian Ka’an and Calakmul water bodies monitoring is held in coordination with the Selva Maya project (Mexico-Guatemala-Belize). Calakmul and Sierra del Abra Tanchipa work in improving water availability for species in drought season. In addition, habitat restoration activities were held in Sierra del Abra Tanchipa, Montes Azules and Calakmul with reforestation with native species in 276.39 hectares. Marismas Nacionales works with fire prevention actions in 3,000 hectares, as well as in conservation actions for the corridor “Toro Mocho-La Bajada” and a cattle exclusion in 229 hectares.  777 hectares were added, summing a total of 1,143.38 hectares in 9 PAs (260 hectares in Chacahua, 138 hectares in Tierra Colorada, 90 hectares in Cahuitán, 143.18 hectares in Escobilla, 17.4 in Barra de la Cruz, 96 hectares in El Verde Camacho, 90 hectares in Chenkán, 278 in rancho Nuevo 30 hectares in Tulum), under improved management for Sea Turtles conservation (leatherback, olive ridley, green, kemp’s ridley hawksbill). Daily surveillance for the protection of turtle population (day/night), relocation, nest cleaning, temperatures monitoring and hatchling release. A reduce turtle bycatch and promote sustainable fishing Program for 5 PAs it’s in process, expecting to be done by March 2020, including the first phase implementation. It is expected that the field officers, CONANP’s personnel and other identified key actors will have technical capacities strengthened in order to continue with the Program’s implementation. |
| Average METT score of the BD-1 Tracking Tool | 0.62 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 0.72 | No update in the score has taken place. An evaluation to the 21 PA will be implemented during the second semester of 2018. | 0.67  The score was updated in 22 PA, during the first trimester of 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **System level frameworks for operational and financial planning and management consolidated to support the conservation of endangered species** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| % Development of a National monitoring system for endangered species | 0% of the monitoring system developed. A monitoring system does not exist, rather there are individual databases on populations and geo-references.  0% GIS system updated and including traditional knowledge regarding the 14 target endangered species  0 endangered species’ information updated regarding conservation priorities, targets, corridors and dispersal areas | *(not set or not applicable)* | 100% of the national system for monitoring the populations and conservation status of the 14 target endangered species developed and operational to reflect current or potential threats, and PA management effectiveness in relation to threat reduction.  100% GIS system updated and including traditional knowledge regarding the 14 target endangered species  14 endangered species’ information updated regarding conservation priorities, targets, corridors and dispersal areas | 35% of progress    The GIS monitoring system (Arcgis online / server) is in the design stage to ensure its completeness and compatibility with other institutional tools (Biodiversity Monitoring System - CONANP / CONABIO / CONAFOR). Databases and information about the species have been integrated to be included in the information system.    In the second semester of 2018, all the information of three species (eagle, condor and jaguar) will be incorporated to this system as a pilot and the articulation with existing systems will be concluded, starting with the institutionalization of the platform and gathering of information. In 2019, the first tests and personnel training will be run for the use of the platform for the analysis of information and the strengthening of decision making, as well as the assessment of management effectiveness for the conservation of species (connectivity, potential impact of activities productive, urban growth, etc.).    35% of progress  The System of Geographical Information (GIS) that is being elaborated is part of the monitoring system. Such platform is complemented by the available information in the different PAs of the CONANP at the central, regional and PA levels. The information is from 2012 to 2017. These include approximately 250 projects with databases and .shp and .kml files.    7% of progress  The information generated of the species in previous years is being standardized. Such information is generated annually, with the platform that is being created, it will be possible to upload the information from the source that generates it. | 95.26 % of progress of the national system for monitoring the populations and conservation status of the target endangered species.  The GIS monitoring system, named SIIER, is compatible and linked to other geoportals related to biodiversity monitoring systems developed by CONANP and CONABIO. Databases and information about the species have been integrated to be included in the information system. The institutionalization of the GIS platform in CONANP is taking place, aiming to be completed by December 2019 looking forward to the strengthening of decision making, as well as the assessment of management effectiveness for the conservation of species (connectivity, potential impact of activities productive, urban growth, etc.). It will be available in the following domain: https://siier.conanp.gob.mx  In the second half of 2019, personnel training is planned on the use of the platform for the analysis of information and the strengthening of decision making, as well as the assessment of management. Once this activity is done, and missing information on the species is integrated, the goal will be achieved, this is planned to occur in 2020.  86% GIS system updated regarding the target endangered species (including Jaguar, Tapir, Golden Eagle, Cedro’s Mule Deer, California Condor, Baja California Pronghorn). Vaquita and Mexican Wolf’s information has not yet been incorporated, Mexican Wolf’s information is partially completed and the missing information has already been requested and is expected to be completed in September of 2019. Regarding Vaquita, the available information will be reviewed with CONANP and the necessity and viability of its incorporation to the plataform. Regarding sea turtles information, CONANP is developing a special platform named SITMAR, which is nested in CONABIO and will be linked and administered by CONANP, the Project will review the necessity of linking it with the GIS Platform in 2020 with the implementing partner. In addition to the species information required by the project, during the last month, information of different marine species (from other 10 PAs) has been systematized and added to the GIS system.  Other specific activities held for this result are digital tools developed to systematize information on the monitoring of the specie (Jaguar- depredation reports, Golden Eagle monitoring and California Condor monitoring, this last one in process) to the GIS system. As well as working in synergy with CONABIO for the creation of the SELIA APP, which aims to collect and systematize all the information generated by camera traps or other monitoring tools in national projects in order to improve decision making through information analysis, guarantee better quality quantity of information, as well as standardize processes and information recompilation from projects supported by PROCER, now named PROREST (Program for the Protection and Restoration of Habitats and Species at Risk), as well as other projects supported by other government institutions or even NGO’s. |
| Regulatory framework adapted to ensure that CONANP’s opinions are binding | Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are not required to be resolved according to the opinions of the CONANP | *(not set or not applicable)* | Proposed Amendment to SEMARNAT’s internal Rules to ensure the opinions of the CONANP are binding in EIA resolutions | No progress.  Derived from a judiciary analysis, it was determined that, in order for the opinion of the CONANP to be binding, direct modifications to the laws and regulations are required in environmental matters not only at the level of internal regulation. In 2016, a new biodiversity law was introduced by the chamber of deputies and senators, in which among other aspect, it aimed to make the opinion of CONANP binding: This law was approved by the Senate but it was detained in the House of Representatives. For the next administration, it is contemplated to make the necessary arrangements so that the opinions issued by the CONANP are binding. | No progress.  Derived from a judiciary analysis, it was determined that, in order for the opinion of the CONANP to be binding, direct modifications to the laws and regulations are required in environmental matters not only at the level of internal regulation. Since the new biodiversity law (which, among other aspects, aimed to make the opinion of CONANP become legally binding) was detained in the House of Representatives, Terms of Reference are being developed with the legal area of the implementing partner in order to implement a legal analysis (planned to start in the second half of 2019) to determine additional legal needs, besides CONANP’s opinion being legally binding, to strengthening PAs towards the species at risk conservation. |
| Capacity for planning, implementation and monitoring of site-specific co-managed strategies for conservation of endangered species in PAs. | Average scores for Capacity Development Scorecard:  CR1: 6  CR2: 9  CR3: 6  CR4: 3  CR5: 3  Total: 27  Areas to be improved :  CR1 Indicator 2: Some PAs have established formal co-management mechanisms.  CR3 Indicator 9 - Most PAs have adequate Management Programs but are implemented partially or not at all due to financial constraints and outdated data.  CR4 Indicator 13 - Capacity and technological needs are identified. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Average scores for Capacity Development Scorecard:  CR1: 8  CR2: 10  CR3: 7  CR4: 5  CR5: 5  Total: 35  Specific Improvements:  CR1 Indicator 2: - Co-management mechanisms are formally established in selected PAs.  CR3 Indicator 9 - Management instruments are updated with endangered species conservation priorities and implemented effectively in selected PAs.  CR4 Indicator 13 - Capacity and technological needs are satisfied in selected PAs (personnel and materials as well as the technical capacity to adequately manage conservation priorities of 14 endangered species). | The Project will undergo the re-evaluation of the System of Ratings of the Development of Capacities and the METT during the first trimester of 2019 in at least 14 PAs.    A pilot scheme is being implemented in a protected area (Calakmul) for the strengthening of the advisory council as a co-management schemes. The council will include the incorporation of municipalities councils, they will be trained to support the active participation of various stakeholders from the region. (second semester of 2018).    As an initial step for strengthening the capacities of the CONANP, in this same area, the strategic planning for 2018 was coordinated between the Project Coordinating Unit, the PA and the advisory council. These allowed having an integral vision of the projects, as well as its requirements, an efficient use of the available resources and making sure that the conservation efforts complement each other.    As was reported in the previous indicator, the monitoring platform/GIS is being designed to group and articulate data and information to facilitate the process of decision making.    In the same way, the DEPC is in the process of creating a platform of information for marine turtles, SITMAR. The mechanisms are being analyzed so that this platform can also become part of the platform of monitoring/GIS of the Project.    14 PAs of the project have been provided with monitoring equipment (monitoring drone, cameras, GPS, telemetry collars, vehicles, computers, infrastructure) which allows for the strengthening of the monitoring and management actions of 12 species. The diagnosis of requirements and potential partners will conclude in the first semester of 2019, with the results support is foreseen in 7 additional protected areas during 2018. | Average scores for Capacity Development Scorecard:  CR1: 7  CR2: 10  CR3: 6  CR4: 4  CR5: 5  Total:32  The evaluation was made in the first trimester of this year, considering the advances from the baseline evaluation up to 2019.  CR1 Indicator 2: “Existence of operational co-management mechanisms" has an advance of 23%, this means five PAs (Barra de la Cruz, Chacahua, Tierra Colorada, Tulum, Valle de los Cirios) have improved in establishing operational co-management mechanisms. During the Annual Operation Plan (AOP) in 2018 for the 2019 AOP the project promoted coordination amongst different stakeholders in the area for the implementation of activities in the field, in some PAs the collaboration already existed, and it was strengthened by the project, but for other PAs there was no active collaboration with some key actors and the project helped to do so, this is the case of Tulum working in coordination with Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México, in addition, the coordination with the State Government of Quintana Roo was strengthened. For Barra de la Cruz, Tierra Colorada and Chacahua, the activities in the field were coordinated with Kutzari in order to sum and have an effective economic resources allocation, community involvement was strengthened.  CR 3 Indicator 9: “Extent of the environmental planning and strategy development process” in which 7 PAs (El Vizcaíno, Escobilla, Janos, Marismas Nacionales, Papigochic, Tutuaca, Valle de los Cirios) improved their capacities for this indicator, representing 32%. The project promoted synergy and strategic planning amongst the PA’s for each species and with key actors. An example is, for Mexican Wolf in Janos, strategic planning for the species conservation took place, in the second half of 2018, with stakeholders such as US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Itzeni (NGO) and the GEF Species at Risk project.  CR4 indicator 13: "Availability of required technical skills and technology transfer" in which 8 PAs (Barra de la Cruz, Janos, Marismas Nacionales, Montes Azules, Tierra Colorada, Tulum, Tutuaca, Valle de los Cirios) (36.3%) have strengthened their capacities. The Project has strengthened technical skills by providing personnel in 20 PAs as well as training, including for local communities. For Golden Eagle, transfer of information and training amongst PAs has taken place including Tutuaca and Janos. Marismas Nacionales had its capacities strengthened in terms of equipment for monitoring the PAs and biological corridors, as well as technical support to train the community in terms of “friendly cattle management practices” and even started the process to conform a livestock production unit model. |
| Availability of funding in a timely manner per biological characteristics and field operations needs | 50% funding is available in a timely manner per biological characteristics and field operations needs.  0 financial instrument exclusive to endangered species | *(not set or not applicable)* | 70% funds for conservation actions are received in a timely manner.  1 Revolving fund (Fund for the Conservation of Endangered Species, FONCER) established:  a) CT FONCER comprises Govt and Civil Society representatives with operational structure to ensure efficient operation with technical criteria for disbursement of funds  b) Revenue streams from alternative resources feed the fund through an open mechanism that allows the increase in capital from public or private, national or international funds | Funding for priority species remains a challenge. An analysis of financial needs has been done as well as a calendar of requirements and contributions for the species of the project, these in work with the area directors for the establishment of working plans. With respect to federal resources, there have been significant reductions in the public programs and they can only be executed in the second half of the year due to the fiscal process.    Under these circumstances, the GEF funds for the Project are strategic, as they are a tool to strengthen the implementation of conservation actions according to the needs of the PAs and the biological processes of species. There are important challenges in the approval and implementation of the resources of the Project due to the lack of consensus over the use of the funds. This has been evolving, although there is a need to continue strengthening the sustainability and financing strategy.    Even though the FONCER was created since 2016, it still cannot allocate resources generated by interests to conservation efforts. The one million-dollar contribution from the Mexican Government is yet to come. Continuous efforts are being made to get the fund with different stakeholders involved as well as governmental bodies and the hope is that this can conclude by the second semester of 2018.    At the beginning of 2018, through the Species Project, 1,500,000 Mexican pesos were distributed to 13 PAs to ensure continuity in the implementation of activities according to the needs of the species in these areas (eagle, jaguar, mexican wolf and sea turtles such as leatherback, olive ridley, kemp’s ridley, green and hawksbill). | Project funds were available in March in order to comply with the biological characteristics of the species and field operation. Though, FONCER’s funds are not yet available, due to budget limitations established by the new administration, a financial sustainability strategy will be developed in order to obtain the Mexican government’s contribution.  The new administration in CONANP has merged different subsidiary programs in a new one named PROREST (Program for the Protection and Restoration of Habitats and Species at Risk), through this program $126,765,214 Mexican pesos were available in April to receive proposals in order to support species at risk conservation and their habitats within PAs.  At the beginning of 2019, through the Species Project, $184,000 Mexican pesos were available to PAs to ensure continuity in the implementation of key activities according to the needs of the species (Jaguar, Sea Turtles, California Condor and Mexican Wolf), while the overall budget and activities for 2019 were approved. This budget was defined according to the needs that were expressed by CONANP.  1 Revolving fund (Fund for the Conservation of Endangered Species, FONCER) established: a) CT FONCER includes Government and Civil Society representatives with operational structure to ensure efficient operation with technical criteria for disbursement of funds  b) This subsection hasn’t been achieved. The revenue streams haven’t been received yet. In one hand, the revenues were planned to be higher having the full amount compromised for the FONCER (including the Mexican government contribution). In the other hand, there has been a lack of commitment from the project partner (FMCN) according to the Mid Term Evaluation (MTE). Therefore, following the MTE recommendations, CONANP will assume the leadership, with UNDPs support, in order to ensure the partner’s commitment as well as the elaboration and implementation of a financial sustainability strategy. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **PAs and adjoining priority conservation areas are managed effectively at field level for the conservation of endangered species** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| % implementation of Priority Management Strategies[1] for the reduction of threats to each of the 14 target endangered species | 0% implementation of Priority Management Strategies for the reduction of threats to each of the 14 target endangered species resulting in:  Golden Eagle:19 nests without habitat conservation interventions  Baja California Pronghorn: 350 individuals in 33,000 ha of livestock-free areas  California Condor: 31 individuals have access to lead-free food  Jaguar and Tapir:2000 ha habitat in PAs covered by community watch committees  Mexican Wolf: 0 activities to involve landowners in habitat mgt & wolf conservation  Mule Deer:100% detection of dogs and donkeys on Isla Cedros  Vaquita:82% net use in the Upper Gulf of California  Loggerhead Sea Turtle:75% protected nests & 65% offspring from protected nests  Hawksbill Sea Turtle:80% protected nests & 55% offspring from protected nests  Olive Ridley Sea Turtle:80% protected nests & 55% offspring from protected nests  Leatherback Sea Turtle:80% protected nests & 55% offspring from protected nests  Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle: 80% protected nests &55% offspring from protected nests  Green Sea Turtle:80% protected nests & 55% offspring from protected nests | *(not set or not applicable)* | 100% implementation of Priority Management Strategies for the reduction of threats to each of the 14 target endangered species resulting in:  Golden Eagle: at least 19 nests with habitat conservation interventions  Baja California Pronghorn: 500 individuals in 53,000 ha of livestock-free areas  California Condor: 43 individuals have access to lead-free food  Jaguar and Tapir:118776 ha habitat in PAs covered by community watch committees  Mexican Wolf: 10 activities to involve landowners in habitat mgt & wolf conservation  Mule Deer: 5% detection of dogs and donkeys on Isla Cedros  Vaquita: 40% net use in the Upper Gulf of California  Loggerhead Sea Turtle: 95% protected nests & 80% offspring from protected nests  Hawksbill Sea Turtle: 98% protected nests &80% offspring from protected nests  Olive Ridley Sea Turtle: 98% protected nests &80% offspring from protected nests  Leatherback Sea Turtle: 98% protected nests &75% offspring from protected nests  Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle: 98% protected nests &80% offspring from protected nests  Green Sea Turtle: 98% protected nests &80% offspring from protected nests | At the time of the report, 37 conservation strategies indicated in the Project Document are being implemented. This represents 30% progress according to project goals. The strategies implemented are:    a. Predators control in Valle de Los Cirios - Pronghorn / Isla Cedros Mule Deer: More than 10 sterilization campaigns resulting in around 450 dogs and cats treated; more than 100 tons of garbage collected to avoid feral species propagation.    b. Management of hydrological conditions for Golden Eagle – Janos, escape ramps for wildlife were installed in water bodies in private land; Maderas del Carmen, a water collecting system (geomembrane) has been installed for water retention; El Vizcaíno a prospection of water bodies is underway to identify possible interventions in nesting territories.    c. Reduction/management of cattle grazing to reduce competition with target herbivores. Marismas Nacionales – jaguar, a workshop directed to two ejidos to engage them and inform them about the cattle insurance fund as a tool to mitigate predations. Janos – workshop directed to ranchers about sustainable cattle ranching. Training workshop to CONANP staff related to predation follow up and attendance.    d. Fire management to improve habitat conditions. Through the surveillance of the territory with contingency brigades in Sierra de San Pedro Mártir (condor), Montes Azules, Sian Ka´an (jaguar). Removal of flammable material.    e. Post-release support - Sierra de San Pedro Mártir for California condo, daily monitoring of the population to identify possible threats and reproductive states. The monitoring has been done through PTT / GPS telemetry transmitters, GSM from Cellular Tracking Technologies and supplemental food, dietary supplements has been administered and their response to these has been monitored. Valle de los Cirios with Peninsular pronghorn, the annual census indicated 492 individuals, these individuals were supported with food and food supplements. Additionally, 22 adults have been monitored in the wild and 4 offspring of an estimated 50 wild populations.    f. Reduction/management of cattle grazing to reduce competition with target herbivores in Valle de los Cirios with Peninsular pronghorn through fences of 54,000 ha to stop access to livestock.    g. Protection of turtle nesting sites Tierra Colorada, Cahuitán, Barra de la Cruz, Verde Camacho, Chenkán and Rancho Nuevo for leatherback, olive ridley, green, kemp’s ridley hawksbill.    l. Determination of refuge areas for marine species. For Vaquita through institutional efforts the species refugee area was increased by 57,785 hectares.    k. Promotion of benefits to local communities and landowners for Mexican wolf in Janos, for jaguar in Marismas Nacionales, Montes Azules and Sian Ka´an, for sea turtles inTierra Colorada, Cahuitán, Barra de la Cruz, Verde Camacho, Chenkán and Rancho Nuevo for leatherback, olive ridley, green, kemp’s ridley hawksbill.    m. Promotion of protection of areas under diverse models specified under legislation. Promotion of ADCV, voluntary areas intended for conservation in Janos, Sian Ka´an, Sierra de San Pedro Mártir.    n. Promotion of creation of corridors to maintain biological connectivity. In Janos, Maderas del Carmen and El Vizcaíno with golden eagle through the protection of nesting territories inside and outside the ANP. In Janos for wolf through the promotion of ADCVs. In Marismas Nacionales for jaguar through the involvement of ejidos to work in monitoring an identified connectivity corridor | 82% implementation of Priority Management Strategies (49 out of 60 strategies) for the reduction of threats to each of the 14 target:  Since the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019, there has been a significant increase towards the implementation of strategic activities towards the Priority Management Strategies stablished in the Project Document.  Some examples of interventions towards this goal are:  -Management of hydrological conditions for Golden Eagle and Tapir. In Calakmul and Abra Tanchipa 61 water troughs were installed in order to mitigate droughts and provide water to wildlife. The monitoring results in Calakmul were 20 different fauna species benefited from the water troughs including Jaguar and Tapir. For Golden Eagle, in Maderas del Carmen they intervened a water body to increase the availability of water for eagle’s preys, adding geomembrane to retain the water.  -Management of livestock/predator conflicts. For Jaguar and Mexican Wolf in 9 PAs. “Friendly Jaguar/Mexican Wolf management practices” are promoted. Support in the prosecution of the reported attacks of predators to make valid the livestock insurance/compensation.  -Predators control (feral and alien species) in Valle de Los Cirios – Baja California Pronghorn / Isla Cedros Mule Deer: 41 sterilization campaigns resulting in 916 cats and dogs sterilized. Total eradication of feral donkeys and dogs in Isla Cedros were reported in the last monitoring. In addition, 222 tons of garbage was collected helping to avoid available food for feral species and therefore their propagation.  - Post-release support - Sierra de San Pedro Mártir for California Condor and Baja California Pronghorn Valle de los Cirios: both species are monitored, for California Condor, the monitoring is done through PTT/GPS/GMS technology (36 individuals monitored in wildlife). For both species, supplementary alimentation is provided as well as zoo sanitary revisions, amongst other management strategies.  - Reduction/management of cattle grazing to reduce competition with target herbivores in Valle de los Cirios with Peninsular pronghorn through fences of 54,000 ha to stop access to livestock.  - Day and night protection of turtle nesting sites in 9 PAs for the 6 Sea Turtles species.  - Determination of refuge areas for marine species. Regarding Vaquita, through institutional efforts, the species refugee area was modified. Therefore, a proposal for the Vaquita Protection Program was made for 184100 ha, considering the refugee modifications, in the Western portion of the Upper Gulf of California. In addition, and Management Program’s diagnosis was updated.  - Promotion of benefits to local communities and landowners for13 species and 20 PAs.  - Promotion of protection of areas under diverse models specified under legislation and promotion of creation of corridors to maintain biological connectivity (see 3rd indicator from result 2: connectivity indicator for more detail). In Marismas Nacionales a female jaguar was captured to install a traceable necklace in order to define corridors.  Within the Project’s exit phase, in 2020, an integral conservation strategy will be developed, in collaboration with CONANP and key actors, in order to comply with species requirements in the medium and long term.  Progress towards strategic goals set in the Project Document:  Golden Eagle: 7 nests with habitat conservation interventions.  Baja California Pronghorn: 479 individuals in 53,000 ha of livestock-free areas.  California Condor: 36 individuals have access to lead-free food  Jaguar and Tapir: 160,1168 ha habitat in PAs covered by community watch  Mexican Wolf: 7 activities to involve landowners in habitat mgt & wolf conservation  Mule Deer: 1% detection of dogs and donkeys on Isla Cedros.  Vaquita: Although there have been actions towards the achievement of this target, it hasn’t been possible to monitor it. Due to the complex situation of the species, the program was managed directly by the Secretariat of SEMARNAT’s office. The new administration has a new strategy and CONANP is again involved in it, although monitoring this target remains a challenge.  Loggerhead Sea Turtle: 98.4% protected nests & 87.6% offspring from protected nests  Hawksbill Sea Turtle: 90% protected nests &81.5% offspring from protected nests  Olive Ridley Sea Turtle: 65% protected nests &64.87% offspring from protected nests  Leatherback Sea Turtle: 92% protected nests &52% offspring from protected nests  Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle: 95.7% protected nests &69% offspring from protected nests  Green Sea Turtle: 99% protected nests &62.25% offspring from protected nests. |
| Population of target species maintained and/or increase as a result of improved management of key habitat | Baseline values TBD during Year 1:  Baja California Pronghorn  Golden Eagle  Mexican Wolf  Loggerhead Turtle  Green Sea Turtle  Leatherback Turtle  Hawksbill Sea Turtle  Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle  Olive Ridley Sea Turtle  California Condor  Cedros Island Mule Deer  Jaguar  Vaquita  Baird’s Tapir | *(not set or not applicable)* | Populations maintained or increased:  Baja California Pronghorn  Golden Eagle  Mexican Wolf  Loggerhead Turtle  Green Sea Turtle  Leatherback Turtle  Hawksbill Sea Turtle  Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle  Olive Ridley Sea Turtle  California Condor  Cedros Island Mule Deer  Jaguar  Vaquita  Baird’s Tapir | Populations as for 2016 (according to data registered institutionally approximately).    Mexican Wolf, 2016: 17, 2018: 25    Mule deer, 2016: 20, 2018: 20  California condor, 2016: 28, 2018: 35    Vaquita marina approximately 20    Pronghorn, 2016: 340, 2018: 492    Golden Eagle (reproductive partners), 2016: 119, 2018: 142    Jaguar: 2500 according to published scientific data (2015).    Tapir: 2605 according to published scientific data.    Sea turtles:  leatherback, 2016: 685, 2017: 626.  olive ridlys, 2016: 3818, 2017: 6153  kemp’s ridley, 2016: 13,552, 2017: 15,940  Green, 2016: 586, 2017: 5,494  Hawksbill, 2016: 354, 2017: 536 | Progress in Populations 2018-2019 (according to data registered institutionally approximately).    Mexican Wolf, 2016: 17, 2019: 25  Mule deer, 2016: 20, 2018: 30-60  California condor, 2016: 28, 2019: 36  Vaquita marina approximately 20  Pronghorn, 2016: 340, 2018: 492  Golden Eagle (reproductive partners), 2016: 119, 2018: 142  Jaguar: 2500 according to published scientific data (2015).  Tapir: 2605 according to published scientific data.  Sea turtles:  leatherback, 2016: 685, 2018: 359.  olive ridleys, 2016: 3818, 2018: 1,336,121  kemp’s ridley, 2016: 13,552, 2018: 13,491  Green, 2016: 586, 2018: 3,416  Hawksbill, 2016: 354, 2017: 998.  Loggerhead, 2016: 269, 2018: 576 |
| # of hectares managed according to the connectivity and habitat needs of 14 endangered species. | 0 hectares added to PAs based on endangered species range/habitat | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 100,000 has. added to PAs and biological corridors in collaboration with local communities based on endangered species range/habitat. | At the time, approximately 26,805 hectares are under management and contributing to habitat connectivity for the species. The action are implemented in collaboration with communities in the 13 ANP in: Valle de los Cirios, El Vizcaino, Janos, Maderas del Carmen, Marismas Nacionales, Montes Azules, Sian Ka'an, Cahuitán, Chenkán, Barra de la Cruz, Tierra Colorada, Verde Camacho and Rancho Nuevo.    For eagle in Janos, Maderas del Carmen and Vizcaíno. The monitoring of nesting territories, 3 per area, covering a territory of 275,000 hectares (this will allow locating nesting areas to implement conservation actions that increases connectivity). In collaboration with the community, activities are being implemented for the improvement and protection of the habitat in a territory of 246 hectares.    For jaguar, the PA of Marismas Nacionales is collaborating with 2 ejidos in a territory of 20 thousand hectares for the establishment of a biological corridor to improve the connectivity of the species by promoting participatory monitoring and surveillance activities in a territory of 600 hectares. 6000 hectares have been monitored with camera traps to identify the use of the corridor by the species. Montes Azules is implementing restoration projects (PROCODES) in 201 hectares with 11 working groups in different communities, within the reserve and in key surrounding areas for habitat connectivity.    In the PA Valle de los Cirios for the protection of the peninsular pronghorn 21,000 hectares are being improved with livestock exclusions in collaboration with 3 ejidos.    In the PA of Janos for the conservation of the Mexican wolf, collaboration with 2 private landowners for the management of additional resources to implement habitat restoration activities focused on improving the habitat with impact in approximately 4,000 hectares.    In 6 turtle camps, surveillance tracks are made to avoid disturbing the turtle arrivals, as well as nests protection, covering an area of 568 hectares. | 233,199.49 hectares managed according to the connectivity and habitat needs of 14 endangered species. In terms of promoting the species movement inside, outside and amongst PAs (biological corridors), working to improve habitat’s conservation (better conditions) and more protected land, managed in collaboration with local communities.  The hectares have been added to the PA system under different schemes of protection specified in the law of the country, such as Units of Management for the Conservation of Wildlife (UMA for its acronym in Spanish) and voluntarily destined PAs for conservation (ADVC for its acronym in Spanish) summing a total of 26 UMAS and ADVC with 216,965.07 hectares and 30,480.76 hectares in process of certification. This couldn’t be possible without the direct collaboration with local communities, ejidos and land owners.  16,234.39 hectares of habitat have been restored or improved.  These hectares strengthen species corridors by expanding protected areas and improving their habitat.  Some brief examples towards this result:  For jaguar, the PA of Marismas Nacionales continues the collaboration with 2 ejidos to work in a biological corridor to improve the connectivity of the species; an ADVC is in process with 21,507 hectares in the corridor. Monitoring and surveillance.  For Mexican Wolf, conservation work its being done through the corridor in and between 3 PAs Janos, Campo Verde and Tutuaca y Papigochic. Monitoring and surveillance its taking place, as well as social work to raise awareness towards the importance of the species, as well as to promote “friendly management practices for the wolf”.  For Golden Eagle, monitoring of nesting territories in 5 PAs and in connectivity areas is being done. In the PAs of Vizcaíno, Valle de los Cirios and Sierra de San Pedro Mártir coordination is occurring in order to identify potential corridors amongst the PAs. A helicopter monitoring will take place during the last months of 2019 in order to identify connectivity areas. |
| Management effectiveness of 21 PAs with regards to the conservation of 14 target species | METT Scores:  80 Alto Golfo de California y Delta del Río Colorado  62 Sierra de San Pedro Mártir  53 Valle de los Cirios  75 El Vizcaíno  67 Maderas Del Carmen  52 Janos  51 Tutuaca  51 Papigochic  68 Calakmul  76 Sian Ka'an  80 Montes Azules  54 Marismas Nacionales  66 Sierra de Abra Tanchipa  48 Chacahua  59 Playa de Tierra Colorada  54 Playa Tortuguera Cahuitán  56 Playa de Escobilla  56 Playa Barra de la Cruz  69 Playa tortuguera El Verde Camacho  60 Playa tortuguera Chenkán Tulum  60 Rancho Nuevo | *(not set or not applicable)* | METT Scores:  90 Alto Golfo de California y Delta del Río Colorado  72 Sierra de San Pedro Mártir  63 Valle de los Cirios  85 El Vizcaíno  77 Maderas Del Carmen  62 Janos  61 Tutuaca  61 Papigochic  78 Calakmul  86 Sian Ka'an  85 Montes Azules  64 Marismas Nacionales  760Sierra de Abra Tanchipa  58 Chacahua  69 Playa de Tierra Colorada  64 Playa Tortuguera Cahuitán  66 Playa de Escobilla  66 Playa Barra de la Cruz  79 Playa tortuguera El Verde Camacho  70 Playa tortuguera Chenkán Tulum  70 Rancho Nuevo | A METT re-measurement will be done in the second semester of 2018, before the mid-term review. | METT Scores:  78 Alto Golfo de California y Delta del Río Colorado  The METT card reports low scores related to a notable reduction of the fiscal budget, especially in fuel. Also, there have had problems associated with furtive exploitation, such as the totoaba that is directly affecting the vaquita.  81 Sierra de San Pedro Mártir  76 Valle de los Cirios  78 El Vizcaíno  67 Maderas Del Carmen  69 Janos  53 Tutuaca  49 Papigochic  Currently, the design of the protected area does not significantly limit the achievement of the objectives, but it could be improved. The pertinence of updating the Management Plan will be considered with CONANP. In relation to the maintenance of equipment and facilities, this is currently basic. Besides, local communities lowered their participation in decisions regarding the management of the protected area. Finally, the card refers to the fact that the condition of some of the values of biodiversity, ecological and cultural, presents a severe degradation. This area also presents a difficult situation regarding security.  74 Calakmul  80 Sian Ka'an  79 Montes Azules  At the moment, the infrastructure and services are adequate for the current levels of visitation, but they can be improved. Previously, the infrastructure was sufficient according to the vision of the PA. Furthermore, the collection of rights is currently not realized. Finally, the staff has the capacity, adequate resources but not excellent (as was reported before), to enforce the legislation and regulations of the protected area, but there are still some deficiencies. On the other hand, the PA is implementing a good evaluation and monitoring system, which is used for adaptive management, and now the local and/or indigenous communities effectively support the PA.  68 Marismas Nacionales  67 Sierra de Abra Tanchipa  52 Chacahua  60 Playa de Tierra Colorada  61 Playa Tortuguera Cahuitán  56 Playa de Escobilla  69 Playa Barra de la Cruz  68 Playa tortuguera El Verde Camacho  Currently, the available budget is insufficient and it has limitations to cover basic management needs. In this PA, the effectiveness of management is limited by the lack of financial resources.  65 Playa tortuguera Chenkán Tulum  61 Rancho Nuevo  16 Pas improved their result. |
| Stewardship framework facilitates gender- and indigenous -sensitive management of critical habitats in the landscape as buffer areas | 0 Stewardship Framework oriented toward social participation, consistent with the monitoring matrix of benefits to BD  0% increase of landowners and other local community members participating in and benefiting from stewardship programmes and other economic incentives that improve the habitat and conservation status of the 14 target endangered species:  PROCER: 252,648  PROCODES: 9,179  PET: 1,547  PROVICOM: 185  PSA: 1,720  Compensations via Livestock Predation Insurance Fund: 29  0 Communication strategy, actions and communication tools are currently scattered and insufficient.  0 PAs implementing emergency protocols  12 POA with strategies for community participation in endangered species conservation | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1 Stewardship Framework oriented toward social participation, consistent with the monitoring matrix of benefits to BD  10% increase of landowners and other local community members actively participating in and receiving income and employment benefits from, stewardship programmes and other economic incentives that improve the habitat and conservation status of the 14 target endangered species:  PROCER:  PROCODES:  PET:  PROVICOM:  PSA:  Compensations via Livestock Predation Insurance Fund:  1 Communication strategy to engage key stakeholders and the general public and keep them informed of the actions in the selected PAs.  21 PAs implementing conservation plans/ emergency protocols  21 POAs with strategies for community participation in endangered species conservation | CONANP has worked with a framework for community participation in monitoring, surveillance and conservation of priority species. The project has defined a strategy to strengthen community committees, community groups and land owners that include the following measures.    The measures implemented by species include:    Golden Eagle in 3 ANP Maderas del Carmen, El Vizcaíno and Janos; 7 community committees monitoring the PA and influence areas (training and equipment), 11 landowners implementing habitat improvement actions (water retention, escape ramps, ecosystem sanitation), women environmental education promoters in primary schools.    Mexican Wolf, actions implemented with 2 community groups and 3 ranches for habitat improvement and restoration schemes (soil conditions improvement, water retention in forest ecosystems). This has contributed as a pilot scheme for other 2 ranches.    Jaguar work with 26 community committees in 6 PAs (Calakmul, Montes Azules, Marismas Nacionales, Sian Kaan Abra Tanchipa and Chacahua) for surveillance, monitoring activities and fire prevention brigades. Out of these committees, 15 have been provided with equipment to implement participatory monitoring and restoration actions.    Mule deer, Isla Cedros - community surveillance in collaboration with two productive organizations.    Peninsular pronghorn 4 tripartite agreements for the Local Payment Mechanism for Environmental Services (PSA) in collaboration the forestry commission (CONAFOR). Training for ecotourism, cleaning brigades, in 4 ejidos within the reserve.    Sea turtles: All conservation work is implemented in collaboration with the local communities in the 6 turtle camps Tierra Colorada, Rancho Nuevo, Chenkan, Cahuitán, El Verde Camacho, Barra de la Cruz for leatherback, olive ridley, green, kemp’s ridley hawksbill. Activities are daily surveillance for the protection of turtle population (day/night), relocation, nest cleaning, temperatures monitoring and release.    Communication:    The communications actions (communication strategy under development) have been strengthened through the following activities:    A set of key messages were designed to create a narrative about the Mexican wolf to be communicated through local media outlets.    A communications protocol was proposed to the CONANP Communications Department in order to create more effective channels of collaboration for joint press releases, blog content, and social media on priority species.    An App for mobile devices called “Especies MX” was designed and updated with new categories to raise awareness on species conservation. The App is free and can be found in both Android and iOS versions. The App needs certain adjustments in order to meet with governmental requirements.    The photographic exposition which was developed for the COP 13 has been touring in different venues. The places visited include the Visitors’ Center of Sian Kaan, at the Ministry of Environment (SEMARNAT), at the Chapultepec Zoo, the Paleontology Museum of Guadalajara, as well as the Guadalajara Zoo (the approximate number of visitors 7,323). | -CONANP has worked with a framework for community participation in monitoring, surveillance and conservation of priority species, actually is one of the main priorities of the new administration. The project strengthens community committees, community groups and land owners highlighting the following results:  191 committees, community groups and land owners work for species conservation and their habitat from which 45% are women and 55% are men. The project works with 7 different indigenous groups (Zapoteca, rarámuri, Chol, Tzeltal, maya chol y lacandon, tojolabal).  For Sea Turtles we are currently working with 57 committees/groups in 9 PAs. They support in day and night monitoring and surveillance, hatchling release, beach cleaning and in promoting environmental education.  For Golden Eagle 34 committees/groups and landowners in 5 PAs are working with monitoring of nests, habitat improvement actions and a group of women work in promoting environmental education.  For Mexican Wolf, 20 committees/groups and landowners in 3 PAs are working in monitoring and surveillance, habitat management and attention to depredation losses.  For Baja California Pronghorn 4 groups attending helping with management of the specie, monitoring and surveillance. Isla Cedros’ Mule Deer 1 group for monitoring and surveillance.  For Jaguar and Tapir, 74 committees in 6 PAs, community groups working in habitat restoration, monitoring and surveillance, amongst other conservation actions.  California Condor, 1 committee including community members, government key actors and university members.  -Communication strategy to engage key stakeholders and the general public and keep them informed of the actions in the selected PAs, with emphasis on the importance of the species for the ecosystem. In addition, to align the communication strategy with the project’s exit strategy it will inlcude actions to attract the private sector stakeholder in order to invest for species (as a business) (in process).  In 2018 the communication strategy started to be created including the elaboration of key messages for each species and an intern communication protocol in order to create more effective channels of collaboration within CONANP for joint press releases, blog content and social media on priority species, although the process was interrupted, due to personnel changes, the communication actions continued.  At the moment, at least 112 local actions have taken place, according to the communication necessities detected by the PA staff and the project. These actions include development of printed material for the dissemination of key messages, for each species, towards its conservation, environmental education, assisting and organizing conservation fairs, amongst others.  Other actions done in order to engage stakeholders and general public are:  An App for mobile devices called “Especies MX” was designed and updated with new categories to raise awareness on species conservation. The App is free and can be found in both Android and iOS versions. The App needs certain adjustments in order to meet with governmental requirements, such as the new government image, which will be done in 2019.  The photographic exposition aligned to the AICHII Target 12 which was developed for the COP 13 has been touring in different venues: The COP 13 itself that took place in Cancun, the Visitors’ Center of Sian Kaan, at the Ministry of Environment (SEMARNAT) in Mexico City, Chapultepec Zoo, Paleontology Museum of Guadalajara, Guadalajara Zoo, Michin Aquarium and Zacango Zoo (the approximate number of visitors 12,815).  -21 PAs implementing work plans aligned with CONANP’s Action Plans for the Conservation of Species (PACE, for its acronym in Spanish)  9 protocols are implemented for 10 species (Jaguar, California Condor, Golden Eagle, Tapir and the 6 species of Marine Turtles) in 20 PAs:  From which 7 protocols were developed during the project implementation:  1 emergency protocol for California Condor.  1 surveillance protocol for California Condor and Golden Eagle.  2 monitoring protocols for Condor, Golden Eagle.  1 national protocol to improve the coexistence between livestock and large carnivores (including jaguar).  1 protocol for stranded Sea Turtles.  1 protocol for monitoring water troughs, Tapir-Jaguar (in validation process).  In addition, the monitoring protocol for Sea Turtles was already standardized, although, field officers have adapted protocols in a more specific way to comply with the nesting beaches needs. Having a total of 5 adapted protocols (in validation process).  In addition, the project supported CONANP in the elaboration of 4 PACE for: 1) Loggerhead Sea Turtle, 2) Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle, 3) Green Sea Turtle and 4) Isla Cedros’ Mule Deer.  For the Isla Cedros' Mule Deer PACE, the project supported the strategy design for the conservation of the specie, as well as the socialization with different key actors.  -21 POAs with strategic actions aligned to the PACE for community participation in endangered species conservation. |
| **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): | 48.78% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 48.78% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 2,695,163 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 99,929 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 5,525,114 |
| Co-financing | 30,700,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Apr 12, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Dec 23, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jan 6, 2016 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Jul 13, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Jul 6, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Jun 18, 2019 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Dec 31, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jan 31, 2021 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2019-05-10 |
| 2019-02-06 |
| 2018-11-12 |
| 2018-09-21 |
| 2018-07-17 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Environmental | Climate change (CC) modifies habitat conditions in PAs and its surroundings, affecting biological processes and species. Considering that restored habitats lead to better carbon dioxide absorption, action has been taken towards reverting land degradation by implementing habitat improvement actions such as habitat restoration including reforestation with native species.    Inadequate waste management and micro-trash affects directly to fauna species. California Condor and Sea Turtles, for example, can confuse micro-trash or plastic bags for food and ingest them causing a series of problems including death. Within the 2018 and 2019 AOP, action towards environmental education has taken place, including topics related to the importance of the species, its threats and how to prevent and mitigate them. As well as the implementation of direct actions such as seabed cleaning and chelation treatments on condor specimens intoxicated with lead residues.    Loss of biodiversity. This is the main environmental problem which leads to the creation of this project. AOP for 21 PAs include a series of actions that promote the conservation of species in terms of habitat restoration, increase of the protected area, management strategies, generation of information that supports decision making and environmental education. At the same time, PAs capacities are strengthen and participatory communities are built, receiving benefits from species conservation. |
| Financial | The FONCER is missing the one million dollar compromised by the Mexican government and no private investment has been addressed to increase the total grant for the species conservation fund. In addition, especially but not exclusively, in 2018 the project financed operational needs as a result of CONANP’s financial situation.    During the 2019 a participatory planning took place for the AOP planning. NGO’s and other key actors were included locally in the budget planning in order to acquire co-financing for the species. Some of the key actors were Arizona Game and Fish Department (AG&FD) for Mexican Wolf, “Kutzari” and “Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México” civil associations for sea turtles, amongst others.    A financial sustainability strategy has been planned to be created and implemented in the 2019 Annual Operational Plan, as a result of the MTR recommendations, closer advice from BIOFIN will be sought. |
| Operational | Governance problems among partners led to delays in the operation and implementation of the project. Some personnel changes in the head of the Priority Species at Risk Direction in CONANP as well as in the project management led to a better communication, negotiation and therefore implementation of the project.    Operational delays that occur at the project’s start-up phase, continues to affect the project to meet its goals. In 2018 and 2019, the co-investment made by CONANP to the project increased, which, together with the strategic support of PNUD, allowed the project to be reoriented to its initial objectives, achieving a greater impact on its goals.    Operation has also been affected by delays in the 2018 and 2019 AOP times of approval by both CONANP and UNDP, but it is important to highlight that, as a result of the lessons learned, the AOP approval has been quicker each year by preventing and considering with more precision “decision- making times” within the AOP planning schedules.    Operation was also affected by the lack of project’s appropriation by the PA directors. For the 2019 AOP planning process, workshops took place in order to do each species and PA work plans, in close coordination with the decision makers of the areas. During the workshops, they expressed that they had a much better understanding of the project resulting in a better implementation of the work plans. |
| Organizational | Limited local commitment for participating in management and conservation strategies. Since 2018 there has been significant improvement towards involving communities in species conservation. Field staff and strategic planning have permitted to encourage their active participation through different schemes that range from social awareness to joint work in monitoring, surveillance and the implementation of species’ conservation actions. Communities are a key priority within the project as well as for the new administration. |

# 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.** |
| The response matris is in the process of approval by the Project Board. |

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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.** |
| The mid term review is completed and in the final process of translation. The responses to attend the main recomendation is been implemented. |

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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.** |
| The mid term evaluation was delayed and was carried out during this reporting period. Given significant and strong MTR recommendations, it is important to focus on the implementation of the management response in the next reporting period. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | During the first years of the project's life due to diverse circumstances related to its governance the progress positioning internalization in CONANP and execution in general was slow, uncoordinated, unaligned, ineffective and without a strategy, affecting the achievement of goals and objectives and even the basic development of activities. Most of the problems generated were due to budget cuts in the finances of CONANP so the project was pressured that the resources were used to supply the fiscal resource and not as incremental resources. This resulted in a lack of additionality.  There was a change of personnel related to the project that influenced the change of original vision of the project.  However, since June 2018 the project has been restarted and its operation has been achieved. As can be read in the mid-term evaluation report the project made important progress in strengthening the PNAs as well as advancing in the fulfillment of goals, mainly linked to result 2 some of which were reached, and others surpassed in such a way that it is contemplated to rethink them.  This was thanks to the joint work carried out by CONANP, UNDP, the UCP and the project partners:  CONANP: Resumed its role as executor of the project led the actions and strengthened the work together with other key actors. Appropriating the project and positioning it in such a way that it is currently working together with the UCP so that the lessons learned from the project are reflected in the National Program of Protected Natural Areas (PNANP) a strategic planning instrument that defines the line of work of CONANP during the present government.  UNDP: Supported the ownership of the project in CONANP by advising the UCP on the proper implementation of the project providing feedback on processes and supporting the establishment of strategic lines as well as on implementation.  UCP: It worked on strategic planning and management based on results strengthening joint work in the NPAs. It also promoted the appropriation of field officers and communities, delimiting the scope, uses and destination of assigned resources. On the other hand, it worked on the planning, review, evaluation and verification of field activities, promoting collaborative work with other projects, partners, civil society organizations, research institutes and universities.  It collected, ordered and systematized relevant information to support CONANP's decision making and began with processes focused on disseminating project achievements through social networks.  Project partners: the coordinated dialogue with the project partners was resumed and even the dynamics of work with the managing partner improved considerably resulting in greater effectiveness in carrying out activities in the field. They resumed functions and supported CONANP's decisions supported the ANP in the implementation of the project and facilitated processes.  The project has been submitted to the Mid-Term Evaluation which highlights the work done in the last year of the project its progress and areas of opportunity. There is a need to rethink some indicators and continue with the effort made. It is necessary to work on attending the main observations of the EMT focused on:  • Raise the political profile of the Project within CONANP and SEMARNAT.  • Confirm the interest of the project partners in maintaining their participation and commitment to execution under the terms defined by the project board.  • Inter-institutional scaffolding with other government, civil society and private sector actors (and GEF portfolio) to jointly develop the project exit strategy.  • Formulate a conceptual framework that proposes strategic objectives that aligns with the objectives of the new administration.  • Develop a financial sustainability strategy that defines the real gaps based on the reference framework.  • Have a communication strategy that includes community plans that support conservation management of at-risk species.  Currently together with CONANP and UNDP the UCP is working on the management response in order to address these recommendations strengthen the project with a view to its closure and consolidate its internalization in CONANP.  The main challenge at present is the search for financing that allows, in the long term, to continue and maintain the conservation efforts of the 14 species served by the project through the operation of the Conservation of Species at Risk Fund (FONCER) or direct financing through various sources.    We must work in closer collaboration with other actors such as the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature and with the BIOFIN project so that the necessary mechanisms and strategies can be devised to capitalize the FONCER resources or attract potential donors.  The EMT represents an opportunity to restructure the program and focus on the last year of the project in defining the exit strategy of the project in a clear, objective, traceable and transparent manner. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The project had its mid term review in the past cycle. The evaluation reflects some of the main gaps that the project still has between outcomes, specially some important delays in Outcome 1. The DO rating for the reported period is marginally unsatisfactory because of the unclear forecast of the sustaintability of the efforts made so far, but general the Country office recognises the important advance made by the Project team in speed up the implementation of the project.    Project´s implementation has been improved in the reported period. The challenges and difficulties during the first half of the project with the responsible parties, such as the situation with ENDESU, has been surpassing. The project is planning and investing in more strategic matters than just supporting operative cost.    As reported last year, the activities of the project have been reoriented to increase the impact at the local level essentially in terms of capacity building and biodiversity conservation in the Protected Areas and buffer zones, but the systemic impact is yet to be seen.    The project continues strengthening the operative capacities in the Protected Areas, with positive results in terms of the conservation of most species targeted and their habitats. As the mid-term evaluation demonstrates, populations of many of the species have been stabilized or increased, which has been key in a context where budget constraint and pressures on the territory continue to be a major threat. Community involvement and other multi-sectorial approaches have been crucial in these advances, but the lack of funds and the difficulty to align productive programs with the conservation of key ecosystems challenges the sustainability of the measures.    For this reason the project has been oriented to support negotiations with other donors like San Diego Zoo, the US Fish and Wildlife Services, among others, allow the continuity of the California´s Condor and the Kemp's Ridley Turtle programs are examples of it. The collaboration between national institutions and other GEF projects have been crucial for the conservation of the Peninsular Pronghorn and the Bura Deer projects. Recently we start conversations with WWF and Panthera to strength the collaboration for jaguar conservation programs in 2019 and 2020.    On another hand, the initial trend of the project of a purely operational use of the project to advance in more strategic and institutional strengthening issues has been reversed. The project is back on track to fulfil its goals in a more institutionalized manner, recognizing the lack of time and resources remaining. This has been possible thanks to the institutional appropriation of CONANP on the subject and the continuity of the Coordinating Unit.    Although outcome 1 remains the most delayed, progress has been made in the generation of tools for decision making to improve the NPA management, such as the Information System for Endangered Species and the updating of the Endangered Species Conservation Programs (PROCERs for their acronyms in Spanish). In the case of the Information System, the tool has been very well valued by CONANP and other counterparts due to the fact that, until its creation, the information records of the programs supported for species conservation was dispersed, untracked, unclear and used for decision making. The system is being integrated into a platform to improve the effectiveness of the NPAs and will be fully operational from 2020.    However, other outputs considered in this Outcome, such as revolving fund for endangered species (FONCER) and the strengthening of the legal framework, remain without major changes for the reported period. The governmental changes and new priorities established in the new federal administration have implied considerable budgetary and personnel cuts to environmental institutions (including CONANP), that have made it difficult to establish a long-term financial sustainability framework for these programs.    Collaboration with BIOFIN is ongoing, as recommended in the mid term review, to define a financial sustainability strategy and the alignment of other sectorial funds. By the end of 2019, we expect to have stronger mechanisms for long-term financing, especially for these projects.    In normative matters, the Biodiversity Law promoted in the last legislature is detained without a clear horizon of publication. The project is analyzing other alternatives to strength the legal capacities of CONANP and promote inter-sectorial and multilevel approaches that improve the conservation of endangered species efforts, but it might need some time before is possible since many staff form counterparts change with the electoral process.    Interinstitutional arrangements and multisectoral approaches are been prioritized by the project to guide the Exit Strategy. It is expected that in the last year of the project the lessons learned and remain resources would improve the capacity for planning, implementation and monitoring of site-specific co-managed strategies for conservation of endangered species and the design and execute long term strategies.    The endangered species conservation strategies are a priority in CONANP´s sectorial Plan for 2019-2024 (the main planning instrument for the PA). This, along with the new federal administration vision regarding the promotion of sustainable livelihoods compatible whit the conservation of species and their ecosystems may be an opportunity to consolidate the strategy to influence other sectors and actors beyond CONANP.    Sustainability and mainstreaming of the efforts made so far is the key priority of the project in the Exit Strategy. The long-term sustainability and consolidated institutional processes to conserve endangered species will require a co-responsibility of other sectors and the availability of strategic investments in a landscape approach. The consolidation and guarantee of the long-term financial instruments like FONCER and the alignment of other sectorial programs in a common territorial planning is needed. | |
| **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** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | Since the last PIR, SEMARNAT and CONANP have gone through significant structural changes, which include three Secretaries, three National Commissioners and two DEPC Directors. These changes have brought changes in the vision for the project, however, and despite these changes, the teams of the UPC, the DEPC, as well as the team of General Directors of CONANP has remained stable during the last 8 months to follow up on the proposed agreements and objectives. Currently, work is being done to inform the National Commissioner and incorporate his vision into the strategy for the final stages of the GEF project.    Despite the delay in the implementation of the project that has been mentioned in previous PIR, the Project has made significant progress on Objective 2 during last year, once the UPC team has managed to strengthen collaboration with CONANP at both staff in central offices as well as in the PA. We have identified which components have made significant progress and which have not, in order to rethink the objectives and activities that allow a more efficient use of financial resources on the last part of the project.    One of the main objectives of what remains of the project, is the strengthening and consolidation of pilot programs that will be a reference at national and international level to promote the monitoring and conservation of species and ecosystems, which can be extrapolated to the management and conservation of other priority species. There are projects that already have local impact within ANP, so the GEF project support represents a great opportunity to replicate those projects. To achieve this, the UPC team has actively participated in the planning of the National Program for Natural Protected Areas (PNANP) and Conservation Program Species at Risk (PROCER).    Currently, considerable progress has been made to integrate data bases of species at risk into the Single Information System of CONANP. This project is very important since it compiles all the available information that has been generated by the Program for the Conservation of Species at Risk (PROCER) and allows for the first time to have all the information in a single site for diagnosis and analysis.    With a new vision in SEMARNAT, the objective is to promote productive programs compatible whit the conservation of species and their ecosystems. Based on this vision, CONANP is establishing a synergy with other government agencies such as SADER, CONAPESCA, BIENESTAR, CONABIO, which will have a significant impact on the way in which government programs are implemented in the territory, and it is in this aspect where the GEF project can generate an impact in terms of the designing and implementation of programs of this type that are replicable in several ecosystems of the country. For instance, CONANP, within the project’s framework, contacted a senior manager of CONAPESCA to present the proposal of a consulting related to the conservation of sea turtles, by promoting better fishing practices that reduce mortality by entanglement of turtles in the main beaches of the country, this kind of projects are the ones that are considered to be strengthened.    The main challenge that currently exists on the project is the search for funding that allows, in the long term, to continue and maintain the conservation efforts of species at risk through the operation of FONCER. It is essential to work in closer collaboration with the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature and CONANP to explore the necessary mechanisms and strategies to achieve the goal proposed for the FONCER. | |
| **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** | Unsatisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This project is unique in the sense that it is one of the very few GEF funded initiatives addressing the systemic and policy bottlenecks preventing the efficient management and conservation of wildlife and endangered species in LAC. As such, it has set the bar very high within the country and is accumulating a lot of expectations beyond the borders of Mexico. The GEF, the CBD (Aichi Strategic Goal C Target 12) and many conservation organizations in the region are keen to see this initiative succeed. LAC Governments interested in GEF7 funding to address sectoral practices and policy measures needed to enhance wildlife conservation have only few models to look at from this region. Therefore, UNDP considers that this project has a unique contribution to make and the responsibility of the Mexican authorities to ensure optimal management and ownership of this initiative is of outmost importance.    This is the third PIR of this project which started in 2016. The rating in terms of where the project is standing today viz progress towards its objective (and contribution to GEBs) is set at unsatisfactory although the RTA recognizes that important progress was made in the current reporting period under component 2. Nevertheless, delays accumulated in the first three years and the difficulties to make progress on the systemic results expected from this project continue to affect it in this moment, hence the low rating. Additionally, most of the systemic delays pointed out in last year’s PIRs are still valid in this reporting period, indicating that not much has been done to address this situation. Also, the long term GEBs that this project was designed to achieve will most probably not be achieved if the institutional, policy and financial framework is not fully consolidated.    Component 1 focuses on consolidation of system level frameworks for operational and financial planning and management. This component has the biggest accumulated delays. In many ways, this component is the backbone of this initiative and what makes it different from other strict conservation initiatives. It was specifically designed to make the best use of GEF incremental resources by addressing the serious legal, institutional and policy barriers preventing efficient and sustainable long term conservation of threatened habitats and endangered species. Without a systemic change that will bring about capacities to coordinate across institutions, changes in sectoral practices, private sector mechanisms and the adequate national policies to support long term wildlife conservation strategies, the chances are that the current business as usual conservation strategies will not succeed to prevent conversion of habitats and uncontrolled land use change as well as illegal wildlife hunting and trade which are some of the major threats affecting endangered species in Mexico.    Under this component the project is supposed to strengthen the national system for monitoring the populations and conservation status of the target endangered species. It is also supposed to look after current or potential threats, and PA management effectiveness in relation to threat reduction. This includes establishing a GIS based system and updating current databases allowing for a better articulation between existing conservation programs (the project reports 95.26 % of progress of the national system for monitoring the populations and conservation status of the target endangered species and 86% of progress on updating the GIS system on target endangered species). Given constraints beyond the project’s control, there has been no advance in policy and legal frameworks (including making CONANP’s opinions binding in EIA resolutions through the new biodiversity law), with most efforts affected by the congress gridlock. The project team reports to be exploring other ways to achieve these goals, and a strategy is to be determined this semester. This is of course worrisome since we are now past halfway through the lifetime of the project and it has to be said very clearly, the interventions under component 2 will not be sustainable in the long run if no binding instruments can be ensured for CONANP to do its job.    In terms of how the project is advancing on the establishment of innovative funding mechanisms including the design of new models of resource capitalization, the RTA considers that progress has been much slower than expected despite previous alerts. The FONCER fund was established but it has yet to be capitalized beyond the GEF funding allocated and the Mexican portion of the resources have not been transferred, seriously going against the original agreements that guided the design of this project. Obviously the change in government has not helped this situation as the new authorities came with new priorities which did not include this fund. Having said this, provisions should have been made earlier to secure a solid financial strategy that would not only depend on Government funding.    The project team wanted to engage FONCER to execute the existing funds but this has also not been possible due to low institutional buy in. The project team is trying to use the MTR recommendations to push further (for example, the MTR recommends developing economic valuation exercises as well as business cases in connection with BIOFIN and to design a financial sustainability strategy that defines the real gaps according to the previous reference framework in which the patrimonial fund could be inserted as one more tool within a diversified and creative menu of funding sources for the species at risk, in order to stop using the GEF resources as a replacement of federal spending).    Also, while some business plans on how to attract private sector finance for species conservation have been developed, others are still being developed. The key concern here is whether there will be enough time to implement them in the remaining time left for the project. Given national level funding constraints following the new government, several environmental programs are running out of funds. The RTA therefore strongly encourages the CO and project team to drastically step up efforts involving other funding sources besides government to find a path towards financial sustainability. Given the remaining time to implement this project and the time it takes to develop financial solutions this next reporting period will be key to see if this result is achievable. The project will be measured against its capacity to address the issues mentioned above.    Component 2 basically focuses on field activities and on the ground actions. This is where most of the progress has been achieved just as reported last year. This should not come as a surprise since it deals with activities for which CONANP has a lot of expertise and know-how. The project reports stable or increasing population for most of the targeted species (the golden eagle went from 19 unprotected nests to 7 nests with habitat conservation interventions and the Baja California pronghorn went from 350 individuals to 479 individuals) although the situation with certain species such as the vaquita remain extremely worrisome. Under this component, the project benefits largely from the fact that it has very solid capacities installed on the ground to conduct monitoring, control and surveillance work. For example, around 25 Pronghorns have been integrated to the wild between November 2018 and May 2019 and in this reporting period 6 PAs were additionally strengthened through the implementation of multiannual priority management strategies, increasing the area under improved management in favor of endangered species.  In last year’s PIR the RTA recommended that business as usual activities and normal operational costs of CONANP should be essentially covered by national resources. This year the project team reports that CONANP’s budget has increased compared to last year and GEF resources are being used for more strategic planning of project activities in the field. So even when using GEF funds to support CONANP operations the project is not using funds for operational support of CONANP per se, but rather more strategic planning/resource use. However, this concern was also raised by the MTR and it is highly advised that these concerns are taken seriously and recommendations implemented (for example the MTR recommends that in the MRE’s amendment framework a working group with the support of BIOFIN should be established to look for innovative alternatives aimed at the GEF resources to recover their incremental nature and strategic character in the consolidation and sustainability of the investments made, within the 2020 CONANP’s budget and the project).  In terms of the progress on implementation, the project is rated Moderately Satisfactory. As of June 30th the project has executed 48.78% of the annual budget but this number is expected to increase by the end of the year. The project team reports that it is working with the national NGO SENDESU to execute activities in component 2 on the ground, which is expected to help in improving execution and working according to annual workplan. Overall cumulative project execution is also at 48.78%. The project team and CO report that the project is at 90% execution while PIMS and Atlas have a much lower % (48,78%). This discrepancy is due to the USD 1 million which was transferred to FONCER in the first year of the project which shows up as not being executed in PIMS and Atlas. The CO considers that these funds would cease being accounted for as part of the project budget as of when they left UNDP. The funds from FONCER have yet to be disbursed and it is unclear if there is any accountability on the use of these proceeds, especially as the operationalization of the fund is still pending. The RTA recommends that the CO advances the work with FONCER to disburse these funds and ensures at the same time that a proper accountability mechanism is be urgently put in place to report back on the exact use of these proceeds. It is important to point out to the CO that it needs to keep track of the use of these $1m in parallel for reporting for project closure and project audit. If needed more information can be found in the PIMS library    The project team carried out a MTR in this reporting period, which included several urgent recommendations on how to improve execution (such as the need to raise the political profile of the project within CONANP and SEMARNAT to achieve a clear commitment to the closure of the project and to the implementation of MTR recommendations; to convene a meeting of all the project’s partners, in order to confirm their interest in maintaining their participation and execution commitment under the terms defined by the Project Board; promote the formation of an Advisory Committee with expanded participation of key players who are not yet committed to the project, so that it oxygenates, accompanies and strengthens the decision-making of the Project Board and build an interinstitutional scaffolding with other government stakeholders, civil society and the private sector; linked to new GEF portfolio projects and national resource windows to jointly develop the project's exit strategy). This MTR is being used, rightly so, by the project team and the UNDP CO as a lever to try to move the project ahead, however, the RTA also expects to urgently see a management response plan to this MTR be implemented in the very short term.    Finally, in last year’s PIR the RTA commented- “This project is not just about strict conservation. It is equally about development but through a conservation lens. Therefore, it is important that the project starts to step up field activities addressing conflicts with local stakeholders in the productive landscapes and that it addresses issues related to land use change as well as connectivity in the broader landscapes. This will not happen if actors such as SAGARPA do not assume a much more prominent role in this project. Also, the project needs to address alternative sources of income and community-based actions. In that sense it is also important to remind the project proponents that this is very much a mainstreaming project (even if it was presented as a PA project to the GEF). The Mexican government took a strong stance on the importance of mainstreaming BD conservation into productive sectors during the last COP CBD. It is up to the project and CONANP to show that they are capable of working across sectors and create the necessary alliances to be efficient outside PAs. Conservation of wildlife doesn’t happen just in PAs. It happens also outside of PAs where other institutions have a mandate. We need to reach out to them and make sure they become champions of this project. Anything else would be a failure”. This comment is still very much valid and directly related to implementation efficiency and the ability of the project to generate long term impacts. Unfortunately, this recommendation was not addressed in this reporting period. The RTA insists that it gets addressed and that the UNDP CO takes on a proactive role to support the development of a partnership strategy between now and the end of the year that should be reflected in concrete actions in the 2020 workplan. Finally, a last recommendation, the project needs to convene a steering committee meeting as soon as possible once the PIR has been received. All the recommendations outlined in this PIR as well as last year’s PIR along with the project management response plan outlining the actions that will be taken to respond to the MTR need to be carefully reviewed and internalized by the project steering committee. The project has 15 months before closure and should not count on a project extension. Therefore, a very careful exit strategy needs to be put in place along with strategic adaptive measures to take on the challenging situation under component 1. | |

# 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.** |
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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: No |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

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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.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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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.** |
| The project promotes the creation of community committees/groups, equally for women and for men, as well as offering in some cases Payment for Ecosystem Services with no gender distinction. The project measures the involvement of women in conservation, mainly through their participation in these community groups, at the time the participation is 45% women and 55% men.    Depending on the species and the region were the project takes place, you can notice if there is more participation of men or women, for example, for Sea Turtles conservation you can observe more women than men within the working groups. In “Playa Escobilla” (Turtle Sanctuary) there are 34 women and 5 men. For Jaguar, Tapir, Mexican Wolf, Baja California Pronghorn and Golden Eagle we still observe more men within the committees, even though the staff encourages women to participate, more needs to be done. This doesn’t mean that women are not involved in the committees from these last mentioned species. For Golden Eagle, there is a consolidated group of empowered women who were interested in knowing more about the species conservation due to the curiosity of their kids, they were trained by the project’s field officer and know the impart educational workshops in several local schools, their interest grew and know they monitor the species. |

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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.** |
| Gender equality and women’s empowerment permit a strong social structure where not only men contribute to conservation but women do, therefore more and stronger results are achieved not just environmentally speaking but socially in a long term basis. As we understand the importance of equalities (including gender) a more inclusive and sustainable environment will be developed enduring in future generations. In El Verde Camacho, there has been improvement in women participation which has had an impact not only in the conservation per se, but in the women’s attitude and behavior. |

# 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 4956 MEX Endangered Species UNDP Environmental and Social Screening Tool.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4956/213710/1718038/1724906/PIMS%204956%20MEX%20Endangered%20Species%20UNDP%20Environmental%20and%20Social%20Screening%20Tool.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.** |
| No |

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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.)** |
| The project improves people’s lives through supporting sustainable livelihoods for communities through the adequate management and use of their natural resources, as well as taking advantage of the presence of emblematic species in their communities. Another important benefit of the project’s actions is to improve ecosystem services (such as clean water, food, climate regulation, erosion control, nutrient recycling, primary productivity, recreation, amongst others) which benefit communities from first hand.    The project works really close with communities, including indigenous people (Zapoteca, Rarámuri, Chol, Zeltal, Maya-Chontal, Maya-Lacandon, Tojolabal), a total of 165 communitarian committees/groups and land owners, totalling 1009 persons of which 481 are women and 538 are men. These groups in rural communities in or close to a PA are actively involved in actions of species and habitat conservation that includes monitoring wildlife or improving habitat trough fire control actions, restoration activities or even helping to promote environmental education in schools and within the community. Some of these groups receive Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), some of them even do voluntary work when needed.    For Jaguar and Mexican Wolf, local capacity building has taken place in order to mitigate the farmer-carnivore conflict in terms of how to access the livestock insurance. The project staff helps them to process their reports towards cattle attack by predators in order for them to receive economic compensation. In the PAs people is sensitized about the importance of these species and at the time they acquire knowledge on how to improve their cattle production and how to prevent attacks. In Calakmul, a pilot of a cattle ranch was established to function as an example on how to do a sustainable livestock management.  The project has also supported early and middle stages of sustainable productive projects such as ecotourism in beaches for Sea Turtles. |

**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.** |
| There is a internal communication protocol of the Project, which defines the processes and the critical route to carry out the communications that derive from the implementation of the Project. We work in collaboration with UNDP and CONANP in the dissemination through social networks of the main achievements of the ANP within the framework of the Project. The communication strategy is in the elaboration process.    CONANPs social media:  https://www.facebook.com/CONANPmx/  Post in CONANP with larger reach:  https://www.facebook.com/208581735843614/posts/2278487445519689?s=649020564&v=e&sfns=mo  Blog in CONANP:  https://www.gob.mx/conanp/articulos/resultados-del-monitoreo-de-bebederos-en-la-reserva-de-la-biosfera-calakmul?idiom=es  https://www.gob.mx/conanp/es/articulos/conanp-defensora-del-tapir-y-su-habitat?idiom=es  https://www.gob.mx/conanp/es/articulos/captura-de-jaguar-para-su-monitoreo-al-sur-de-la-reserva-de-la-biosfera-marismas-nacionales-nayarit?idiom=es  PNUD social media:  https://www.facebook.com/PNUDMexico/  Project’s information:  http://www.mx.undp.org/content/mexico/es/home/operations/projects/environment\_and\_energy/especies-en-riesgo-gef.html  http://www.mx.undp.org/content/mexico/es/home/presscenter/articles/2016/12/07/exposici-n-fotogr-fica-cop13-meta-12-de-aichi-recuperando-especies-en-riesgo-en-m-xico.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.

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

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| Yes |

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

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

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

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

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [4956 MEX-FONCER\_CEO\_EndReq -rev - 05Dec2014.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4956/213710/1676934/1677215/4956%20MEX-FONCER_CEO_EndReq%20-rev%20-%2005Dec2014.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.** |
| CONANP: During the last year of implementation, CONANP has increased its commitment and leadership towards the project’s development and implementation, which has been reflected in an improvement of the project’s results. This is partly explained by the change of key personnel in CONANP’s Priority Species Direction. However, according to the MTR, a greater commitment on the part of the institution is required, especially on a higher level, due to the project’s necessity on strategic orientation and ability to conciliate and positively mobilize the partners towards progress in achieving results.  On CONANP depends the possibility of defining the exit strategy of the project, re-establishing proactive participation with the other project partners and establishing new alliances with the key actors on biodiversity.  Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT): The GEF focal point in SEMARNAT, has had constant participation in the meetings of the Project Board and maintains a follow-up to its implementation. According to the MTR, SEMARNAT, as a key player in the follow-up of the project, could allow identification of sustainability opportunities in the GEF and Green Climate Fund portfolios and could also play a strategic role in promoting multisectoral dialogue and participation to design the exit strategy.  Natural Spaces and Sustainable Development (ENDESU): During the last year, the dialogue with stakeholders improved, impacting on ENDESU retaking its position as the project administrator partner, facilitating an efficient economic resource execution of the work plans in the PAs.  More commitment is expected from this project partner, so that, along with the other stakeholders involved, project's closure strategy is strengthened.  Mexican Fund for Nature Conservation (FMCN): So far the FMCN has not achieved an efficient operation of the FONCER. It’s participation as a project partner has been reduced and it is necessary that, in coordination with CONANP and UNDP, its work on the elaboration of a financial sustainability strategy achieves real operation and implementation of the FONCER, as well as its capitalization.  Local communities: As owners of the land within which the species of interest of the project are distributed, rural communities play an important role, since their presence in the territory allows a constant operation of actions such as surveillance and monitoring of the species.  Although their participation has increased, it is important to maintain and strengthen the work coordinated with the communities, so that a mutual benefit is achieved.  Work must be done to create awareness in these communities of the real benefits of species conservation, as well as in the appropriation of the project, as one of the exit strategies.  United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Mexico): During the last year, UNDP supported CONANP in retaking the leadership of the project, in its internalization, in the decision making process, as well as in establishing strategic lines and supporting the Project Coordination Unit towards a results based management in order to comply with the project expected results.  It is expected that UNDP will support the project to attract potential funding that will allow the species conservation strategies to continue in a long term basis.  Private sector: This stakeholder will support wildlife-based business and donations towards long term financing through direct financial contributions to FONCER, under corporate responsibility and fiscal incentive schemes. The project’s stakeholders haven’t yet been able to reach private sector in a significant way, that’s one of the main reasons why the already mentioned financial strategy needs to be elaborated and implemented as soon as possible. In the other hand, work its being done with the productive product area of CONANP in order to promote collaboration with this sector. |

# 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.