GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Project Information

Project Title Caatinga Protected Areas Program - ARCA	
Region Brazil	GEF Project ID 11509
Country(ies) Brazil	Type of Project GBFF
GEF Agency(ies): WWF-US	GEF Agency Project ID G0056
Project Executing Entity(s) The Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO)	Project Executing Type GEF Agency
GEF Focal Area (s) Biodiversity	Submission Date 4/2/2024
Type of Trust Fund GBFF	Project Duration (Months) 60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 8,964,220.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 806,780.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 9,771,000.00	Total Co-financing 0.00
PPG Amount: (e) 100,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 9,000.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 9,880,000.00	
Project Tags : GBF Target 4, GBF Target 21, GBF Target 23, Support IPLC, GBF Target 3, GBF Target 22	

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project. (max. 2000 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The ARCA project aims to enhance the conservation of the Caatinga biome through the expansion and improved management effectiveness of Brazil's National System of Protected Areas, endangered species conservation, and engagement of Indigenous People, Traditional Peoples and Local Communities. Through science-based and participative approaches, the project seeks to create new protected areas (PAs) and improve the management effectiveness of existing ones. The project also targets the conservation of endangered species, combating wildlife poaching and trafficking, and engaging Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Peoples and Local Communities in PA governance, management and sustainable natural resources use. The project will work on a participatory basis with a continuous consultation process and mainstreaming of gender actions.

Up to 09 PAs, comprising both strict protection and sustainable use areas, will receive support from the project. They are: Área de Proteção Ambiental Lago do Sobradinho, Área de Proteção Ambiental Dunas e Veredas do Baixo Médio São Francisco, Parque Nacional Serra das Confusões, Parque Nacional do Boqueirão da Onça, Área de Proteção Ambiental do Boqueirão da Onça, Parque Nacional da Serra do Teixeira, Área de Proteção Ambiental Lagoa de Itaparica (confirmed), Parque Estadual Mata da Pimenteira and Estação Ecológica Serra da Canoa (pending confirmation).

This initiative will generate significant Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), will address biodiversity loss drivers and threats like deforestation and climate change, is aligned with the Brazilian government objectives and will contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

Additionally, the project will work under a landscape approach with two other GEF and GBFF projects: the GBFF's Biodiversity Conservation in Indigenous Lands project, and the GEF-8 Integrated Landscape Management for Biodiversity Conservation and Mitigating Climate Change in the Caatinga project.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To improve the conservation of the Caatinga, a biome of global biodiversity importance, through the expansion and improved management effectiveness of Brazil's National System of Protected Areas, endangered species conservation, and engagement of Indigenous People, Traditional Peoples and Local Communities, enhancing biodiversity resilience and improving livelihoods.

Project Components

Component 1: Creation and improved management effectiveness of Protected Areas

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)

6,970,159.00	

Outcome:

1.1 Creation of New Protected Areas

1.2 Improved management effectiveness of Existing Protected Areas

Output:

1.1.1 Desktop and participatory on the ground environmental, socioeconomic and land tenure assessments and consultations to identify new PAs and PAs expansion

1.1.2 Biodiversity surveys in understudied Caatinga areas to map priority conservation areas to support identification of new PAs, PAs expansion and potential corridors

1.1.3 Technical documentation submitted for the approval of new PAs

1.2.1 Implementation of eligible activities to improve PA effective management in target PAs

Component 2: Endangered Species Conservation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
519,389.00	

Outcome:

2.1 Improved implementation of National Action Plans for Endangered Species Conservation

2.2 Combating Illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking

Output:

2.1.1. Capacity and operational support for implementation of National Action Plans for Endangered Species Conservation in target protected areas

2.1.2 Monitoring of implementation of the National Action Plans

2.2.1 Media campaign and targeted outreach to reduce engagement in poaching/trafficking

2.2.2. Government capacity for combating illegal poaching and trafficking

Component 3: Capacity building of PA staff and IP/TP&LC

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
732,155.00	

Outcome:

3.1 Strengthened IP/TP&LC and PA staff capacities for improved PA governance, management and natural resource use

Output:

3.1.1. Capacity building and trainings to government and IP/TP&LC groups

3.1.2 Call for proposals for sub-grants to IP/TP&LC groups to fund capacities and operational support/TA to strengthen their participation in PA governance, PA management and NR use within PAs

Components 4: Communications and KM

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
165,649.00	

Outcome:

4.1 Project communication and knowledge management

Output:

4.1.1 Communications strategy developed and delivered

4.1.2 Project lessons captured and disseminated

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
150,000.00	

Outcome:

Effective project M&E

Output:

Project monitoring

Independent mid-term and terminal evaluation

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1: Creation and improved management effectiveness of Protected Areas	6,970,159.00	
Component 2: Endangered Species Conservation	519,389.00	
Component 3: Capacity building of PA staff and IP/TP&LC	732,155.00	
Components 4: Communications and KM	165,649.00	
M&E	150,000.00	
Subtotal	**8,537,352.00**	**0.00**
Project Management Cost	426,868.00	
Total Project Cost ($)	**8,964,220.00**	**0.00**

Please provide Justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A.CHANGES COMPARED TO PPG REQUEST

Please describe and justify any major changes to the project design, including to elements put forward in the PPG request to meet the following GBFF selection criteria:

a. Potential of the project to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GBFF Results Indicators);

b. The alignment of the project with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;

c. The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support;

d. Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies’; and

e. Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.

A. Changes compared to PPG Request

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b. The alignment of the project with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;
c. The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support;
d. Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies'; and
e. Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.

During the project preparation phase, the following adjustments were made to the project design:

The project objective has been refined to encompass the critical work of preserving endangered species that the project seeks to undertake, and the terminology adopted by the project to refer to Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Peoples and Local Communities (IP/TP&LC) [1][1]. As such, the phrase 'endangered species conservation' and the term "Traditional People" have been incorporated, leading to the revised objective: 'To enhance the conservation efforts of the Caatinga, a biome of global biodiversity significance, by expanding and enhancing the management effectiveness of Brazil's National System of Protected Areas, while also focusing on the conservation of endangered species and fostering engagement with Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Peoples and Local Communities. This holistic approach aims to bolster biodiversity resilience and enhance livelihoods.'

- Minor adjustments have been made to the funding allocation for Component 1 (from 6,959,259 to 6,970,159), Component 2 (from 533,889 to 519,389), and Component 3 (from 728,555 to 732,155) following a detailed breakdown of activities at the output level.

- Following the selection of the PAs to be supported under Component 1, there was a notable increase in the target for Core Indicator 1, as the total area under improved management effectiveness was raised from 900,000 hectares (PPG Request) to 4,581,821.32 hectares (Endorsement Request) making the total of 4, 681,821,32 the new target for Core Indicator 1 (1.1 + 1.2). The area of PAs under improved management effectiveness corresponds to the total area of 7 of the 9 pre-selected PAs to be supported by the project (4,581,821,32ha). Consultation process for two areas indicated in Table 01 (i.e. PE Mata da Pimenteira and EE Serra da Canoa) are still undergoing and therefore their respective hectares were not included in the current target. Therefore, target for core indicator 1.2 may be increased during project's early implementation.

- After the initial consultation process with the communities in four of the nine selected PAs, the activities under Component 3 were more clearly outlined, and the amount of financing allocated to IP&TP/LC increased from USD 520,000 at the PIF stage to USD 732,155 at the endorsement stage.

- Minor adjustments were made to the headings of outcome 2.1, output 2.1.1 (revised the translation of the National Plan name), output 2.2.1 (included the word “targeted”), component 3, outcome 3.1 and outputs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 (adjusted terminology to IP/TP&LC).

- The project's timeline was revised, reducing it from 60 to 48 months. This adjustment was made during the project planning phase, as it became apparent that certain processes could be streamlined and executed more efficiently than initially projected. This optimization was facilitated by the abundance of planning and monitoring tools available within FUNBIO and other partner organizations, developed for similar initiatives such as ARPA and GEF Terrestre. Furthermore, the project stands to leverage the considerable expertise of stakeholders involved in its institutional framework.

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[1] For the purpose of the ARCA Project, and in the interest of harmonization and consistency/functionality of terminology given the differences between the terms adopted by the Brazilian government, GBFF and WWF, the term Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Peoples, and Local Communities (IP/TP&LC) will be use throughout the proposal.

B. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation including: the global biodiversity problems that the project will address; the key elements of the system to be addressed by the project; and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages).

Current Situation and Future Scenarios

The Caatinga biome, is a fragile semi-arid system that dominates the Northeast of Brazil, occupying more than 844,453km², the equivalent of 10% of the national territory[1][2]. The biome is present in 10 states, namely Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Pernambuco, Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte, Piauí, Sergipe and the North of Minas Gerais. Of these, five have more than 50% of their territory in the biome. The state with the largest area in the Caatinga is Bahia. Partly because of its extreme climatologic conditions, the Caatinga is rich in biodiversity, with 178 species of mammals, 591 of birds, 177 of reptiles, 79 of amphibians, 241 of fish and no less than 221 species of bees. Recent studies show that the Caatinga is home to 327 endemic species of fauna and 323 of flora[2][3].

Despite its unique biodiversity and environmental values, the Caatinga biome faces significant threats from sociocultural and economic drivers such as logging, deforestation, poaching and wildlife trafficking leading to land degradation and biodiversity and habitat loss. Additionally, in the last three decades land use changes have led to a profound landscape transformation and highly increased the risk of desertification in parts of the Caatinga. According to the MapBiomas[3][4] initiative, during the period 1985-2021 the loss of natural habitats exceeded 6 million hectares, representing 10.54% of the area mapped in 1985.

The Caatinga is one of the most populous semi-arid regions in the world and one of the poorest and least-developed areas of Brazil. Approximately 27 million people live within the region, with a large part of the economy being extractive-based, which partly justifies the region's low human development index (HDI). These socio-economic conditions result in a significant dependence on natural resources for sustainability and income. The energy matrix is highly dependent on firewood from native vegetation for industrial activities. The biome also presents a high rate of deforestation due to illegal and unsustainable consumption of firewood, for both domestic and industrial purposes, which together with overgrazing and conversion of natural areas to pasture and agricultural land has led to the deforestation of 46% of the biome's total area. The MapBiomas's Annual Deforestation Report[4][5], showed that 6,8% of the deforested area in Brazil during the year of 2022 occurred in the Caatinga.

The Caatinga is also naturally subject to drought[5][6], and therefore highly susceptible to fires and the frequency and intensity of these events is set to increase with continued changes in land and water use, the impacts of climate change on rainfall patterns, and human encroachment of protected areas (PAs). MapBiomas initiative also demonstrated that a total of 13,770 hectares of the biome was burned during the past 37 years (more than 15% of its area).

Furthermore, in the Caatinga biome, up to 125 and 253 species of fauna and flora, respectively, are listed as threatened like the Spix's macaw (Cyanopsitta spixii), the Brazilian three-banded armadillo (Tolypeutes tricinctus) and the Araripe manakin (Antilophia bokermanni). Additionally, some species are subject to poaching, driven by illegal wildlife trade to fuel global demand for exotic pets. Recent studies showed that removal of species from the wild, including through hunting and trade, is the 5th main threat to biodiversity at a national level[6][7] and the Northeast region of Brazil is a major source area for wildlife trafficking, especially for bird's species. Brazil is known as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, making it a prime target for wildlife poachers and traffickers. Illegal trade for pet (birds and reptiles) and bush meat, souvenirs and parts are the main drivers, and the demand is local to international, and many species native to the Caatinga, like the early mentioned Spix's macaw (Cyanopsitta spixii), the Brazilian three-banded armadillo (Tolypeutes tricinctus) and the Araripe manakin (Antilophia bokermanni), are threatened considering that the northeast, the Amazon and the central-west regions of Brazil have historically been main sources.

Despite its ecological importance and significant exposure to human activities and climate impacts, the Caatinga has a low representativeness in the SNUC with only 9,16% of the biome's territory being protected by PAs, according to the Brazilian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA). In addition, limitations in PA management are also encountered, with allocated public budgets tending to be insufficient and resulting in scarcity of infrastructure, equipment, maintenance, staff, and other services.

Specific threats to the Caatinga PAs include wildlife poaching and trafficking, deforestation and fires. According to the 2022 SAMGe report, poaching emerges as one of the foremost challenges confronting federal PAs. PA managers further delineate significant instances of poaching and trafficking within PAs, confirmed by the elevated number of Caatinga's species apprehension and compounded by a profound dearth of information and resources to effectively address the issue. Regarding deforestation, several PAs in the Caatinga appear in the ranking of the 50 PAs with the

largest deforested area in Brazil in 2022. The APA Dunas E Veredas Do Baixo Médio São Francisco and APA Lago do Sobradinho are among them.

While the Caatinga biome inherently faces susceptibility to fires, these occurrences present a significant threat to PAs. Notably, PN Serra das Confusões, PN Serra do Teixeira, PN Boqueirão da Onça, and APA Boqueirão da Onça are among the 10 federal PAs with the highest incidence of fires between 2003 and 2023 according to the ICMBio's Integrated Fire Management Coordination.

For centuries, the inhabitants of the Caatinga have maintained a close relationship with nature and its resources. These interactions, however, have often been characterized by a frontier mentality, in which natural resources are perceived as limitless and exploited without restraint, largely due to weak governance structures. The region harsh living conditions, exacerbated by severe droughts, have further intensified this exploitation and led to significant rural outmigration. Silva et al, (2018)[7][8] identified three primary drivers to this trend, (i) rapid conversion of extensive areas of native vegetation into human-altered landscapes; (ii) persistent and gradual overexploitation of native vegetation through practices such as slash-and-burn agriculture, firewood collection, and grazing by livestock; (iii) negative impacts stemming from the introduction of exotic plant and animal species, initially intended to bolster food security for rural communities but ultimately leading to declines in native species populations. All three processes undermine the ecological integrity of the Caatinga, which is critical to sustaining local populations and providing globally significant ecosystem services.

According to the Charter of Indigenous Peoples of the Cerrado and Caatinga, the region hosts 45 indigenous peoples, with around 90,000 inhabitants across 36 Indigenous Lands spanning nearly 140,000 hectares[8][9]. Indigenous groups, known as 'catingueiros,' include sertanejos, vaqueiros, farmers, and quilombolas among others, that have preserved ancient strategies for adapting to the Caatinga harsh environment. Notably, women play a crucial role in coping with the Semi-Arid region, often being responsible for collecting and managing water, as they are intimately involved in productive and daily life activities.

As biodiversity, ecosystem services and economic activities are closely related in the semi-arid region, the transition from an extractive-degrading model to a sustainable model must be based on conservation and adequate participatory management of the ecosystem. Tabarelli, et al (2018)[9][10] suggest goals to facilitate the region's transition to a more sustainable state that include: (i) expanding the coverage of PAs in order to improve the extension and representativeness of the system, including priorities for biodiversity conservation; (ii) reconnect PAs through corridors of restored native vegetation, and (iii) prevent the extinction of species through effective plans for the conservation of endangered species.

Future Narratives

The major drivers of this system are:

(i) Anthropogenic disturbance and pressure from natural resource use (especially firewood extraction, grazing), with underlying drivers of poverty (higher rates than the national

average), lack of livelihood options in rural areas and low productivity of the land, and population growth, though at a lower rate than elsewhere in Brazil.

(ii) Future climate change – projected to become hotter and drier.

(iii) Fires, both natural and from people using fire for agriculture and grazing, expected to get worse due to climate change and population growth.

(iv) Demand for Caatinga's endemic birds for the pet trade.

(v) Fragmented and under-resourced protected area management.

Project interventions are seeking to address the problem of anthropogenic pressures on the protected area ecosystems, deliver more effective and inclusive protected area management, including additional fire management in the protected areas, and reduce poaching and trafficking of wildlife for the pet trade. As such, two key axes of uncertainty can be drawn from these drivers that no intervention will greatly affect, one related to the level of climate change and associated level of fires (frequency and intensity), and the other related to somewhat correlated economic conditions, likely to be accompanied by low to modest regional population growth. The brief future narratives are therefore be framed around lower or higher levels of climate change and fire, and lower or higher growth in localized socioeconomic pressures, leading to three short narratives:

Narrative 1: Lower population increase, lower level of climate change and associated fires. With a lower level of population increase, the pressure on the ecosystem remains steady, including grazing, firewood collection, poaching of wildlife. This allows some opportunity to develop sustainable practices with the local communities living near the target protected areas. Slower increase in climate projections (hotter, drier) may place some, slowly increasing pressure for out-migration to the cities and coast. Fire intervals and intensity may remain steady.

Narrative 2: Lower population increase, higher level of climate change and associated fires. As per narrative 1, the lower levels of population increase places a similar, steady level of pressure on the natural resources. This allows some opportunity to develop sustainable practices with the local communities living near the target protected areas. However, if climate change leads to significantly hotter and drier conditions, fire intensity and/or frequency will increase, and livelihoods may be even more marginal. This could lead to further non-sustainable resource use, including higher rates of poaching, and/or out-migration from the area.

Narrative 3. Higher population increase, higher level of climate change and associated fires. A higher rate of population growth, along with already reduced productivity levels and low socio-economic conditions in the Caatinga region, could lead to increasingly compromised livelihoods. This could drive even more non-sustainable resource use, including even higher rates of poaching, and/or out-migration from the area. If this is coupled with worse climate impacts, such as significantly hotter and drier conditions and increased fire intensity and frequency, livelihoods may be marginal. Fire and intense anthropogenic pressure could greatly impact the endemic flora and fauna of the Caatinga protected areas.

Given this scenario, the global objective of the proposed project is to improve the conservation of the Caatinga, a biome of global biodiversity importance, through the expansion and improved management effectiveness of the SNUC, endangered species conservation, and engagement of IP/TP&LC, enhancing biodiversity resilience and improving livelihoods.

Project Approach

The project will address the lack of representation of Caatinga in SNUC by undertaking a science based and participative and inclusive process to identify new PAs or expansion of existing PAs (Outcome 1.1), improve the effective and inclusive management of a suite of existing PAs (Outcome 1.2), improve conservation of endangered species (Outcome 2.1) and reduce the threat of poaching (Outcome 2.2) and build the capacity and direct engagement of IP/TP&LC groups in PA governance and management and natural resources management in and around the suite of project PAs (Outcome 3.1).

Based on ensuring robust ecosystem and geographic representation, a total of 09 PAs have been selected to receive support by the ARCA project in terms of management effectiveness improvement. Selection criteria encompassed factors such as management effectiveness scores from the Management Monitoring and Evaluation System (SAMGe, in Portuguese)[10][11], and the Monitoring Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and PA readiness for project support. The 09 PAs include 05 Strict Protection PA and 04 Sustainable Use PAs, namely, Área de Proteção Ambiental Lago do Sobradinho, Área de Proteção Ambiental Dunas e Veredas do Baixo Médio São Francisco, Parque Nacional Serra das Confusões, Parque Nacional do Boqueirão da Onça, Área de Proteção Ambiental do Boqueirão da Onça, Parque Nacional da Serra do Teixeira, Área de Proteção Ambiental Lagoa de Itaparica, Parque Estadual Mata da Pimenteira and Estação Ecológica Serra da Canoa.

Following the PAs selection, initial consultations were held in March 2024 with selected communities in four of the nine identified PAs, representing a cross-section of the different types of communities that are present in the area. These meetings included both representatives of key local institutions and unaffiliated community members. Initial consultation meetings were also held with the managers of all 09 identified PAs except for one who was not available and will be consulted in the coming weeks. Results from initial consultations and meetings demonstrated a need for further evaluation of 02 of the 09 selected PAs (PE Mata da Pimenteira and EE Serra da Canoa), to ensure project readiness and implementation capacity. Therefore, a further assessment process, estimated to be concluded in April, will be conducted to determine if the mentioned PAs will remain in the project. Although in this stage these 2 PAs are still referred to as selected for implementation in this document, their respective areas have not been included in the project Core Indicator 1 target.

The project holds significant potential to generate Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) by addressing key drivers of biodiversity loss, such as deforestation, poaching and trafficking, thereby enhancing biodiversity conservation, particularly for endemic and endangered species contributing to the preservation of red-listed species, and improving area-based conservation, management, and participation. As a co-benefit the project will reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions contributing to climate change mitigation. This effort will help mitigate the risks posed by imminent threats from biodiversity degradation, unsustainable land use expansion and climate change, aligning with the Brazilian government's efforts to achieve Global Biodiversity Framework targets. Core indicators 1, 6, and 11 will be monitored throughout project implementation.

Project Baseline

Institutional Context

Brazil boasts a significant track record in managing PAs, marked by the establishment of the National System of Conservation Units (SNUC) in 2000[11][12]. The SNUC was designed to bolster the efficacy of PAs by fostering integrated planning and management. Its overarching goal is to ensure the adequate representation of diverse species, habitats, and ecosystems across national territory and jurisdictional waters. Organized into 12 categories spanning two distinct groups, the SNUC's governance involves active participation from all levels of government—federal, state, and municipal—through various administrative bodies.

Moreover, Brazil has considerable expertise in executing development and international cooperation projects, many of which are geared towards fortifying its robust system of PAs. Notable initiatives such as the Amazon Region Protected Areas Program – ARPA, which inspired the ARCA, the GEF Terrestre, and the GEF Mar are presently in progress, complementing a series of prior successful endeavors. Given this favorable backdrop, the inception of ARCA hinges on a conducive environment for project execution, buoyed by the involvement of key stakeholders, including:

MMA/SBio

The National Secretariat for Biodiversity, Forests and Animal Rights within the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change - MMA/SBio is responsible for the coordination of the SNUC as well as the promotion of knowledge, conservation, valuation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic heritage and the protection and recovery of species of flora, fauna and microorganisms threatened with extinction (Decree No. 11.349 from January 1, 2023). MMA/SBio. Among all its innumerous attributions, the MMA/SBio provides the technical coordination and monitoring for projects such as the above mentioned, while granting that targets and results are aligned with national legislation and international commitments.

ICMBIO

Instituto Chico Mendes for Biodiversity Conservation – ICMBIO, a federal autarchy linked to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change - MMA, is responsible for proposing, implementing, managing, protecting, supervising, and monitoring PAs established by the Federal Government, according to Law No. 11.516 from August 28, 2007, that created the Institute. Currently the ICMBIO supports 338 PAs and 14 center for research and conservation. ICMBio also actively participates in the definition, creation, and management new federal PAs. In addition, ICMBIO, especially through their research centers, will also plays an important role in monitoring biodiversity and developing and monitoring the National Action Plans for the Conservation of Species Threatened with Extinction (PANs, in Portuguese).

State Environmental Agencies (BA, PE)

The state environmental agencies within the governments of Bahia and Pernambuco are attributed with the creation and implementation of state PAs within their territories and fund the staff and operations of the selected PAs[12][13]. The states expertise on the creation of management tools for PAs as well as guidance for the protection of species will be crucial for the achievement of results under this initiative.

FUNBIO

FUNBIO is a nonprofit private entity, qualified by the Ministry of Justice of Brazil as of public interest since 2004, and specialized in the fiduciary and operational management of environmental projects[13][14]. FUNBIO has long experience in the implementation of GEF-financed biodiversity conservation projects, working in partnership with the government, private sector, and civil society. FUNBIO has also executed a number of GEF and non-GEF financed projects focusing on the creation and implementation of PAs (ARPA; GEF Mar; GEF Terrestre; COPAÍBAS; among others); species conservation (Tropical Forest Conservation Act – TFCA; TAC Frade – Franciscana Conservation; etc.); and IP/TP&LC (Fundo Kayapó; REM-MT; TAC Frade – Environmental Education; GEF Mar; among others). FUNBIO operates under the rules of private law, especially the Brazilian Civil Code.

Other Key Organizations and Projects in Caatinga

Presently, there are several pivotal organizations and projects underway in the Caatinga region, fortifying the complementary landscape that ARCA seeks to enhance. The GEF Terrestre project has launched five open calls for proposals, financing 19 projects within supported PAs[14][15], in collaboration with well-recognized entities such as Associação Caatinga, Centro de Pesquisas Ambientais do Nordeste – CEPAN, Assessoria e Gestão em Estudos da Natureza, Desenvolvimento Humano e Agroecologia – AGENDHA, Fundação Araripe, and Instituto Terra Viva. These projects target direct support to the creation and implementation of PAs, the establishment of Private Natural Heritage Reserves (RPPNs), biodiversity conservation, restoration efforts and the structuring of local restoration value chains. Organizations such as the Society, Population, and Nature Institute (ISPN) also have important work in the region with sustainable livelihoods strengthening and strategies for adaptation and mitigation to climate change, including as an executing agency of GEF-funded programs.

The ARCA project is inserted in a landscape of ongoing and new initiatives and has been designed based on lessons learned from other GEF and non-GEF initiatives like the ARPA (currently supported through Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Project, GEF Project ID9664), the GEF Terrestre (GEF Project ID4859) and the GEF Mar Project (GEF Project ID4637). Since its inception in 2002, ARPA has progressed through three distinct implementation phases. With ongoing support for over 120 PAs in the Amazon, ARPA has supported the establishment of more than 33,5 million hectares of new PAs and enhanced the management of over 62 million hectares. Moreover, ARPA stands out as a pioneering program in terms of governance, institutional arrangement, and planning and management tools. Through assessments of PA consolidation status and associated cost estimates, it has effectively furnished information on financing needs tailored to each PA's specific requirements, thus setting a precedent for other PA-focused projects and long-term financing initiatives. ARPA's

extensive engagement with local communities has also yielded valuable insights, enriching the learnings of the ARCA project.

The GEF Mar Project has drawn upon ARPA's expertise to adopt a more holistic approach, acknowledging PAs as essential elements within larger landscapes confronting pressures from fisheries and other productive ventures. Valuable insights gathered from GEF Mar's community engagement experience will inform certain aspects of IP/TP&LC involvement, training initiatives, and institutional capacity-building efforts within the ARCA project.

Additionally, the project is being developed as a complementary approach to 2 initiatives submitted to the GEF. GBFF's Biodiversity Conservation in Indigenous Lands seeks to protect and maintain biodiversity within indigenous lands, using Territorial and Environmental Management Plans (PGTAs) as the primary planning tool to define the project's activities. PGTAs are developed in a participatory process that respects the culture of each ethnic group, with assistance from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and government institutions. Two indigenous lands within the Caatinga are to be supported by the project (which do not overlap with project interventions or PAs supported by ARCA). In addition, the GEF-8 Project (Integrated Landscape Management for Biodiversity Conservation and Mitigating Climate Change in the Caatinga) (GEF ID 11565), which had the PIF recently submitted to GEFSEC for consideration for June 2024 Council, focuses on fostering integrated landscape management to combat climate change in the Caatinga through actions that encourage the conservation and recovery of the Caatinga's biodiversity and natural resources and the creation of connectivity between public and private areas. Specific activities include fostering territorial socio-environmental governance; the promotion of sustainable economic activities that contribute to environmental conservation and improve the quality of life of local communities; engagement of the private sector and IP/TP&LC through the creation of RPPNs and the recognition of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs); the recovery of vegetation and water bodies; and the development and implementation of innovative financial mechanisms, such as payment for environmental services (PES), and carbon and biodiversity credits. GEF-8 Caatinga will be implemented in territories connecting PAs to be supported by ARCA in the state of Bahia and surrounding PN Serra das Confusões. Efforts will be made to collaboratively address local consultations and safeguards across initiatives to ensure both additionality and enhanced cost-effectiveness. Such an integrated strategy is highly relevant for drylands and lead to enduring GEBs and long-term outcomes and positive impacts in the biome and in the region.

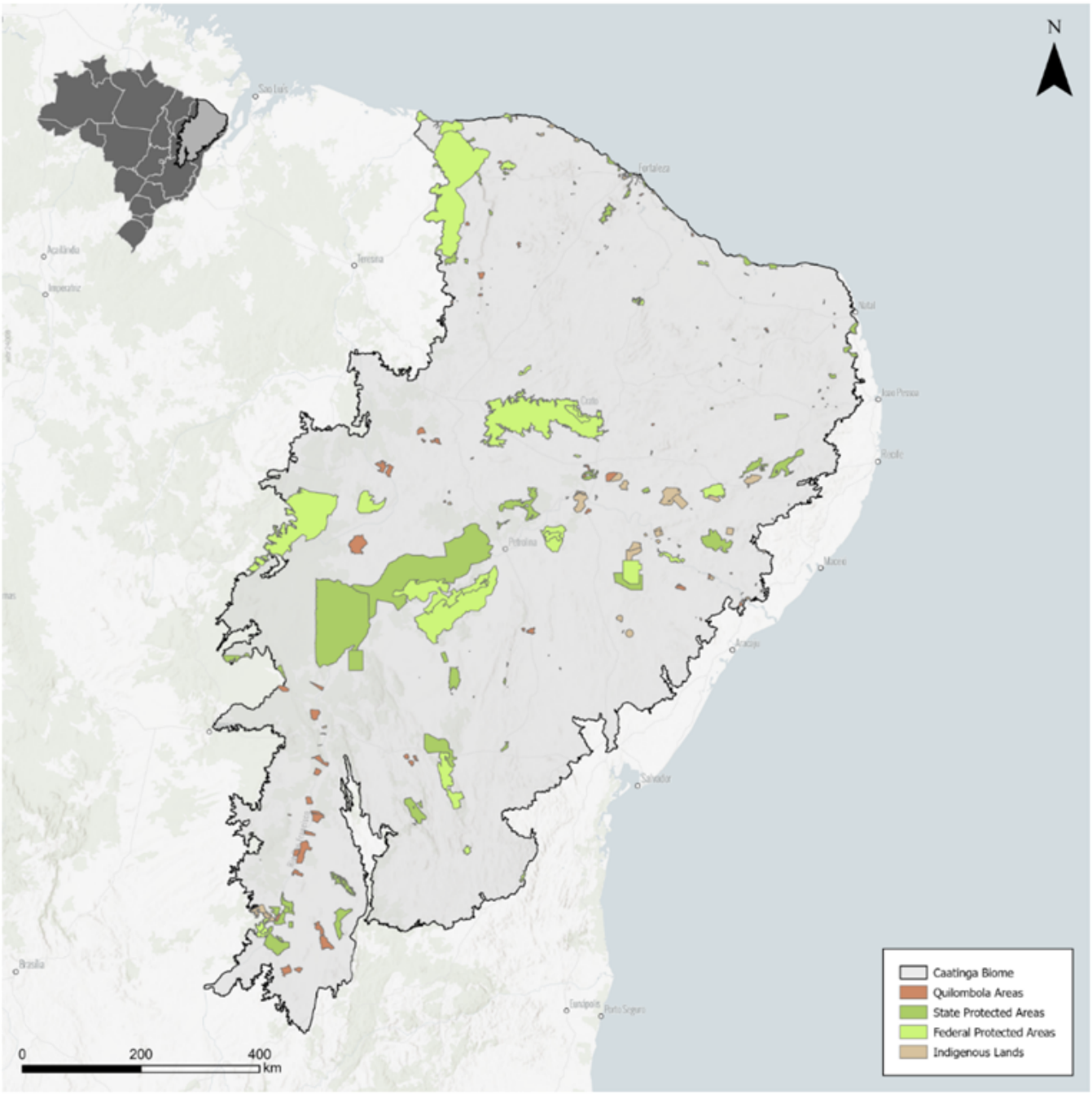
Thematic Baseline

Protected Areas Baseline (Component 1)

PAs are recognized as an effective strategy for enhancing biodiversity conservation and protecting endangered species, and according to Brazil's National Biodiversity Targets 17% of the Caatinga biome should be set aside as PAs[15][16]. However, the biome has a low representativeness in the SNUC and has received insufficient investments presenting low protection rate in comparison to other Brazilian biomes. As mentioned, only 9,16% of the Caatinga are currently protected by PAs, and presently, 13% of federal PAs that do not have established councils are in the Caatinga.

As noted, fire is a significant threat to Caatinga PAs. Presently, there is a deficiency in resources and capacity to establish comprehensive fire management plans, procure essential equipment, and mobilize and train local brigades in several PAs in the Caatinga.

Figure 1: Map of Caatinga Biome Protected Areas:



Currently, government commitment towards achieving the CBD's 30x30 target across all biomes and within Brazil's, which has been stagnant in recent years, is being revitalized through the establishment of directives and initiatives to resume PAs creation and expansion processes. Reinforcing this commitment, plans such as the PPCDAm[16][17] are being developed to formulate deforestation control strategies tailored to other biomes in addition to the Amazon and the Cerrado. These strategies will be territorially focused and involve the expansion and improved management of the PAs national system.

In this context, ICMBio conducted in January 2024 a technical workshop aimed at formulating a prioritization plan to guide its institutional efforts in proposing new federal PAs. This workshop encompassed various critical criteria, including representativeness and ecological connectivity, vulnerability to human activities, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, protection of ecosystem services, social participation, and governance. Furthermore, ICMBio seeks to enhance proposals for creating and/or expanding PAs while ensuring the territorial rights of traditional extractive populations and addressing their demands for sustainable natural resource use. Simultaneously, the agency acknowledges sociopolitical opportunities setting the baseline scenario for the creation and/or expansion of PAs. This prioritization plan provides the roadmap for ground assessments and biodiversity surveys to identify new PA areas/PA expansion and to develop the documentation for approvals, under Outcome 1.1 in Component 1.

All of the 09 selected PAs are currently at a rudimentary stage of protected area management implementation and exhibit relatively low scores for management effectiveness according to both the METT and SAMGe, as illustrated in the table below.

Table 01 provides key information on the 09 selected PAs current situation.

Table 01 - Summary of baseline scenario of selected project PAs.

PA Name	Adm/Federal Unit	Area (ha)	SNUC Group	SAMGE	METT Baseline Score	Management Plan	Council	Permanent Staff	Temporary Staff	Initial Consultation or Meeting
APA Lago do Sobradinho	State (BA)	1235597,86	Sustainable Use	Effectiveness: 32,30% (2022)	28	No	No	-	2	Yes
APA Dunas e Veredas do Baixo Médio São Francisco	State (BA)	1024850,25	Sustainable Use	Effectiveness: 38,64% (2022)	35	No	No	2	-	Yes
PN Serra das Confusões	ICMBio (PI)	823833,73	Strict Protection	Effectiveness: 49,41% (2022)	47	Yes	Yes	1	42	Yes
PN do Boqueirão da Onça	ICMBio (BA)	346908,44	Strict Protection	Effectiveness: 45,18% (2022)	29	No	No	1	25	Yes
PN da Serra do Teixeira	ICMBio (PB)	61095,43	Strict Protection	No information (information)	39	No	No	1	-	Yes
APA do Boqueir	ICMBio (BA)	1011387,72	Sustainable Use	Effectiveness:	29	No	No	1	25	Yes

ão da Onça				45,64% (2022)						
APA Lagoa de Itaparica	State (BA)	78147,89	Sustainable Use	Effectiveness: 33,33% (2022)	36	No	Yes	2	-	Yes
PE Mata da Pimenteira	State (PE)	872,87	Strict Protection	Effectiveness: 28,54% (2022)	38	Yes	Yes	1	-	Pending additional consultation /analyses
EE Serra da Canoa	State (PE)	7601,12	Strict Protection	Effectiveness: 40,99% (2022)	25	No	No	1	-	Pending additional consultation /analyses

Endangered Species Conservation Baseline (Component 2)

The PANs are instruments that support target 4 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at a national scale. Designed as a participatory management tool, PANs organize and prioritize conservation actions for endangered species and their natural habitats. The process of preparation, approval, publication, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and review is conducted by ICMBio and grounded in strategic planning, establishing a straightforward yet robust methodology applicable across all taxonomic or geographic scales[17][18]. These scales may encompass a singular species, groups or collections of individual species and subspecies, as well as global, regional, or national levels.

Monitoring of PANs is conducted through systematic oversight facilitated by a Technical Advisory Group - GAT. To enhance the efficacy of the action plan's implementation, the process entails extensive multilateral participation, aiming to foster a collective commitment involving various governmental sectors, environmental NGOs, species conservation experts, representatives of local communities, the private sector and other pertinent stakeholders. The ICMBio organizes annual mentoring and evaluation sessions with the GAT, supplemented by mid-term and final evaluation over the 5-year implementation period of the PAN.

Table 02 presents 09 PANs that are currently under implementation by ICMBio and its research centers in the Caatinga protecting 425 endangered species[18][19]. However, most of these PANs are under-implemented and face budget limitations, highlighting the necessity for further capacity and operational support to ensure the effective protection of the Caatinga biodiversity. Therefore, ARCA will work under a complementary approach with ongoing efforts from initiatives such as the GEF Terrestre project.

Table 02[19][20] – PANs under implementation in the Caatinga.

PAN	Cycle	Start	End	Nº of Protected Species	Nº of Protected Endangered Species
Ararinha-Azul	2º Cycle	2019	2024	1	1
Cavernas do Brasil	1º Cycle	2022	2027	168	168
Herpetofauna do Nordeste	2º Cycle	2018	2024	104	40
Insetos Polinizadores	1º Cycle	2022	2027	107	56
Pequenos Felinos	2º Cycle	2022	2027	5	5
Pequenos Mamíferos de Áreas Abertas	1º Cycle	2022	2027	20	17
Rivulideos	2º Cycle	2022	2027	159	130
Tamanduá-Bandeira e Tatus	1º Cycle	2019	2024	3	3
Ungulados	1º Cycle	2019	2024	7	5

Enhancing knowledge on endangered species in the Caatinga through the effective implementation and monitoring of PANs not only fortifies this crucial tool but also establishes a solid foundation for combating pervasive regional challenges like illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking.

Although Brazilian regulatory framework on illegal trade combat has evolved significantly in the last decades, there are still numerous challenges and inconsistencies to be overcome, including definition of responsibilities between different government levels and information sharing. The mandate for anti-poaching, a widespread situation, goes from the municipality law enforcement agencies to state and federal ones like the IBAMA. Currently, large efforts are undertaken by Brazilian authorities to seizure illegal wildlife activities, however these have not been sufficient to curb the trading and change cultural and behavior patterns.

Hard evidence of the size and characteristics of international and domestic wildlife trade in Brazil are scarce, and often Illegal wildlife trafficking involves transnational criminal networks, making it a global issue. Brazil collaborates with international partners to tackle the trade through initiatives like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

IP/TP&LC Engagement Baseline (Component 3)

The people living in the Caatinga have forged a strong bond with nature and its resources over generations., however, rapid conversion of extensive areas of native vegetation into human-altered landscapes, fire-based agriculture, firewood collection, and grazing by livestock, and negative impacts from the introduction of exotic plant and animal species, has undermined the ecological integrity of the Caatinga. At the same time, the region suffers with low human and economic development, intensifying pressure on natural resources and underscoring the imperative for robust community engagement efforts to co-create, alongside government and other stakeholders. These efforts aim to promote sustainable practices and conservation aligned with the establishment and maintenance of PAs and endangered species protection, fostering a shared commitment to environmental stewardship.

The consultation process conducted during project preparation with IP/TP&LC residing in and around the PAs revealed a high level of community engagement and strong desire to actively participate in the development of community-driven projects and co-created solutions. Environmental issues, particularly regarding the availability and conservation of natural resources, emerged as primary concerns in the consulted communities. Given the high number of communities and individuals living within and in the surrounding areas of the supported PAs, the approach will need to be adaptive, considering the full diversity and richness present in the area. Although the region hosts some organizations with higher institutional capacity, the vast majority of community organizations require institutional strengthening to implement sub-grants.

Additionally, according to the ICMBio, local NGOs and social movements are actively seeking support from the State for the establishment and enhancement of sustainable use PAs. These areas serve as critical instruments in granting rightful territorial usage, with a fundamental reliance on public policies aimed at promoting the sustainable use of natural resources in the region.

Project Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Description of Stakeholders and Their Participation on Project Implementation
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change – MMA/Secretariat for Bisodiversity, Forests and Animal Rights – SBio.	The MMA/SBio is responsible for the coordination of the National System of Protected Areas – SNUC (Law No. 9.985 from July 18, 2000) as well as the promotion of knowledge, conservation, valuation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic heritage and the protection and recovery of species of flora, fauna and microorganisms threatened with extinction (Decree No. 11.349 from January 1, 2023). MMA/SBio will provide the technical coordination and monitoring of the implementation of project components. MMA/SBio will support the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of project's components.
Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade – ICMBio.	The ICMBio is a federal autarchy responsible for proposing, implementing, managing, protecting, supervising and monitor the PAs established by the MMA. ICMBio will support the process for identification and creation of new PAs, as well as the activities for management improvement of existing ones. ICMBio will also play an important role on implementing and monitoring PANs and coordinating activities against wildlife poaching and trafficking. Moreover, the Institute will support and participate in actions with indigenous peoples and local communities living inside and PA surrounding areas. ICMBio's Centers for Research and Conservation will play an important part in PANs implementation and monitoring.
Bahia State Secretariat for the Environment (SEMA)	SEMA has a broad mandate over environmental conservation and policy implementation within the state of Bahia. SEMA's responsibilities include managing PAs, enforcing environmental legislation, and promoting sustainable development. SEMA's engagement in Project includes ensuring regulatory compliance, enhancing the management effectiveness of PAs, and contributing to the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources.
Instituto do Meio ambiente e Recursos Hídricos da Bahia – INEMA.	The INEMA is responsible for state level PAs in the state of Bahia and will be enhancing management effectiveness of PAs under their jurisdiction and supporting federal government in the creation of new PAs under their related territories. The INEMA will also support the ICMBio with the implementation and monitoring of PANs, and support and participate in actions with indigenous peoples and local communities living inside and state-level PA surrounding areas.
Pernambuco State Secretariat of the Environment, Sustainability, and	SEMAS is mandated to oversee environmental policies and sustainability initiatives across the state of Pernambuco. It is structured to foster integrated environmental management, leveraging the support of the State Environmental Council of Pernambuco (CONSEMA-PE) and financial backing from the State Environmental Fund (FEMA) and

Fernando de Noronha (SEMAS)	ICMS Socioambiental to underpin Pernambuco's Environmental Policy. Its activities, from coordinating state environmental policies to executing licensing and enforcement actions, directly influence the project's effectiveness in enhancing PA management and fostering sustainable resource use.
Agência Estadual do Meio Ambiente de Pernambuco – CPRH.	The CPRH is responsible for state level PAs in the state of Pernambuco and will be enhancing management effectiveness of PAs under their jurisdiction and supporting federal government in the creation of new PAs under their related territories. The CPRH will also support the ICMBio with the implementation and monitoring of PANs, and support and participate in actions with indigenous peoples and local communities living inside and state-level PA surrounding areas.
Indigenous Peoples, Tradicional People and Local Communities – IP/TP&LC.	IP/TP&LCs are important stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of project activities and actively participating in consultation process for the creation of new PAs and activities related to improving management effectiveness of PAs, especially sustainable use PAs, that reconcile conservation of biodiversity and natural habitats with the sustainable use of natural resources. IP/TP&LC will also directly participate and benefit from capacity building and training to improve PA management, governance, and natural resources use. Project activities focusing on the effective management of PAs will include support to the formation and operationalization of PA councils, ensuring the participation of IP/TP&LC groups within PAs and surrounding areas in PA governance. IP/TP&LC will directly receive resources through subgrants to fund capacities, operational support and technical assistance to strengthen their participation in PA governance, PA management and natural resources use within PAs improving livelihoods. The ARCA will not support the creation of PAs that involve any resettlement.
Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA)	IBAMA is the federal agency under the MMA, mandated to enforce environmental regulations and with the authority to oversee the implementation of national policies including, but not limited to: Environmental quality control and monitoring; authorizing natural resource use and management; and the issuing of environmental permits. IBAMA will, in close collaboration with ICMBio and State agents, assist the project's activities in regard to PA surveillance, fire management and, protecting endangered species against poaching and other illegal.
Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade – FUNBIO.	FUNBIO is a nonprofit, civil society organization, accredited as GEF agency and GCF accredited entity. FUNBIO will host the Project Management Unit and will be responsible for the financial management of the project and all procurement activities and calls for proposals. FUNBIO will also coordinate the implementation of the ESMF.

[1] https://brasilemsintese.ibge.gov.br/territorio.html

[2] https://ispn.org.br/biomas/caatinga/fauna-e-flora-da-caatinga/

[3] https://brasil.mapbiomas.org/2022/10/06/caatinga-perde-160-mil-ha-de-superficie-de-agua-e-mais-de-10-de-vegetacao-nativa-nos-ultimos-37-anos/

[4] https://alerta.mapbiomas.org/relatorio

[5] According to the MapBiomas 160,000 hectares of water surface were lost in the Caatinga between 1985-2021, a decrease of 16.75%.

[6] Charity, S. Ferreira, J.M. (2020). Wildlife Trafficking in Brazil. TRAFFIC International, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

[7] da Silva, J. M. C., Leal, I. R., & Tabarelli, M. (Eds.). (2018). Caatinga: the largest tropical dry forest region in South America. Springer.

[8] https://ispn.org.br/biomas/caatinga/povos-e-comunidades-tradicionais-da-caatinga/. Accessed on March 24, 2024.

[9] Tabarelli, M.; Leal, I. R.; Scarano, F. R. and Silva, J. M. C. da.Caatinga: legado, trajetória e desafios rumo à sustentabilidade. Cienc. Cult. [online]. 2018, vol.70, n.4, pp.25-29. http://dx.doi.org/10.21800/2317-66602018000400009.

[10] The SAMGe is an important tool utilized by the Brazilian government to monitor the management effectiveness of PAs across various administrative levels and evaluate adherence to public policies related to biodiversity conservation. The ICMBio, responsible for national-level PAs, is responsible for the SAMGe, although the system is also used by state-level environmental management bodies. Conducted annually, the System adopts a standardized set of global effectiveness indicators endorsed by the IUCN. The outcome is a comprehensive diagnostic report based on a compilation of local data, facilitating the formulation of indicators, and informing decision-making processes. The SAMGe responds directly to 30 and indirectly to 9 out of the 43 questions posed by the METT, demonstrating a significant degree of complementarity between these two tools. http://samge.icmbio.gov.br/

[11] Law No. 9.985 from July 18, 2000

[12] APA Lago do Sobradinho, APA Dunas e Veredas do Baixo Médio São Francisco, APA Lagoa de Itaparica – (Bahia) and PE Mata da Pimenteira and EE Serra da Canoa (Pernambuco).

[13] FUNBIO was founded in 1996 as a financial mechanism for the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Brazil. Since its foundation, FUNBIO has signed management contracts equivalent to U$ 953 million, supporting 579 projects from 410 different organizations (Source: FUNBIO).

[14] GEF Terrestre is a GEF-5 ongoing initiative implemented by IDB/FUNBIO and coordinated by MMA/SBio, that supports 37 PAs in the Caatinga, including 17 federal PAs, 9 state PAs and 11 RPPNs.

[15] Brazil's NBSAP is in the process of being updated to align with the new Kunming-Montreal Global Framework for Biological Diversity (2023-2030). This process will support the definition of new National Biodiversity Targets by the National Biodiversity Commission - Conabio.

[16] Plano de Ação para Prevenção e Controle do Desmatamento da Amazônia Legal (https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/combate-ao-desmatamento/amazonia-ppcdam-1).

[17]According to Instrução Normativa ICMBio nº 21/2018 available at: https://www.gov.br/icmbio/pt-br/assuntos/biodiversidade/pan/saiba-mais/documentos-e-downloads/01_-_in_icmbio_no_21_de_18_de_dez_de_2018_retificada.pdf

[18] The PANs align with the classification system utilized by the IUCN Red List.

[19] https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiNzFhYzczMzEtMDg2Ni00ZDYzLWEwMTctMGIxMWVmZWI3YTYzIiwidCI6ImMxNGUyYjU2LWM1YmMtNDNiZC1hZDljLTQwOGNmNmNjMzU2MCJ9&pageName=ReportSection347e805fed3080309cb3

C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section E). This section should be a cohesive narrative and not separate responses to the guiding questions in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages).

Project Theory of Change

The Theory of Change (TOC) of the ARCA Project is built upon the threats, barriers, and baseline presented in section B. It is based on the logic that,

IF

- Investments are directed towards building upon lessons learned and gaps from previous and ongoing initiatives through a landscape approach,

- A participatory biodiversity and technical assessment process and a consultation process is conducted and the technical documentation for the declaration of new PAs and/or expansion of existing ones is submitted,

- Priority Investments in existing PAs of the Caatinga biome are implemented so they increase capacity and deliver planning and participatory instruments like Management Plans and Councils increasing the effective management of those PAs,

- Priority and strategic actions in the National Action Plans for Endangered Species Conservation and effective monitoring of these actions are implemented,

- Social awareness to reduce engagement in poaching/trafficking is raised and effective income generation means are developed to encourage people away from poaching,

- Law enforcements are effectively trained and working on an integrated manner,

- Capacities of IP/TP&LC living inside or near selected PAs are strengthened so they improve their effective participation in PA governance, management and decision-making, and enhance their NRM practices inside PAs,

THEN, the project will be able to,

- enhance national efforts towards attending international targets and commitments within a consistent regional approach,

- strengthen the national protected areas system (SNUC) and increased ecological representativeness of the Caatinga, as well as the effective and inclusive management,

- increase government capacities to combat illegal poaching and trafficking,

- reduce threats associated with unsustainable practices and wildlife poaching,

- increase IP/TP&LC group engagement, effective participation in PA management and leadership in sustainable NRM.

thus improving, reduction of biodiversity loss, the effective conservation of the Caatinga biome and IP/TP&LCs livelihoods in the long term.

This TOC is built on the following assumption: (i) that studies and consultations, in accord with local people and governments, lead to an agreement on new PAs to be created; (ii) that different levels and sectors of government are in agreement and will declare new proposed PAs; (iii) that allocated PA managers and staff will sufficient to implement projects activities; (iv) that livelihood support is enough to attract poachers away from poaching and that they would not do it in addition to poaching but instead of; (v) that IP/TP&LCs will have willingness to strengthen their natural resource use and management practices and to participate in the PA governance.

To maintain a robust project strategy in the eventuality of any of three scenarios described in the future narratives, the project will include:

- Increased capacities and operational support for fire management at the protected areas,

- Increased capacities and operational support to tackle poaching and trafficking,

- Mainstreaming climate resilience into the IP/TP&LC sub-grant work, such as promotion of sustainable water management practices and integrated fire management to mitigate the impacts of desertification,

- A focus on the endangered and endemic Caatinga species, through implementation of PANs, and by undertaking monitoring of suites of species such that any declines are identified in time to make corrective action,

- Recognition of indigenous communities' rights and land tenure, coupled with an IP&LC inclusive conservation approach, to generate greater socioeconomic equity, community empowerment and land stewardship,

- Project delivery through the existing PA management entities, of MMA, ICMBio, and state governments, along with multi stakeholder and representative Management Council, to generate sustainability of project outcomes.

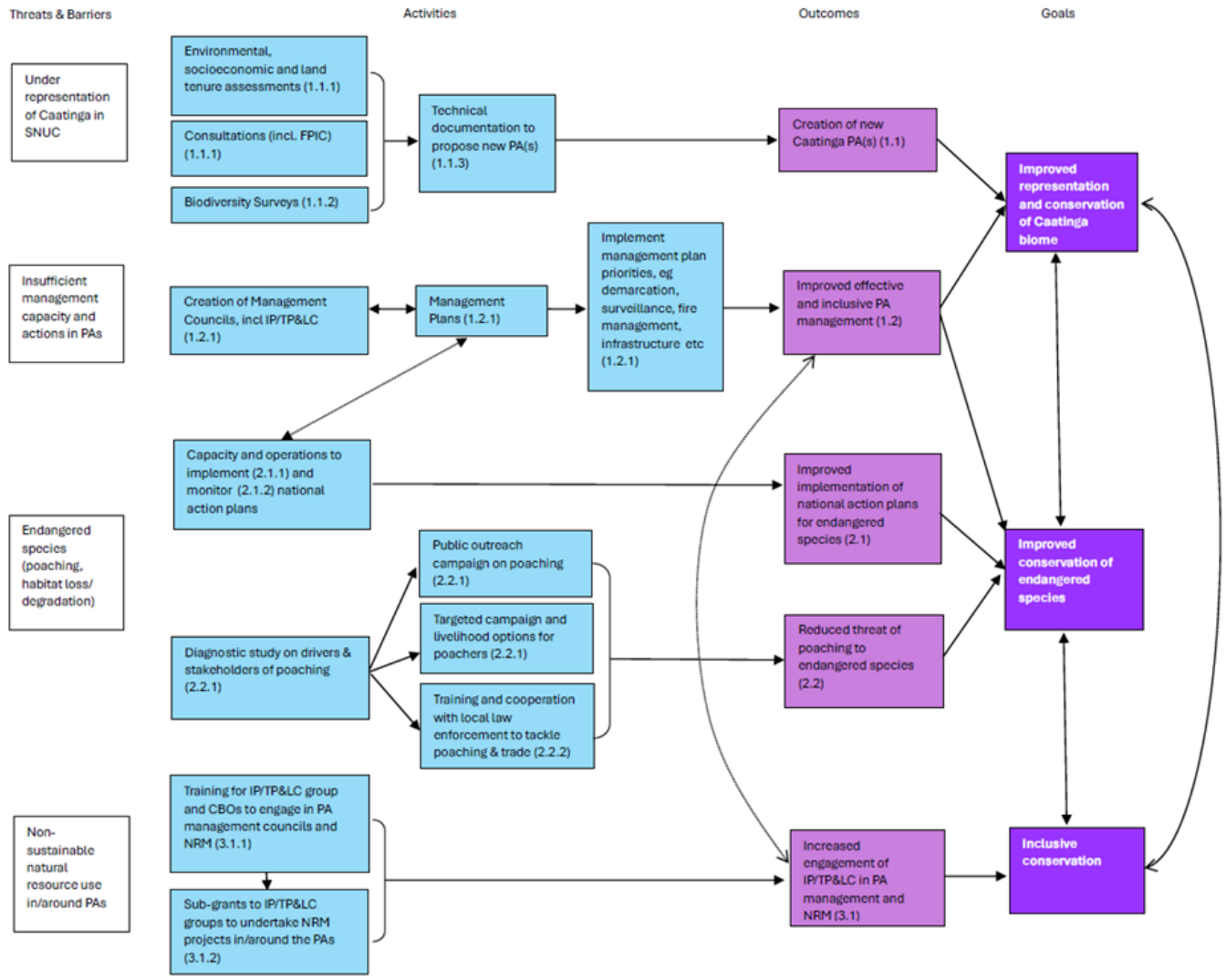


Figure 2: ARCA's Theory of Change Diagram

Project Description

The proposed project is structured in four components, as follows:

<u>Component 1 – Creation and Improved Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas</u>

The Caatinga biome faces significant threats from land use change practices and climate change impacts. Establishing new PAs in the Caatinga is crucial for preserving ecosystem services, mitigating the expansion of desertification-prone areas, and safeguarding habitats for numerous threatened species while enhancing climate resilience. Moreover, target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework obliges contracting parties to effectively conserve at least 30% of important areas for the biodiversity and ecosystems functions and services. This should be achieved by a well-connected system of PAs and other effective area-based conservation measures.

Both outcomes inserted in Component 1 will improve effective and inclusive biodiversity conservation; reduce deforestation inside and in PAs surrounding areas; and as a co-benefit, reduce and avoid GHG emissions. Additionally, the project will improve national-level biodiversity management strengthening the SNUC and

contributing to the improvement of coordination between federal and state governments efforts in identifying and prioritizing conservation actions.

Outcome 1.1. Creation of New Protected Areas

With an estimated target of 100,000ha, this outcome will support multiple assessments, biodiversity surveys and the consultation process for the design and preparation of proposals for the creation of new PAs and expansion of existing ones.

The areas to be created and/or expanded, may include both strict protection and sustainable use and will be defined in line with the results of the early-mentioned workshop conducted by ICMBio that mapped all existing PA creation and expansion demands for the biome at varying stages of progress and the procedures for establishing PAs determined by the SNUC[1][21].

The identification of areas earmarked for the creation or expansion of PAs is not disclosed at this project preparation phase, to mitigate potential conflicts and not dilute the important consultation phase (including FPIC if relevant), or the raising of unrealistic expectations among stakeholders. However, the project will not support the creation of any new PA that led to the physical displacement of individuals residing within the designated area.

Output 1.1.1 Desktop and participatory on the ground environmental, socioeconomic and land tenure assessments and consultation to identify new PAs and PAs expansion.

Under output 1.1.1 the project will implement activities such as priority areas, socioeconomic, environmental and land titling assessments and public consultations, including facilitation and meeting logistics. Women's groups and leadership will be proactively engaged to participate during public consultations and meetings. Activities will also include safeguards assessments, plans and implementation, among others. During participatory environmental assessments and **gender-responsive and inclusive** public consultations, IP/TP&LC will be invited to contribute with their strong knowledge of the local biodiversity, which will also contribute to surveys conducted under output 1.1.2. The ICMBio and States agencies will be responsible for guiding and overseeing activities under this output. Assessments will be conducted by consultants hired by FUNBIO who is responsible for all project's procurement activities.

Activities will include, among others: (i) priority areas assessment, (ii) socioeconomic assessment, (iii) environmental assessment, (iv) land titling assessment, (v) mobilization and organization for public consultations, and (vi) safeguards mitigation plan development, as relevant, and safeguards monitoring.

Output 1.1.2. Biodiversity surveys in understudied areas to map priority conservation areas to support identification of new PAs, PAs expansion and potential corridors.

Planning conservation requires documenting species occurrence and their roles in the ecosystem. Therefore, biodiversity surveys will provide additional support to the definition of priority areas for the creation or expansion of PAs. Furthermore, survey's results will support the identification of potential connectivity corridors, which will be carried out within the scope of the earlier mentioned complimentary GEF-8 Caatinga

project that is being developed. Biodiversity surveys will be conducted with the support and participation of IP/TP&LC and will provide an opportunity for the use of cutting-edge technology coupled with local and traditional knowledge. Women's groups will also be engaged to participate and contribute with their specific and traditional knowledge. The use of environmental DNA (eDNA) can offer an efficient solution for broad-scale biodiversity mapping by detecting the presence of different species, including endangered, cryptic, or rare ones. The ICMBio and their Conservation Research Centers will be responsible for implementing and overseeing activities under this output. Hirings and acquisitions will be conducted by FUNBIO with procurement specifications provided by ICMBio.

Output 1.1.2 will include activities such as: (i) field trips for biodiversity surveys, (ii) field equipment, and (iii) laboratory analysis, among others.

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Output 1.1.3. Technical documentation submitted for the approval of new PAs.

Output 1.1.3 will include activities regarding the development and submission of legal documentation for the approval of new PAs. The ICMBio and States agencies will be responsible for these activities.

Activities will include: (i) legal and/or editorial services for drafting documentation and presentations, (ii) organization of meetings, and (ii) travel, among others.

Outcome 1.2. Improved Management Effectiveness of Existing Protected Areas

The significant outcomes achieved by initiatives like the ARPA Program underscore the critical importance of investing in enhancing the management effectiveness of PAs so they can fulfil their objectives and ensure the conservation of biodiversity. Building upon over 20 years of accumulated lessons learned and leveraging the expertise gained from the ARPA initiative, this outcome will facilitate the enhanced management of existing PAs. Mostly, the selected PAs are currently on a basic level of implementation and require investments to start operating. The project will achieve this by furnishing basic instruments such as PA councils and management plans, as well as, necessary management infrastructure and equipment, such as 4x4 vehicles, implementing signalization in PAs strategic locations and conducting protection and surveillance activities, among other crucial measures.

Output 1.2.1 Implementation of eligible activities to improve PA effective management in target PAs.

The MMA/SBio in discussion with ICMBio, State Agencies and FUNBIO determined which existing PAs would receive support from this project based on baseline and readiness level to implement the project. Moreover, the chosen sites were identified to leverage synergies with other financing initiatives, thereby amplifying the impact of on-the-ground actions. Additionally, this selection reinforces landscape management by fostering potential collaboration among various federal entities, given the geographical proximity of some PAs. Furthermore, several additional criteria were taken into consideration, including: (i) the presence of threatened species within the area, (ii) the necessity for investments aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of PAs, (iii) level of interest and the availability of human and financial resources to carry out project activities, and (iv) the likelihood of establishing effective partnerships with local communities.

As detailed in section A of this document, the initial area of 900,000ha to be supported for management effectiveness, estimated during the PPG Request stage, was subsequently expanded upon finalizing the selection of the PAs. At present, support has been confirmed for 7 PAs, setting the target for this outcome at 4,581,821.32 ha (Core sub-indicator 1.2). Additionally, two more PAs, namely PE Mata da Pimenteira and EE Serra da Canoa, are undergoing further assessment, with an estimated completion date of May 1st. Pending the

assessment's results, if these PAs are included, the outcome target would be raised to 4,590,295.31 ha. Table 03 presents more information regarding the areas.

Table 03 – Existing PAs to be supported by the project.

PA Name	Management Body	Administrative Level	Federal Unit	Area (ha)	SNUC Group	IUCN Category
APA Lago do Sobradinho	INEMA	State	BAHIA	1.235.597,86	Sustainable Use	V Protected Landscape/Seascape
APA Dunas e Veredas do Baixo Médio São Francisco	INEMA	State	BAHIA	1.024.850,25	Sustainable Use	V Protected Landscape/Seascape
PN Serra das Confusões	ICMBio	Federal	PIAUÍ	823.833,73	Strict Protection	II National Park
PN do Boqueirão da Onça	ICMBio	Federal	BAHIA	346.908,44	Strict Protection	II National Park
PN da Serra do Teixeira	ICMBio	Federal	PARAÍBA	61.095,43	Strict Protection	II National Park
APA do Boqueirão da Onça	ICMBio	Federal	BAHIA	1.011.387,72	Sustainable Use	V Protected Landscape/Seascape
APA Lagoa de Itaparica	INEMA	State	BAHIA	78.147,89	Sustainable Use	V Protected Landscape/Seascape
HECTARES				**4.581.821,32**		
PE Mata da Pimenteira	CPRH	State	PERNAMBUCO	872,87	Strict Protection	II National Park
EE Serra da Canoa	CPRH	State	PERNAMBUCO	7.601,12	Strict Protection	Ia Strict Nature Reserve
TOTAL HECTARES				**4.590.295,31**		

In the initial phases of project implementation, FUNBIO will coordinate with MMA, ICMBio, the states, and each project PA and build out a work plan of protected area management activities to be implemented in each PA over the project period, based on the PA specific needs, identified through analysis of the SAMGe and METT reports. Additionally, yearly ESS Screenings will take place, resulting in the creation of site-specific ESMPs, as well as potential livelihood restoration plans (LRPs) and Indigenous and Traditional Peoples Plans (ITPPs), depending on the local context. These LRPs and ITPPs will be co-designed with communities affected by access restrictions to natural resources or changes to the borders of PAs or their management systems. These safeguards processes will inform annual work plan and budgets per PA for each project year, and planning will be carried out in close consultation with PA managers, as well as federal and state PA

management agencies, ensuring alignment with their respective requirements. Priority will be given to the construction of technical, institutional and governance capacity to the establishment and operation of the PA Councils.

PA councils are a requirement of the SNUC (Law No. 9.985/2000), regulated in 2002 by the Brazilian Decree 4.340/2002. This decree outlined the composition and responsibilities of PA councils, as well as the PA management body, and provided detailed guidance on the establishment and operation of these councils. According to the SNUC, there are two types of councils for PAs: advisory councils and deliberative councils[2].

Advisory councils play a crucial role in ensuring transparency in PA management by facilitating social representation. They also contribute to the formulation and execution of the management plan and foster integration between the PA and various stakeholders, including local communities, the private sector, research institutions, NGOs, public authorities, and surrounding PAs. Deliberative councils share similar functions to advisory councils but hold additional powers. They are responsible for approving the management plan and overseeing the engagement of social interest organizations for collaborative management of the PA. The ARCA will facilitate the establishment and management of advisory councils for the nine supported PAs, as this aligns with the legal requirements corresponding to their PA category.

The legislation also outlines additional characteristics of PA councils, including requirements for composition and parity, and recommendations as to the minimum number of meetings. These councils are typically composed of representatives from government, civil society, academia, IP/TP&LC, among others, and generally convene three annual meetings. Specifically, the ARCA project will actively facilitate and promote the participation of women, particularly in leadership and decision-making roles within all PA councils. Efforts to encourage and support women's participation in these councils will be prioritized and actively facilitated.

The council's main attributions include overseeing the development, implementation, and potential revision of the PA’s management plan, promoting integration with other PAs and surrounding areas, managing stakeholder interests, evaluating the PA’s budget and annual financing reports prepared by the ICMBio or State Secretariats, providing input on projects and actions impacting the PA, and proposing measures for community integration, among others.

Supporting the participative development and implementation of management plans will also be a priority, as this is the main instrument for an effective management to be conducted in the PAs. Special focus will also be given to fire management and other climate emergency actions considering the susceptibility of the Caatinga and the low level of preparedness of most of the selected PAs to fight against these threats.

The project will adopt Integrated Fire Management (IFM), an environmental management strategy, adapted to each local condition, which aims to reduce the conditions for the occurrence of large forest fires, and restore the ecological role of fire in ecosystems and vegetation that evolved with fire. IFM has as one of its main strategies controlled or prescribed burning that has the dual function of avoiding and/or reducing the severity and intensity of forest fires, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, and, at the same time, integrating sociocultural aspects and economic aspects of fire management in a given territory. One key needed aspect of the IFM is training and capacity building, in addition to the provision of the necessary equipment for conducting those activities.

Under the guidance and supervision of ICMBio and state agencies' focal points and MMA/DAP, PAs managers will be responsible for most activities. FUNBIO will handle all procurement operations in alignment with specifications provided by PA managers, endorsed by ICMBio, and state agencies, with oversight from MMA/DAP for key activities. Consultants may be engaged to fulfill specific requirements or tasks as needed.

The following activities will be financed under output 1.2.1, among others: (i) Development and Revision of Management Plans, (ii) PA Councils establishment and operation (3 meeting per year per PA), (iii) PA signalization and Strategic Demarcation, (iv) Development and Implementation of the PA Protection Plans[3][22], (v) surveillance activities, (vi) Managerial and Operational Structuring of PAs, (vii) Equipment Acquisition, including fire management equipment, (viii) Infrastructure Building, (ix) Land Titling Studies, (x) Signed Commitment Term[4][23] (Strict Protection PAs) e Granting of Use Rights[5][24] (Sustainable Use PAs) (xi) Climate and Environmental Emergency Actions, (xii) Integrated Fire Management Actions and training, (xiii) implementation of safeguard measures in the project ESMF, including creation of ESMPs, LRPs and ITPPs, (xiv) safeguards and gender monitoring, and (xv) capacity building of PA managers on safeguards and gender requirements.

Component 2 - Endangered Species Conservation

Considering that Brazil holds some of the greatest biodiversity on the planet, with more than 160 thousand species of fauna and flora registered, preventing species extinction within the national territory is a challenge. The protection of the Caatinga biome is of utmost importance, as its significant biodiversity is increasingly threatened by human pressures and climate change. Near 80% of the Brazil's threatened species are covered by PANs, meaning that actions should be in place to reduce the species' risk of extinction and/or to maintain or to restore genetic diversity within and between populations of endangered species.

Wildlife poaching and trafficking is also a major threat for species in the Caatinga, demanding integrated and coordinated efforts from different government levels. While birds and reptiles' species have been illegally traded as pet, either at local and international market, mammals have been illegally traded as bush meat, souvenirs and parts for traditional medicine.

In this regard, component 2 aims to enhance the conservation status of endangered species of fauna and flora through the implementation and monitoring of PANs and the combatting of illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking.

Outcome 2.1. Improved Implementation of National Action Plans for Endangered Species Conservation

This outcome will facilitate the more efficient management of threatened species in selected project PAs by providing capacity-building and operational assistance to ICMBio and states agencies to implement priority activities within existing PANs.

Output 2.1.1 Capacity and operational support for implementation of National Action Plans for Endangered Species in target protected areas

The project will map priority actions within existing PANs that are not financed by ongoing initiatives like the GEF Terrestre to provide complementary support contributing to the full implementation of PANs in the Caatinga. Special attention will be given to the implementation of PANs focusing on critically endangered species in the Caatinga biome such as Lear's macaw (Anodorhynchus leari) and jaguar (Panthera onca) through activities such as estimating jaguar population density and monitoring blue macaw's population trend, as well as, monitoring reptiles and amphibians' population trends and monitoring fire impact on small mammals' population trends.

These assessments, trends, and impact evaluations provide data to illustrate the situation and trends for various species, enabling the identification of threats and conservation opportunities. Interventions are then tailored to address the specific challenges faced by each species in the region, ranging from actions to minimize wildlife attacks on local farmers' herds to education and awareness initiatives targeting the regional population.

Under this output capacity-building will also be delivered through the implementation of education program focusing on blue macaw conservation (offered to kindergarten and elementary school kids), evaluation of climate change effects on the biology and conservation of birds (offered to local communities and tourist guides) and, human wildlife conflict management (offered to local communities and farmers). Operational support to undertake field activities will also by supported under output 2.1.1. Activities and will be delivered by ICMBio and its Research for Conservation Centers in collaboration with PA managers and collaboration and supervision from the MMA/DCBio.

The following activities will be financed under output 2.1.1, among others, (i) estimating population density, (ii) monitoring population trend, (iii) implementing educational programs, (iv) climate change effects on biodiversity evaluation, (v) monitoring fire impact on population trends, and (vi) field visits.

Output 2.1.2 Monitoring of implementation of the National Action Plans

Monitoring the implementation of PANs is essential not only to ensure that the plans are achieving their objectives but also to verify conservation outcomes among stakeholders during GAT meetings. Assessments of population trends and threats, conducted as part of output 2.1.1, also play a significant role in the evaluation process for PAN implementation, facilitating improvements and course corrections. Further elaboration on these actions will be attained through attentive listening and consultation with GAT members and communities situated within the PAN regions during the initial months of project implementation.

The following activities will be financed under output 2.1.2, among others, and will be delivered by ICMBio with collaboration and supervision from the MMA/DCBio: (i) meetings mobilization and organization, (ii) travels, (iii) field visits, and (iv) acquisition of field equipment.

Outcome 2.2. Combating Illegal Wildlife Poaching and Trafficking

Cultural and economic factors play a critical role in driving demand for wildlife and the illegal trade of wild species bringing additional complexity to the problem and demanding multi-faceted solutions. Tortato (2016)[6][25] demonstrated in the Pantanal region that offering alternative income sources to local communities effectively diminished their involvement in illegal activities such as poaching and trafficking. Despite awareness of the Caatinga biome's significance as a source of species for the illicit market in Brazil, there is a shortage of data and information concerning the situation in the Caatinga. An initial diagnostic study will be undertaken to determine the stakeholders involved, identify the driving forces behind their actions, and evaluate the viability of interventions such as community-based tourism. Such interventions aim to dissuade poachers from engaging in illegal activities within the region. Once information is gathered, the project's priority will be to invest in behavioral change and the strengthening of alternative sources of income for local communities given that low income and educational levels may also be drivers that lead people to the illegal activity.

Output 2.2.1 Media campaign and targeted outreach to reduce engagement in poaching/trafficking.

Under output 2.2.1, the primary initiative will entail conducting an initial diagnostic study aimed at uncovering drivers, mapping out key stakeholders, and pinpointing viable income-generating alternatives to discourage continued involvement in poaching and trafficking. Subsequently, once opportunities are identified, the project will facilitate the development of the most promising alternatives through targeted courses and training programs. Courses adhere to a predetermined format but are tailored to suit the characteristics of the region and the local population. The subsequent phase will concentrate on fostering behavioral change via media campaigns and environmental education initiatives, aimed at enduring outcomes. Furthermore, efforts will be made to promote courses addressing the combat against the illegal trade of wildlife species.

Output 2.2.1 will include activities like the following, among others, delivered by ICMBio with collaboration and supervision from the MMA/DCBio: (i) diagnostic study hiring and implementation, (ii) courses and training programs for income opportunities development, (iii) media campaigns hiring and implementation, (iv) development and implementation of environmental education programs, (v) development and implementation of courses for combating illegal trade of wildlife species.

Output 2.2.2. Government capacity for combating illegal poaching and trafficking.

Output 2.2.2 will invest in enhancing government capacities and responsiveness level by training local law enforcement agents such as environmental police and highway patrols, as well as PA managers and ICMBio and IBAMA agents. In addition to tracking the trade chain, agents must possess the capability to distinguish between various wildlife crime offenses, and adeptly identify animal trappers, both domestic and international traders, as well as consumers. This proficiency is essential for effectively combating illegal poaching and trafficking activities.

Output 2.2.2 will include activities, delivered by ICMBio with collaboration and supervision from the MMA/DCBio, such as: (i) services and consultancies for production of production of reference and training materials, (ii) courses for combating illegal trade of wildlife species, (iii) travels, and (iv) equipment acquisition.

Component 3 - Capacity Building of PA Staff and IP/TP&LC Groups

Ensuring the conservation of ecosystems directly benefits IP/TP&LC by safeguarding their access to natural resources and enhancing their quality of life. Preserving the services provided by ecosystems also plays a crucial role in poverty reduction. It is therefore imperative for PAs to establish engagement and promote participatory management within and around their areas. Such initiatives can enhance community well-being of communities while leveraging and extending PAs resources, with IP/TP&LC actively contributing to relevant PA management decisions and activities.

Recognizing the significance of community engagement in achieving conservation objectives this component will facilitate productive collaborations among diverse stakeholders and strengthen the capacities of both IP/TP&LC and PA staff, in the aim of improving PA governance, management, and natural resource use. It will further support community-driven projects selected via call for proposals, so as to help foster sustainable development and conservation efforts at the grassroots level. Special emphasis will further be placed on empowering women and youth to ensure their active participation and secure enduring outcomes, as per the project's Gender Action Plan (GAP).

Outcome 3.1 Strengthened IP/TP&LC and PA staff capacities for improved PA governance, management and natural resource use.

This outcome will support IP/TP&LC groups living inside or in surroundings areas of Sustainable Use PAs, enhancing their institutional and individual capacities to participate to develop community-driven projects and participate as active stakeholders in PA governance and management and reducing pressure on natural resources. PA managers and staff will also receive training to ensure they have the skills to collaborate effectively with communities.

Output 3.1.1. Capacity building and trainings to government and IP/TP&LC groups.
Output 3.1.1 focuses on enhancing capacities and institutional strength of IP/TP&LC, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). The first objective is to assist the communities in the definition of project thematic to be supported and empower them to actively engage in a call for proposals. Training sessions will encompass various topics, including administrative procedures, financial management, and project management and oversight, among others. Specific training sessions focused on mainstreaming gender actions among communities and community-driven projects will be promoted to facilitate the participation of women in spaces of power and social, political, and economic decision-making, in accordance with the project GAP. Topics such as participatory PAs governance and management will also be addressed.

Furthermore, training will be extended to PAs managers and staff to strengthen their skills in effectively collaborating with local communities. This will involve facilitating their mobilization and participation in management councils, as well as addressing such issues such as conflict resolution. Such trainings will be crucial to ensuring the active participation of PAs managers in the implementation of selected projects supported through the call for proposals.

The following activities will be financed under output 3.1.1 and will be coordinated by ICMBio and state agencies in collaboration with FUNBIO and MMA/DAP. Consultants may be engaged to fulfill specific requirements or tasks as needed. FUNBIO is responsible for procurement activities: (i) hiring of consultants to provide training, (ii) meetings and events, (iii) travels.

Output 3.1.2 Call for proposals for sub-grants to IP/TP&LC groups to fund capacities and operational support/TA to strengthen their participation in PA governance, PA management and NR use within PAs.
Output 3.1.2 will entail the launch of calls for proposals, enabling local communities and CBOs to design and present locally-driven projects. Calls for proposals are a particularly interesting tool for working with IP/TP&LC, as they allow for the execution of projects that tackle issues identified by communities while aligning with the overarching objectives of the ARCA project. Furthermore, this approach strengthens the institutional capacity of CBOs, enabling them to sustain their activities in the region beyond the funding period, thereby securing enduring results and benefits. Although the specific projects to be supported have not yet been determined, consultations conducted during project's preparation phase have indicated potential themes such as community waste management, water conservation, fire prevention, reforestation, eco-tourism, and the development and commercialization of natural products.

During the initial stages of ARCA implementation, a consultant will be engaged to provide comprehensive support throughout the entire process of issuing calls for proposals, as well as to offer technical assistance to IP/TP&LC groups as needed. The process will commence with an expression of interest period, aimed at identifying proposing organizations, understanding their primary interests and objectives, assessing their project management capabilities, and identifying areas where capacity strengthening may be necessary (through trainings offered under Output 3.2.1). During this phase, the consultant will assist IP/TP&LC groups and CBOs in developing and submitting proposals while facilitating their active involvement. Special attention will be given to women's groups and IP/TP&LC groups' leadership, with efforts made to actively

encourage and facilitate their participation throughout the process, ensuring that their specific needs are addressed.

The evaluation and selection of proposals is usually done by a Technical Panel or Ad Hoc analysts. The Panel is composed by experts with relevant experience in the themes identified for the call invited by FUNBIO in coordination with project partners such as MMA, ICMBio, state agencies, or other stakeholders.

The main responsibilities of the Technical Panel include: (i) collaborating on the preparation and review of the calls for proposals documents, assisting in the definition of selection criteria; (ii) conducting technical evaluations of received proposals and selecting those deemed technically qualified for support, with financial analysis conducted by FUNBIO; (iii) providing recommendations or conditions for proposal selection, as needed; and (iv) monitoring the outcomes of each supported project, if required.

Specific criteria for sub-grant selection cannot be provided now as it will be developed through a collaborative approach with project partners and IP/TP&LC representation and tailored to the attributes and goals of each PA. While communities will have representation in this process, measures will be in place to prevent any conflicts of interest that could compromise their participation in the selection process.
The criteria will account for the following:

- Advances the objective of the ARCA project;
- Aligns to the key themes of ARCA (PA management, threatened species conservation; communities' engagement);
- Aligns to the PA management plan;
- Reflects advancements in PA management effectiveness
- Will be delivered in the supported PAs or surrounding areas;
- Social inclusion (IP/TP&LC, marginalized groups, women, youth).

Selected proponents will be awarded sub-grants from FUNBIO to implement IP/TP&LC-led initiatives promoting sustainable livelihoods and other activities within and adjacent to the target PAs. FUNBIO will carefully monitor project implementation through technical and financial reports and site visits in collaboration with sub-grantees and providing assistance as needed.

Before finalizing the sub-grant contract, FUNBIO requires selected organizations to undergo an Institutional Appraisal, which evaluates various aspects of the institutions' operational maturity, including governance, human resources, finance, project management, procurement, and gender integration, among others.

The Institutional Appraisal serves as a tool to define the baseline level of development of the receiving institutions, rather than being a criterion for evaluating proposals or the technical capacity of institutions. The results are also used to determine the level of risk associated with the sub-grants. This risk analysis helps FUNBIO to identify if additional support must be provided through training and/or capacity-building for the organizations.

The sub-grants will facilitate the strengthening of existing local organizations in the communities and provide tailored technical assistance, operational support, and training to address their specific needs and objectives. These projects will be community-wide to the extent possible, allowing for broad participation within the communities. It is also interesting to note that the community projects will be incentivized to included specific activities for women and young people. Sub-grantees will be stimulated to share knowledge and lessons learned among other communities to foster mutual learning and collective progress. An event will be held during the last year of project implementation to promote knowledge exchange and sharing and capturing lessons learned from IP/TP&LC subprojects.

The following activities will be financed under output 3.1.2 and coordinated by FUNBIO in close collaboration with ICMBio and state agencies and MMA. Consultants may be engaged to fulfill specific requirements or tasks as needed: (i) Consultancy hiring to support call for proposal preparation and implementation, (ii) sub-grants, (iii) field visits, (iv) meetings and events, (v) travels, and (vi) environmental safeguards and gender consultant hiring.

Component 4. Communication and Knowledge Management

Component 4, led by the project management unit in FUNBIO and working closely with MMA, ICMBio and state agencies, will support communication and knowledge management to inform project activities, disseminate project result and capture and disseminate project's lessons learned tailored to specific audiences - project stakeholders, IP/TP&LC, executing partners, and the broader audience. Good practices and lessons learned from a gender perspective will also be captured and disseminated. Broader communication activities will also be supported with a view to raising awareness of the project and disseminating information.

Outcome 4.1 Project Communication and Knowledge Management.

This outcome involves formulating and implementing a communication strategy for the project. The communication strategy will play a pivotal role in contributing to the attainment of the objectives and long-term results of the preceding components. Furthermore, lessons learned from the project will be systematically gathered and shared especially from component 3, the work with IP/TP&LC and gender sensitive and community-driven projects.

Output 4.1.1 Communications strategy developed and delivered.

Prior to initiating the communication efforts, target audiences and objectives will be identified. It is imperative that the project message resonate with all stakeholders with particular attention to mainstreaming gender considerations throughout the communication strategy. In addition to traditional channels, such as print and digital media, the participatory nature of the project warrants prioritizing face-to-face communication, such as meetings and in-person events. The participation of women and youth in such meetings and events will be stimulated so that project effectively engages diverse perspectives and ensures inclusivity at every stage. The effectiveness of the communication strategy will be monitor throughout the project, making adjustments as needed to ensure its success.

The following activities will be financed under output 4.1.1, among others: (i) Consultant hiring for strategy development, (ii) design and production of communication materials (such as posters, brochures, videos, websites), and (iii) project webpage implementation.

Output 4.1.2 Project lessons captured and disseminated.

Project implementing partners will promote a systematic approach to: (i) identifying knowledge deemed relevant and valuable, including good practices and lessons learned from a gender perspective; (ii) capturing and retaining that knowledge; (iii) sharing the acquired knowledge with key stakeholders, emphasizing gender equality and inclusion; (iv) whenever feasible, applying transferred knowledge during the project's duration or crafting guidelines for future replication and upscaling; and (v) evaluating the value or benefits of specific knowledge generated as a result of project interventions, including from a gender perspective.

The following activities will be financed under output 4.1.2: (i) travels, (ii) development of materials e.g., best practice manuals; workshops; case studies; technical reports; brochures; videos/tutorials.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The project Monitoring & Evaluation System will be delivered by the project management unit in FUNBIO and working closely with MMA, ICMBio, the states agencies, and the PAs, and is composed by the following elements:

Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) – Towards the end of each project year, FUNBIO, in coordination with the MMA/SBio, will work with project partners to develop a detailed AWPB that includes targets for key activities to achieve the outputs. When possible, the development of the annual work plan should consider suggestions for adaptive management and lessons learned, and attention to gender responsive activities and gender disaggregated targets will be made.

Project Results Framework (PRF) - The Project Results Framework includes core and additional indicators at the objective and outcome level along with a methodology for data collection and analysis. It defines responsible parties and frequency of data collection, provides baseline information, outlines yearly or mid-term targets and addresses key assumptions or related risks that should be monitored or mitigated. Importantly, the monitoring and reporting framework also includes specific provisions for monitoring the gender dimensions of the project. Throughout the project's duration, the data collected on these indicators will be analyzed to determine if the project strategies are working towards achieving its expected results including gender-related outcomes. Progress against the indicator targets, including gender-related ones, will be reported on at the end of each project year.

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) - The METT will be used to measure progress in management effectiveness improvement in the 09 supported PAs, as well as on the project's achievement of impacts and contribution to the GEBs. The METT will be filled three times during the course of the project - at CEO Endorsement, at midterm, and at the end of the project.

Management Monitoring and Evaluation System (SAMGe) – As mentioned above, the SAMGe is used by the ICMBio to measure management effectiveness and policy compliance by Brazilian PAs. The tool will be filled annually by supported PAs and used to monitor project progress in an integrated manner with national indicators.

Project Progress Reports (PPRs) – FUNBIO, in coordination with the MMA/SBio, will complete a PPR after 6 months and 12 months of each project year. The PPR will report on the progress against the AWPB and the PRF. PPRs will also monitor achievements on the Gender Action Plan and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The 12-month PPR will include the project results delivered, tracked under the AWPB and the PRF.

Project Close Report (PCR) - FUNBIO, in coordination with the MMA/SBio, will develop a PCR. The report will outline the same areas as the PPRs, but will be cumulative for the whole project period, and will also include information on project equipment handover, an assessment of WWF GBFF performance, an exit and sustainability plan, and will focus on key lessons from the project. This report is due within one month after project close.

Mid-term and Terminal Evaluation Report - Independent Mid-term and Terminal Evaluation will take place at project mid-term and within six months of project completion, providing an external evaluation of the overall project effectiveness and efficiency. The Terms of References for the midterm and terminal evaluations will be drafted by the WWF-GEF Agency and FUNBIO in accordance with GEF requirements and the consultant will be contracted by the WWF-GEF Agency. The funding for the evaluations will come from the project budget.

Integration of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) – The recommendations of the GAP have been and will be incorporated into the above M&E elements. Development of the AWPB each year will be coordinated with the PMU's Community Liaison, Gender & Safeguards Focal Point (CLGSFP) to facilitate gender

responsiveness across the planned project activities, and to include gender targets. The Project Results Framework includes specific gender indicators, and also indicators with targets disaggregated by gender. These will be tracked throughout the project implementation, and reported on as part of monitoring and evaluation. The six month and 12 month project progress reports will include subsections on implementation of the gender action plan, reporting on gender inclusion, and reporting against the specific gender indicators. TORs for the midterm and terminal evaluations will include specific provisions for evaluation of progress and results regarding gender inclusion in implementation of the project. Overall, the monitoring of the gender action plan has been accounted for through integration into the overall project and integration into the project's M&E systems and budget.

Incremental Reasoning

Brazil has a strong track record in protected area management, exemplified by the National System of Conservation Units (SNUC) established in 2000. However, with 9.16% of the Caatinga region represented in the protected area system of Brazil, the biome is underrepresented. Additionally, Caatinga protected area management faces limitations, with allocated public budgets tending to be insufficient and resulting in a lack of infrastructure, equipment, maintenance, staff and other critical services. Of the 9 protected areas included in this GBFF project, there is an average baseline METT score of 34.7, which shows the level of baseline management as insufficient for delivering conservation of the critical Caatinga Biome. Caatinga harbors numerous endangered and endemic species, which are threatened by poaching and habitat loss and the baseline of management is insufficient to fully address the level of threat. The region has around 45 indigenous/traditional people groups as well as other local communities. Protected areas included in this project have IP/TP& LC living in or around the area. Project preparation consultations with communities showed that there is strong interest to be engaged in natural resource management and environment projects, led by the community, however the current baseline is such that few initiatives are being implemented.

The GBFF ARCA project will bring the needed, additional support to this important biome. The project will help undertake consultations and surveys and develop documentation to declare new protected areas. The project will provide support to 9 existing protected areas, to set up an inclusive and representational management committee for each of the 6 protected areas that do not currently have one and provide training and operational support for all the councils to be effective governance and decision-making mechanisms for the protected areas. The project will provide support for developing or revising management plans for each of the PA, and then following a process of budgeting and prioritization, support for operationalizing these management priorities, such as demarcation, surveillance, and fire management. The project will make progress in delivering actions under the national action plans for the conservation of endangered species, and monitoring of implementation of the same plans, to improve endangered species conservation in the Biome and in relation to the protected area management. Additionally, the project will provide support to address one of the greatest threats to the endangered and endemic species of the biome, by tackling poaching and trade, through a public campaign, and targeted actions to bring support to encourage poachers to uptake different livelihood options. The project will deliver inclusive conservation approaches, by building the capacity of IP/TP&LC to engage in protected area management, and through a series of sub grants directed to these local groups to undertake self-designed environment and sustainable natural resource use projects.

As such the incremental value of the GBFF investment is to deliver improved representation of the Caatinga Biome within SNUC, improve effective and inclusive management of nine protected areas, reduce key threats to endangered species, and engage local and indigenous/traditional communities in protected area management and environmentally friendly sub-projects in and around the protected areas.

This project will deliver global biodiversity benefits, including creation of an estimated 100,000 hectares of new protected area in Caatinga, improved management effectiveness of 4.59 million hectares of protected

areas, mitigation of an estimated 1,998,690 ton/CO2e as a Co benefit of the improved protected area management, and will benefit an estimated 4,390 people (2790 female and 1600 male).

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[1]The procedures for establishing PAs determined by the SNUC are detailed in Brazilian Federal Law No. 9.985/2000, and Decree No. 4.340/2002.

[2] Palmieri, R., Veríssimo, A. Conselhos de Unidades de Conservação: guia sobre sua criação e seu funcionamento. Piracicaba: Imaflora, SP; Belém: Imazon, PA, 2009.

[3] Specific planning for actions to protect the protected area, involving command and control activities.

[4] The Commitment Term is the legal instrument provided for in the Law of the National System of Conservation Units (Law 9.985/2000 – SNUC) that allows traditional uses to be made compatible with strict protection PAs.

[5] Concession of Real Rights of Use is the instrument that regulates the possession and use of areas occupied by traditional populations in Extractive Reserves and Sustainable Development Reserves (Sustainable Use PAs), as established in the Law of the National System of Conservation Units (Law 9.985/2000 – SNUC).

[6] Tortato, F.R., Izzo, T. J. Advances and barriers to the development of jaguar-tourism in the Brazilian Pantanal,
Perspectives in Ecology and Conservation, Volume 15, Issue 1, 2017, Pages 61-63, ISSN 2530-0644, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pecon.2017.02.003.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

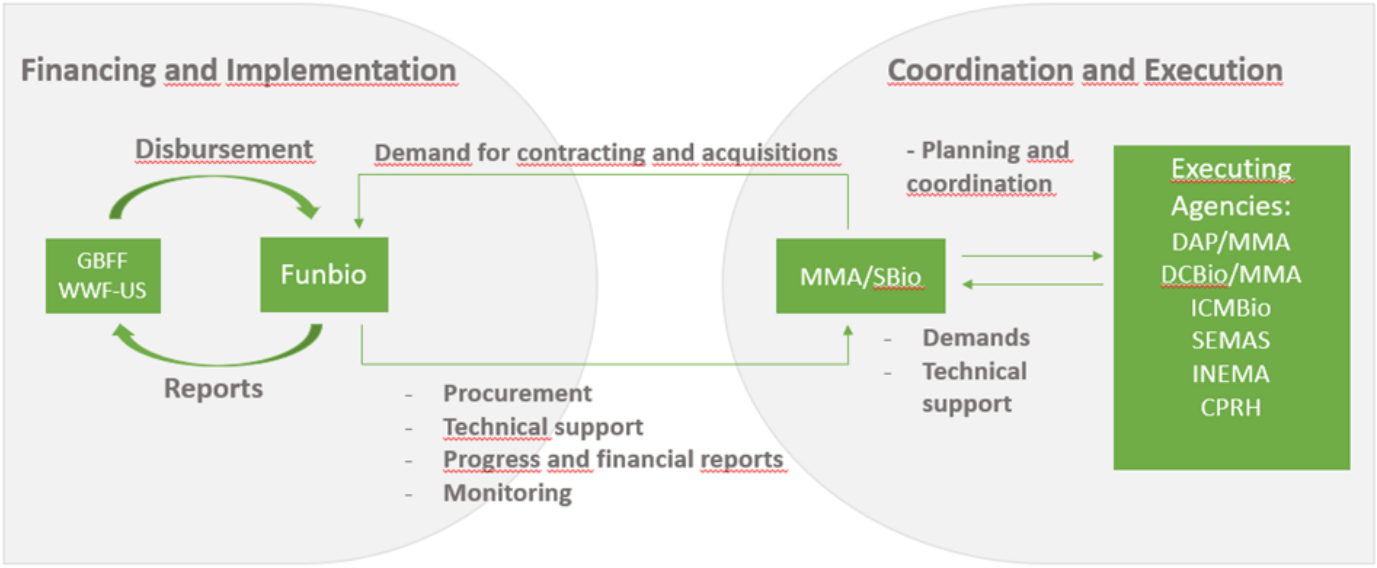
The Executing Agency (EA) for the project is the Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade – FUNBIO, a not-for-profit organization specialized in the fiduciary and operational management of environmental projects, accredited as GEF agency and GCF accredited entity. FUNBIO was founded in 1996 as a financial mechanism for the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Brazil. Since its foundation, FUNBIO has signed management contracts equivalent to U$ 953 million, directly executed 135 project (of which 59 are in progress) and supported 579 projects implemented by 410 different organizations. FUNBIO will be responsible for the technical, financial and fiduciary execution and administration of the Project, as well as for all procurement activities. FUNBIO will execute the project through a Project Management Unit (PMU) to be created within its organizational structure and will allocate the necessary human and technical resources needed for project execution. The project will use FUNBIO's existing systems, especially Sistema Cérebro, for integrated project planning, procurement, financial administration, reporting, and monitoring, while ensuring compatibility with GBFF and WWF-US norms, procedures and control systems.

The MMA's Secretariat for Biodiversity, Forests and Animal Rights – SBio, will have overall policy-level leadership and will lead the institutional and technical coordination of the relationship among government institutions participating in the project through the Department of Protected Areas – DAP (responsible for

components 1, 3 and 4) and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use – DCBio (responsible for component 2). The MMA might receive goods, services and knowledge products and benefit from the results from consulting services procured by FUNBIO with GBFF resources. However, no GBFF resources will be received by or channeled to the MMA.

FUNBIO will also coordinate its activities to be carried out within the project's execution scheme with the following Brazilian federal and state governmental entities, which have agreed to participate and support the project's execution in the geographic or technical area corresponding to their respective legal mandates: (i) ICMBio will assist FUNBIO in the implementation of activities contained in Components 1, 2, 3 and 4, particularly those focused on federal PAs and surrounding areas; (ii) the environmental secretariats/states agencies of Bahia and Pernambuco will support FUNBIO in the implementation of Components 1, 2, 3 and 4 activities focused on their respective state-level PAs. Each of these entities will act as an operating unit in support of the project, being also recipients of goods, services and knowledge products provided through FUNBIO; no GBFF resources will be received by or channeled to these entities. Each of these entities these agencies will appoint focal points tasked with facilitating dialogue with the project and sign a Cooperation Agreement with FUNBIO, to establish specific arrangements and responsibilities in the framework of the project's execution scheme.

Project governance will also include a multi-institutional Project Advisory Council (PAC) composed by a broader set of stakeholders including representation from IP/TP&LC. At the executive level a Project Operational Committee (POC) will be the decision-making body comprising the key implementing and executing agencies to oversee project implementation. The POC will be supported by a Project Coordination Unit (PCU) in the MMA and the PMU in FUNBIO.



Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The ARCA project is being developed as a complementary approach to 2 initiatives submitted to the GEF. The GBFF's Biodiversity Conservation in Indigenous Lands project seeks to protect and maintain biodiversity within indigenous lands, using Territorial and

Environmental Management Plans (PGTAs) as the primary planning tool to define the project's activities. In addition, the Integrated Landscape Management for Biodiversity Conservation and Mitigating Climate Change in the Caatinga (GEF-8 Project), focuses on fostering integrated landscape management to combat climate change in the Caatinga through actions that encourage the conservation and recovery of the Caatinga's biodiversity and natural resources and the creation of connectivity between public and private areas. GEF-8 Caatinga will be implemented in territories connecting PAs to be supported by ARCA in the state of Bahia and surrounding PN Serra das Confusões.

The three projects collectively address various challenges prevalent in the Caatinga, complementing each other's efforts and offering a holistic approach to tackling multiple issues. This integrated strategy is particularly pertinent for drylands, fostering enduring GEBs and yielding long-term positive impacts in the biome and the region. Collaborative efforts will be undertaken to ensure that local consultations and safeguards are addressed across all initiatives, thereby enhancing both the additional value and cost-effectiveness of the projects. Furthermore, mutual benefits will be derived as the projects leverage the knowledge and expertise generated by stakeholders involved in all three initiatives.

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines.

As per the GBFF Programming Directions, the GBFF performance will be monitored using the GEF Trust Fund Core Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and all their sub indicators as well as 9 and sub-indicators 9.4 and 9.5 (see Annex 3 of the Programming Directions). Projects are encouraged to capture any co-benefits from the project in other GEF core indicators.

Additional indicators will be introduced to monitor policy elements of projects supported by the GBF Fund. They may draw on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework once it is agreed.

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100000	4581821.32	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100000	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
TBD	0000	Others	100,000.00			

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	4581821.32	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

							Endorsement)		
Área de Proteção Ambiental do Boqueirão da Onça	555682326	Protected Landscape/Seascape		1,011,387.72			29.00		
Área de Proteção Ambiental Dunas e Veredas do Baixo Médio São Francisco	351861	Protected Landscape/Seascape		1,024,850.25			35.00		
Área de Proteção Ambiental Lago de Sobradinho	478543	Protected Landscape/Seascape		1,235,597.86			28.00		
Área de Proteção Ambiental Lagoa de Itaparica	351859	Protected Landscape/Seascape		78,147.89			36.00		
Parque Nacional da Serra do Teixeira	555758996	National Park		61,095.43			39.00		
Parque Nacional do Boqueirão da Onça	555682264	National Park		346,908.44			29.00		
Parque Nacional Serra das Confusões	198366	National Park		823,833.73			47.00		

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	0	4186082.87	0	0

Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	44651550.58	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	0	4,186,082.87		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	44,651,550.58		
Anticipated start year of accounting		2025		
Duration of accounting		19		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)		0		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	1,780	2,791		
Male	1,020	1,599		
Total	**2,800**	**4,390**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Core Indicator 1: Number of hectares to be created (100,000 ha) was estimated based on the priority studies recently conducted by ICMBio. As for the PAs under improved management effectiveness the target corresponds to the total area of 7 of the selected PAs to be supported (4,581,821,32ha). Consultation process for two areas indicated in Table 01 (i.e. PE Mata da Pimenteira and EE Serra da Canoa) are still undergoing and therefore their respective hectares were not included in the current target. Therefore, target for core indicator number 1 may be increased from 4,681,821,32 to 4,690,295,31 during project's early implementation.

Core Indicator 6: For the ARCA project, 4,581,821,32 ha will go from a non-degraded grassland area to an improved grassland area. Assuming project interventions on the ground will begin in Y2 and the project will finish in 4 years, the project is projected to

mitigate a total of 48,837,633.45 tCO2e over a 20-year capitalization period. Of that, 4,186,082.87 tCO2e is direct mitigation projected within the 4 year project implementation period and 44,651,550.58 tCO2e will be mitigated over the following 16 year period and be considered indirect. Estimates were generated through the EX-ACT tool.

Core Indicator 11: The number of people benefiting from the project (4390 – 2790 female/1600 male) was estimated based on PA management council average number of member as well as number of participants in management plan mobilization meetings. The average number of people attending public consultation processes and the estimated number of law enforcements to be trained were also considered. In addition, the target included community members to be engaged through the trainings and call for proposals under Component 3.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Considering that main risks in the Caatinga are related to fires and/or unsustainable land uses, climate risk is moderate and can be mitigated by enhanced management effectiveness of PAs. Mitigation strategies encompass: (i) integration of climate scenarios and initiatives into the development and implementation of PAs management plans, and (ii) preparation and training for emergency climate response measures, and (iii) capacities and investments to IP/TP&LC groups to strengthen their participation in PA governance, PA management and NR use within PAs.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	The expansion and creation of Protected Areas poses inherent risks to communities living in and around the area, and may threaten their livelihoods. To mitigate these risks, the project has created an ESMF inclusive of a Process Framework and Indigenous and Traditional Peoples Planning Framework. Landscape level ESMPs will be created during project implementation, and a project-specific Grievance Redress Mechanism will be instituted. Furthermore, the project will not support the declaration of new or expanded PAs that results in access or land use restriction or involuntary resettlement.
Political and Governance	Low	The Federal Government, represented by the MMA, has actively participated through its technical and managerial staff in the design of this project; it is expected that personnel at those levels would be less impacted by such transitions than the upper management levels.

		Additionally, to mitigate political risks, the project will focus on capacity building for technical staff, ensuring that project outcomes remain resilient in the face of potential high-level political changes.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	The project will employ strategies and activities that have been thoroughly tested and successfully implemented in various previous initiatives, such as the ARPA Program. Furthermore, lessons learned from these initiatives have been considered and integrated into the project's design, significantly reducing the potential for innovation risks.
Technological	Low	Project scope does not include technological innovations.
Financial and Business Model	Low	Project scope does not include financial and business innovations.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	The risks associated with implementation capacity are low, as the project prioritizes the enhancement of management capabilities and effectiveness through direct and indirect investments in the priority needs of PAs, as well as through training and capacity building initiatives. Additionally, the project's executing agencies boast extensive experience in this field. Existing PAs to be supported were selected based on existing capacities and readiness to implement the project.
Fiduciary	Low	In addition to being structured upon lessons learned and tested models, the project will be executed and financially overseen by FUNBIO, a GEF and GCF Agency renowned for its adept execution of analogous initiatives for more than 25 years.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Risks concerning stakeholders are moderate, considering the short timeframe to conduct effective consultations and assess interest and buy in in project objectives. Additionally, some project objectives have the potential to negatively impact community livelihoods if carried out improperly, so guidance in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Process Framework and Indigenous and Traditional Peoples Planning Framework will be closely followed by the PMU during implementation. Extensive consultations will take place during the first 9-12 months of project implementation to lower associated risks and strengthen stakeholder engagement in project implementation.

Other		

Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Despite the predominant low-risk classification for the various categories, the overall risk is Moderate due to potential impacts of the project on communities. Mitigation measures have been designed to reduce the likelihood of potential negative project impacts.

D. ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Identify the specific GBFF Action Area(s) that the project is aligned with and how the project will support the achievement of the specific Action Area objective(s).

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities.

Please identify in the project tags which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how in this section.

For Multi-Trust Fund projects, please explain alignment with the GEF-8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed project is aligned with Specific Action Areas One and Two of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. The project will deliver area-based conservation and biodiversity protection (Action Area 1) by expanding and enhancing the effectiveness of the National System of Protected Areas through the creation of 100,000 hectares of new PAs and investment in effective management practices and activities that help existing PAs to reach their goals and increase biodiversity and climate resilience. The project will also promote institutional and individual capacities of PA staff and IP/TP&LC through trainings and capacity building to improved PA governance, management, and natural resource use.

The proposed project is also aligned to Action Area 2, on IP/TP&LC stewardship. IP/TP&LC groups living inside or in the surroundings of PAs will gain enhanced capacity to participate in PA governance, as well as sub-grants through call for proposals to fund capacities, operational support and technical assistance for natural resource use and management, and to cope with climate change.

In addition to increasing protection of priority Caatinga ecosystems and its biodiversity, by both creating new PA and improving the management effectiveness of current PAs, the proposed strategy includes critical actions to deal with threatened species management by strengthening the implementation and monitoring of the Endangered Species National Action Plans for the Conservation of Species Threatened with Extinction and combating Illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking through media campaign and outreach and improvement of government capacity.

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities.
Brazil signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992 and Congress ratified it in 1994. Since the early 1990's, the Brazilian Federal Government has developed strategies, policies, plans and programs aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These include guidelines for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Policy (Decree nº 4.339, 22 August 2002), establishment of goals and guidelines for the National Biological Diversity Program (Decree n° 4703, 21 May 2003; PRONABIO), the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (2017), the Project for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Brazilian Biodiversity (PROBIO), and the establishment of the National Commission on Biodiversity (CONABIO) and national biodiversity targets (CONABIO Resolution nº 3, 21 December 2006). The components of the project are totally aligned with these policies considering that implementing, expanding and creating PAs are a well-known tool for biodiversity conservation. In addition, effectiveness of Action Plans for the Conservation of Species Threatened with Extinction has been demonstrated by the recovery of populations of endangered species such as golden lion tamarin, sea turtles, humpback whales, among others.

Through activities planned in project's framework, such as the increase management effectiveness in PAs, improve the conservation status of threatened species, restore degraded areas, and increase capacities so IP/TP&LC living inside PAs and surrounding areas adopt good natural resources use practices, the ARCA project has the potential to contribute to achieving national goals 5, 11, 12, 14 and 15 within the scope of the CBD. The project also contributes directly to the NBSAP Strategic Objective C.

Please identify in the project tags which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how in this section.

The project will contribute to 5 of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, namely target 3, 4, 21, 22 and 23.

Target 3 - The project will support the process leading to the creation of new PAs and improvement of management effectiveness of existing ones in the Caatinga, thus increasing the percentage of terrestrial areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services effectively conserved and managed.
Additionally, the project is being developed as a complementary approach to 2 initiatives submitted to the GEF. Biodiversity Conservation in Indigenous Lands and Integrated Landscape Management (GBFF) and Biodiversity Conservation and Mitigating Climate Change in the Caatinga (GEF-8) These initiatives respectively focus on supporting indigenous lands and traditional territories and establishing corridors between PAs within the same region, thus fostering an integrated landscape approach. The project's wotk with IP/TP&LC further enhances the alignment with Target 3 by promoting the sustainable use of natural resources while maintaining conservation objectives.
Target 4 – By strengthening the implementation and monitoring of PANs alongside with capacity building for combating illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking, the project directly contributes to the protection of endangered species, and the reduction of extinction risk. Actions also aim at minimizing human-wildlife conflicts.
Target 21 – The project will put in place a robust communication strategy and a systematic approach to capturing and disseminating lessons learned in order to guarantee that generated knowledge and expertise are shared with all stakeholders, and the public in general. Project will also work to guide effective and equitable governance and integrated and participatory management of biodiversity through the PA management councils and trainings under components 2 e 3 mainstreaming biodiversity conservation.
Target 22 – Representation and participation in decision making and information related to biodiversity to IP/TP&LC will be guaranteed in all project's components through the participation in PAs councils and management plans development and implementation (component 1), as well as through participatory monitoring and biodiversity surveys (component 2). Project's third component is focused on IP/TP&LC providing capacity building, institutional strengthening, and community-driven projects.
Target 23 – The project will keep a gender-responsive approach guided by the Gender Action Plan. Equal opportunities will be given to women and girls to engage in project activities and their participation and leadership will be stimulated.

E. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes have been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B), and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ; Yes

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

Amount of resource allocated to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity:

Amount ($) of GBFF project financing to support actions by IPLCs	PIF Stage	CEO endorsement stage
	520,000.00	732,155.00

If resources have been identified here, please provide a short justification for why they were included, with cross-reference to relevant project components and/or outputs:

The project will direct a total amount of $732,155 to support IP/TP&LC (100% Component 3). The resource is equivalent to 100% of component 3 budget allocated to enhance capacity and institutional strength among IP/TP&LC, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). The primary objective is to empower them to actively engage in the call for proposals. Training sessions will encompass various topics, including administrative procedures, financial management, and project management and oversight, among others (output 3.1.1). Call for proposals will also be undertaken to provide sub-grants, and technical assistance to develop the proposals, directly to IP/TP&LC groups for community-driven projects implementation (output 3.1.2).

Are IPLCs to receive and manage resources for the execution of project components/activities?

Yes

Are IPLCs leading the design and management of some project activities but do not manage financial resources?

Yes

Does the project provide in-kind support to actions by IPLCs for biodiversity?

Yes

Are IPLCs part of the project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body?

Yes

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section C project description?

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

F. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project, these have been clearly described in the Project Description, and they will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project, these have been clearly described in the Project Description, and they will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

Total GEF Financing Table

Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds. All GEF sources of funds should be included here.

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
WWF-US	GBFF	Brazil	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	Grant	8,397,258.00	755,753.00	9,153,011.00
WWF-US	GBFF	Brazil	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	Grant	566,962.00	51,027.00	617,989.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**8,964,220.00**	**806,780.00**	**9,771,000.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

100,000.00

PPG Agency Fee ($)

9,000.00

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
WWF-US	GBFF	Brazil	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	93,675.00	8,430.00	102,105.00
WWF-US	GBFF	Brazil	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	6,325.00	570.00	6,895.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**100,000.00**	**9,000.00**	**109,000.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for non-GBFF GEF resources (only for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Actual Focal Area Programming	Sources of Funds	Total($)
Total GEF Resources					**0.00**

Action Area Elements (and Focal Area Elements for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
GBFF Action Area 1	GBFF	8,397,258.00	
GBFF Action Area 2	GBFF	566,962.00	
Total Project Cost		**8,964,220.00**	**0.00**

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Total Co-financing				**0.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification :

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
	4/1/2024	Dr. Renae Stenhouse	2027669372	renae.stenhouse@wwfus.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
LIVIA FARIAS FERREIRA DE OLIVEIRA	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Finance	4/1/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also copy and paste the Project Results Framework from the project document below.

						Targets (annual, or mid-term and close)				
Indicator / unit	**Definition (note if cumulative)**	**Method/ source**	**Responsible**	**Disaggregation**	**Baseline**	**YR 1**	**YR2**	**YR3**	**YR 4**	**Notes/ Assumptions**
Objective Description: To improve the conservation of the Caatinga, a biome of global biodiversity importance, through the expansion and improved management effectiveness of Brazil's National System of Protected Areas, conservation of endangered species, and engagement of Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Peoples and Local Communities, enhancing biodiversity resilience and improving livelihoods.										
Terrestrial protected areas newly created/Hec Core indicator 1.1	See guidelines for definition	Submission of technical documentation for approval	MMA		0	0	0	0	100,000	
Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness/ Hec Core indicator 1.2	See Guidelines for definitions Cumulative	METT/SAMGe	MMA/ICMBio/States/FUNBIO		0	0	1,581,438,12	1,581,438,12	4,581,821.32	Target does not include PE Mata da Pimenteira and EE Serra da Canoa

Greenhouse gas emission mitigated/ ton/CO2e in the AFOLU sector Core indicator 6.1	See Guidelines for definitions	EX-ACT tool	FUNBIO	Direct/ Indirect	0	-	-	-	4,186,082 ton/CO2e	Project interventions on the ground will begin on year 2 and consider fire frequency as 1 per year
People benefiting from GEF-financed investments/Individuals Core indicator 11	See Guidelines for Definition Cumulative	Meetings/events/ courses/sub-grants minutes and records	FUNBIO/ICMBio and States	Disaggregated by sex	0	60	1130	3060	4390	2790 Female/1600 Male
Outcome Description: 1.1. Creation of New Protected Areas										
Number of biodiversity surveys in distinct areas/Unit	Cumulative	Progress Reports	MMA/ICMBio		0	1	3	5	5	
Outcome Description: 1.2. Improved management effectiveness of Existing Protected Areas										
Improved average management effectiveness across all project PAs/Score	Average score	METT score (and reported on in SAMGe)	MMA/ICMBio/ States/ FUNBIO		34	34	37	39	40	
Number of Management Councils that have representation from IP/TP, LC, women and youth	Cumulative	Meeting records	PAs		tbc	0	2	5	9	
Outcome Description:2.1 Improved implementation of Endangered Species National Action Plans for the Conservation of Species Threatened with Extinction										

Number of supported actions within PANs	Supported actions: Cumulative	PANs monitoring reports	ICMBio/MMA		0	0	3	6	10	It is important to highlight that PANs' actions in this project is distinct actions but complementary with GEF Terrestre.
Outcome Description: 2.2 Combating Illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking										
Number of media campaign items developed/ Unit	Cumulative	Progress Reports	FUNBIO	Disaggregated by sex	0	0	7	10	12	The year one will be dedicated to campaign preparation
Number of law enforcement agents trained/Individuals	Cumulative	Meetings/events/courses minutes and records	ICMBio and States		0	0	40	70	100	The year one will be dedicated to courses preparation Note: also captured in beneficiaries
Outcome Description: 3.1 Strengthened IP/TP&LC and PA staff capacities for improved PA governance, management and natural resource use										

Percentage of the amount of funding directed to IP/TP&LC/ USD	Cumulative	Financial Reports	FUNBIO		0	0 %	30%	72%	100%	Of the funding identified to support IP/TP& LC
Percentage of proposals submitted by women's groups or led by women (compared to the total number of proposals)	Women's groups or women led: Cumulative	Progress Reports	FUNBIO/MMA		tbc					
Outcome Description: 4.1 Project communication and knowledge management										
Communication strategy developed and implemented	Cumulative	Progress Reports	FUNBIO/MMA		0	0	50%	50%	100%	50% means Strategy Developed; 100% means Strategy implemented

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Safeguards Assessment, Stakeholder Engagement & Gender Analysis	70,000.00		70,000.00
Project preparation	30,000.00		30,000.00
Total	**100,000.00**	**0.00**	**100,000.00**

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
APA Lago do Sobradinho	-2.969088	-41.528128	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
APA Dunas e Veredas do Baixo Médio São Francisco	-10.500392	-42.977657	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
PARNA Serra das Confusões	-9.295951	-43.632203	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
PARNA do Boqueirão da Onça	-10.041880	-41.949234	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
PARNA da Serra do Teixeira	-7.252778	-37.384167	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID

APA do Boqueirão da Onça	-10.224383	-41.062775	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
PE Mata da Pimenteira	-7.93466	-38.29803	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
ESEC Serra da Canoa	-8.492967	-38.380421	

Location Description:

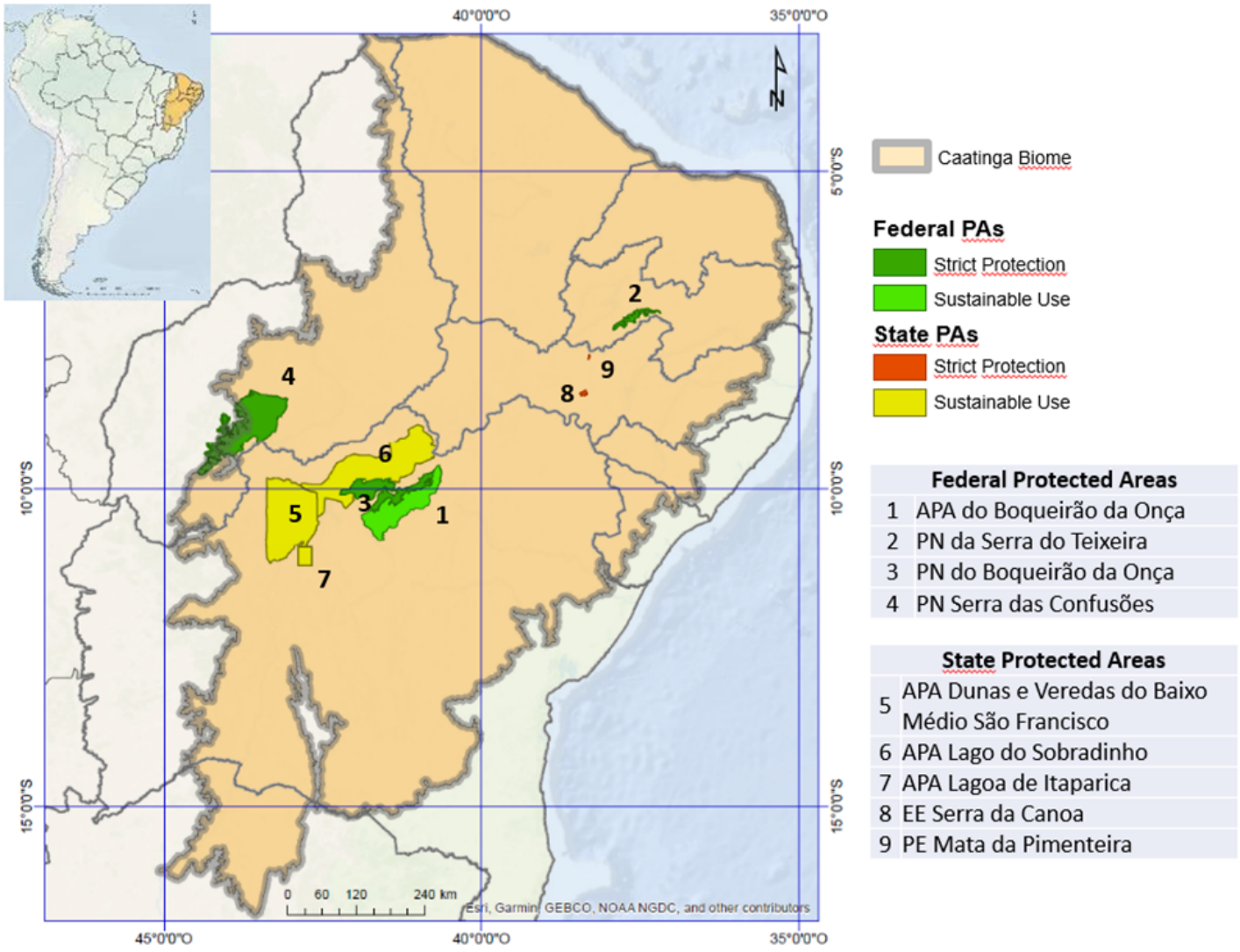
Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
APA Lagoa de Itaparica	-11.03118	-42.77258	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title
Brazil ARCA SEP_Final
Categorization Memo_Brazil ARCA_GBFF-signed

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Budget notes and assumptions #	Component 1: Creation and Improved Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas		TOTAL COMPONENT 1	Component 2: Endangered Species Conservation		TOTAL COMPONENT 2	Component 3: Capacity Building of PA Staff and IP/TP&LC Groups	TOTAL COMPONENT 3	Component 4: Communication and Knowledge Management	TOTAL COMPONENT 4	M&E Total	PMC	Total Project	(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1] Responsible Entity
			TOTAL OUTCOME 1.1: Creation of New Protected Areas	TOTAL OUTCOME 1.2: Improved Management Effectiveness of Existing Protected Areas		TOTAL OUTCOME 2.1: Improved implementation of National Action Plans for Endangered Species Conservation	TOTAL OUTCOME 2.2: Combating Illegal Wildlife Poaching and Trafficking		TOTAL OUTCOME 3.1: Strengthened IP/TP&LC and PA staff capacities for improved PA governance, management and natural resource use		TOTAL OUTCOME 4.1: Project Communication and Knowledge Management					
Works	Infrastructure works for PAs (HQ, visitors center, research lodgings)	1	$ -	$ 350,000.00	$ 350,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 350,000.00	FUNBIO
Total Works			**$ -**	**$ 350,000.00**	**$ 350,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 350,000.00**	
Goods	Field equipment for biodiversity surveys	2	$ 70,000.00	$ -	$ 70,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 70,000.00	FUNBIO
	Field equipment for implementation of PANs	3	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 100,000.00	$ -	$ 100,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 100,000.00	FUNBIO
	PA equipment (computers, printers, TV monitors, furniture, appliances, tools, etc.)	4	$ -	$ 1,000,000.00	$ 1,000,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 1,000,000.00	FUNBIO
	Fire management equipment (backpack blower, safety equipment, etc.)	5	$ -	$ 200,000.00	$ 200,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 200,000.00	FUNBIO
Total Goods			**$ 70,000.00**	**$ 1,200,000.00**	**$ 1,270,000.00**	**$ 100,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 100,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 1,370,000.00**	
Vehicles	4x4 vehicles (7)	6	$ -	$ 420,000.00	$ 420,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 420,000.00	FUNBIO
	Vehicle operating costs (fuel, maintenance, etc.)	7	$ -	$ 800,000.00	$ 800,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 800,000.00	FUNBIO
Total Vehicles			**$ -**	**$ 1,220,000.00**	**$ 1,220,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 1,220,000.00**	
Grants/ Sub-grants	Direct support to IP/TP&LC	8	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 400,000.00	$ 400,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 400,000.00	FUNBIO
Total Sub-grants			**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 400,000.00**	**$ 400,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 400,000.00**	
Contractual Services – Individual	Priority areas assessments, socioeconomic and environmental diagnostics, land titling assessments, legal and/or editorial services for drafting documentation and presentations	9	$ 250,000.00	$ -	$ 250,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 250,000.00	FUNBIO
	Diagnostics, media services and consultancy outreach support	10	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 62,500.00	$ 62,500.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 62,500.00	FUNBIO
	Services and consultancies for production of reference and training materials and guidance on combating illegal trade of wildlife species	11	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 62,500.00	$ 62,500.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 62,500.00	FUNBIO
	Capacity building of IP/TP&LC and support for proposal preparation, submission and execution	12	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 180,000.00	$ 180,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 180,000.00	FUNBIO
	PA Council capacity building	13	$ -	$ 60,000.00	$ 60,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 60,000.00	FUNBIO
	PA management plan elaboration (7 PAs)	14	$ -	$ 700,000.00	$ 700,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 700,000.00	FUNBIO
	Mid-Term Evaluation	15	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 50,000.00		$ 50,000.00	FUNBIO
	Final Evaluation	16	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 50,000.00		$ 50,000.00	FUNBIO
	ESS & gender consultant	17	$ -	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ 30,000.00		$ 100,000.00	FUNBIO
Total Contractual Services - Individuals			**$ 250,000.00**	**$ 810,000.00**	**$ 1,060,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 125,000.00**	**$ 125,000.00**	**$ 200,000.00**	**$ 200,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 130,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 1,515,000.00**	

Contractual Services – Company	Priority areas assessments, socioeconomic and environmental diagnostics, land titling assessments, legal and/or editorial services for drafting documentation and presentations	18	$ 250,000.00	$ -	$ 250,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 250,000.00	FUNBIO
	Lab analyses for biodiversity surveys	19	$ 120,000.00	$ -	$ 120,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 120,000.00	FUNBIO
	Diagnostics, media services and consultancy outreach support	20	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 62,500.00	$ 62,500.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 62,500.00	FUNBIO
	Services and consultancies for production of reference and training materials and guidance on combating illegal trade of wildlife species	21	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 62,500.00	$ 62,500.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 62,500.00	FUNBIO
	Communication plan, design and production of communication materials	22	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ -		$ 100,000.00	FUNBIO
	PA demarcation/signaling (7 Pas)	23	$ -	$ 105,000.00	$ 105,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 105,000.00	FUNBIO
Total Contractual Services - Company			**$ 370,000.00**	**$ 105,000.00**	**$ 475,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 125,000.00**	**$ 125,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 100,000.00**	**$ 100,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 700,000.00**	
Salary and benefits / Staff costs			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ -	
	Project Manager and Protected Area Specialist	24	$ -	$ 120,500.00	$ 120,500.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 120,500.00	$ 241,000.00	FUNBIO
	Community Liaison/Gender /Safeguards Focal Point	25	$ -	$ 112,000.00	$ 112,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 112,000.00	FUNBIO
	Procurement Analyst/Assistant	26	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 188,000.00	$ 188,000.00	FUNBIO
	Project Financial Control	27	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 104,000.00	$ 104,000.00	FUNBIO
	Portfolio Manager	28	$ -	$ 42,000.00	$ 42,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 42,000.00	FUNBIO
	EA Targeted Assistance	29	$ 30,768.00	$ 350,000.00	$ 380,768.00	$ 10,500.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 25,500.00	$ 20,600.00	$ 20,600.00	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 426,868.00	FUNBIO
Total Staff Costs			**$ 30,768.00**	**$ 624,500.00**	**$ 655,268.00**	**$ 10,500.00**	**$ 15,000.00**	**$ 25,500.00**	**$ 20,600.00**	**$ 20,600.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 412,500.00**	**$ 1,113,868.00**	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Meetings/consultations for PA creation/expansion	30	$ 119,259.00	$ -	$ 119,259.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 119,259.00	FUNBIO
	Capacity building on specific themes and procedures	31	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 40,000.00	$ -	$ 40,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 40,000.00	FUNBIO
	Knowledge exchange and sharing and capturing lessons learned from IP/TP&LC subprojects	32	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 100,000.00	FUNBIO
	Training & capacity building for PA managers and IP/TP&LC	33	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,555.00	$ 11,555.00	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 11,555.00	FUNBIO
	Workshops and meetings to capture and disseminate lessons learned	34	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 35,649.00	$ 35,649.00	$ -		$ 35,649.00	FUNBIO
	PA Council meetings	35	$ -	$ 540,000.00	$ 540,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 540,000.00	FUNBIO
	Training on Integrated Fire Management	36	$ -	$ 200,000.00	$ 200,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 200,000.00	FUNBIO
Total Trainings, Workshpos, Meetings			**$ 119,259.00**	**$ 740,000.00**	**$ 859,259.00**	**$ 40,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 40,000.00**	**$ 111,555.00**	**$ 111,555.00**	**$ 35,649.00**	**$ 35,649.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 1,046,463.00**	
Travel	Field trips for biodiversity surveys	37	$ 50,000.00	$ -	$ 50,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 50,000.00	FUNBIO
	Implementation and monitoring of PANs - field visits, meetings with stakeholders	38	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 100,000.00	$ -	$ 100,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 100,000.00	FUNBIO
	Local travel for outreach activities	39	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,889.00	$ 3,889.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 3,889.00	FUNBIO
	Facilitating communication efforts and capturing of lessons learned	40	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	$ -		$ 30,000.00	FUNBIO
	Project in situ monitoring	41	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00	FUNBIO
	PA operationalization	42	$ -	$ 180,000.00	$ 180,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 180,000.00	FUNBIO
	PA operationalization support & monitoring	43	$ -	$ 75,632.00	$ 75,632.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 75,632.00	FUNBIO
Total Travel			**$ 50,000.00**	**$ 255,632.00**	**$ 305,632.00**	**$ 100,000.00**	**$ 3,889.00**	**$ 103,889.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 30,000.00**	**$ 30,000.00**	**$ 20,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 459,521.00**	
Other Operating Costs	**Project Audit**		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 14,368.00	$ 14,368.00	FUNBIO
	PA operating costs (recurrent costs, supplies)	44	$ -	$ 775,000.00	$ 775,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 775,000.00	FUNBIO
Total Other Operating costs			**$ -**	**$ 775,000.00**	**$ 775,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 14,368.00**	**$ 789,368.00**	
Grand Total			**$ 890,027.00**	**$ 6,080,132.00**	**$ 6,970,159.00**	**$ 250,500.00**	**$ 268,889.00**	**$ 519,389.00**	**$ 732,155.00**	**$ 732,155.00**	**$ 165,649.00**	**$ 165,649.00**	**$ 150,000.00**	**$ 426,868.00**	**$ 8,964,220.00**	

Budget Notes and Assumptions

1 Infrastructure works for PAs (HQ, visitors center, research lodgings)
2 Field equipment for biodiversity surveys include inputs for collecting soil samples for eDNA analyses, such as filters, falcon tubes, syringes, etc.
3 Field equipment for implementation of PANs include camera traps and sound recording equipment, for detecting a diversity of taxa, such as mammals and birds
4 The PAs to be supported by the project have a basic level of implementation, requiring structural investments in equipment to become fully functional, including computers, printers, TV monitors, furniture, appliances, tools, etc.
5 Fire-fighting equipment, for the use by PA staff and voluntary fire-brigades, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), backpack blowers, shovels, etc., are essential for combating fires through an Integrated Fire Management Approach (including use of controlled burns), one of the main threats to the project's PAs
Project PAs are located in remote, large areas with limited paved-road access. 4x4 vehicles are essential to enable PA staff to move through the areas while conducting their day to day PA management activities, such as community outreach, fiscalization, monitoring, etc. Most PAs to be supported by the project do not have 4x4 vehicles to be used on a daily basis for PA management. Without the requested vehicles, the
6 project won't be able to deliver the other activities funded in this output such as PA demarcation, patrolling, monitoring and other essential PA management activities
7 PA vehicles operating and maintenance costs, including fuel, vehicle repairs, etc. It is expected that the operationalization and maintenance of vehicles after the end of the project will be carried out with counterpart resources from PA management agencies.
Subgrants to community-based organizations to fund capacities and operational support to strengthen their participation in PA governance, PA management and NR use within Pas. Experience from other projects, including GEF Mar, indicates institutional capacity of managing, on average, projects totaling USD 100,000. Potential number of projects to be supported, and project amounts, will be defined based on
8 IP/TP&LC consultations
9 Consultancies to support the process for PA creation and/or expansion
10 Include both service/consultancy support as well as publications and other communication materials
11 Include both service/consultancy support as well as publications and other communication materials
12 Consultant support built in as part of the strategy to direct resources to be executed by community-based organizations
13 Building capacity of communities within PAs in support for the process of PA council formation
14 Consultant support for participative PA management plan elaboration, including data collection as needed
15 Mid-term project evaluation
16 Final project evaluation
17 Consultant to provide support to the project on ESS and gender issues, especially in the implementation of the ESMP, SEP and GAP
18 Consultancies on priority areas assessments, socioeconomic and environmental diagnostics, land titling assessments, legal and/or editorial services for drafting documentation and presentations, as needed, to support proposals for the creation and/or expansion of new PAs
19 Lab analyses for biodiversity survey Lab analyses for biodiversity surveys (e.g. eDNA)
20 Diagnostics, media services and consultancy outreach support for combating poaching/trafficking
21 Services and consultancies for production of reference and training materials and guidance on combating illegal trade of wildlife species
22 Elaboration of communication plan, and design and production of communication materials
23 Provision of services for PA demarcation/signaling (7 PAs)
24 Project Manager and Protected Area Specialist
25 Community Liaison/Gender /Safeguards Focal Point across the project
26 Procurement of project's goods and services
27 Financial control of project expenditures, reporting and capacity building for community-based projects
28 Portfolio Manager is responsible for high level, strategic stakeholder articulation and technical direction within project themes (PAs, biodiversity conservation)
29 EA Targeted Assistance capacity for recruitment, legal aspects, administration
30 Meetings/consultations as part of the process for PA creation/expansion
31 Capacity building on specific themes and procedures associated with the implementation and monitoring of PANs
32 Event for knowledge exchange and sharing and capturing lessons learned from IP/TP&LC subproject executors
33 Training & capacity building for PA managers and IP/TP&LC, including focus on gender issues and youth
34 Events (workshops and meetings) to facilitate the capturing and dissemination of lessons learned from the project
35 Support to PA Council meetings: 3 Council Meetings within each of 9 PAs per year, for the duration of the project (4 years), with a total annual cost of approximately USD 15k per PA. This amount covers transportation, meals, accomodation and meeting logistics, including a facilitator/moderator as needed.
36 Capacity building on Integrated Fire Management for PA staff, voluntary brigades and other stakeholders
37 Travel costs for MMA and ICMBio staff, as well as collaborators, to conduct biodiversity surveys
38 Travel costs for MMA and ICMBio staff, as well as collaborators, to support implementation and monitoring of PANs, including field visits and meetings with stakeholders
39 Travel costs for MMA and ICMBio staff, as well as collaborators, for outreach activities associated with combating poaching and illegal trafficking
40 Travel costs for MMA staff and collaborators, for mobilization activities associated with capturing lessons learned. Output 4.1.2 will be led by MMA; government staff time will be used to compile and systematized lessons learned.
41 Travel costs for conducting project monitoring
42 Travel costs for PA staff and collaborators, associated with PA management and operationalization
43 Travel costs to support operationalization and monitoring of project activities
44 PA day to day operational costs, including supplies, non-durable goods, etc.

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX H: BLENDED-FINANCE RELEVANT ANNEXES

Please use the most up to date templates per the most recent call for proposals.

ANNEX H.1: Termsheet

Instructions. This termsheet to be submitted with the PIF/PFD should include sufficient details to allow a financial expert to understand and judge the financial viability of the proposed investments. Indicative terms and conditions should be used when specific details are not yet available. An equivalent termsheet used for internal Agency purposes is acceptable but must include sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality.

ANNEX H.2: Agency capacity to implement blended finance projects

Instructions. Any financial returns, gains, interest or other earnings and remaining principal will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. and the GEF Non-Grant Instrument Policy.