



2021

## Project Implementation Report (PIR)



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

### **Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF SGP in Mexico**

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## A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	5531
GEF ID	9167
Title	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF SGP in Mexico
Country(ies)	Mexico, Mexico
UNDP-NCE Technical Team	Integrated Strategies and SGP
Management Arrangements	Agency
Project Implementing Partner	UNOPS
Joint Agencies	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Type	Full Size
Implementation Status	3rd PIR
GEF Fiscal Year	FY21
Trust Fund	GEF Trust Fund

Project Description
<p>The goal of this project is to contribute to achieving global environmental benefits by empowering local communities to manage production landscapes in Mexico's Southeast large ecosystems in a manner that enhances their social, economic and environmental sustainability and resilience. Resilience of five landscapes and seascapes will be enhanced through the individual and synergistic impacts of a set of adaptive community practices that maintain ecosystem services, conserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and reverse land degradation in the following large ecosystems: - Deltaic-estuarine landscape of the Grijalva-Usumacinta Rivers; - Coastal lagoons and marine interface in the northern Yucatan Peninsula; - Tropical deciduous, sub-deciduous and sub-evergreen forests in the Yucatan Peninsula; and - Montane broadleaf and cloud forest in northern Chiapas. The project will build on the results, experience and lessons from previous SGP phases, and lessons learned from relevant Programmes such as COMPACT and COMDEKS. In particular, the project will establish or strengthen networks and second-level organizations to integrate and bring to scale production and marketing of sustainably produced goods and services. Coordinated community projects in the landscapes will generate ecological, economic and social synergies that will produce greater and potentially longer-lasting global environmental benefits, as well as increased social capital and local sustainable development benefits.</p>

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Other Partners	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

**B. Overall Ratings**

Overall DO Rating	Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	low

## C. Development Objective Progress

It is mandatory for all reported progress to be substantiated by evidence. Please upload evidence files for each objective/outcome via the DO PROGRESS section in the online PIR platform. If there is no evidence to upload, the Project Manager is required to provide an explanation.

Description					
Objective					
To empower local communities to manage production land/seascapes in Mexico's Southeast large ecosystems in a manner that enhances their social, economic and environmental sustainability and resilience					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2020	Cumulative progress since project start
A. Increased area (hectares) in the target landscapes and seascape with improved community management	118,281 hectares with improved management achieved during SGP's fifth operational phase  No baseline data is available for the number of hectares of seascape with improved management practices but local communities improved the management of one fishery (i.e., spiny lobster) during SGP OP5	N/A	67,940 additional hectares with improved community management of which 49,940 hectares of landscapes and 18,000 hectares of seascapes	After two years of implementing OP6, we achieved and exceeded this target by improving community management on 143,180.37 ha of landscapes, and 33,641 ha of seascapes.  At the landscape level, this was achieved with two grants to create new community conservation areas protecting a total of 35,593 ha of forests. Five new communities are carrying out sustainable forest management activities on 43,300.83 hectares. Agroecology and agroforestry projects now cover 804 and 638 hectares respectively, and ecotourism projects are strengthening the conservation of 7,968.75 hectares. In addition, the project is supporting the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification on a total of 54,875.19 hectares in two ejidos (Mexican social property regime, through which the land	Target achieved and exceeded.  OP-6 has improved community management on 262,000 hectares in terrestrial areas and 35,700 hectares in coastal and marine areas (525% and 198.5% of the EOP-target, respectively).  The impact of the community projects continues to increase throughout the implementation of Operational Phase 6 (OP6), thus integrating more territories to sustainable management.  The landscape target has been achieved through 44 community-led, SGP-supported projects working towards this indicator. In the four landscapes, 14 agroecology and 11 agroforestry

				<p>is managed communally mainly for agricultural production).</p> <p>At the seascape level, community management improved through grants awarded to eleven cooperatives that offer ecotourism activities on 13,741 hectares throughout the entire Yucatán Peninsula. One project is controlling invasive species by monitoring 17,000 hectares on the coast of Quintana Roo. In addition, two cooperatives are creating two marine conservation areas (“no take zones”) covering a total of 2,900 hectares.</p> <p>The project now uses a Geographic Information System (See map 1 attached) to track the impact and progress of the forestry and community conservation projects.</p>	<p>projects impacted 567 and 1,139 hectares, respectively. 12 forestry projects manage 255,018 hectares. Overall, seven community tourism projects are implementing activities covering 5,715 terrestrial hectares in the landscapes.</p> <p>At the seascape level, three projects apply invasive species control activities on 19,008 hectares. The fishing refuges or no-take zones now cover 486,450 hectares. Additionally, 11 tourism projects implement activities in coastal or marine areas covering 11,668 hectares.</p>
B. Tons of CO2e mitigated in community-owned lands through sustainable forest management and avoidance of forest fires	To be determined during landscape level environmental assessments (see Output 1.2.1)	N/A	2,874,564 tons of CO2e	<p>The target has been achieved and exceeded, SGP Mexico estimates that the total area under sustainable forest management mitigates 5,798,500 tons of CO2e (201.72% of the EOP target). This area corresponds to that currently managed by two community conservation projects, and nine forest management projects, impacting a total of 55,541 hectares. This includes the second-largest community conservation area on the national level (35,000 hectares in Laguna Om). It also includes important</p>	<p>Target achieved and exceeded. During OP6, a total of 11,870,205.89 tons of CO2e have been mitigated (413% of the EOP target) through sustainable forest management and avoidance of forest fires.</p> <p>This value was obtained considering the conservation areas of seven forest ejidos and a community conservation project.</p>

				<p>efforts from communities to strengthen or start sustainable forest management and prevention of forest fires.</p> <p>In order to estimate carbon benefits from the eleven forestry and community conservation projects, a study with the research organization "Centro Geo" was conducted during June 2020. It also included a partnership with a local university, Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán (CICY), which provided an updated carbon map of the targeted landscape. High resolution carbon maps were also shared with the local communities, to increase their understanding of carbon benefits. Among the 18 communities that execute sustainable forest management there is interest to further explore the forest carbon market, and SGP Mexico is supporting this process through information sharing and training.</p> <p>A mapping app is under development in order to gather more data for agroforestry and beekeeping projects and update the target next year. The app will also be useful to quantify and verify future impact of supported projects for OP7. It is meant to be a platform useful for people implementing the SGP grants in Mexico. It is expected to be ready by the end of 2020 and users' capacitation is planned during 2021.</p>	<p>Altogether, there are 55,541.5 hectares that CBOs have allocated to conserving low deciduous forest, thereby serving as a carbon sink. A research team from Centro Geo applied the methodology to calculate this value.</p> <p>Additionally, this team developed a database and geographic information system to consolidate the effort into a monitoring tool that the communities can use. It consists of a web platform and a mobile app developed through a participatory process to consider end-users needs. The Centro Geo team conducted nine interviews with grantee organizations. Registry categories were defined: ecotourism, conservation, sustainable fishing, agroecology, beekeeping, and agro-silvopastoral practices. The essential elements to monitor were identified as opportunities or threats, and connectivity and storage characteristics were also identified.</p> <p>Both the mobile app and the web platform are in the final testing phase. The final result is a geo-referenced platform for territorial monitoring and impact evaluation of best practices. It is possible to register points, trails, buffer areas, and polygons and make photographic records, audios, and written text. Users (grantees and</p>
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					project partners) will receive training to ensure the correct use of the app once the piloting is over.
C. Number of communities directly benefiting from improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience to climate change	91 communities improved their livelihoods and resilience through sustainable land and resource use as well as by developing and implementing risk prevention and management plans during SGP OP5	N/A	135 communities with improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience to climate change	<p>This target was achieved and exceeded. Throughout OP6 so far, 108 grants have been awarded. SGP is now supporting 252 communities (186% of the EOP target) in five targeted landscapes. Each of these projects received technical support to carry out a risk analysis and allocate a percentage of the grant (an average of 3.55%) in activities to protect their project. These actions are focused on improving their resilience capacity. A tropical storm named “Cristóbal” impacted the Yucatán Peninsula in early June 2020 and lasted 5 days, for which most of those plans were activated. For example, ecotourism cooperatives that had a protocol and equipment to protect their assets used it to efficiently remove the boats and engines before the impact of the storm.</p> <p>Since the first call in 2018, the NSC approved a cross-disciplinary grant to provide continuous support to implement those resilience plans. As part of this grant, there is a four module capacitation on resilience and risk management. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, two modules were implemented. The “Strengthening resilience” training was given to 100% of the organizations, as part of the proposal formulation workshops (August 2018, and May 2019). While the training “Risk management plan with an ecosystem-based approach” was taken by 41% of the organizations (i.e. 44). Due to the</p>	<p>The target has been achieved and exceeded with 265 communities (196% of the EOP target) implementing projects aimed at improving livelihoods and enhancing resilience in four landscapes and one seascape.</p> <p>From June to November 2020, four tropical storms and hurricanes struck southeastern Mexico with significant consequences during the worst hydrometeorological phenomena season recorded so far. The Country Programme Team (CPT) attempted to contact all the organizations and allies each time to learn about their situation. The cross-disciplinary grant project in charge of risk management accompaniment monitored the implementation of several organizations’ resilience plans and continuously assessed the needs and damages suffered by the communities. Since then, work has been done to develop and implement recovery plans for the productive sectors (beekeeping, agriculture, tourism, health, etc.).</p>



				<p>COVID-19 emergency, it was impossible to continue with the schedule of face-to-face trainings since March 2020. From that moment on, as an adaptive management measure, this project focused on evaluating the economic and social effects of the pandemic and supporting the generation of economic reactivation plans, aligned with UNDP strategies.</p> <p>Furthermore, another emergency arose during the reporting period due to the tropical storm Cristóbal. The risk management team identified organizations with connectivity capabilities (cellphones, and internet access) and the possibility of traveling or contacting the most affected communities, in order to train them to apply the methodology for damages and needs assessments. This resulted in the virtual training of 60 organizations (25 of which are funded by SGP) who were able to evaluate 73 communities through telephone or face-to-face interviews when safe travel visitations whenever were assured. Overall, this team has played a key role in coordinating working groups to generate economic and social recovery plans for the different productive sectors in the region.</p> <p>Through the 108 grants, 252 communities are developing productive activities that directly improve the participants' livelihoods. 72.6% of these communities</p>	<p>In 2021, the Resilience Team organized three virtual meetings called "Harvesting experience," where organizations presented their experience in implementing resilience-building activities and exchanged information about prevention and the lessons learned from last year's challenges.</p> <p>Faced with a double crisis (pandemic and hurricanes) and after identifying key activities for the recovery of some sectors, the NSC approved strategic planning grants to finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Manufacturing of 300 beekeeping boxes to donate to beekeepers who lost their hives due to the storms. A workshop of cabinetmaker women was in charge of making them. They use high-quality wood to create a model box that reduces the proliferation of a parasite known as the "small hive beetle."</li> <li>ii) The safeguarding and subsequent distribution of eight tons of native corn seeds among communities in the Peninsular region. Seeds for 20 varieties of native corn were distributed according to the needs identified by the farmers. This action strengthened the Mayan Network of Seed Guardians.</li> </ul>
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				<p>execute the projects through organizations that are first-time grant recipients. These communities are engaged in the following activities: aquaculture and sustainable fisheries (10); invasive species control (5); agroecology (63) and agroforestry (27); organic beekeeping (20); sustainable forest management (12); eco-tourism (44); and community conservation (2).</p> <p>It is also worth highlighting the capacity building process under implementation aimed to mainstream gender perspectives in project planning, execution, and assessment. By strengthening this approach, we shed light on the differences in livelihoods between men and women, enabling us to identify the necessary strategies to implement actions that will result in improved livelihoods of all the people in the communities.</p>	<p>iii) Mapping of more than 600,000 hectares affected by flooding caused by the tropical storm Cristóbal, based on spatial analysis of satellite images and validated by interviewing people from the affected areas. This process allowed for identifying flood patterns and gathering community perceptions about the causes of this unusual phenomenon.</p> <p>During OP6, 110 grants have been approved, of which 71% were first-time funded organizations (three new projects have been approved during the reporting period).</p> <p>In February 2021, the CPT launched the third call for proposals. As part of this process, a virtual workshop on investment protection was held with the participation of 22 organizations. These organizations received training and technical support to develop a risk analysis and allocate a percentage of the grant for activities to protect their project.</p>
<b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b>	<b>Achieved</b>				
<b>Evidence uploaded:</b>	<b>YES</b>				

**Outcome 1****Component 1: Increased resilience of selected landscapes and seascapes for local sustainable development and global environmental benefits Outcome 1.1**

**Landscape and seascape resilience is enhanced through the individual and synergistic impacts of a set of adaptive community practices that maintain ecosystem services, conserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and reverse land degradation in the following large ecosystems of Mexico's Southeast:**

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2020	Cumulative progress since project start
<p>A. Upriver landscape of the Grijalva and Usumacinta Rivers  A.1 Agroforestry production landscape in Northern Chiapas and Southern Tabasco  A.1.1. Area under community management implementing agroecological principles and practices for selected crops  A.2. Deltaic-estuarine production landscape of Tabasco and Campeche  A.2.1 Number of community enterprises and initiatives contributing to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture with native species    A.2.2 Number of hectares of continental and marine areas monitored to detect and control invasive alien species using SGP's established system</p>	<p>A.1.1 0 hectares in participating communities  A.2.1 Six community-managed hatcheries producing fingerlings of Alligator gar and Castarrica (Cichlasoma urophthalmus), and 18 community fish farms  A.2.2 A community system to detect and control alien invasive species in the freshwater ecosystem of the Grijalva-Usumacinta was established in SGP OP5</p>	<p>(not set or not applicable)</p>	<p>A.1.1 300 hectares under agroecological coffee production    300 hectares under agroecological cacao production    A.2.1 Five additional community-managed hatcheries producing native fish species' fingerlings to be released into their natural habitat and    Fifteen new community fish farms, targeting 5,500 hectares    A.2.2 Documented management of 2,400 hectares to detect and control invasive alien species in</p>	<p>A.1.1. This target was achieved. There are currently 304 hectares under agroecological cocoa production and 334 hectares under agroecological coffee production through eight projects (101.3% and 111.3% of the EOP target, respectively). These projects include CBO and NGO initiatives that promote the use of scientific and traditional knowledge to treat diseases (Moniliasis - Moniliophthora roreri; and Roya - Hemileia vastatrix), improve soil quality and use organic fertilizers. Four (4) of these projects also focus on improving the value chain through direct commercialization of both beans and processed/finished products at a fair price.    A.2.1. In the second call for proposals, the NSC approved three projects to establish new community hatcheries in Campeche (2) and Chiapas (1). Never the less, two missions by the SGP team to Tabasco confirmed a greater need to strengthen existing hatcheries and their</p>	<p>A.1.1. Target achieved. Currently, there are 419 hectares of coffee production and 354 hectares of cocoa production under agroecological practices (140% and 118% of the EOP target respectively). Both activities involved 616 people (287 women and 329 men) living in 40 communities in Chiapas and Tabasco.    Innovative processes have been applied in this landscape. The following are some outstanding examples: (a) the use of microorganisms to inoculate plants in nurseries to increase seedling survival rate and for soil enrichment; (b) the successful use of a "broth" or Bordeaux mixture to control fungal diseases, such as Mycena citricolor (American Leaf Spot, ojo de gallo), and calcium sulfide for Hemileia vastatrix (coffee rust); and (c) selective pruning of</p>

<p>A.2.3 Number of fisheries with improved community management</p>	<p>A.2.3 There are no sustainable fisheries management activities by communities currently taking place in the project area</p>		<p>freshwater (400ha) and marine (2,000ha) areas</p> <p>A.2.3 At least three fisheries of ten species in rivers, protected interior and coastal lagoons, and wetlands with improved community management</p>	<p>market before creating new ones in this state. After discussing the strategy, the NSC decided to strengthen existing initiatives, so one additional project was approved to support three existing hatcheries in Tabasco. Therefore, a total of six hatcheries are receiving support through this new strategy.</p> <p>It is worth pointing out that the aquaculture strategy was discussed during the MTR. The MTR states: “Country Programme Team’s field visits detected a lack of market for fingerlings. The decision to strengthen existing hatcheries as well as existing fish farms is sound and in agreement with field reality.”</p> <p>Five (5) cooperatives are already implementing aquaculture with native species in the targeted landscape. Jointly, they impact 3,373 hectares of the Usumacinta and Grijalva rivers watershed (61% of the EOP target). Three (3) additional communities are currently developing new fish farms using an innovative approach. One will be the first octopus aquaculture project (Octopus maya) in Sisal, Yucatán, and two aquaponic projects are under construction in Bacalar and Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo. It is unlikely that the target in hectares will be achieved by the end of the project, as there will only be eight farms instead of fifteen. However, the hatcheries are also</p>	<p>shade trees and infected fruits in cocoa plantations to control frosty pod rot (<i>Moniliophthora roreri</i>).</p> <p>In both coffee and cacao production, collective practices involve women, men, youth, and children. Examples include establishing farmer field schools, an implementation committee, community science practices for studying the soil, and a tree-climbing workshop for canopy pruning. These activities have improved the participants’ confidence as they strengthen their capacities to undertake various production activities and become part of the collective effort.</p> <p>A.2.1. Target on track. So far, three fish hatcheries have been strengthened in Tabasco, and a new one was established in Chiapas; two are under construction in Campeche with severe delays linked to the pandemic (due to material delivery difficulties and mobility restrictions). With the support from the CPT, it is expected that that the six projects will be consolidated by the end of the year (120% of the EOP target).</p> <p>The fish hatcheries in Tabasco are collaborating, and they have</p>
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				<p>committed to releasing native species into the water bodies, therefore the impact area will increase as soon as the farms and hatcheries complete the production cycles and are able to do releases. Together this initiatives are expected to have an impact on 4,600 hectares (83.63% of the EOP target).</p> <p>A.2.2. After implementing the regional workshop and designing the new strategy for invasive species during the last reporting period, one (1) project to control invasive species is under implementation. The project covers an area of 62,830 hectares of freshwater, through several monitoring points in a watershed, exceeding the target vastly. This is a broad project that includes generating a baseline on the ecology, reproductive biology, and socio-environmental and economic impacts of the Hypostomus Plecostomus. Additionally, the project includes the ecotoxicological evaluation of the species by bioaccumulation of pollutants, to mitigate its effects and raise awareness about the health of the riverside ecosystems.</p> <p>As highlighted in the MTR, no invasive species were detected in the Usumacinta and Grijalva Rivers Watershed. Therefore, there was no project related to the invasive species control indicator that</p>	<p>developed a strategy to dedicate time for watching and cleaning the sites where the Spotted gar (pejelagarto) and Mayan cichlid (mojarra castarrica) fingerlings are released. As such, at least 500 hectares are dedicated to ensuring the conservation of these native species. Moreover, after the significant impacts of one tropical storm and several floods, these cooperatives donated fish to assist in recovering the livelihoods of indigenous families.</p> <p>During this period, five community aquaculture farms were consolidated. They are reproducing pejelagarto and castarrica, and releasing 20% into rivers and lagoons. The baby squid farm initiative flooded due to a hurricane, leading to redesigning existing infrastructure. The two aquaponic pilots planned in Quintana Roo, which combines aquaculture with hydroponics, have not been installed due to difficulties in transportation of the materials needed and the closure of the university where one of them will be installed.</p> <p>A.2.2. This target is on track to be fully achieved by the end of OP6. 62,830 hectares of freshwater habitat are being monitored for armored catfish (Hypostomus plecostomus), an invasive species,</p>
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				<p>could have been approved. The NSC was informed and accepted it.</p> <p>A.2.3 Three projects located in the Yucatán Peninsula focus on improving community administration of coastal resources. In Quintana Roo, the socio-environmental resilience of six fishing cooperatives including strengthening no take zones is under implementation. In Campeche, work is underway to decree a 900 hectares fishing refuge as a Protected Area in Laguna de Terminos that is currently managed by local fishermen cooperatives. In Yucatán, a local marine reserve is strengthened in San Felipe. These three initiatives impact conservation activities for more than eighty endangered species, including turtles. Therefore, this sub-target has been exceeded.</p>	<p>by COBIUS's work teams at five monitoring points. Monitoring protocols consider the Usumacinta River's flood regime and wetland connectivity since the hydrological dynamics influence armored catfishes' movements.</p> <p>This research team described the area in detail, considering different parameters such as vegetation, water quality, socio-demographic data, and historic registers from 2005 to 2019. The team received all the reagents and supplies needed for the eco-toxicological analysis of armored catfish specimens.</p> <p>Moreover, in Tabasco, one of the aquaculture farms uses the armored catfish as food to breed pejelagartos. This farm also uses other animal protein sources, mainly insects, to lower production costs.</p> <p>A.2.3. Target achieved. There are 4 fisheries working to improve community management in the Yucatan Peninsula (133.33% of the EOP target), which cover 486,450 marine hectares, and protect over 100 species.</p> <p>In Isla Aguada, Campeche, a technical study was carried out to</p>
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				<p>decree a fishing refuge or no-take zone. The participants, including former poachers, were trained in survival techniques at sea, community watch, and diving to carry out proper monitoring of the refuge soon to be decreed.</p> <p>In Quintana Roo, six fishing production cooperatives work together to conserve regional marine resources. The project focuses on training the next generation of fishermen and fisherwoman with traditional knowledge and scientific information. The strategy aims to generate resilience and persistence of conservation actions. These cooperatives have decreed 14 Fishing Refuge Zones (ZRP), or no-take zones, under official Mexican regulations. In another community, the fishing sector is involved in monitoring and controlling lionfish, an invasive species. This effort has led to improved self-management of community fisheries.</p> <p>In Yucatan, the Punta Bachul Tourist Cooperative declared 2,000 hectares as a marine reserve, managed by a committee of 16 people (eight women and eight men). They have established strategic surveillance patrols accompanied by a municipal officer</p>
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					for security and better attention to incidents.
<p>B. Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Seascapes B.3.1 Number of community initiatives implementing alternative tourism as a substitute to unsustainable production practices</p> <p>B.3.2 Area with improved community monitoring and control of marine alien invasive species</p>	<p>Two tourism routes including marine and terrestrial areas were established during SGP OP5</p> <p>A community system to detect and control marine alien invasive species was established in SGP OP5</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Thirteen community initiatives implementing alternative tourism targeting 12,000 hectares (marine) and 300 ha (terrestrial)</p> <p>4,000 hectares of marine areas monitored to detect and control invasive alien species in particular Pterois volitans (red lionfish) and Plecostomus sp (Armored catfish)</p>	<p>B.3.1. SGP is currently supporting 17 communities (130% of the target) to develop alternative tourism projects in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Seascapes. These projects represent efforts to diversify and enrich community livelihoods, through tourism practices that sensitize visitors as to the importance of conservation of coastal ecosystems. Activities vary between mangrove and coral restoration projects that include tourists as sponsors; guided tours in an Environmental Management Unit for crocodiles; tours in canals, and coastal lagoons in the Sian Kaan Protected Area. However, all these activities are currently suspended due to restrictions because of the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>These grants impact the conservation and restoration of 15,741 hectares, of which the majority are marine or coastal wetland systems (131% of the EOP target).</p> <p>In order to accurately determine the influence on the landscape portion, it is necessary to establish buffer zones based on the specific conservation activities performed in each case. This work is in progress and expected to be completed by the end of 2020.</p> <p>Considering the number of communities (17) committed to conservation through</p>	<p>B.3.1. Target partially achieved and on track. 16 communities (130% of the EOP) have been supported to develop alternative tourism projects on 14,406 marine hectares (120% of the EOP target), and 168 hectares of coastal lands (56% of the EOP target) in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Seascapes.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such project activities had to stop for at least five months and reopen with less capacity. Within this seascape, prevention measures established to face meteorological phenomena were crucial for reducing impacts from the four hurricanes and tropical storms that affected the region last season.</p> <p>The reason for reducing the impact in this indicator, compared to the 15,741 hectares reported in the 2020 PIR is the premature closure of a project that for reasons beyond the control of the SGP could not conclude its activities satisfactorily. The goal to design, together with local cooperatives and publish a legally binding management plan of the Bacalar Laguna was halted due to a lack of political will from local</p>



				<p>alternative tourism, it is expected to meet the 300 terrestrial hectares target.</p> <p>B.3.2 Currently, in Quintana Roo, two projects are being implemented for monitoring and control of lionfish, covering an area of 19,000 marine hectares (475% of the target). The Banco Chinchorro Fishermen's Cooperative encourages the use of lionfish for a jewelry project led by 7 women and environmental education through festivals. Another cooperative is implementing a similar project in Isla Contoy.</p> <p>Additionally, the Amigos de Sian Kaan association has monitoring and control actions for Armored catfish in 182 ha of freshwater, through environmental education events organized by women.</p>	<p>authorities. The case was presented to the NSC, which recommended the termination of this project with fewer funds spent. Nevertheless, this action does not affect the overall target which has been exceeded(120% of EOP).</p> <p>B.3.2. This indicator was successfully reached last year with 19,000 hectares (475% of the EOP target) with improved community monitoring and control of lionfish (P. volitans).</p> <p>The Banco Chinchorro Fishing Cooperative trained 104 people (29 women, 75 men) to identify invasive species and monitor ecosystems and associated species. Population and ecological monitoring of the lionfish was implemented to understand its behavior and possible effects on marine ecosystems. In addition, support was granted to a women's group from the town of Xcalak to make handicrafts from lionfish fins. They have manufactured 900 necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and keyrings, with an approximate value of US\$ 4,800. The other cooperative, SCPP Por la Justicia Social, operates in the Isla Contoy National Park. A group of 20 men and 20 women captured over 100 lionfish specimens in five days. Both</p>
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					initiatives have the objective of finding alternative uses for lionfish through handicrafts and gastronomic fairs to encourage the consumption of this species.
C. Forest Landscape/Milpa Landscape C.1 Timber and non-timber production forest landscape C.1.1 Area with improved community forest management C.1.2 Number of communities obtaining forest certification or retaining existing certification C.1.3 Number of communities implementing alternative tourism activities C.1.4 Area under community management implementing agroecological principles and practices for selected crops	85,573 hectares under sustainable forest management achieved during SGP OP5  7 forest ejidos in Quintana Roo have FSC certification achieved during SGP fifth operational phase.  4 communities with certified organic apiculture achieved during SGP fifth operational phase.  Five communities under SGP OP5 implementing ecotourism activities  102 hectares and about 1,000 families implemented	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	42,000 hectares under sustainable forest management  10 communities obtain or retain FSC or NMX 143 certification, for diverse products or services  10 communities implement ecotourism activities targeting 1000 ha  140 hectares under agroecological land management	C.1.1. The approved and ongoing grants to carry out sustainable forest management span over an area of 118,893. 83 ha (283% of the target).  In this reporting period, a community conservation area of 35,000 hectares was officially certified in the Ejido Laguna Om. Mexico's Minister of the Environment visited the area in November 2019 to present the certificate. The Yunkú ejido in Yucatán has designated 593 hectares to start the same registration and certification process.  C.1.2. In addition to the 44,875.19 hectares covered by 6 ejidos in Quintana Roo, four communities sustainably manage 9,785 ha of forest. So far, 3 communities have retained the FSC certification (30% of the EOP target). 3 more are on process to acquire a collective FSC certification, and the other 4 maintain their interest, effort, and preparations for FSC certification. If so, the EOP could be 100% achieved. However, this process has been affected by the budget cut of the National Forestry Commission since the start of the new administration in December 2018 and	C.1.1 Target achieved. In the forest landscape, 255,737 hectares are under sustainable forest management (608% of the target) from 25 communities in the Yucatan Peninsula and one in Tabasco, developing timber and non-timber resource use projects.  During this period, a workshop for cabinetmaker women who specialize in building beekeeping boxes was completed. Two collection centers for breadnut ( <i>Brosimum alicastrum</i> ) seeds and leaves, managed by women-only groups, were strengthened. Both groups participated in a 10-day architectonic design workshop with a consulting team of architects to fulfill their enterprise's needs and comply with sanitary regulations for food processing plants. This process empowered participating women by learning about the construction and equipment requirements for their work.  In addition, two initiatives for establishing networks of

	<p>sustainable agricultural practices during SGP OP5</p> <p>No research activities on agroecology during SGP OP5</p>			<p>represented the main co-financer for these organizations.</p> <p>C.1.3 In the second call for proposals, four new grants were awarded to ecotourism initiatives, which comprise twelve additional communities. Considering all grants, it adds up to 16 communities (160% of the EOP target), and it amounts to 8,582 hectares in conservation (858% of the EOP target) (targets exceeded). These projects play an important role in strengthening the marketing and communication of activities, which is reflected in the increase in demand (prior to the suspension of work due to the COVID-19 contingency). Initiatives such as the consolidation of a 100 km hiking and biking tourist route called "Camino del Mayab" stand out. The coordination of five communities to carry out a bird watching marathon in Calakmul, with 123 participants is another example.</p> <p>In addition, a strategic project to form a Network of Community Tourism was approved in the second cal, which adds 14 additional communities to those already supported by the SGP. This project develops three lines of action: training and certification; governance and incidence in public policy; and promotion and marketing. Currently, the alliance has a crucial role in the development of post COVID-19 recovery strategies for the sector, coordinating efforts among</p>	<p>conservation areas between communities were supported by designating these areas as Voluntary Conservation Area.</p> <p>C.1.2. Target on track. Six communities have obtained or retained the FSC certification (60% of the EOP target) on 176,238 hectares (over 400% of the EOP). Three additional communities continue in the process of acquiring a collective FSC certification due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions that delayed field visits from the external evaluator. Furthermore, SEMANART's regulatory office only opens two days a week, which has also postponed administrative procedures.</p> <p>During the third call for proposals, SGP received a proposal for acquiring FSC certification which was approved and will add to achieving this target.</p> <p>C.1.3. Target achieved. Currently, 24 communities are implementing terrestrial alternative tourism activities, targeting 8,610 hectares (240% and 861% of the EOP target, respectively). During this reporting period, the tourism sector has been severely affected by the pandemic. However, these initiatives have</p>
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				<p>communities to implement a comprehensive strategy.</p> <p>C.1.4. Thirteen (13) agroecology projects are under implementation, involving 85 communities. They are adopting agroecological practices on 804 hectares (574% of the EOP target). The strategies to achieve this are diverse and highlight the strong gender perspective and the inclusion of children and youth. The Ko'ox Tani project establishes agroecological schools with 77 Mayan women in Yucatán communities, as the basis of a capacity-building process to overcome extreme poverty. The Muuch-Kambal community alliance promotes agroecological practices in elementary schools to raise awareness on agroecological practices amidst a landscape affected by large soy crops. The leaders of the association Las Mujeres Rurales de la Frontera Sur designed an environmental awareness program with the community that includes the use of agroecological production techniques.</p>	<p>overcome the crisis by prioritizing collaborative fund management, applying resilient measures, and embracing new and creative endeavors such as circular economy, bartering, and rural tourism to transcend the "everyday experience." SGP supported promotional strategies that highlight outdoor activities and the low density of tourists in tourist destinations. At the beginning of 2021, tourism was slowly restarting.</p> <p>C.1.4 This goal has been achieved and exceeded as 923 hectares are under community management implementing agroecological principles and practices for selected crops (660% of the EOP target). A large diversity of techniques has been applied. One of the most important is using and protecting locally adapted seeds, mainly maize and other species from the milpa. Biofactories to cultivate microorganisms (mycorrhizal, nitrogen-fixing bacteria, etc.) and produce liquid bioferments (biol) and compost have also been very popular. Some groups have learned to prepare and use organic chelates, botanical extracts as insecticides, and pest attractants (especially for fall armyworms). Also, project participants frequently use biointensive farming, water</p>
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					<p>harvesting techniques, and soil improvement practices.</p> <p>These practices have had excellent results among producers who express a strong commitment towards the agroecological transition, encouraged by increasing their families' health and savings from not depending on synthetic products with high market costs and caring for their land and crops.</p>
<b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b>	<b>On track</b>				
<b>Evidence uploaded:</b>	<b>YES</b>				
<b>Outcome 2</b>					
<b>Community-based organizations possess the organizational and managerial capacities for business development and performance on a larger scale to contribute to landscape and seascape management and governance</b>					
<b>Description of Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Level</b>	<b>Midterm target level</b>	<b>End of project target level</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>Cumulative progress since project start</b>
1.2.1 Number of adaptive and participatory land/seascape management strategies and plans developed/updated	None	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Six adaptive and participatory land/seascape management strategies and plans developed/updated	<p>1.2.1. We developed all five adaptive and participatory land/seascape management strategies and plans (100% of the target) during the previous reporting period.</p> <p>Overall, 23 workshops were conducted in order to establish a comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessment, using the methodology piloted by COMDEKS.</p>	1.2.1. This target was achieved in 2019. Five adaptive and participatory land/seascape management strategies and plans were developed. They are essential for monitoring land/seascapes objectives. During the OP7 Project Preparation Phase (PPG), these strategies guided the development of OP7's logical framework

				<p>This process included 501 stakeholders of which 127 were women (25%).</p> <p>Extensive documents, summaries and infographics were generated from each of the land/seascape sites, including the main socio-ecological characteristics of the land/seascapes; resilience assessments based on COMDEKS indicators; strategic cross-cutting themes, and their specific goals.</p> <p>Subsequently, a strategy was integrated at the regional level by combining the baselines, aligning the goals among landscapes, designing the shared strategic cross-cutting themes, and identifying the non-shared goals. This process resulted in the SGP-Mexico 2020-2030 Landscape Resilience Strategy. This document is the guiding document for planning operational phase seven (OP7).</p> <p>As part of the strategy integration, valuable documents were generated such as: Lessons learned from the planning process; disaggregated tables for monitoring the proposed goals in each land/seascape site; templates to generate management documents and presentation of the strategies to key stakeholders.</p> <p>So far, these documents have served as planning instruments (they have been key in preparing the PIF for OP7), identity awareness, negotiation and</p>	<p>considering the needs and realities of communities. The five strategies were also used as the base for discussing and receiving feedback from stakeholders who participated in the OP7 validation workshops.</p>
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				communication with partners, stakeholders and other donors.	
1.2.2 Number of community members with increased capacities for business development and management disaggregated by sex	<p>140 community members increased their capacities for business development and marketing of timber and non-timber forest products</p> <p>358 community members increased their capacities for ecotourism development and operation</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	200 additional community members with increased business development and management capacities of which at least 30% female	<p>1.2.2. We exceeded this target. Organizations supported for the first time, are currently involving 460 community members (230% of the EOP target) who are building greater capacities to develop and manage community businesses, of which 193 are women, representing 41.9% of the total.</p> <p>Community tourism and beekeeping initiatives continue to stand out for training activities to improve customer service and marketing strategies for their products. Other initiatives have adopted the risk management and reduction approach as part of their training.</p> <p>Some aquaculture cooperatives have set specific goals for community business management training. In this sector normally dominated by men, the increasing participation of women and youth is noticeable. This is enriched by the participation of the organizations in the government programme, Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro. This programme grants scholarships to individuals between 18 and 29 years old to join a company or a cooperative as apprentices. So far 20 cooperatives decided to receive 60 apprentices.</p> <p>In the forestry sector, the Ejido Caoba promotes a workshop of 30 female carpenters who focus on building beekeeping hives with FSC certified</p>	<p>Target achieved and exceeded.</p> <p>1.2.2. During this operational phase, 672 community members participated in workshops or trainings that increased their capacity for business development and management (336% of the EOP target). 352, with more than half of them (52.4%), women.</p> <p>Due to mobility restrictions related to the pandemic, most organizations faced a great challenge in adopting digital platforms. For the program, this meant providing the necessary tools to do so. With the additional resources from the difference in currency exchange rates, SGP recommended that grantees install internet repeater antennas, purchase portable modem routers, and pay for prepaid mobile phone services. This equipment and services supported 10 community businesses and gave children, and young people access to online school programs.</p>

				<p>wood. Furthermore, following NSC's recommendations, male-only organizations such as Carboneros del Roble have developed specific strategies to facilitate the participation and training of women in forestry activities.</p> <p>A cross-disciplinary grant is underway to support a capacity-building process for cooperatives to increase management skills.</p> <p>Although the target has been reached, additional efforts are needed to consolidate these processes. The COVID-19 crisis is directly impacting 100% of the cooperatives, and the SGP team will focus on economic recovery. By working closely with UNDP CO, and thanks to the impact assessment, the Country Programme Team (CPT) is implementing a recovery strategy throughout these sectors. For example, the community tourism alliance expressed the urgent need for a web platform to promote the ecotourism offer of the Yucatan Peninsula. SGP supported the creation of a high-quality webpage in which detailed information on 24 initiatives and customer service is provided. Its official launch was on July 4, 2020, within the international day of cooperatives (<a href="http://viajaturismocomunitario.com/">http://viajaturismocomunitario.com/</a>). Also, by means of dialogue with the organizations and breaking down their needs, 13 grant's work plans were modified. Expendable activities or those that cannot be carried out in the context</p>	<p>Learning to use platforms such as Zoom, social media, or Google Drive has enhanced capacity-building processes among community-based organizations and technical assistants. It has also been an opportunity for youths to get involved. For example, the organization Comunidad y Biodiversidad focuses on developing administrative and resource management capacities for fishers' sons and daughters so that a new generation can propose and manage sustainable projects. The Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism implemented a "digital youth" program with similar objectives.</p> <p>Another significant experience has been developing a health certification protocol offered by the Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism, combined with a collective certification process among peers. Despite not being part of the original intention of this target, it is a training process that allows cooperative members to offer quality services and health safety in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. All 24 cooperatives from this alliance were certified, and two of the three Peninsular state governments recognize this certification. The third government</p>
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				<p>of the pandemic such as workshops, transportation, or work with schools were identified. That budget was redirected towards urgent actions such as the purchase of vegetable seeds, temporary employment, maintenance of equipment, or preparation of sanitation protocols. SGP also co funded the distribution of 1000 traditional medicine kit to distribute among affected communities.</p>	<p>did not develop a certification in the tourism sector.</p> <p>Many of these training programs have responded to the various project production activities supported during OP6. Some training programs focus on learning and discussing new paradigms such as the social economy and the circular economy. Others enhance interpersonal relationships, such as buyer's responsibility or customer service; lastly, others aim to understand market positioning like commercial image, packaging, and product quality management.</p> <p>In some sectors such as coffee and cocoa, women and men were also trained in improving coffee bean roasting, cocoa processing, chocolate quality tasting, and tree climbing for safe pruning. In forestry, young people were involved in collecting forest data to design sustainable management plans.</p>
<p><b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b></p>	<p><b>On track</b></p>				
<p><b>Evidence uploaded:</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>				

<b>Outcome 3</b>					
<b>Successful small grants experiences from this and previous phases are consolidated/ up-scaled through production and marketing chains and second-level organizations as well as through exchange of knowledge and experiences, linking community-based organizations within and across landscapes/seascapes</b>					
<b>Description of Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Level</b>	<b>Midterm target level</b>	<b>End of project target level</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>Cumulative progress since project start</b>
1.3.1 Number of second level organizations established or consolidated at landscape or thematic levels	None existent for pursuit of this project's objectives	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least five	<p>1.3.1 This goal was reached last year; however, the CPT believes this is a key strategy for OP6. The three strategic projects approved by the NSC are implemented by second and third level organizations and three regular grants are supporting second level organizations.</p> <p>The Maya Alliance for Bees in Milpa Forestry Landscape, Alianza Selva Maya in Forestry Landscape, and the Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism, are the strategic projects consolidating, replicating and up-scaling specific successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems.</p> <p>In the Usumacinta Watershed, a planning project to strengthen sustainable aquaculture is under development through the Native Species Product System Committee, which includes 20 cooperatives. In the coastal landscape, the Kanan Kay Alliance strengthens the capacities of six fishing cooperatives for marine conservation. In May 2020, a project was approved for the Red Mayense de Guardianes de Semillas to urgently address the need for native seeds in communities facing the</p>	<p>Target achieved. During OP6, a total of 11 second-level organizations have been supported (220% of EOP target).</p> <p>1.3.1. The five second-level organizations established in previous years continue to execute their projects. Considering the current economic crisis, one of the most valuable lessons learned was the importance of being part of a group committed to supporting each member. As a result of such organizational efforts (supported by SGP) and ongoing projects, every single CBO or CSO belonging to one of these second-level organizations has not closed during the pandemic, so that at least 1,070 people (226 women and 844 men) kept their jobs.</p> <p>Additionally, other grants are working towards the consolidation of three more second-level organizations. The Ecoguerreros project, which is successfully</p>

				<p>consequences of the COVID-19 crisis and the tropical storm that affected southeastern Mexico.</p> <p>Several productive sectors were strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the tropical storm Cristobal. The regional alliances of beekeeping, community tourism and native seeds have played a fundamental role in damage assessment, as well as identifying impacts and needs.</p> <p>Three projects continue their activities and contribute to this indicator: Ya'ax Sot 'Oot' Yook'ol Kaab in Jose Maria Morelos, (Repseram), and Society of Ejido Forest Producers of Q. Roo in Othón P Blanco, both in the State of Quintana Roo; and Agroecological Producers Network (Kakuxtal), in the State of Campeche.</p>	<p>working on a long-distance hiking route known as "Camino del Mayab," is in the process of forming a second-level organization with the cooperatives that offer services along the route. They have held several meetings to reach agreements regarding the members' operating protocols, commitments, and benefits. This project intends to distribute monetary benefits equitably among each stakeholder, including NGOs, CBOs, indigenous communities, and ejidos, as well as government institutions and service providers. This case study will be systematized.</p> <p>Another effort was made to establish a second-level organization with 17 small beekeeping cooperatives in Yucatan and Campeche to strengthen the beekeeping value chain, with support from EDUCE. This process has not been completed due to the closure of the Tax Administration Service offices during the pandemic. However, this community alliance is about to be legally established.</p> <p>In Campeche, a local alliance of five cooperatives was established with SGP support to offer visitors community tourism experiences</p>
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					near the Calakmul archeological site.
1.3.3 Number of strategic projects consolidating, replicating and up-scaling specific successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems	None existent in relation to this project's objectives	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least 3	<p>1.3.3 During the second call for proposals in August 2019 NSC approved 3 proposals for strategic projects, which were also endorsed by the UCP Global Coordinator. These projects impact three out of the five land/seascapes. Since October 2019, they are implementing strategies to upscale practices and experiences:</p> <p>1) The Selva Maya Alliance, in the forestry landscape, strengthens the governance and entrepreneurial capacity of 5 FSC-certified forest communities.</p> <p>2) The Mayan Alliance for the Bees of the Yucatán Peninsula - Kaabnáalo'on, works to position beekeeping as a fundamental productive activity in the conservation of natural heritage, rural development and protecting human and indigenous rights in the Milpa Forestry and Timber and Non-Timber Forestry Landscapes.</p> <p>3) The Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism integrates 24 community companies in Yucatán, Quintana Roo and Campeche, to work jointly on the impact on public policies, obtaining certifications, and improving marketing strategies. This last point based on diagnostics and market studies proposes the creation of a digital platform that integrates the peninsular offer, including tourist circuits throughout the territory, as well as</p>	<p>Target achieved.</p> <p>1.3.3. The three strategic projects (100% of EOP target) that began in October 2019 continue to be executed. Due to the pandemic, they were all extended until October 2021. Despite the 2020 delays, the projects have resumed and/or modified their activities to meet the goal of consolidating, replicating, and scaling successful practices from previous SGP phases.</p> <p>Here are some highlights from this reporting period:</p> <p>1) The Alianza Selva Maya (community forestry alliance) legally established a community company under the Rural Productive Society legal figure. It began with the investment from a representative of each of the five ejidos. After opening the investment possibility to more partners, they managed to raise approximately 8,530 USD.</p> <p>Women have played an essential role in this process, as they usually buy more shares than men, which means that their votes have more</p>

				<p>promotional audio-visual material and participation in tourism fairs.</p> <p>They cover Timber and Non-Timber Forestry Landscape, Coastal Seascape and Milpa Forest Landscape.</p>	<p>weight for decision-making in the assemblies. The company purchased land, and a sawmill, a drying facility, and industrial carpentry are under construction. The facilities will include an office, a meeting room, and a showroom. The alliance is supporting the renewal of their members' legal permits. This year they also received a first public order for certified wood as an alliance.</p> <p>2) The Alliance Kaabnáalo'on (beekeeper regional alliance) has continued connecting more than 500 beekeepers in the Yucatan Peninsula. Its mission is to defend bees, the rainforest, and beekeeping. It works towards reducing pesticide use and deforestation and increasing market access. Alliance members developed a recovery plan to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. The Alliance has been working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to design new beekeeping subsidies, and it updated its beekeepers' registry to receive these new governmental subsidies. Moreover, this alliance participated in celebrating World Bee Day as part of its media positioning plan.</p> <p>3) The Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism officially</p>
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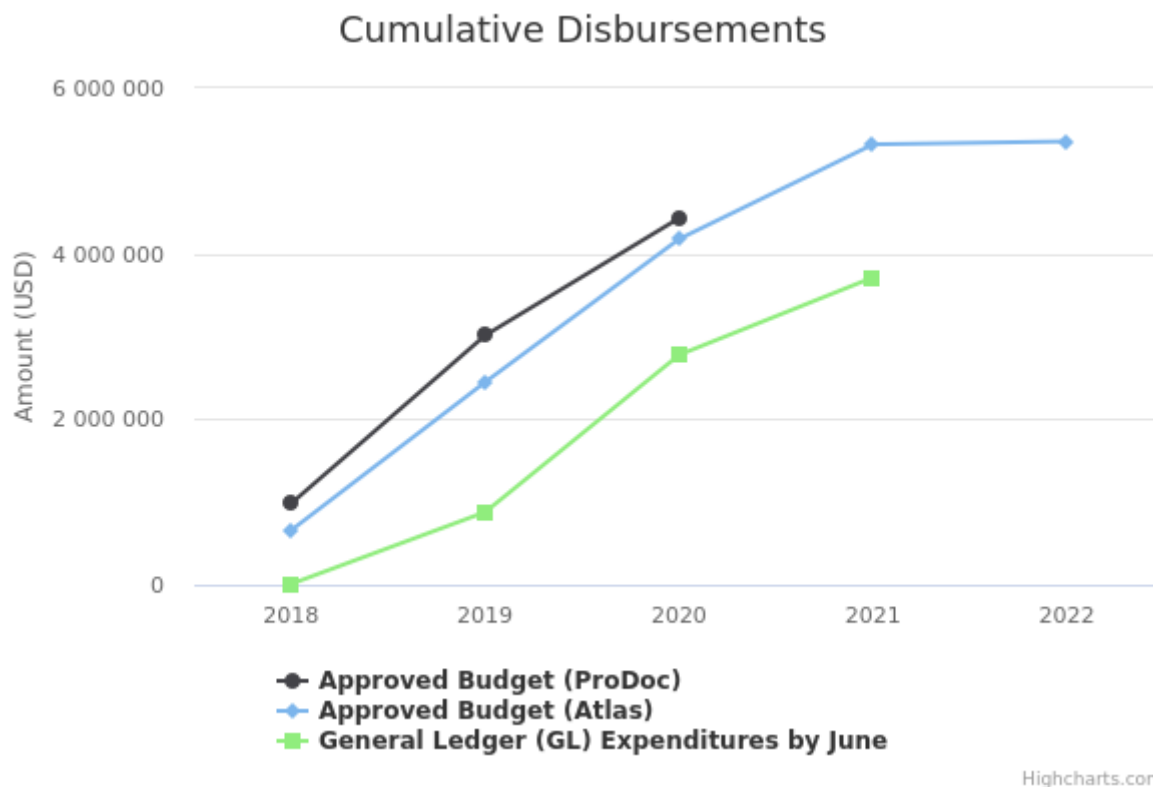
					<p>launched its web platform on July 4, 2020. This year the alliance has managed to maintain the 24 active initiatives. Most of the destinations were closed for six months while training in health protocols was carried out to reopen as soon as possible. This led to establishing a community certification among peers, which endorses the correct implementation of such protocols.</p> <p>Given the development of the Maya Train, many cooperatives consider it essential to become involved in avoiding its negative impacts throughout the Peninsula. For more than a year, they negotiated to formalize their participation. On June 17, their efforts were successful by signing a collaboration agreement between the Alliance and the National Fund for the Promotion of Tourism (FONATUR). The concept of community tourism is now widely used among an extensive array of stakeholders, from NGOs to government agencies.</p>
1.3.4 Number of knowledge products (case studies) produced and disseminated.	No case studies produced at the landscape level	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least 6 case studies developed (1 per landscape)	1.3.4 Nineteen case studies were presented during the 25th Anniversary of the SGP México on October 2019. The material included one short video for each landscape, storytelling on successful experiences of CBO and NGOs. The book "Soluciones locales de comunidades mexicanas a los desafíos ambientales globales" was distributed in	1.3.4. Target achieved and exceeded in 2019. Five additional case studies will be developed during the next reporting period, to reflect the impacts of the OP6 projects.

				<p>hardcopy to all 19 people interviewed, and the ebook has been widely disseminated. Three documents were revised, rebranded and published during the 25th Anniversary: “Practicando un modelo de Desarrollo”; “Experiencias exitosas en materia de biodiversidad y cambio climático”; and “Acciones prioritarias en materia de conservación y cambio climático”.</p> <p>All these materials are available digitally and free of charge (see Knowledge Management section).</p> <p>The NSC approved a specific grant to strengthen communication skills for all active SGP projects. The aim is to support community members to create their own stories and express themselves, as they consider appropriate. As part of this project, in April 2020, the first Program's Newsletter was released with six notes about projects, experiences, and events. An online conference on communication strategies was held in May 2020 for all grantees. All the partners were invited to submit a story about their projects. So far we have received 13 stories to be included in the July and October newsletters.</p> <p>Furthermore, we have intensified sharing experiences through social media. SGP's new website now includes a blog section. Blog posts are published every month (14</p>	<p>During this reporting period, most trainings for community communicators have been delivered. A call to receive trainings for SGP member organizations encouraged the participation of young people, especially women, from communities. As a result, four women and four men participated in six training modules (face-to-face and online), covering narrative journalism, Mayan community communication models, collective writing, reporting, and digital platforms for environmental challenges. The process is ongoing and will continue with the following topics: documentary photography, video edition, and social networks design.</p> <p>Thanks to this new team of community communicators, four newsletters have been produced from August 2020 to May 2021, aimed at communicating the experiences of the communities supported by SGP, as well as the innovations, stories, and efforts of women and men in creating new ways for caring for nature. This effort has so far included the stories of 24 projects from the five SGP target landscapes, as told by community communicators using</p>
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				<p>post during the reporting time) to share the projects' main results (see communication section).</p>	<p>the techniques and tools learned during their training.</p> <p>The newsletter is shared by MailChimp, and all SGP social media (Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook). So far, the most popular ones are about the communal conservation area in Laguna Om (438 views), the experience of Mayan women with stingless beekeeping (464 views), and the efforts of women in Nuevo Becal to conserve natural resources (374 views).</p>
<p><b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b></p>	<p><b>On track</b></p>				
<p><b>Evidence uploaded:</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>				



## D. Implementation Progress



Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	83.84%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	83.84%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June:	3,713,634

<b>Key Financing Amounts</b>	
PPG Amount	136,987
GEF Grant Amount	4,429,223
Co-financing	6,333,389

<b>Key Project Dates</b>	
PIF Approval Date	Apr 19, 2016
CEO Endorsement Date	Nov 6, 2017
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Feb 22, 2018
Date of Inception Workshop	Jun 15, 2018
First Disbursement Date	Mar 31, 2018
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Mar 1, 2020

Actual Date of Mid-term Review	Nov 15, 2019
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Apr 20, 2022
Original Planned Closing Date	Feb 22, 2021
Revised Planned Closing Date	Jul 20, 2022

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2020 to 1 July 2021)
2020-08-14
2021-01-26
2021-03-16
2021-06-29

**Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones outlined in the above 'Key Project Dates' table. Include comments on COVID-19 related challenges, delays and impact. If there are no delays, please indicated 'not applicable'.**

The COVID-19 pandemic is the leading cause of delay in the execution of several community-based projects throughout all OP6. During the 41st NSC meeting in August 2020, it was agreed to request a 17-month no-cost extension. This decision considered the MTR recommendation to ask for a six-month extension (before the pandemic) plus the delays due to mobility and meeting restrictions during the pandemic, which have meant at least a 10-month delay in the Yucatan Peninsula. After receiving UNDP's authorization, time-extension amendments to 64 grants agreements were signed to support communities in successfully implementing all project activities and assist them towards economic reactivation. Furthermore, UNOPS' independent audit process was postponed until September 2021, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

**CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance**

The project received approval on a 17-month extension due to COVID. The impact of COVID and other disasters reported affected the original grantee plans, but the amendments requested allowed the grantees to adjust their plans accordingly.

The Country Programme Team (CPT) has visited the projects and submitted situation reports of all projects to the National Steering Committee.

The CO has also supported the coordination with other projects and initiatives that focus on the same regions and communities supported by the SGP. With this coordination, the implementation of the projects is progressing well and the achievement of the expected outcomes is on track.

Moving forward, the CPT should continue to:

- Strengthen the dialogue with the RTA, UNDP CO and National Steering Committee to guide the implementation of the project and other initiatives at the regional and national levels to improve the sustainability of the efforts.
- Support the field visits and the documentation of the progress and challenges, as well as the systematization of lessons learned, and best practices of the projects supported.
- Implement field visits to monitor activities and identify the challenges directly with the grantees.
- Facilitate the coordination with other projects and initiatives led by CO in the same regions and communities supported by the SGP.

**NCE RTA: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.**

Following MTR recommendations, during the reporting period, in September 2020, UNDP approved a request for a 17-month no-cost extension for the Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Mexico to compensate for delays in the implementation of some community level projects related to COVID-19, as well as to respond to the initial tight three-year timeframe of the project which is a limiting timeframe for SGP activities. The extension will allow grantees to achieve full completion of project activities and comprehensive evaluation of results. It will also provide adequate time for the appropriation, exchange, and dissemination of learning and knowledge, and the discussion of public policy applications at the regional and national level, building on the landscape level work that has taken place during project implementation.

As described under the overall assessment section, delivery is proceeding as planned in line with the revised operational closure date. When COVID hit, SGP Mexico was particularly successful in adapting project implementation to the new realities and needs while remaining in line with the overall project objectives and strategy. The project benefits from close interactions with UNDP CO colleagues, and NSC members, as well as government counterparts. During the reporting period, SGP Mexico has been participating in weekly webinars with managers of other SGP Country Programmes from around the region and worldwide to share lessons learned and best practices in addressing challenges arising from COVID.

## E. Project Governance

<b>Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021). Please also upload all meeting minutes using the FILE LIBRARY button.</b>
2020-08-14
2021-01-26
2021-03-16
2021-06-29

## F. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2021 Development Objective Progress Rating	2021 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Role	2021 Overall Assessment
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	<p>This is the third PIR for the Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Mexico, and the project is granted a DO rating of SATISFACTORY as the project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The current progress shown below, explains why the UNDP Country Office and the UNDP-NCE Technical Advisor concur with a satisfactory DO rating.</p> <p>As one of the SGP Upgraded Country Programmes, SGP Mexico in its Sixth Operational Phase has been adopting a community-based landscape approach to enhance and maintain socio-ecological resilience of five landscapes and seascapes in the key ecosystems of the Deltaic-estuarine landscape of the Grijalva-Usumacinta Rivers; the Coastal lagoons and marine interface in the northern Yucatan Peninsula; the tropical deciduous, sub-deciduous and sub-evergreen forests in the Yucatan Peninsula; and the Montane broadleaf and cloud forest of northern Chiapas. The project is in its third year of implementation and has been able to make good progress towards its objective of enabling community organizations in Mexico to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for socio-ecological resilience, through design, implementation and evaluation of grant projects for global environmental benefits and sustainable development.</p> <p>Since project start, SGP Mexico has approved 113 community-based grant projects to enable community organizations and NGOs to develop and implement adaptive landscape/seascape management strategies that build social, economic and ecological resilience based on local sustainable development benefits. Of these, two were approved during the reporting period. On-the-ground supported activities have already placed 262,000 ha of landscapes and 35,700 ha of seascapes (297,700 ha overall) under improved community management, exceeding the target of 67,940 ha (438% of the EoP target). To track impact and progress of the forestry and community conservation projects, the programme has created its own GIS system. Each landscape is contributing to targeting a large number of beneficiaries (265 communities) actively participating in project activities (196% of the EOP target). While not all activities are directly improving livelihoods, all projects provide support to adapting to climate change using a proven methodology of UNDP's Mexico risk management program. With regard to measurements related to carbon sequestration, the project has developed a landscape level environmental assessment to determine an adequate baseline. Through this assessment, SGP Mexico has estimated that the total area under sustainable forest management is mitigating 11,870,205.89 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (413% of the EOP target).</p> <p>The project is designed to enhance capacity of community organizations for landscape management for socio-ecological resilience in Mexico's Southeast large ecosystems through three outcomes; 1) Landscape and seascape resilience is enhanced through the individual and synergistic impacts of a set of adaptive community practices that maintain ecosystem services, conserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and reverse land degradation in the selected large</p>

ecosystems of Mexico's South east; 2) Community-based organizations possess the organizational and managerial capacities for business development and performance on a larger scale to contribute to landscape and seascape management and governance; 3) Successful small grants experiences from this and previous phases are consolidated and up-scaled through production and marketing chains and second-level organizations as well as through exchange of knowledge and experiences, linking community-based organizations within and across landscapes/seascapes.

With regard to Outcome 1, project activities are on track through 64 community based-projects currently under implementation (46 have been completed to date, 30 of these during the reporting period). In the Deltaic-estuarine production landscape of Tabasco and Campeche, the target related to the promotion of agro-ecological practices and systems has been achieved, with currently 354 new ha under sustainable agro-ecological cocoa production (118% of the EoP target) and 419 ha under agroecological coffee production through eight projects (140% of the EoP target). Activities have benefitted 616 community members (287 women and 329 men). Innovative processes have been applied, with an outstanding example being the use of microorganisms to inoculate plants in nurseries to increase seedling survival rate and for soil enrichment.

Some challenges had been encountered by the project during the first years of project implementation with respect to the indicators on community-managed hatcheries and sustainable fisheries; only a few proposals had been received during the first call for proposals; however, missions to the sites highlighted that there is more of a need to strengthen existing hatcheries and their market rather than establishing new ones. This was also confirmed through the MTR. The NSC approved three projects during the last reporting period to establish new community hatcheries in Campeche (2) and Chiapas (1) and three more during the current reporting period (approved in June 2021 by the NSC). So far, three fish hatcheries have been strengthened in Tabasco, and a new one was established in Chiapas; two are under construction in Campeche with severe delays linked to the pandemic (due to material delivery difficulties and mobility restrictions). With support from the CPT, it is expected that that the six projects will be consolidated by the end of the year (120% of the EoP target). In the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Seascapes, targets have been met and even exceeded with 16 of the 13 targeted communities implementing alternative tourism activities in 14,406 marine hectares (120% of the target), and 168 hectares of coastal lands (56% of the target). Additional projects currently under implementation will add more hectares to this last target. Monitoring of marine areas is also underway in 19,000 hectares of marine areas (475% of the target). In the Forest Landscape/Milpa Landscape, SGP is currently supporting projects that have brought 255,737 hectares of rainforest (608% of the target) under sustainable forest management. Twenty-five communities in the Yucatan Peninsula and one in Tabasco are developing timber and non-timber resource use projects. Terrestrial alternative eco-tourism activities are being carried out by 24 communities (240% of the target) on 8,610 hectares, exceeding the target by over 861%, as the community-based landscape approach allows communities to impact large areas. The target of hectares under agroecological land management has also been exceeded (923 ha, which is 660% of the target) with traditional indigenous crops and practices under implementation in the Mayan Milpa system. So far, six communities have obtained or retained the FSC certification (60% of the EOP target) on 176,238 hectares (over 400% of the EOP). Three additional communities continue in the process of acquiring a collective FSC certification, but have been delayed due to COVID-19-related restrictions impacting field visits from the external evaluator. Upon the third call for proposals, completed during the reporting period, another proposal for acquiring FSC certification was reviewed by the NSC and may add to achieving this target.

With regard to outcome 2, in terms of landscape governance and the development of the landscape strategies, the project is on track. It is important to note that the NSC has agreed to reduce the number of landscapes from six to five by merging two landscapes in the Tabasco area in order to implement a watershed approach. The MTR also recommended to update the landscapes' names in the logframe. By June 2019, comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessments had been completed in the five landscapes of Forest and milpa landscape in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche State, (2) Sustainable forestry landscape of Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan, (3) Coastal seascape of the Yucatan Peninsula, (4) Agroforestry landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco, and (5) Usumacinta and Grijalva rivers watershed.

Overall, 23 workshops were conducted to establish a comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessment, using the set of 20 SEPLS indicators of resilience developed under the Satoyama Initiative and piloted by the COMDEKS programme. This process included 501 stakeholders, of which 127 were women (25%), including community members and leaders, private sector/farmers, civil society, and government representatives. The landscape strategies for all five landscapes were finalized during the previous reporting period. During the Project Preparation Phase (PPG) for the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Mexico (OP7), these strategies guided the development of OP7's logical framework considering the needs and realities of communities. They were also used as the basis for feedback from stakeholders who participated in the OP7 validation workshops. As the project moves to its last year of implementation, and with the upcoming launch of OP7, SGP Mexico is encouraged to review the potential for the establishment and/or strengthening of multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platforms in each landscape; bringing together community organizations, NGOs, and local and provincial government authorities, as well as other stakeholders for information, lessons learned and experience sharing, and advocacy for policy changes. In 3 of the 5 landscape, high level meetings have been held with federal officials (Secretary of Environment) to share community experience, including field visits. However, no additional workshop or meeting has been held since the beginning of the COVID 19 in the region.

During the closing phase of OP6, the Country Programme Team is recommended, if feasible, to encourage more exchanges between key stakeholders, to share the main lessons learned. With respect to strengthening business development and management capacities of community members, the target has been achieved and exceeded with 672 trained (336% of the target), of which more than half (52.4%) are women (352 in total). While COVID has brought mobility restrictions and related challenges of engagement, the CPT is commended for their commitment in guiding and supporting stakeholders with adopting digital platforms. The CPT also successfully used this as an opportunity to engage youths.

With regard to outcome 3 related to replication and upscaling, the project has supported five second-level organizations, already having achieved the target during the previous reporting periods. Eleven (11) second-level organizations have been supported already (220% of the EoP target), with activities currently underway to support the implementation of the landscape strategies beyond the life of the project, which is a key strategy of OP6. Three strategic projects started by second and third level organizations in 2019 have been extended until October 2021 due to the pandemic. Despite the 2020 delays, the projects have resumed and/or modified their activities to meet the goal of consolidating, replicating, and scaling successful practices from previous SGP phases. For example, the Alliance Kaabnáalo'on (beekeeper regional alliance) has continued to connect more than 500 beekeepers in the Yucatan Peninsula. It works towards reducing pesticide use and deforestation, as well as increasing market access. Alliance members developed a recovery plan to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and the tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. The Alliance has been working with the Ministry of

Agriculture and Rural Development to design new beekeeping subsidies, and it updated its beekeepers' registry to receive these new governmental subsidies, alleviating the impacts of these external shocks. During this reporting period, eight community communicators (four women and four men) have been trained in narrative journalism, Mayan community communication models, collective writing, reporting, and digital platforms for environmental challenges. Thanks to these communicators, four newsletters have been produced from August 2020 to May 2021, sharing the experiences of SGP-supported communities, as well as the innovations, stories, and efforts of women and men in creating new ways for caring for nature. This effort has so far included the stories of 24 projects. Over the next reporting period, the project team is encouraged to produce and finalize case studies highlighting the role of these projects, and supported activities in addressing market barriers, up-scaling appropriate technologies or specific successful lines of work, and/or advancing needed policy changes. This work is expected to be implemented over the next reporting period to reflect the impacts of the 113 SGP supported projects.

SGP Mexico has made good progress with regards to knowledge management and capacity building activities, as evidenced in this PIR by the number of trainings conducted by the project and SGP-supported grantees. With regard to knowledge management activities, one of the strategic priorities for SGP is the generation and dissemination of the knowledge produced by its projects allowing for other communities and donors to replicate and scale up good practices. Finally, the team has placed a stronger focus on sharing experiences through social media and added a blog section to their website, with 33 blog posts issued during the reporting period. The four newsletters produced during the reporting period are shared by MailChimp and SGP social media (Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook). So far, the most popular stories were on the communal conservation area in Laguna Om (438 views), the experience of Mayan women with stingless beekeeping (464 views), and the efforts of women in Nuevo Becal to conserve natural resources (374 views). The project team is strongly encouraged to continue to give special attention to this aspect in the next months, so that lessons learned can be used to communicate and scale up successful interventions in Mexico and other countries around the world.

With regard to gender mainstreaming, SGP has been a pioneer and highly recognized in mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in every step of the program cycle. A gender focal point is designated within each SGP National Steering Committee to ensure review of gender considerations in project selection. Gender equality and women's empowerment are critical elements of SGP efforts in Mexico, and a number of recommendations have been developed by the team in close coordination with the NSC to strengthen its gender action plan and gender mainstreaming for on the ground activities. Of the 113 projects approved so far, 6.5% are women-only groups, 42.6% are groups with more than half of their members women, and 50.9% are made up mainly of men (related mainly to the forest and fishery sectors).

#### IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Implementation is proceeding as planned, following the agreed workplan and the overall IP rating is rated as Satisfactory. The project is in its third year of implementation and is progressing without major delays. Important progress was made during the reporting period with regards to the delivery rate, which is at 83.84%, with a cumulative disbursement as of June 30 against expected delivery as of this year at USD 3,713,634 with a cumulative delivery of 83.84%, of OP6 grant funds. Delivery picked up considerably in the reporting period with 100% of the grant funding being committed. This brings the overall portfolio of SGP Mexico



to 113 awarded projects by the third year of project implementation. Thirty (30) projects have been successfully completed during the reporting period.

Continuous progress has been made during this reporting period. Overall, the project is well managed and executed, with a functioning project board (SGP National Steering Committee), as also reflected by the number of NSC meetings, four that took place during the reporting period. Following the most updated SGP Operational Guidelines, the NSC composition was revised in compliance by inviting new members. This is a sound and healthy policy that brings new ideas and expertise to programme implementation. Additionally, the NSC in Mexico approved an internal regulation during the reporting period to strengthen its governance and address the respective MTR recommendation. This regulation includes clear rules of participation, decision making, and rotation and has resulted in the appointment of a female Chair. During the reporting period, the SGP Mexico National Coordinator has maintained effective work relationships with the NSC, the government, and the UNDP CO. The SGP Country Programme team, led by the National Coordinator newly appointed during this Sixth Operational Phase, has successfully managed SGP-Mexico showing great leadership and teamwork. In a year marked by pandemic restrictions and hurricane landfalls, the Country Programme, led by the National Coordinator demonstrated leadership, creativity and commitment to the communities served by SGP, while maintaining a fully functioning programme, mobilizing considerable resources and excelling in communications and knowledge management.

Despite the considerable restrictions and constraints of the pandemic, the Country Programme was able to successfully manage a substantial SGP portfolio by innovating communications and team organization in collaboration with the NSC and UNDP CO.

The project has a strong partnership approach, and stakeholder participation, and good cooperation have been achieved with relevant ministries, despite the fact that the changes in the federal government and the three state governments during project implementation brought challenges in terms of cofinancing. New partnerships are being forged, including with private and international foundations. Although the full cofinancing goals (\$6.3m) are not expected to be reached by the end of the project, the project is likely to achieve a 1:1 cofinancing ratio at the programme level with \$3.9m reported as leveraged to date. The team is encouraged to continuously tracking cofinancing mobilized in the coming months as community-based projects are finalized. Notably during the reporting period, the Country Programme was able to mobilize cofinancing through a USD 450,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation to support communities in hurricane recovery and has maintained close communication with other funders to articulate a coordinated response during the pandemic. The project team is encouraged to continue to explore such synergies in the coming reporting period to promote the upscaling and replication of best practices, also exploring new partnerships with the private sector and the academia.

Risk management is on track with a number of significant newly identified risks reported during the reporting period, and corresponding risk measures in place. As of 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the new coronavirus rapidly spread to all regions of the world. Government restriction measures to respond to COVID affected SGP ongoing projects and led to delays in their activities, especially with regards to sectors such as ecotourism and apiculture. As also reported in last year's PIR, the project has adapted well by providing technical support, training and continuous communication during this time of COVID challenges; the SGP Team has been in continuous contact with grantees to adjust their projects' action plans, taking into consideration delays in implementation, and also to minimize or replace physical awareness raising and capacity building activities with online sessions and

	<p>trainings, using “Zoom” and other electronic digital programs. In particular, the SGP team in Mexico is commended for the designed and implementation of an assessment tool for all grantees (with 78% response rate) using the Kobo Toolbox Platform (<a href="https://www.kobotoolbox.org/">https://www.kobotoolbox.org/</a>). This platform was selected, as it is a tool that offers the possibility of collecting data in the field without the need for an internet connection. The assessment allowed SGP Mexico to identify the main impacts of the ongoing crisis and develop, jointly with the UNDP risk management team, specific recovery strategies that will be co-financed through multiple sources.</p> <p>Additionally, another significant risk also indicated in the previous reporting period, is the lack of national government support to NGOs, with the new federal government recently prohibiting the transfer of public funds to civil society organizations. While this is not expected to affect GEF SGP activities, this has created challenges for grantees to reach the expected level of co-financing. A management strategy has been developed by the project team, and the project team has closely liaised during the reporting period with the NSC, UNDP CO and OFP office to encourage a permanent dialogue with private international foundations, state governments and international NGOs.</p> <p>With regards to the timing of project milestones, the project was designed as a three-year project with an expected operational closure in February 2021, which is a limiting timeframe for SGP activities. Based on the MTR recommendations and due to the delays related to COVID-19, and as agreed during the NSC meeting in August 2020, SGP Mexico submitted a request for a 17-month extension to UNDP senior management to allow the grantees enough time to complete their projects smoothly and safely. This request was granted, moving the new official closing date to 20 July 2022. The 64 ongoing community-led projects have also received no-cost extensions to allow for successful completion of activities despite delays due to flooding and the pandemic.</p> <p>Additionally, it is important to highlight that during the reporting period, SGP Mexico has successfully mobilized OP7 resources, with the PIF approved by the GEF Council meeting in June 2020, and a PPG under development during the reporting period. The OP7 ProDoc was submitted to the GEF Secretariat during the reporting period, and it will lead to a geographic expansion of the SGP in Mexico and an intensification of the landscape approach.</p> <p>Final recommendations:</p> <p>To sum up, the project is on track to deliver on its EoP indicators by its new expected closure date, and no major obstacles for the successful implementation of planned future activities have emerged during the period reviewed, with the exception of the COVID risk which will need to be continuously monitored over the coming months. A number of recommendations are suggested below for the remainder of the project period. Acknowledging the concrete progress made during this reporting period and moving forward, the project has some strategic areas to be addressed in close coordination with all partners: 1) prepare a case study on the adaptive management actions and recovery support undertaken in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic; 2) establish and/or strengthen new and/or existing multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platforms in each landscape for information, lessons learned and experience sharing, and advocacy for policy changes; 3) continue to promote the systematic documentation and dissemination of lessons learned through the development of case studies; 4) continue the effort of tracking and mobilizing co-financing; 5) Continue to liaise closely with the UNDP CO to strengthen partnerships and capitalize on potential for upscaling and replication through other FSPs; 6) Undertake the Terminal Evaluation.</p>
<p><b>UNDP Country Office Programme Officer</b></p>	<p>From the UNDP CO perspective, the project has had a satisfactory rating for the reported period. As has been highlighted in the previous PIR and the Mid-Term Review, the project already achieved, and in some cases exceeded, some of its</p>

goals and is on track to achieve the rest of them. Nevertheless, the project outcomes should be measured at the end of each grant project to ensure the achievement of the expected changes and that the sustainability of the measures are strengthened.

So far, the SGP has achieved the following targets of the OP6: a) Landscape and seascape surface management improved by community schemes and sustainable criteria: 173,665.53 ha of landscapes, and 499,320 ha of seascapes. Forest conservation areas 255,018 ha, sustainable forest management 43,300.83 ha, 567 ha on agroecology and 1,139 ha of agroforestry schemes, 5,715 ha on landscape eco-tourism livelihoods and conservation schemes, and 19,008 ha on seascape eco-tourism activities. 486,450 ha of seascape communitarian conservation areas through established fishing refuges; b) Carbon mitigation actions related to sustainable forest management and avoidance of forest fires: estimated 11,870,205.89 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, according to the methodology proposed by the Centro GEO and the Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán (CICY); c) Communities directly supported to improve livelihoods and enhanced resilience to climate change: 265 communities in five targeted landscapes. Along with these numbers on the goals, the expected outcomes have advanced also satisfactorily:

For Outcome 1) Landscape and seascape resilience enhanced through the individual and synergistic impacts of a set of adaptive community practices that maintain ecosystem services, conserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and reverse land degradation in the following large ecosystems of Mexico's Southeast. The project activities are on track supporting community based-projects in the different production landscapes and seascapes promoting agro-ecological, agro-forestry, and sustainable production practices. The support of the SGP highlights the importance of restoration, connectivity and sustainable conservation of the strategic ecosystems. The main challenges remain regarding community-managed hatcheries and sustainable fisheries proposed since there have been only a few projects awarded and the impact of floods and tropical storms has negatively impacted the activity. Even when additional projects and a special call for proposals were launched, the need for a more strategic approach and special case study is necessary to strengthen the existing hatcheries and their market rather than establishing new ones. This study has presented delays but is foreseen to be completed by the end of OP6 at the beginning of 2022; it will be used for implementation of the OP7 project. It is important to highlight the significant increase in the surface of marine and coastal areas impacted by the project, especially with the fishing refuges and a declaration of one marine reserve of 2,000 hectares in Punta Bachul. The fishermen's cooperatives have decreed 14 Fishing Refuge Zones (ZRP), or no-take zones, under official Mexican regulations in the region. Considering that this is one of the threatened fisheries in the region, this support has a big impact. It will be important to monitor and evaluate the sustainability of those efforts, considering the reduction of budgets in the institutions, due to the economic restrictions and the need to prioritize the pandemic mitigation measures, that eventually could support the monitoring of the refuges. The efforts to prevent and control invasive alien species expansion continue, but restrictions in mobility affected the monitoring of the 62,000 hectares of freshwater. Nevertheless, the monitoring protocols implemented in the Usumacinta River's flood regime and wetland connectivity have shown good results so far.

For Outcome 2) Community-based organizations possess the organizational and managerial capacities for business development and performance on a larger scale to contribute to landscape and seascape management and governance; the focus has been put on strengthening the resilience to the impact of the sanitary emergency and the impact of some disasters. The strengthening of business development and management capacities of community members continues but mainly focuses on identifying alternatives, promoting regional and local commerce

and preparing the social enterprises for the reactivation of economic activities. I highlight the support provided for the establishment and promotion of a communitarian tourism network in the peninsula. The target of persons trained has been achieved and exceeded with 751 community members trained (375% of the target), of which almost half are women (49.4%). As it was mentioned by the project team, due to mobility restrictions most of the organizations are required to adopt the use of digital platforms to continue the training. SGP recommended that grantees install internet repeater antennas, purchase portable modem routers, and pay for prepaid mobile phone services. The use of platforms such as Zoom, social media, or Google Drive has enhanced capacity-building processes among community-based organizations and technical assistants. The evaluation of the use of this new knowledge and information should be analyzed to consider the sustainability beyond the number of trainings or the attendance.

Regarding Outcome 3 related to replication and upscaling, the project continues supporting the five second-level organizations reported in the previous PIR. In the pandemic context, this support helps small community business grantees to continue their activities and maintain their current jobs. The second-level organizations base their operations on the landscape approach promoted in the strategies and the creation of the networks and alliances that goes beyond the life of the project. This is expected to be consolidated during OP6 lifetime and implemented during OP7. The focus of this collaboration will be to promote access to financial instruments beyond grants, sustainability of the efforts and the commercial benefits of the best practices promoted. In the context of the economic impact of the pandemic, this has been especially difficult to achieve. There are a few examples that show some models and case studies in other sectors that continue and have shown the resilience expected in the projects supported. Indeed, as previously reported: 1) The Selva Maya Alliance, in the forestry landscape, strengthens the governance and entrepreneurial capacity of 5 FSC-certified forest communities. 2) The Mayan Alliance for the Bees of the Yucatán Peninsula - Kaabnáalo'on, which works to position beekeeping as a fundamental productive activity in the conservation of natural heritage, rural development and protecting human and indigenous rights in the Milpa Forestry and Timber and Non-Timber Forestry Landscapes. 3) The Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism, which integrates 24 community companies in Yucatán, Quintana Roo and Campeche, to work jointly on the impact on public policies.

The coordination with other UNDP projects, such as the COVID-19 early recovery project, has been crucial in the support processes of local communities in the commercialization of products (coffee, cocoa, honey and wood) in better than market conditions. Other capacities such as the Biofin tools and bioeconomy strategy, and the UNDP Value Chain Program continue to help the SGP grantees to facilitate the involvement of the private sector and banks in projects supported by SGP. It is expected that the synergies promoted continue for the new regions considered in OP7. Finally, it is important to highlight that in June 2020, the Yucatán Peninsula was impacted by Tropical Storm "Cristobal", and from June to November four tropical storms affected many projects. Also, in November 2020, Tabasco suffered one of the worst flooding events in recent years. The context of disasters and the pandemic emergency have hampered the implementation of the projects as initially approved, and some of the co-financing foreseen was compromised.

Despite this context, supported projects have continued their implementation and have strengthened their capacities in preparing for the economic recovery. Delivery is on track, and the extension of the Operational Phase has allowed the communities to adjust their project plans to achieve their goals and strengthen their resilience. Along with UNDP and other counterparts, the SGP identified opportunities to mobilize resources for the communities and the supported projects affected. This context also shows that the SGP is more than a donor but also an

	<p>ally for the communities, since around the Program, new projects and complementary financing have arrived to support the economic recovery from the impact of the disasters, promoting the collective action approach for adaptive landscape management for socio-ecological resilience. The role of the National Coordinator and the SGP team has been very important to consolidate the synergies and collaboration with other projects.</p>
<b>Project Manager/Coordinator</b>	<p>The progress of the objective to empower local communities to manage production land/seascapes in Mexico's Southeast large ecosystems in a manner that enhances their social, economic and environmental sustainability and resilience is on track. So far, 80% of the targets have been met or exceeded. The other 20% is on track and the remaining active projects will permit fulfilling of the remaining targets. This third PIR reflects the maturity of the project community, even in the context of a pandemic, and results can be observed in the field and in the reports. Throughout this operational phase, 110 projects have been approved (two in this reporting period). The third call for proposals (issued during the reporting period) resulted in the approval of three additional projects whose MOAs will be signed in August 2021. Currently, there are 64 projects ongoing and 30 projects were successfully completed during the reporting period.</p> <p>As mentioned in section C, continuous progress was made during this reporting period to fulfill all the proposed targets.</p> <p>For Outcome 1, community resilience within the five landscapes has been tested by simultaneous crises. Nevertheless, communities were able to increase the total surface under sustainable production. In agroecology and agroforestry, training and investment in equipment allowed improved results in terms of harvesting. Frosty pod rot (<i>Moniliophthora roreris</i>) and coffee rust (<i>Hemileia vastatrix</i>) are under control in cocoa and coffee plantations (indicator A.1.1). A severe flood impacted the aquaculture cooperatives in Tabasco and Campeche, but the production and liberation of fingerlings continued, thus contributing to ecosystem restoration. For indicators A.2.1 and 2, the documentation of the impact of river and sea invasive species is under implementation, and communities have adopted techniques provided by technical experts. The communities which implement native fisheries donated fingerlings to communities affected by flood in Tabasco to support the recovery process in indigenous communities. Also, the aquaculture cooperatives completed their training, and two completed their full infrastructure and equipment (indicators A.2.1 and A.2.2). New projects were selected by the NSC to complete that target before the end of OP7.</p> <p>Three fisheries are improving through community no-take zones, as is the governance of the lobster fishing cooperative (Indicator A.2.3). In the forestry sector (indicator C.1.1), 25,500 hectares have been incorporated into sustainable management since the beginning of OP6. Six communities obtained FSC certification, despite delays in auditor visits due to travel restrictions.</p> <p>The biodiverse "milpa" system, using only natural fertilization and organic pest control, allowed for a greater harvest in 2020 (15 tons of native seeds in Hopelchen municipality, for example). Thus, indicator C.1.4 was not only completed, with a successful transfer of capacities and knowledge, but it also allows for families to generate new income within those indigenous landscapes.</p> <p>For Outcome 2, the five landscape and seascape strategies designed in 2019 were used to create the strategy for OP7. Those inputs were key to design targets, activities, and indicators that represent the view from local stakeholders. The OP7 PIF was approved in June 2020, and the full proposal has been recently submitted to the GEF for CEO endorsement.</p> <p>The target regarding additional community members with increased capacities for business development and management (Indicator 1.2.2) needed several</p>

adjustments in the context of the pandemic. For example, ecotourism cooperatives developed innovative strategies to deal with the vast impact of the pandemic by diversifying their livelihoods, focusing on food security, and implementing a barter system. Capacity-building activities for community business development stopped during the most challenging months of the pandemic. However, online marketing events and even an online catalog, available on SGP Mexico's website, were created to support economic recovery.

For Outcome 3, Second and third-level alliances showed their effectiveness by channeling solidarity during the pandemic. A barter system was implemented within the ecotourism strategic project, showing that community organization and solidarity can contribute to resilience. The ecotourism and beekeeping strategic projects were impacted by the 2020 hurricane season. Because those are regional projects, a part of the participating communities was directly impacted, mainly by floods. However, through field visits, rapid impact assessment, and permanent contact, as well as through the collaboration with UNDP CO, solutions were provided and a new project for resilience to hurricanes is being channeled through SGP Mexico.

Project implementation has been delayed due to the restrictions implemented by national and local governments during the pandemic. For example, health authorities implemented a lockdown in the state of Yucatan, where the CPT is based, impeding travel and meetings. In agreement with the NSC, the UCP Global Coordinator and UNDP CO, a request for a 17- month extension was submitted and approved by the GEF. This extension allowed the remaining 64 projects under implementation to complete their activities. One interesting fact is that, to date, no participating cooperative or CSO has been dissolved, despite the severe economic impact of the pandemic. For example, ecotourism has been strongly impacted, with no visitors for months and thus no income. SGP provided direct and continuous support to local cooperatives in coordination with UNDP CO and other programs. Innovations, such as bartering between agroecology cooperatives and tourism cooperatives or providing free internet services to university students by the cooperatives, allowed for tolerating those impacts. The NSC decision to allocate additional funds generated by a favorable increase of the exchange rate between the Mexican peso and the US dollar enabled the Programme to channel additional funds to improve food security and health and maintain a reliable source of income through temporary employment.

In 2020, four tropical storms impacted southeastern Mexico, causing destruction and flooding, making one of the identified risks of the risk management strategy real. SGP's rapid response mechanism was able to channel support, and the UNDP's Risk Reduction Programme and an SGP-funded project on community resilience helped identify needs and prepare recovery. Despite the combined effects from the pandemic and the tropical storms, the communities supported by SGP continued implementing several activities to fulfill project goals. The NSC approved four projects at its last meeting.

Funds not used for travel or workshops during 2020 will be channeled through grants, following the respective NSC recommendation. In general, fisheries and agroecological projects were able to implement most of their programmed activities. Projects involving the acquisition of highly specialized equipment, such as aquaculture, honey processing, or sawmills, suffered several delays but are now on track to finish their activities before this year's end. Projects that need an external assessment, such as the FSC certification, studies on invasive species, or federal government authorization for community forest management, also experienced significant delays. Projects that received support to increase their income are still suffering from the general economic situation; however, ecotourism recovery, increased honey prices, and cooperative adaptation to online sales have enabled a slow economic rebound.

**Gender mainstreaming:**

Important progress was made regarding the gender agenda. Two projects to support and train communities to mainstream gender were successfully closed. A new gender inclusion manual was created and published. Its main objective is to build capacities and create tools for gender mainstreaming during the design, implementation, and evaluation of SGP projects. Thanks to this approach, several projects are now reporting impacts in terms of gender equity, and we were able to observe change during field visits in the reporting period regarding female participation, empowerment, and recognition. Those training materials are now mandatory for any new project funded by SGP Mexico. For example, in a project in Chiapas with an indigenous CBO, CEDECOT AC, most of the presentations were made by women during the last monitoring visit. They shared agroecology techniques with the CPT. They also shared directly with the CPT that they feel more included since the implementation of the project.

**KM & Communications:**

Regarding KM & communications, the rebranded SGP website is now our principal way of sharing community stories. Following our strategy, all the blog and newsletter posts put the beneficiaries at the center. A team of eight community communicators has been formed with young people of each land/seascape. Within the communications project, this team is being trained to write text to share stories of SGP project processes. We also published more scientific pieces to share knowledge generated through collaboration with universities. For example, together with an NSC member, we published "The economy of bees" blog post that approaches alternative economic models. Additionally, a paper titled "Effect of climate change over landfalling hurricanes at the Yucatan Peninsula" was published and disseminated through a webinar. Maps of the flooding generated by tropical storm Cristóbal were published to inform community and policy decisions. A report on the impact of those floods, including community views and testimonials, was published 4 months later. An integral social network strategy accompanies the dissemination of this information, as well as our partners' achievements.

**Governance:**

During this reporting period, the NSC approved an internal regulation to strengthen its governance and consider the observations of the MTR evaluator. This regulation includes clear rules of participation, decision-making, and rotation. Using this instrument, a woman was named as the new Chair. This was partly in compliance with the new internal regulation and in line with SGP Operational Guidelines that suggest that inviting new members to the NSC is a sound and healthy policy that brings new ideas and expertise to programme implementation. The NSC composition was revised, as well as the profile backgrounds needed for OP7. Three members proposed to leave the committee by the end of 2021, and a gradual change of the NSC composition has been initiated.

**Co-financing & partnerships:**

On co-financing, direct public funding to NGOs and CBOs remains low in Mexico due to political decisions. The new approach of the federal government is to directly support farmers or fishermen and women. This new approach was adopted by communities with the support of the CPT, as a new way of raising co-financing. The SGP started institutional collaborations with some of the new programmes such as "Sembrando Vida" and "Jovenes Construyendo el Futuro" and worked hand to hand to maximize impact and benefits through collaboration. UNDP CO also contributed with important co-financing to support the COVID 19 recovery of ecotourism and beekeeping cooperatives in the Yucatán Peninsula. Collaboration with local government and private and international foundations was reinforced with a new grant from the WK Kellogg Foundation under implementation by the CPT.

	<p>Thus, the level of co-financing reported by the beneficiaries is still on track (USD 3,932,372 until June, 62% of the target). The final co-financing figures will be reported after all the 67 final reports from grantees have been received, by December 2021.</p> <p>Way forward:</p> <p>OP6 is entering its closing phase. Despite the impact of the pandemic, communities are implementing the agreed plans, and the proposed impact is about to be reached. The CPT will start the systematization process, and as soon as it is possible, a community-to-community exchange may be implemented.</p>
<b>GEF Operational Focal point</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>Project Implementing Partner</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>Other Partners</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>



## G. Gender

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

<p><b>1) 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.</b></p>
<p><a href="#">Manual para la transversalización de la perspectiva de género.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <a href="#">1. Mexico Gender Action Plan.docx</a><b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <a href="#">2. Inclusion and gender awareness workshop.pdf</a><b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <a href="#">3. Mainstreaming gender perspective in productive projects workshop.pdf</a><b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <a href="#">Gender Action Plan_Mexico.pdf</a><b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <a href="#">Gender approach recommendations.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <a href="#">Gender manual index.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <a href="#">Manual para la transversalización de la perspectiva de género.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Atlas Gender Marker Rating</b></p>
<p><b>GEN2:</b> gender equality as significant objective</p>
<p><b>2) 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):</b></p>
<p>Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes</p>
<p>Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes</p>
<p>Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes</p>
<p>Not applicable: No</p>
<p><b>3) Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>During the last year, the CPT has positioned the gender perspective as one of SGP Mexico's pillars, along with its commitment to environmental conservation and transparency. The entire team is making a conscious effort so that all actions promote gender equality. In events and experience exchanges, the CPT always involves female participants by establishing direct communication with female project leaders, guiding their participation, and including them in the communication channels. For example, of 13 events and workshops organized in this reporting period, 23 women and 20 men participated as exhibitors. Efforts are also made to ensure that women are always present during monitoring visits to highlight their involvement. Of the 113 projects approved so far, 6.5% are women-</p>

only groups, 42.6% groups with more than half of their members women, and 50.9% are made up mainly of men (related mainly to the forest and fishery sectors).

The CPT has also made a substantial effort to promote responsible consumption and prioritize purchases of local products, mainly from women or vulnerable groups. For example, a workshop of women cabinetmakers produced 95 recognition plaques given to grant recipients by the end of the projects (estimated purchase of US\$ 2,703). Women's products are always included as gifts with any recognition or award for specific activities (the Community Garden Challenge, for example). A person with a disability manufactured 1,000 masks acquired as part of the COVID-19 protocol for field visits (estimated purchase of US\$ 750). This responsible consumption trend has also been reported in some tourism projects.

Concerning SGP Mexico's governance, for the first time in its 27 years, a woman was appointed as the President of the NSC. In addition, priority will be given to selecting female candidates as NSC members to achieve gender parity. Currently, only one-third of the NSC are women (4 out of 12 members).

Accepting a commitment to promote gender equity implies recognizing the importance of generating capacities so that CSOs and CBOs are capable of mainstreaming the perspective. The most significant effort was executing the project "Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective in SGP Projects"; developed by the CASDE organization. Its main objective is building the capacities and creating tools for gender mainstreaming during the design, implementation, and evaluation of projects. During the previous year (2020), the Gender Experts Team led 34 CSO representatives to collectively create a manual with specific content to meet the needs identified in the assessment. The process included several workshops that covered the following topics: Digital security and safe use of digital tools; common language for gender perspective; inequality and discrimination recognition; monitoring, evaluation, and indicators with a gender perspective; human rights; and equality, equity, and territories.

In addition to the printed materials, seven audiobooks were produced so that organizations may continue their reflection processes. The audiobooks were recorded in Spanish and Mayan to encourage cultural inclusion, with an exceptional effort from the translation team as many concepts in Spanish do not exist in Maya.

The final product "Caminando juntas y juntos hacia la equidad de género en la Península de Yucatán" was presented in May 2021 through a Facebook Live streaming event. The authors, an interdisciplinary team formed by specialists on gender, writing, editing, translation, and audiovisual content, shared their creative experiences. The presentation, which received very positive reviews, highlighted that a respectful process among all the people involved allowed for incorporating different voices, views, and cultures. The printed manual and final audiovisual material are being published and should be delivered shortly to participating organizations. All materials will be used for future SGP Mexico operational phases and available online through the following link: <https://www.ppdmexico.org/post/caminando-juntas-y-juntos-hacia-la-equidad-de-genero>.

As part of the consulting process, the CASDE team proposed a series of gender-sensitive indicators specific to each thematic area of the SGP. These gender-sensitive indicator guidelines were used for project design during the third call for proposals and are among the criteria NSC members consider for project evaluation and selection. Gathering these data during project implementation will measure the effects of applying the proposed actions towards gender equality.

In several progress reports, communities mention the results from their participation with one of the two organizations in charge of advising on gender issues. They report that the workshops and capacity-building process enriched their vision with a more inclusive perspective, where women and men have different views that complement each other and are necessary to generate better results and achieve a more significant impact on families, communities, and landscapes. They consider that thanks to these gender interventions, young women show greater interest in entrepreneurship. In some cases, they have decided to replicate what they have learned with other teams' members.

The considerable effort made during OP6 to strengthen the gender perspective in a cross-cutting manner has made it possible to record actions and changes carried out by the projects that respond to the recommendations for inclusion in all calls for proposals. The following reaffirming actions towards inclusion and the equitable distribution of benefits stand out. Cooperatives have changed their rules and regulations to recognize women as official members. This has led to the equitable distribution of benefits by establishing equal payments to men and women. In several projects, efforts have been made to visualize and recognize women's contributions and normalize their participation in tasks traditionally considered masculine. However, it is necessary to strive towards equitable work distribution: men do not usually carry out activities considered "for women." In some cooperatives, especially family ones, a comprehensive perspective should benefit all members regardless of sex or age.

Gender awareness workshops, spaces for dialogue only for women, and their involvement in all the links of some production chains have been vital for women's empowerment. Several groups report that women's confidence has increased, as revealed by how they assume leadership and behave in mixed meetings. Therefore, women's participation in decision-making spaces has increased, with record-breaking numbers in forestry committees, vigilance committees, project execution, and assemblies. Women's groups assisted by technical advisers request more information and transparency to take ownership of their projects. They have also achieved recognition and made agreements with local authorities to develop their activities.

More and more organizations collectively reflect and act on the problems that affect people (men, women, children, youth, older adults) from a more inclusive perspective. For example, during project execution, they agree on the appropriate meeting times to allow the participation of women. In some projects, they even create spaces to care for young children so that moms and dads can fully participate in the activities. Efforts have also been made to strengthen livelihoods and promote equality in access and resource management. In agriculture and aquaculture activities, measures are taken to provide inputs (seeds, fish, tools) and technical knowledge to women, which contributes to their food security by producing food for themselves and their families. Thus, women can increase their savings and diversify their livelihoods.

It has also been strongly recommended to work specifically with men on understanding the gender perspective. An indigenous organization in Chiapas took courses on human rights and masculinities, with the participation of both men and women. The men were open to discussing machismo and their collective responsibility to change patriarchal patterns. In addition, community agreements were made on women's participation, which has led to changes in gender relations between men and women. Another example is the support from the husbands of entrepreneurial women's groups and their recognition of the benefits to their communities from women's projects.

#### **4) Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.**

As a result of the above activities, meaningful impacts were identified in sustainable productive activities within the landscapes and seascapes, which, in turn, influence environmental conservation. Some examples are included below.

With the empowerment processes, more women have joined value chains. In a community forestry alliance, women have positioned themselves as the leading investors, ensuring their full participation in decision-making, intricately linked to the sustainable forest management of significant extensions of the tropical evergreen forest in Quintana Roo. Women's groups were trained in fishing cooperatives for self-management of conservation projects, which has resulted in greater participation to influence policies and promote the sector's agenda.

In conservation and agroecology projects, the recognition of family units involves women in deciding what seeds will be grown in each cycle. Women express their recognition of the value of diversified food production and assume themselves as guardians of native seeds. Their work maintains and enriches agrobiodiversity in these productive spaces. They are involved in preparing fertilizers and

agroecological insecticides, promoting practices that do not harm the environment, and responding promptly to control pests.

Thanks to the appropriation of post-harvest processes by women in Chiapas, producers' daughters and granddaughters apply agroecological practices in cacao plantations. Given the trend of abandonment of cocoa plantations, this pattern is encouraging and very significant. Some examples of incorporating women led to exceeding the production goals of raising seedlings in the nurseries in the coffee sector, which allowed all producers to have plants for the renewal of their agroecological coffee plantations.

Encouraging the participation of women in decision-making spaces is essential for conservation. Within these spaces, women can intervene in defining agricultural and forestry frontiers, influencing internal regulations and community governance to protect natural resources and performing productive activities with clearly defined rules for everyone.

Another leading role of women is in environmental education activities, usually aimed at children and young people, whose awareness is crucial as future generations who will care for the landscapes.

Finally, women have also been involved in adopting clean technologies, such as photovoltaic systems or energy-saving stoves. The incursion of women in non-traditional employment sectors such as energy and construction has helped promote these technologies with positive environmental impacts. Further training is still required to put women in the forefront for photovoltaic systems; however, this is seen as an opportunity. Women are involved and have taken ownership of the energy-saving stove construction process and do it autonomously. They supervise construction and provide training. They also learned to install small photovoltaic lighting and pumping systems, for which they had to understand the basic principles of electricity.

Involving women in specific areas, commissions, and brigades optimizes environmental conservation since it enhances the capacity of projects to carry out surveillance, cleaning, conservation, production, marketing, and other necessary activities.

## H. Risk Management

### A) Review of Risks outlined in Risk Register and PIMS+ risk tab

#### NCE RTA:

Please provide an assessment of project risk management (including risks reported in Risk Register and risks included in the project's risk tab in PIMS+ ) undertaken in the reporting period and summarize the key risk management measures to be taken in the coming year. This text will be pulled into the risk management action plan in this project's risk tab in PIMS+.

Risk management is on track with a number of identified significant risks reported during this reporting period, and risk measures in place. The Risk Register is monitored regularly by the project team and the UNDP CO. The project team is recommended to keep implementing mitigation measures for relevant risks, until the project ends.

As of 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the new coronavirus rapidly spread to all regions of the world. Government restriction measures to respond to COVID affected SGP ongoing projects and led to delays in their activities, especially with regards to sectors such as ecotourism and apiculture. As also reported in last year's PIR, the project has adapted well providing technical support, training and continuous communication during this time of COVID challenges, with the SGP Team in continuous contact with grantees to adjust their projects' action plans taking into consideration delays in implementation, and also to minimize or replace physical awareness raising and capacity building activities with online sessions and trainings, using "Zoom" and other electronic digital programs. In particular, the SGP team in Mexico is commended for the designed and implementation of an assessment tool for all grantees (with 78% response rate) using the Kobo Toolbox Platform (<https://www.kobotoolbox.org/>). This platform was selected as it is a tool that offers the possibility of collecting data in the field without the need for an internet connection. The assessment allowed SGP Mexico to identify the main impacts of the ongoing crisis and develop, jointly with UNDP risk management team, developing specific recovery strategies that will be co-financed through multiple sources.

Additionally, another significant risk also indicated in the previous reporting period, is the lack of national government support to NGOs, with the new federal government recently prohibiting the transfer of public funds to civil society organizations. While this is not expected to affect GEF SGP activities, this has created challenges for grantees to reach the expected level of co-financing. A management strategy has been developed by the project team, and the project team has closely liaised during the reporting period with the NSC, UNDP CO and OFP office to encourage a permanent dialogue with private international foundations, state governments and international NGOs. In the coming year, the team is encouraged to maintain this effort in coordination with the NSC, UNDP CO and OFP office.

The project's risk tab in PIMS+ risks does not reflect any moderate or significant risks at this stage.

### B) Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) Risks

**1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?**

Yes

**If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during the reporting period please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.**

Rising criminality and insecurity in the region is a significant risk that must be considered. In the states of Tabasco and Campeche, the CPT has been informed of violent robberies of equipment or project supplies. These cases could be related to the economic crisis derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing unemployment, and economic precariousness.

Furthermore, an organization suffered vandalism of its office, and furniture and materials were destroyed. It could have been a gender-related attack, as this organization encourages women's development and meeting spaces for them. These cases add to the insecurity towards environmental activists and defenders reported last year.

SGP has responded to each case, providing support, if possible. In each case, the CPT has actively listened to the needs of the victims, has provided contacts with institutions or people who can provide support, spaces for dialogue have been held to share experiences and security measures, and UNDSS information, recommendations, and safety protocols have been shared.

**2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks become more severe and/or has the project's SESP categorization changed during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.**

Yes

**If any existing social and/or environmental risks have become more severe and/or if the project's SESP categorization has changed during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.**

Lack of national government support for NGOs. This risk appears to be increasing with the approval of a tax reform package that places fiscal and legal constraints on CSOs. One consequence is the difficulty in obtaining financing due to CBOs' legal figure, weakening their impact on the territories and their possibility of securing co-financing. SGP has different expenditure requirements and can continue to fund CSOs. Also, CBOs have been encouraged to hire advisory and support services offered by CSOs. In addition, alliances and strategic projects have been negotiated with other donors that converge in the same territory to strengthen SGP's agenda and ensure resources in the landscapes.

**3) Have any social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared or updated, and/or has the SESP been updated in the reporting period, as required? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.**

No

**If yes, please upload the document(s) above using the FILE LIBRARY button. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.**

*(not set or not applicable)*

**4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential ) during the reporting period?**

No

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

<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>5) Is the preparation and./or implementation of the project's safeguards management plan(s) on track, including monitoring?</b>
Yes
<b>If no, please explain:</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

## I. Knowledge Management & Communications

The **Project Manager** must complete the three questions below.

**1) Please provide progress on the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval. If there is no KM approach/strategy, please comment on how the project is capturing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned.**

SGP's communication and knowledge management strategy focuses on disseminating the sustainable development strategies implemented by community-based organizations (CBOs), NGOs and allies by informing, creating awareness, positioning, and encouraging the public to share and replicate practices using clear and understandable data.

In 2019, a grant was approved to monitor the area of communication and knowledge management. This grant involved engaging a communication team of eight young women (4) and men (4), who are members of the target land/seascapes. One of this team's responsibilities is preparing a quarterly newsletter. Each team member writes at least one article for every issue. Topics are chosen from the UN international days calendar and correlated with the experiences and practices of SGP grantees. Also, the editorial guidelines for each publication allow other projects to collaborate and write pieces about their experiences. So far, the Communications Team has compiled and disseminated five newsletters. Moreover, as part of their training, the communication team will produce five short films (one for each land/seascape) using the storytelling approach to portray people and their relationship with conservation and nature.

Different contents (videos, interviews, exposures, and photo stories) will be prepared with UNDP Mexico to share successful practices with a broader audience. The successful use of social networks and digital media has been fundamental to publicize the wide range of activities carried out by SGP Mexico. All these efforts always consider the gender approach and are careful in including culturally appropriate content. Priority is given to the human side of projects by giving a voice to participants, community leaders (especially women), public officials, and direct and indirect beneficiaries.

The information and materials produced and shared are grouped in the following categories:

1. Projects' experiences. Content about beneficiary organizations' activities, emphasizing messages, remarks and learning moments of people implementing the projects. This content is disseminated through the newsletter released quarterly and written by the community communication team and the CPT. Every issue is shared through by MailChimp campaigns and social media publications. Audiovisual materials are also practical to share experiences: testimonies, high-quality videos and photos, and drone flights for panoramic views of the land/seascapes. Videos are shared on the YouTube channel and other social media. Recently, SGP Mexico initiated a collaboration with a radio program named ResisTierra, transmitted by a university radio station (Iberoamerican University). Once a month, a project representative is interviewed on their work and its significance for protecting the environment.

2. Capacity building. Refers to material and activities prepared to fulfill needs expressed by CBOs and CSOs, such as manuals, video tutorials, experience exchanges, and workshops. Experiences from SGP communities are collected and presented systematically to share how communities



respond to everyday challenges, for example, pest control, use of eco-technologies (biodigesters, rainwater collectors), or implementing communication strategies (digital marketing, reporting to donors, participatory murals). The participation of grantees has been essential for achieving communication among peers.

3. Forums and events. During the pandemic, the opportunity to participate in online events to share experiences has increased. The CPT has had the chance to be involved or organize different forums and conferences to present the land/seascapes' strategies, discuss research results, and promote dialogue among consulting teams, experts, and project executors. Also, commemorative dates are strategically used to disseminate documentaries, web pages, or documents.

4. News and press releases. Local newspapers and press releases have been used to strengthen communities' efforts to influence specific environmental policies. This effort aims at positioning SGP beneficiary communities' agendas among other communities, society, and governmental institutions at the local and national levels.

**CEO Endorsement Request:** [CEO Endorsement Request\\_25 Oct 2017.doc](#)

**2) Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.)**

SGP's new website was officially launched during the 25th Anniversary celebration in October 2019. This product results from completely redesigning and migrating information from the preexisting website. Having a professional communicator in charge of digital media has been fundamental to increasing the audience and disseminating a vast diversity of materials. The new site and all social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube) provide a quality platform to post relevant information and materials related to SGP's work and its associate organizations.

The URLs to the SGP platforms are:

Programme website <http://ppdmexico.org/>

Facebook page (3,373 followers): <https://www.facebook.com/ppd.mex/>

Twitter account (758 followers): [https://twitter.com/PPD\\_Mexico](https://twitter.com/PPD_Mexico)

Instagram account (470 followers): <https://www.instagram.com/ppdmex/>

YouTube Channel (142 subscribers): [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiIsV-u\\_ZfgyIMZ\\_EwfKDFQ/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiIsV-u_ZfgyIMZ_EwfKDFQ/featured)

Issuu platform: <https://issuu.com/ppdmexico>

These are some of the most representative materials in each communication and KM category:

1. Project experiences

Newsletters, 33 stories about what different projects are doing in the land/seascapes:

<https://www.ppdmexico.org/boletin>

Rural women resilient towards Climate Change. Commemorative article of the International Day of Rural Women: <http://americalatinagenera.org/newsite/index.php/es/informate/informate-noticias/noticia/5072-mujeres-rurales-resilientes-ante-el-cambio-climatico>

The Queens of their Hives. Video and article about women producing melipona honey (stingless bees).

<https://undp.shorthandstories.com/gef-sgp-las-reinas-de-sus-colmenas/>

Restoring the Mayan Milpa ecosystem.

Note on World Environment Day, in which the communicator practices the use of information platforms that he learned to use in one of the trainings.

<https://www.ppdmexico.org/post/dia-del-medio-ambiente-restaurando-ecosistemas-de-la-milpa-maya>

## 2. Capacity building

Manual for mainstreaming the gender perspective in SGP projects.

<https://www.facebook.com/2209817729139145/videos/1270425280026070>

<https://www.ppdmexico.org/post/caminando-juntas-y-juntos-hacia-la-equidad-de-genero>

Agroecological Techniques Manuals.

[https://issuu.com/ppdmexico/docs/manual\\_de\\_uso\\_y\\_mantenimiento\\_de\\_biodigestores](https://issuu.com/ppdmexico/docs/manual_de_uso_y_mantenimiento_de_biodigestores)

[https://issuu.com/ppdmexico/docs/manual\\_de\\_alternativas\\_a\\_los\\_herbicidas](https://issuu.com/ppdmexico/docs/manual_de_alternativas_a_los_herbicidas)

Video tutorials for pest control.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd12qVXnH\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd12qVXnH_0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVJ1YHqvlbA>

## 3. Forums and events

Conference on the 2020 hurricane season in the Atlantic, to do an analysis of data and community experiences.

<https://www.facebook.com/2209817729139145/videos/1742260672597261>

Presentation of the Tourism of the Future initiative

<https://www.facebook.com/2209817729139145/videos/320641798971721>

Cooperativism, solutions from the territories, in the face of global environmental challenges. Talk in the framework of the International Day of Cooperatives. Examples of cooperatives financed by SGP and the study carried out on the strengths and opportunities of NGOs were presented.

(Cooperativism, is the social movement that defines the cooperation of its members in the economic and social range as a means to ensure that its members are integrated in voluntary associations, and important concept of SGP Mexico)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEzZhmlxue0&t=2019s>

Launch of the page of the Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism through a promotional video.

<https://www.facebook.com/2209817729139145/videos/744061336375540>

Presentation of the documentary: 'Xunan Cab, an ancestral flight' on world wildlife day

<https://www.facebook.com/2209817729139145/videos/888337111966490>

4. News and statements

Delivery of beekeeping boxes made by female carpenters for recovery after floods.

<https://www.lajornadamaya.mx/quintana-roo/31065/inicia-en-caobas-una-carpinteria-gestionada-solo-por-mujeres>

The signing of a collaboration agreement between the community tourism alliance and the Mexican government

<https://estamosaqui.mx/2021/06/17/alianza-peninsular-de-organizaciones-y-gobierno-mexicano-firman-convenio-para-impulsar-el-turismo-comunitario-mediante-el-tren-maya/>

[https://www.cronica.com.mx/notas-impulsan\\_turismo\\_comunitario\\_en\\_la\\_ruta\\_del\\_tren\\_maya-1191769-2021](https://www.cronica.com.mx/notas-impulsan_turismo_comunitario_en_la_ruta_del_tren_maya-1191769-2021)

**3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.**

[SGP Mex Communications Strategy 2021.docx](#)

## J. Stakeholder Engagement

**(A) Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval.**

**(B) Upload all available documentation of the project's stakeholder engagement, including surveys, FPIC reports and others using the FILE LIBRARY button in the upper right corner of the PIR.**

**(C) If the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been updated during the reporting period, please upload that file using the FILE LIBRARY button above.**

Maintaining communication and stable relationships with the most vulnerable stakeholders during the COVID 19 pandemic has been a significant challenge. Thanks to UNDP CO's support to design a security protocol for field missions, monitoring visits resumed in August 2020 after a five-month pause, implementing specific security and health measures. Thus, the CPT was able to visit every month, on one-week trips, a total of 60 projects. Adapting to using online platforms for training and ordinary meetings has been another challenge. Some communities were not used to teleconferences or did not have access to the Internet. SGP supported the acquisition of internet services through cell phones or satellite connections to facilitate communication with several grantees. Thanks to this strategy, the CPT visited at least once (100%) all OP6 projects. A newsletter and a WhatsApp group ensured communication and allowed sharing of news and experiences. WhatsApp groups were also used to inform on hurricane impacts (four hurricanes and tropical storms in 2020) and inform daily on the pandemic's evolution (active up to June 2021).

Communication with donors has been improved during this period. In alliance with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, a 450,000 USD grant was allocated to support hurricane impact recovery and enhance community resilience. SGP collaborated in preparing UNDP's participation in a USAID Mexico call for expressions of interest to Decrease Deforestation Through Improved Livelihoods, which included a Small Grants Mechanism. A partnership with GIZ is currently being implemented aimed at promoting community tourism in Central America and Mexico. This project builds on SGP's strategic project on tourism, executed by an alliance between 24 ecotourism cooperatives in the Yucatan Peninsula. Collaboration with UNDP BIOFIN is still under implementation by participating in its selection committee. The National Alliance of Donors for Beekeeping is still collaborating, co-financing several initiatives such as a sizeable capacity-building program.

Several community-to-community exchanges planned for this period have been postponed and might be held until 2022 when national and local authorities will allow face-to-face meetings and workshops.

**CEO Endorsement Request:** [CEO Endorsement Request\\_25 Oct 2017.doc](#)

**Stakeholder consultation and engagement plan:** *not available*

**Stakeholder engagement plan (Annex):** *not available*

## K. 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.