Design & Appraisal Stage Quality Assurance Report

Form Status: Approved

Overall Rating:	Highly Satisfactory
Decision:	Approve: The project is of sufficient quality to continue as planned. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
Portfolio/Project Number:	00112465
Portfolio/Project Title:	Biosphere reserves of Ecuador
Portfolio/Project Date:	2022-09-01 / 2026-04-30

Strategic **Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

1. Does the project specify how it will contribute to higher level change through linkage to the programme's Theory of Change?

- ○ 3: The project is clearly linked to the programme's theory of change. It has an explicit change pathway that explains how the project will contribute to outcome level change and why the project's strategy will likely lead to this change. This analysis is backed by credible evidence of what works effectively in this context and includes assumptions and risks.
- ◉ *2: The project is clearly linked to the programme's theory of change. It has a change pathway that explains how the project will contribute to outcome-level change and why the project strategy will likely lead to this change.*
- ○ 1: The project document may describe in generic terms how the project will contribute to development results, without an explicit link to the programme's theory of change.

Evidence:

The project is linked to the programme´s theory of change because the project aims to strengthen the management of biosphere reserves in Ecuador through the improvement of governance mechanisms using a gender approach. The project will also promote nature based solutions by supporting conservation and local bioenterprises (sustainable value chains) in the two target biosphere reserves. Supporting local networks, involving national and local authorities and coupling with academia are all cross-cutting aspects of the project that will contribute to outcome level change.

See ProDoc for more information.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	PIMS6308EcuadorBiospheresPRODOCMasterVersion18May2022CLEAN_AF_13468_101 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/PIMS6308EcuadorBiospheresPRODOCMasterVersion18May2022CLEAN_AF_13468_101.docx)	lisett.herrera@undp.org	7/19/2022 1:06:00 AM

2. Is the project aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan?

- (●) *3: The project responds to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan[1] and adapts at least one Signature Solution[2]. The project's RRF includes all the relevant SP output indicators. (all must be true)*
- ( ) 2: The project responds to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan[4]. The project's RRF includes at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true)
- ( ) 1: The project responds to a partner's identified need, but this need falls outside of the UNDP Strategic Plan. Also select this option if none of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF.

Evidence:

The project responds to the Strategic Plan: b) Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development by strengthening the management of biosphere reserves in Ecuador through the improvement of governance mechanisms. The project responds to Signature Solution: d) Promote nature based solutions for a sustainable planet by supporting conservation and local bioenterprises and f) Strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by incorporating a gender equality approach in all designed activities. The project targets SP output indicators:
- 1.4.1 Solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources, including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chain.
- 2.4.1 Gender-responsive legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions strengthened, and solutions adopted, to address conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing of natural resources, in line with international conventions and national legislation.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

3. Is the project linked to the programme outputs? (i.e., UNDAF Results Group Workplan/CPD, RPD or Strategic Plan IRRF for global projects/strategic interventions not part of a programme)

- (●) *Yes*
- ( ) No

Evidence:

The project will contribute to UNDAF 2019-2022 Impact 2: By 2022 Ecuador has strengthened its regulatory policy and institutional frameworks to improve natural resource management in order to make it more sustainable, participatory and gender responsive, promoting more responsible production and consumption patterns in the context of climate change. / CPD Output 2.1: Instruments and mechanisms are applied at national or local level to manage natural resources in a sustainable way to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation and their effects, and to transition towards more sustainable productive systems. / CPD Output 2.2: Conservation and sustainable forest management activities as well as sustainable supply chain good practices carried out.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	UNDAFMarco-Cooperacion-ONU201920221_13468_103 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/UNDAFMarco-Cooperacion-ONU201920221_13468_103.pdf)	lisett.herrera@undp.org	7/27/2022 10:30:00 PM
2	CPD2019-2022-Ecuador1_13468_103 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/CPD2019-2022-Ecuador1_13468_103.pdf)	lisett.herrera@undp.org	7/27/2022 10:30:00 PM

Relevant **Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

4. Do the project target groups leave furthest behind?

- ○ 3: The target groups are clearly specified, prioritising discriminated, and marginalized groups left furthest behind, identified through a rigorous process based on evidence.
- ◉ *2: The target groups are clearly specified, prioritizing groups left furthest behind.*
- ○ 1: The target groups are not clearly specified.

Evidence:

The project´s target groups are the people living in t he biosphere reserves, where there are high levels o f poverty with an average of 74,2% of people with un satisfied basic necessities according to census figur es from 2010. About half of the population in the res erves is female; all of which have suffered marginali zation and discrimination of various forms. The proj ect will assign financial and human resources to ens ure and monitor the incorporation of the gender appr oach in the project´s activities. Specifically, the proje ct aims to increase the participation of women in dec ision making processes (management committees) and increase their participation in local bioenterprise s.

See Annex 3 (Stakeholders' Plan)
See Annex 8 (Gender Analysis and Gender Action P lan)

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	18072022_Annex3_Stakeholders_Plan_134 68_104 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/Projec tQA/QAFormDocuments/18072022_Annex3_ Stakeholders_Plan_13468_104.docx)	lisett.herrera@undp.org	7/19/2022 1:46:00 AM
2	18072022_Annex8_GenderAnalysis_and_G enderActionPlan_13468_104 (https://intrane t.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocume nts/18072022_Annex8_GenderAnalysis_and _GenderActionPlan_13468_104.docx)	lisett.herrera@undp.org	7/19/2022 1:46:00 AM

5. Have knowledge, good practices, and past lessons learned of UNDP and others informed the project design?

- (●) *3: Knowledge and lessons learned backed by credible evidence from sources such as evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, and/or monitoring have been explicitly used, with appropriate referencing, to justify the approach used by the project.*
- ( ) 2: The project design mentions knowledge and lessons learned backed by evidence/sources but have not been used to justify the approach selected.
- ( ) 1: There is little, or no mention of knowledge and lessons learned informing the project design. Any references made are anecdotal and not backed by evidence.

Evidence:

The project design used a participatory approach wit h several workshops held with civil society, NGOs, p rivate and public entities. Furthermore, the project to ok into account UNDP´s Gender Equality Strategy (2 018 – 2021), and it also includes grievance mechani sms based on the principles detailed in the Guidanc e Note on Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GMR). The Stakeholder Engagement Plan was designed us ing Human Rights principles and UNDP´s Environm ental Sustainability standards. In addition, the projec t is governed by the constitution of Ecuador which in cludes the promotion of sustainable development an d the equitable redistribution of natural resources an d wealth, and to protect the country's natural and cul tural heritage.

The ProDoc has an specific monitoring plan with SM ART indicators which were built based on previous e xperience from other UNDP projects. This system wi ll allow to monitor the advance of the proposed goal s.

See Annex 3 Stakeholder Plan.
See Annex 8 Gender Plan.
See Title VII in ProDoc Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

6. Does UNDP have a clear advantage to engage in the role envisioned by the project vis-à-vis national / regional / global partners and other actors?

- *3: An analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and credible evidence supports the proposed engagement of UNDP and partners through the project, including identification of potential funding partners. It is clear how results achieved by partners will complement the project's intended results and a communication strategy is in place to communicate results and raise visibility vis-à-vis key partners. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have been considered, as appropriate. (all must be true)*
- 2: Some analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and relatively limited evidence supports the proposed engagement of and division of labour between UNDP and partners through the project, with unclear funding and communications strategies or plans.
- 1: No clear analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area that the project intends to work. There is risk that the project overlaps and/or does not coordinate with partners' interventions in this area. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have not been considered, despite its potential relevance.

Evidence:

There are public entities working on issues similar to those identified by the project in the targeted Reserv es that will complement the project's results, these i nclude the provincial government of Pichincha, the Dry Forest Association and the Municipality of Quito. All these entities have manifested their support throu gh potential in kind co-financing (see cofinance letter s). In addition, the REDD Early Movers (REM) Progr amme financed by international cooperation will give cash contributions to restore forest areas surroundin g the core zones of the targeted reserves.
A communication strategy will be designed and impl emented during the project targeting people living in the biosphere reserves to raise awareness about the important role biosphere reserves play in biodiversit y conservation and sustainable development.
CONDESAN which is the NGO in charge of the impl ementation of the Project has a vast experience mak ing partnerships in the area of intervention.
South-south cooperation is considered in the project through dialogue/exchange experiences of the UNE SCO MAB Programme (the Ibero-American Network of Biosphere Reserves)

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	18072022_Annex3_Stakeholders_Plan_13468_106 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/18072022_Annex3_Stakeholders_Plan_13468_106.docx)	lisett.herrera@undp.org	7/27/2022 9:57:00 PM
2	CoFinLetters_BiospheresChocoAndinoCorridor_3452_106_13468_1061_13468_106 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/CoFinLetters_BiospheresChocoAndinoCorridor_3452_106_13468_1061_13468_106.doc)	lisett.herrera@undp.org	7/23/2022 1:31:00 AM

Principled **Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

7. Does the project apply a human rights-based approach?

- ○ 3: The project is guided by human rights and incorporates the principles of accountability, meaningful participation, and non-discrimination in the project's strategy. The project upholds the relevant international and national laws and standards. Any potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were rigorously identified and assessed as relevant, with appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into project design and budget. (all must be true)
- ◉ *2: The project is guided by human rights by prioritizing accountability, meaningful participation and non-discrimination. Potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were identified and assessed as relevant, and appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into the project design and budget. (both must be true)*
- ○ 1: No evidence that the project is guided by human rights. Limited or no evidence that potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were considered.

Evidence:

The project design used a participatory approach with several workshops held with civil society, NGOs, private and public entities.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan was designed using Human Rights principles and UNDP's Environmental Sustainability standards. The Gender Action Plan was designed using the guidelines of international conventions aimed to end discrimination against women.

In addition, the project is governed by the constitution of Ecuador, which includes the promotion of sustainable development and the equitable redistribution of natural resources and wealth, and to protect the country's natural and cultural heritage.

An assessment about environmental and social risks was conducted following the questionnaire from the SESP, and all relevant risks were identified with their respective mitigation measures (more details see ProDoc).

See ProDoc
See Annex 3 Stakeholder Engagement Plan
See Annex 7 Social and Environmental Screening Procedure - SESP
See Annex 8 Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

8. Does the project use gender analysis in the project design?

- *3: A participatory gender analysis has been conducted and results from this gender analysis inform the development challenge, strategy and expected results sections of the project document. Outputs and indicators of the results framework include explicit references to gender equality, and specific indicators measure and monitor results to ensure women are fully benefitting from the project. (all must be true)*
- 2: A basic gender analysis has been carried out and results from this analysis are scattered (i.e., fragmented and not consistent) across the development challenge and strategy sections of the project document. The results framework may include some gender sensitive outputs and/or activities but gender inequalities are not consistently integrated across each output. (all must be true)
- 1: The project design may or may not mention information and/or data on the differential impact of the project's development situation on gender relations, women and men, but the gender inequalities have not been clearly identified and reflected in the project document.

Evidence:

A gender analysis was conducted to inform and dev elop the Gender Strategy and Action Plan. The proje ct will assign financial and human resources to ensu re and monitor the incorporation of the gender appro ach during the implementation of the project.

There is one sex-disaggregated indicator in the proj ect´s results framework (# of female beneficiaries). T here are other indicators in the results framework th at include references to gender equality, for example in decision making processes and in local bioenterpr ises.

The UNDP Gender Specialist will support the imple mentation of the activities ensuring gender mainstre aming.

See Annex 8 (Gender Analysis and Gender Action P lan)
See Technical Assistance of UNDP in the ProDoc

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No documents available.			

9. Did the project support the resilience and sustainability of societies and/or ecosystems?

- *3: Credible evidence that the project addresses sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges, which are integrated in the project strategy and design. The project reflects the interconnections between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and rigorously assessed with appropriate management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. (all must be true)*
- 2: The project design integrates sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and assessed, and relevant management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. (both must be true)
- 1: Sustainability and resilience dimensions and impacts were not adequately considered.

Evidence:

The project addresses sustainability and resilience d imensions of development challenges by strengtheni ng the management of biosphere reserves in Ecuad or through the improvement of governance mechani sms that include the promotion of gender equality an d local bioenterprises. An assessment was conducte d to identify the current level of management and pla nning in the targeted reserves to develop the project ´s activities to ensure their long-term conservation.

Relevant environmental and social risks were identifi ed for the implementation of this project, and mitigati on measures designed.

See Annex 3 Stakeholder Engagement Plan
See Annex 4 UNDP Risk Register
See Annex 7 SESP
See Annex 8 Gender Analysis and Gender Action Pl an

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No documents available.			

10. Has the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) been conducted to identify potential social and environmental impacts and risks? The SESP is not required for projects in which UNDP is Administrative Agent only and/or projects comprised solely of reports, coordination of events, trainings, workshops, meetings, conferences and/or communication materials and information dissemination. [if yes, upload the completed checklist. If SESP is not required, provide the reason for the exemption in the evidence section.]

- (●) *Yes*
- ( ) No
- ( ) SESP not required because project consists solely of (Select all exemption criteria that apply)
  - [ ] 1: Preparation and dissemination of reports, documents and communication materials
  - [ ] 2: Organization of an event, workshop, training
  - [ ] 3: Strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international negotiations and conferences
  - [ ] 4: Partnership coordination (including UN coordination) and management of networks
  - [ ] 5: Global/regional projects with no country-level activities(e.g.activities such as knowledge management, inter-governmental processes)
  - [ ] 6: UNDP serves as Administrative Agent
  - [ ] 7: Development Effectiveness projects and Institutional Effectiveness projects

Evidence:

Relevant environmental and social risks were identified for the implementation of this project, and mitigation measures designed.

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#	File Name	Risk Category	Risk Requirements	Document Status	Modified By	Modified On
1	20220714_PIMS6308EcuadorBiospheresRTAReviewedSESP_Jan25_Clean_Version_JM_rev_MP002_13468_110 (https://intranet.	Moderate	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; Community Health, Safety and Security; Indigenous Peoples	Draft	lisett.herrera@undp.org	7/23/2022 2:25:00 AM

	undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/20220714_PIMS6308EcuadorBiospheresRTARevieweSESP_Jan25_Clean_Version_JM_rev_MP002_13468_110.docx)					

Management & Monitoring **Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

11. Does the project have a strong results framework?

- 3: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the key expected development changes, each with credible data sources and populated baselines and targets, including gender sensitive, target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators where appropriate. (all must be true)
- *2: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators, but baselines, targets and data sources may not yet be fully specified. Some use of target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators, as appropriate. (all must be true)*
- 1: The project's selection of outputs and activities are not at an appropriate level; outputs are not accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the expected change and have not been populated with baselines and targets; data sources are not specified, and/or no gender sensitive, sex-disaggregation of indicators. (if any is true)

Evidence:

Yes, the project has results oriented indicators with p opulated baselines and targets, however not all targ ets are fully specified to allow flexibility during the im plementation of the project and adjust them accordin g to the needs and local context.
There is 1 sex disaggregated indicator and other indi cators that reference gender equality.

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No documents available.			

12. Is the project's governance mechanism clearly defined in the project document, including composition of the project board?

- ○ 3: The project's governance mechanism is fully defined. Individuals have been specified for each position in the governance mechanism (especially all members of the project board.) Project Board members have agreed on their roles and responsibilities as specified in the terms of reference. The ToR of the project board has been attached to the project document. (all must be true)
- ◉ *2: The project's governance mechanism is defined; specific institutions are noted as holding key governance roles, but individuals may not have been specified yet. The project document lists the most important responsibilities of the project board, project director/manager and quality assurance roles. (all must be true)*
- ○ 1: The project's governance mechanism is loosely defined in the project document, only mentioning key roles that will need to be filled at a later date. No information on the responsibilities of key positions in the governance mechanism is provided.

Evidence:

The project board is clearly defined in the project do cument with Condesan as implementing partner, UN DP as implementing agency, the Ministry of Environ ment, Water and Ecological Transition as project ex ecutive, one representative from RBCAP and RBS a s beneficiary representatives, and the GEF Focal Po int. The project document also lists the most importa nt responsibilities of the project board, the project m anagement unit and the quality assurance roles of U NDP.

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No documents available.			

13. Have the project risks been identified with clear plans stated to manage and mitigate each risk?

- 3: Project risks related to the achievement of results are fully described in the project risk log, based on comprehensive analysis drawing on the programme's theory of change, Social and Environmental Standards and screening, situation analysis, capacity assessments and other analysis such as funding potential and reputational risk. Risks have been identified through a consultative process with key internal and external stakeholders, including consultation with the UNDP Security Office as required. Clear and complete plan in place to manage and mitigate each risk, including security risks, reflected in project budgeting and monitoring plans. (both must be true)
- *2: Project risks related to the achievement of results are identified in the initial project risk log based on a minimum level of analysis and consultation, with mitigation measures identified for each risk.*
- 1: Some risks may be identified in the initial project risk log, but no evidence of consultation or analysis and no clear risk mitigation measures identified. This option is also selected if risks are not clearly identified, no initial risk log is included with the project document and/or no security risk management process has taken place for the project.

Evidence:

Risks have been identified with mitigation measures, please see Annex 4. UNDP Risk Register. Some ris ks have specific mitigation measures that are reflect ed in the project's budget such as the development and implementation of a communications strategy a nd a training plan to promote sustainable value chai ns.

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No documents available.			

Efficient **Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

14. Have specific measures for ensuring cost-efficient use of resources been explicitly mentioned as part of the project design? This can include, for example:
i) Using the theory of change analysis to explore different options of achieving the maximum results with the resources available.
ii) Using a portfolio management approach to improve cost effectiveness through synergies with other interventions.
iii) Through joint operations (e.g., monitoring or procurement) with other partners.
iv) Sharing resources or coordinating delivery with other projects.
v) Using innovative approaches and technologies to reduce the cost of service delivery or other types of interventions.

- (●) *Yes*
- ( ) No

Evidence:

The project will improve cost effectiveness through s ynergies with other interventions for example with th e REM Programme to restore forest areas surroundi ng core zones of target biosphere reserves.

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No documents available.			

15. Is the budget justified and supported with valid estimates?

- (●) *3: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, and is specified for the duration of the project period in a multi-year budget. Realistic resource mobilisation plans are in place to fill unfunded components. Costs are supported with valid estimates using benchmarks from similar projects or activities. Cost implications from inflation and foreign exchange exposure have been estimated and incorporated in the budget. Adequate costs for monitoring, evaluation, communications and security have been incorporated.*
- ( ) 2: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, when possible, and is specified for the duration of the project in a multi-year budget, but no funding plan is in place. Costs are supported with valid estimates based on prevailing rates.
- ( ) 1: The project's budget is not specified at the activity level, and/or may not be captured in a multi-year budget.

Evidence:

The project's budget is at the activity level with a multiyear plan. Costs were estimated using benchmarks from similar projects, activities and consultancies. The costs were estimated based on CONDESAN´s experience.

See Title IX and X in ProDoc.

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No documents available.			

16. Is the Country Office / Regional Hub / Global Project fully recovering the costs involved with project implementation?

- 3: The budget fully covers all project costs that are attributable to the project, including programme management and development effectiveness services related to strategic country programme planning, quality assurance, pipeline development, policy advocacy services, finance, procurement, human resources, administration, issuance of contracts, security, travel, assets, general services, information and communications based on full costing in accordance with prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL.)
- 2: The budget covers significant project costs that are attributable to the project based on prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL) as relevant.
- *1: The budget does not adequately cover project costs that are attributable to the project, and UNDP is cross-subsidizing the project.*

Evidence:

The Budget does not adequately cover General Management Costs attributable to UNDP's Country Office (CO) nor CO's technical assistance related to key aspects of the Project. Human Resources, procurement, and others do not apply because this is an NGO implementation Project.

Management Response:

In order to recover costs from GEF projects, the CO will negotiate a fairer distribution of the % of GMC with UNDP's Headquarters, otherwise the CO will not be able to be financially sustainable.

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No documents available.			

Effective **Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

17. Have targeted groups been engaged in the design of the project?

- 3: Credible evidence that all targeted groups, prioritising discriminated and marginalized populations that will be involved in or affected by the project, have been actively engaged in the design of the project. The project has an explicit strategy to identify, engage and ensure the meaningful participation of target groups as stakeholders throughout the project, including through monitoring and decision-making (e.g., representation on the project board, inclusion in samples for evaluations, etc.)
- *2: Some evidence that key targeted groups have been consulted in the design of the project.*
- 1: No evidence of engagement with targeted groups during project design.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

The construction of the project included participative workshops with the main stakeholders identified in e ach biosphere reserve (see Annex 3).
Additionally, the project board is integrated by divers e actors to ensure the participation of target groups. The Project Board is integrated by the Ministry of En vironment, Water and Ecological Transition as Proje ct Executive, CONDESAN as the implementing part ner, UNDP as the implementing agency, the GEF fo cal point, and representatives of the two biosphere r eserves as beneficiaries with one voting right in the project board decisions.

See Annex 3 Stakeholder Plan

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No documents available.			

18. Does the project plan for adaptation and course correction if regular monitoring activities, evaluation, and lesson learned demonstrate there are better approaches to achieve the intended results and/or circumstances change during implementation?

- (●) *Yes*
- ( ) No

Evidence:

The project has a specific M&E Plan and Budget. Th e project will have a M&E Officer and will follow an a daptive project management approach in order to be tter achieve the intended results and make adjustme nts if needed.

See Title VII in ProDoc.

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No documents available.			

19. The gender marker for all project outputs are scored at GEN2 or GEN3, indicating that gender has been fully mainstreamed into all project outputs at a minimum.

- (●) *Yes*
- ( ) No

Evidence:

The gender marker for this project is GEN 2. All planned activities incorporate a gender approach.

See Annex 8 Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

Sustainability & National Ownership **Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

20. Have national / regional / global partners led, or proactively engaged in, the design of the project?

- 3: National partners (or regional/global partners for regional and global projects) have full ownership of the project and led the process of the development of the project jointly with UNDP.
- *2: The project has been developed by UNDP in close consultation with national / regional / global partners.*
- 1: The project has been developed by UNDP with limited or no engagement with national partners.

Evidence:

The construction of the project included participative workshops with the main stakeholders identified in each biosphere reserve, including international organizations such as the UNESCO. These stakeholders are identified in the project document.

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No documents available.			

21. Are key institutions and systems identified, and is there a strategy for strengthening specific / comprehensive capacities based on capacity assessments conducted?

- 3: The project has a strategy for strengthening specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on a completed capacity assessment. This strategy includes an approach to regularly monitor national capacities using clear indicators and rigorous methods of data collection, and adjust the strategy to strengthen national capacities accordingly.
- *2: A capacity assessment has been completed. There are plans to develop a strategy to strengthen specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on the results of the capacity assessment.*
- 1: Capacity assessments have not been carried out.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

The project will strengthen capacities of the public s ector involved in biosphere reserve management thr ough one training plan designed and implemented th at takes into consideration the role women play in th e conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. T he training plan was based on an assessment of trai ning needs conducted through polls, focus groups a nd in-depth interviews.
Through a communications strategy the project aims to increase the awareness of stakeholders and decis ion makers about gender equality, biodiversity conse rvation, sustainable development, and the importanc e of biosphere reserves functionality.

See Capacity assessment

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	ConsolidatedRisk-BasedPartnerCapacityAssessTool_fg_3452_121_13468_1211_13468_121 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/ConsolidatedRisk-BasedPartnerCapacityAssessTool_fg_3452_121_13468_1211_13468_121.xlsm)	lisett.herrera@undp.org	7/23/2022 3:54:00 AM

22. Is there is a clear strategy embedded in the project specifying how the project will use national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluations, etc.,) to the extent possible?

- *Yes*
- No
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

The project will use national monitoring systems for environmental issues, such as the national deforesta tion monitoring system.
The project will also create a national platform to su pport the sustainable management of biosphere res erves. Through this platform these monitoring syste ms will receive feedback to improve and strengthen management at the bioreserve level.

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No documents available.			

23. Is there a clear transition arrangement / phase-out plan developed with key stakeholders in order to sustain or scale up results (including resource mobilisation and communications strategy)?

- (●) *Yes*
- ( ) No

Evidence:

The project proposes the participatory creation of a sustainability strategy for the two target reserves, inv olving partner institutions (MAE, sub-national govern ments, NGOs, UNESCO) and identifying permanent sources of financing for key activities for the manage ment of these biosphere reserves.
The project will link strategically and operationally wi th the new territorial land use planning guides that wi ll be used by subnational governments to integrate s ustainability dimensions in their planning. In additio n, through the strengthening of management commit tees, the project will enable the reserves to develop t heir own financial strategies to ensure their sustaina bility.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

QA Summary/LPAC Comments