Implementing Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) Site Conservation and Preventing Global Extinctions

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10581

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Implementing Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) Site Conservation and Preventing Global Extinctions

Countries
Global, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Madagascar

Agency(ies)
UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)
AZE Partnership and Secretariat (American Bird Conservancy - ABC), Birdlife International

Executing Partner Type
CSO

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Taxonomy

Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Integrated Programs, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Mainstreaming, Ceritification - International Standards, Certification -National Standards, Species, Threatened Species, Biomes, Tropical Dry Forests, Desert, Wetlands, Tropical Rain Forests, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Private Sector, Large corporations, Capital providers, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Participation, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Extractive Industries, Infrastructure, Tourism, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, National Adaptation Programme of Action, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Learning, Adaptive management, Knowledge Exchange

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 2

Submission Date

11/22/2021

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2022

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2025

Duration

48In Months

Agency Fee($)

184,412.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	Loss, fragmentation, and degradation of significant natural habitats, and associated extinction debt, is reduced, halted or reversed, and conservation status of known threatened species is improved and sustained, including through monitoring, spatial planning, incentives, restoration, and strategic establishment of protected areas and other measures.	GET	1,275,141.00	4,000,000.00
BD-2-7	The area of protected areas under effective and equitable management is significantly increased, including development of sustainable financing. The ecological representativeness of protected area systems, and their coverage of protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, of particular importance for biodiversity is increased, especially habitats for threatened species.	GET	686,098.00	4,000,000.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**1,961,239.00**	**8,000,000.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To improve the conservation of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1. Improvement of the conservation status of 20 AZE sites and associated AZE trigger species in focus countries. Selected sites: Colombia 1. Chingaza National Natural Park and surrounding areas 2. Munchique National Natural Park and surrounding areas 3. Enclave Seco del Rio Dagua 4. Farallones de Cali. 5. Parramo de Urrao/De las Aves Colibri Natural Park Chile: 6. Zapahuira 7. Las Cascadas Loa River 8. Murmuntani 9. R?o Vilama 10. Puquios 11. Mehu?n 12. Los Molles ? Pichidangui 13. Tocopilla Dominican Republic 14. Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuerte 15.	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1. Improved protection of critically endangered and endangered species through implementation of priority AZE site conservation actions. **Indicators**: Management plans developed and adopted for over 1,054,714 ha at 20 AZE sites in project countries Populations of key species at pilot sites remain stable and/or increase Increase in the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores of the targeted AZE sites Equitable participation of women and Indigenous Communities in conservation plan development and implementation.	Output 1.1.1. Conservation plans for each site developed and being implemented. Output 1.1.2 Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) approach tested and OECM status achieved. Where applicable, process to designate AZE sites as new protected areas initiated and advanced. Output 1.1.3. Local communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) fully integrated into conservation planning process. Participation of women and Indigenous and Local Communities prioritized in the development and implementation of conservation plans.	GET	794,980.00	3,242,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2. Mainstreaming AZE site conservation at global and national levels	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2.1. Biodiversity conservation enhanced and extinction threat reduced through mainstreaming AZE site conservation. **Indicators:** Number of finance institutions (local, regional and global banks and lending agencies) in the four project countries that integrate AZE site conservation into their policy/operational approaches and ongoing screening of potential investments and project financing impacts to AZE sites. Number of reports and plans by project country governments that include the conservation of AZE sites. Number of finance institutions and companies	Output 2.1.1. Technical services provided to financial institutions, including local, regional and national banks and investors, for mainstreaming of AZE site conservation. Output 2.1.2. Financial and technical support to project countries to include AZE in their national policies and regulations. Output 2.1.3 Technical support provided to businesses for strengthening AZE integration into industry policies and standards. Output 2.1.4 Technical support provided for mainstreaming of AZE site conservation into climate mitigation and adaptation actions,	GET	499,601.00	2,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3. Knowledge management to enhance understanding of and interest in AZE site conservation across sectors	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.1 Application of KBA (Key Biodiversity Areas) standards is advanced in pilot countries. **Indicator:** Number of reassessed and new AZE sites, confirmed and documented in the project countries. Outcome 3.2. Increased understanding and application of AZE site conservation implementation in policies and plans by local, national, regional and global stakeholders. **Indicator:** Number of policies, strategies and plans developed or implemented by local communities, private sector groups, NGOs and other stakeholders to apply AZE knowledge in their conservation and community	Output 3.1.1. Capacity developed in pilot countries for the application of KBA standards. Output 3.1.2 Documentation of existing and new AZE sites developed, shared and disseminated through the World Database of KBAs and the AZE and KBA websites. Output 3.2.1. Improved knowledge of site-based conservation in non-project countries supported. Output 3.2.2. Capacity development programs (trainings and workshops) on monitoring, conserving and managing AZE sites designed and implemented at local, national and global level. The	GET	417,364.00	1,741,116.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance			GET	71,000.00	289,613.00
			Sub Total ($)		**1,782,945.00**	**7,272,729.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	178,294.00	727,271.00
			Sub Total($)		**178,294.00**	**727,271.00**
			Total Project Cost($)		**1,961,239.00**	**8,000,000.00**

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Civil Society Organization	American Bird Conservancy (AZE Secretariat)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,170,081.00
Civil Society Organization	BirdLife International	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Chile ? Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	514,110.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Chile ? National Zoo of Chile	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Colombia ? Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	13,704.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Dominican Republic	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Madagascar	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Chilean Herpetological Association Network	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Royal Botanic Gardens KEW	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	29,988.00
Civil Society Organization	Asity Madagascar	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Missouri Botanical Garden	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Civil Society Organization	Re:wild	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	The Peregrine Fund, Inc.	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Colombia ? Regional Autonomous Corporation of Valle del Cauca	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,959,522.00
Civil Society Organization	Chilean Agricultural Research Institute	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	125,531.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Chile ? Ministry of Environment	Grant	Investment mobilized	287,064.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**8,000,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

ABC?s co-financing will come directly through fundraising to support AZE site conservation in project countries and outside of project countries. BirdLife?s co-financing will come directly through fundraising to support AZE site conservation in project countries as well as global policy and technical work to integrate AZEs into the KBA database and wider policy processes.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNEP	GET	Global	Biodiversity	BD Global/Regional Set-Aside	365,297	34,703	400,000.00
UNEP	GET	Colombia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	176,277	16,746	193,023.00
UNEP	GET	Madagascar	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	441,055	40,281	481,336.00
UNEP	GET	Chile	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	890,025	84,552	974,577.00
UNEP	GET	Dominican Republic	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	88,585	8,130	96,715.00
				Total Grant Resources($)	**1,961,239.00**	**184,412.00**	**2,145,651.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

49,635

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4,714

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNEP	GET	Colombia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	6,372	605	
UNEP	GET	Madagascar	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	17,045	1,619	
UNEP	GET	Chile	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	23,218	2,205	
UNEP	GET	Dominican Republic	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,000	285	
				Total Project Costs($)	**49,635.00**	**4,714.00**	**54,349.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
200,000.00	919,639.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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)
Akula National Park	125689	Select				

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)
200,000.00	919,639.00	0.00	0.00

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 Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

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 Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Chile Mehuin 1 (Designated as Priority Site):	**125689**	**Select**	200,000.00	11,122.00			39.00		
Akula National Park Colombia Farallones de Cali National Park Munchique Natural National Park and southern extension: P?ramo Urrao / Colibri del Sol Bird Reserve : Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza and surroundings:	**125689**	**Select**		380,089.00			262.00		

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 Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Dominican Republic Padre Domingo Fuertes Natural Monument:	**125689**	**Select**		3,740.00			52.00		
Akula National Park Madagascar Ankafobe: Itremo: Mahavavy - Kinkony wetlands NPA: Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA: Bemanevika / Tsaratananamassif	**125689**	**Select**		524,688.00			286.00		

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
400000.00	978749.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
400,000.00	978,749.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

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

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

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

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	4,000	5,000		
Male	6,000	5,000		
Total	10000	10000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Globally, 43% of AZE sites remain completely unprotected, with just over half of all sites partially or fully protected. Similarly, in this project 11 of the 20 priority sites are partially or fully protected while 9 sites, or 45% of the 20 selected project sites, are completely unprotected. The number of hectares of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use was calculated based on the goal of improving the management of the eleven AZE sites that are fully or partially protected. At CEO Endorsement, it can be confirmed that these together cover 919,639 ha. This project will also include a strong focus on habitat restoration and wider landscape management targets to prevent species extinctions at the roughly 843,674 ha in buffer zones of the eleven AZE sites included as priority sites in this project. The total area under improved management will be 978,749 ha (843,674 + 135,075, the latter figure being the area covered by the remaining 9 AZE sites). Mainstreaming AZE site conservation will also support improved management at AZE sites, since conservation plans, policies and safeguards will prohibit impacts degrading the management of AZE sites. There is no size restriction for sites identified as AZE sites; however, many are small, and all are precarious, areas of global biodiversity importance. AZE sites are delineated based on the occurrence of trigger species (Critically Endangered ? CR or Endangered ? EN species restricted to one site globally), and many of these trigger species have extremely small habitats, either because they naturally have very restricted ranges or, commonly, due to habitat loss. Therefore, even when the total area of AZE sites protected or managed effectively is small, the protection and improved management of these sites is critical to prevent imminent species extinctions. AZE sites are a recognized indicator for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and we expect them, as a subset of KBAs, to be included in the post-2020 targets/indicators as well. The conservation of AZE sites can help countries meet Aichi Targets, in particular Targets 11, 12, 14 and 5. The recently adopted CBD Decision XIV/1 urges all Parties to take urgent actions by 2020 to accelerate action for protecting AZE sites to meet Aichi Targets 11 and 12.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

describe any changes in alignment with the project design with the original pif

IN PIF	IN CEO ENDORSEMENT REQUEST	REASON FOR CHANGE
The site ?Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Natural Park and surrounding areas?	**Farallones ? Paraguas Corridor**	The site ?Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Natural Park and surrounding areas? has been removed by the Government of Colombia as a national policy decision. The Farallones ? Paraguas Corridor contains 2 AZE sites that are now included in the project: **Enclave Seco del Rio Dagua** and **Farallones de Cali National Park.**
Output **3.2.2**. Technical assistance provided for strong collaboration across focus countries and sectors, including government, civil society, and other partners.	**This output has been removed**.	The proposed objectives of this output can be easily achieved through the Technical Advisory Committee of the project and through the series of trainings to be offered by the project. This output would bring no added value to the project, is not cost-efficient, and would be redundant.
Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares): 200,000	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares): 919,639 **ha**	The initial 200,000 was based on the average size of a site x 20. The actual number of hectares of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use was calculated based on the goal of improving the management of the twelve selected AZE sites that are fully or partially protected. At CEO Endorsement, it can be confirmed that these together cover 919,639 ha.

Total area under improved management (Hectares): 600,000	Total area under improved management (Hectares): 978,749 **ha**	This project will also include a strong focus on habitat restoration and wider landscape management targets to prevent species extinctions at the roughly 1,054,714 ha in buffer zones of the 11 AZE sites with full or partial protection included as priority sites in this project. The total area under improved management will be 978,749 ha. Mainstreaming AZE site conservation will also support improved management at AZE sites, since conservation plans, policies and safeguards will prohibit impacts degrading the management of AZE sites.
Outcome 1.1. Indicators Management plans developed and adopted for over 200,000 ha at 20 AZE sites in project countries 200,000 ha of 20 AZE sites are under improved management to benefit biodiversity and conservation sustainability.	Outcome 1.1. Indicators Management plans developed and adopted for over 919,639 **ha** at **20** AZE sites in project countries 1,898,388 ha of **20** AZE sites are under improved management to benefit biodiversity and conservation sustainability.	For alignment with revised figures for ?the number of hectares of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use? and the ?total area under improved management?.

Outcome 2.1 Indicators Number of lending institutions (local, regional, and global banks and lending agencies) in the four project countries that integrate AZE site conservation into their policy approaches and ongoing screening of potential project sites for siting at and impacts to AZE sites. Number of companies operating in the four project countries and more broadly using IBAT to better scope and plan their actions within the vicinity of AZE sites	Outcome 2.1 Indicators Number of **finance** institutions (local, regional, and global banks and agencies) in the four project countries that integrate AZE site conservation into their policy/operational approaches and ongoing screening of potential investments and project financing impacts to AZE sites. Number of **finance institutions and companies** operating in the four project countries and more broadly using IBAT to better scope and plan their actions within the vicinity of AZE sites	Finance institutions would cover both lenders (development banks) and investors, as opposed to being restricted to lending institutions. This revised text is trying to stop banks/investors investing in damaging companies/projects, or at least for them to be fully aware of this.
Outcome 3.1 Indicators - Number of new KBAs, including AZE sites, confirmed and documented globally.	Outcome 3.1 Indicators - Number of reassessed and new AZE sites, confirmed and documented in the project countries.	Due to limited funding, the project will only focus on revising existing and identifying new AZE sites in the four project countries. The revised indicator is a reflection of this change in focus.

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers

Overview & Environmental Context

The Alliance for Zero Extinction is a consortium of over 110 conservation organizations globally, ranging from large international NGOs to small-scale local NGOs. The Alliance is led by the Secretariat, based at American Bird Conservancy, the Chair and President of American Bird Conservancy, and a Global Steering Committee, comprised of 11 NGO leaders from around the world

dedicated to preventing species extinctions. AZE sites are defined based on the above criteria and not on protection status; therefore, while some AZE sites are also protected areas, many are not. Management of AZE sites is determined on a site-specific level, with some fully managed by public or private institutions and others lacking any effective management. Of the 853 AZE sites globally, 21 are in Chile, 4 are in the Dominican Republic, 53 are in Madagascar, and 39 are in Colombia. Please see Annex D for a complete list of AZE sites in project countries and the associated AZE trigger species.

The following set of criteria were used to identify the priority AZE sites for the project.

Table 1. AZE site Identification Criteria

Factors	**Specific questions to answer**
State	Is the AZE trigger species improving/declining?
Pressures	Are there ongoing or worsening threats to the AZE trigger species?
	Are there ongoing or worsening threats to the AZE site?
Responses	Is the AZE site protected?
	Is the AZE site well-managed (i.e., does it have and implement a management plan)? Does it have a recent METT or similar assessment of management effectiveness?
	Is conservation action being conducted at the AZE site?
Likelihood of success	Are there local community groups that currently support or could support conservation at the AZE site?
	Is there a strong baseline (existing projects at the site)? These can be government, NGO or local community efforts.

AZE Sites Description

AZE Sites in Colombia. Colombia has 54,871 species recorded in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), a figure that does not include the huge variety of microorganisms in the country. Most of the endemic species of Colombia are in two of the most important biodiversity hotspots identified in the world: the Amazon and the Choc?[1][1]. Colombia ranks first worldwide in terms of diversity of

birds and orchids; second in the diversity of plants, amphibians, freshwater fish and butterflies; third in the diversity of reptiles and palms; and fourth in variety of mammals. Colombia?s high levels of biodiversity are reflected in the high number of AZE sites in the country, 39. Twenty-seven of these sites have been triggered by amphibians, three by birds, one for cacti, two each for cycads and mammals, and four for multiple taxonomic groups. In Colombia, 296 introduced, transplanted and continental invasive species have been identified (terrestrial and aquatic), including plants, mollusks, crustaceans, fish, and terrestrial vertebrates[2][2].

Five AZE sites in Colombia have been selected for inclusion in this project, two of which are in the Cauca Valley[3][3]. The **Farallones ? Paraguas Corridor** is in the southwest of Colombia, 16 km from the Pacific Ocean, 217 km from Bogota, and with an area of 635,262.97 hectares. There are 22 municipalities in the department where the corridor is located (Jamund?, Cali, Dagua, Yumbo, Calima, Buenaventura, Restrepo, La Cumbre, Vijes, Yotoco, R?ofr?o, Trujillo, Bol?var, Roldanillo, El Dovio, La Uni?n, Versalles, Toro, Ansermanuevo, Algelia, El Cairo and El ?guila), some of which have only the rural hillside area and some small, populated centers. There are 8 municipalities within the corridor. The key ecosystems of the corridor are: Tropical Humid Forest (between 200 and 1,200 meters of altitude), Sub-Andean Humid Forest (between 1,200 and 2,000 meters above sea level), High Andean Humid Forest (between 2,000- and 3,500-meters altitude) and P?ramo (with altitudes above 3,500 meters). The Farallones are inhabited by various exceptional forms of wildlife including mammals, small bats, pumas, panthers, tigrillos, foxes and spectacled bears. The marsupials also stand out; five species of primates: White-headed capuchin (*Cebus limitator*), Red howler (*Alouatta seniculus*), Mantled howler (*Alouatta palliata)*, Gray-bellied night monkey (*Aotus lemurinus*), and Colombian spider monkey (*Ateles fusciceps rufiventris*); Anteaters (Myrmecophaga tridactyla), a large diversity of other mammals, as well as birds such as Long-wattled Umbrellabird (*Cephalopterus penduliger*); Multicolored Tanager (*Chlorochrysa nitidissima*); Yellow-green Tanager(*Chlorospingus flavovirens*); Cauca Guan (*Penelope perspicax)*. The community of amphibians and reptiles is also impressive, one of the highlights being Lehmann?s Poison Frog (*Oophaga lehmanni*). There is a close relationship between the local communities that live around the protected areas of the corridor, which generate benefits such as water, the landscape, agricultural production, flowers, and nature tourism that is beginning to develop. Some communities, especially Indigenous Communities, make use of forest resources, especially the provision of dyes and fibers for handicrafts and hunting. Likewise, Indigenous Communities value nature and in some cases, the forests of these areas are associated with their worldview and cosmogony, especially among the Embera Peoples who resides in the area. Eighty percent of the population of the department resides in the municipalities of the corridor, with 3,362,815 inhabitants, including in the capital of the department which contains 7% of the country?s population.

Two specific AZE sites within the corridor are included as project sites: **Farallones de Cali National Park** with an area of 191,588.89 hectares and **Enclave Seco del Dagua** with an area of 7,549 hectares. For landscape level interventions the entire **Farallones ? Paraguas Corridor** (635, 262.97 hectares) will be considered. AZE trigger species in the corridor are *Stenocereus humilis* at Enclave Seco del Dagua and *Atelopus pictiventris at* Farallones de Cali National Park.

Also, in the Cauca Valley is the **Munchique National Natural Park** and southern extension AZE site, which is activated by the presence of *Atelopus famelicus*. The park is specifically located in the department of Cauca, municipality of El Tambo, on the western slope of the Western Cordillera, 61 km from the city of Popay?n. It is bordered by the municipalities of L?pez de Micay, Cajib?o and Morales. The Munchique National Natural Park is characterized by high biodiversity and endemism, associated with its wide altitudinal range and strategic location, in the Cauca biogeographic zone, in an altitude gradient between 200 and 3,170 meters above sea level (m.a.s.l). The park is characterized by the presence of Andean, sub-Andean and lower jungle forests. The diversity of thermal floors makes the park a paradise for birds, especially hummingbirds. Numerous streams and waterfalls of enormous beauty cross the access roads to the protected area, which are part of the important water supply of the park. Munchique is the habitat of the Colourful Puffleg (*Ericonemis mirabilis*), first reported in 1967 from a locality in the protected area. This discovery, together with the abundance of quetzals of the genus *Pharomachrus*, was the justification for the creation of the Sanctuary of the Pharomachrus in 1972, with an area of ??3,000 hectares, which later became part of the national park.

Of the fauna species reported for the park, the most charismatic are the spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) and the Colourful Puffleg, species that are threatened with extinction, the first being in a Vulnerable state (VU) and the second endangered (EN), according to the IUCN. The most representative are the Northern Pudu Deer (*Pudu mephistophiles*), the Oncilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*) and the Grey-bellied Night Monkey (*Aotus lemurinus*), with a Vulnerable threat level (VU) and the Brown-headed Spider Monkey (*Ateles fuscipes*) with a Critically Endangered level of threat (CR). In the Park, 1,024 species of plants are reported, distributed in 142 families. The 10 most representative families are Melastomataceae with 94 species, Rubiaceae with 62, Orchidaceae with 57, Solanaceae with 49, Asteraceae with 46, Piperaceae with 42, Gesneriaceae with 41, Ericaceae with 36, Polypodiaceae with 34 and Clusiaceae with 27 species. In terms of endemism, 139 species of endemic flora of Colombia have been reported in the park, of which 30 have exclusive distribution in the Munchique National Natural Park. Among the endemic plants of the park, there are *Oreomunnea muchiquensis* (Juglandaceae), *Schefflera munchiquensis* (Araliaceae), and *Sphyrospermum munchiqueense* (Ericaceae), among others.

The AZE site **P?ramo Urrao/De Las Aves Colibri El Sol** is in the Vereda El Chuscal in Colombia?s Cordillera Occidental to the west of the city of Medellin, 17 km from the municipality of Urrao,

Antioquia with an area of 30,446 ha. The altitude of this site ranges from 2,650 to 3,750 m.a.s.l. It is triggered by the amphibian *Atelopus nicefori* and the bird *Grallaria fenwickorum*.

The reserve was established in 2005 by Fundaci?n ProAves, a non-profit environmental organization that owns and manages several reserves in Colombia. It consists of high Andean Forest and paramo, which comprise a large portion of the Santa B?rbara basin, one of the main tributaries of the Urrao River. The reserve is made up of oak groves (*Quercus humboltii*), in a good state of conservation and mixed forest with high epiphytism. Above 3,500m, paramo (moorland) assemblages are present, which include the endemic *Espeletia frontinoensis* and forests dominated by associations of *Polylepis quadrijuga*. Its terrain is predominantly mountainous, with about 70% of the area being steep slopes, 20% with hills and 10% flat. Its soils have andic properties of high porosity, medium texture, moderately well-structured and strongly acidic.

As for flora, for the area 450 species belonging to 247 genera included in 136 families of fanerogamas and Cryptogamas have been reported. Among them a new species of Asteraceae was discovered, which was described by Cuatrecasas as *Espeletia frontinoensis*. Some of the threatened bird species found in the reserve are the Dusky Starfrontlet (*Coligena orina*), Critically Endangered; the Rusty-faced Parrot (*Hapalopsittaca amazonina*), Vulnerable; the Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa gloriosisima*), Near Threatened; and the Moustached Antpitta (*Grallaria alleni*), Vulnerable.

The fourth site in the project is **Chingaza National Natural Park** (PNN) and surrounding areas AZE site, located northeast of Bogota in the eastern range of the Andes. The site?s elevation ranges from 2,600 to over 4,000 meters above sea level. It was activated by the presence of 3 amphibian AZE trigger species, including *Atelopus lozanoi*. The Chingaza PNN is located in the Eastern Cordillera of the Colombian Andes, northeast of Bogot?, between 73?30 'and 73?55' of West Longitude and 4?20 'and 4?50' of North Latitude, in the jurisdiction of the municipalities of F?meque, Choach? , Gachal?, Medina, La Calera, Guasca and Jun?n in the department of Cundinamarca, and Restrepo, San Juanito, Cumaral and El Calvario in the department of Meta. It has an area of 76,600 hectares, but in current cartographic terms and according to the Group of Information Systems and Radiocommunications GSIR of Natural National Parks, the current shape has an area of 84,763 hectares. It has heights ranging from 800 to 4,020 meters above sea level.

In the area there are high Andean wetland complexes, which are relevant for their biological heritage, scenic and cultural beauty (Muisca and Chibcha), the Chingaza Lagoon System stands out, made up of 20 lagoons, declared a Ramsar Site in 2008. There is also the Lagunas de Siecha of glacial origin, from where one of the Muisca rafts representing the El Dorado ceremony, a legend of the Muiscas, was extracted. In the western sector of the park, the moorlands are the most frequent ecosystems to observe,

followed by Andean and high Andean forests. Towards the eastern side, it descends to the ecosystems of the foothill plains with pristine landscapes and majestic ravines with large flows typical of the Orinoco.

This park highlights some of the endemism of the Colombian flora, among which there is the frailej?n (*Espeletia uribei*), whose individuals grow in the strip of vegetation between the p?ramo and the high Andean Forest. It is estimated that the total flora of the park exceeds 1,000 species. It is common to see species of swamp moss, which absorb up to 40 times their weight in water. In the high Andean forests *Weinmannia* sp., *Clusia multiflora* and *Escallonia myrtilloides* predominate, and in the p?ramo areas the frailejones (*Espeletia grandiflora)*, the grasses (*Calamagrostis* sp.), the ragworts (*Senecio niveoaureus*) and peat bog communities in swampy areas. The Park also contains species of fauna reported in danger of extinction in Colombia, such as the Andean Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), the White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus goudotii*), the Little Red Brocket (*Mazama rufina*), the Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*), the pMountain Paca (*Cuniculus taczanowskii*), the Andean Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*) and the Puma (*Puma concolor*). Over 400 species of birds have been reported for the area. There are records of 44 species of amphibians, of which *Atelopus muisca* and *Atelopus lozanoi* are endemic and are in danger of extinction. Over 29 species of reptiles have been reported.

AZE Sites in Chile. The AZE concept in Chile was strengthened during the previous GEF AZE project. As a result, AZE sites were used to identify areas of relevance for the conservation of threatened species, which triggered the formulation of the *Plan to Protect Last Refuges,* which identifies areas of importance for threatened species, especially those that are microendemics. The AZE concept was also used as the basis for the definition of the *Chilean Action Plan for the Conservation of Native Species*, which seeks to improve the representation of protected areas from the perspective of the distribution of threatened species.

Of the 21 AZE sites in Chile, two are triggered by birds, eight for amphibians, nine for cacti, one for marine fish and one for multiple taxonomic groups. This project focuses on 8 AZE sites in Chile, which can be grouped into three categories: five AZE sites supporting 6 AZE trigger species of the amphibian genus *Telmatobius*, two AZE sites that contain AZE trigger species from the cactus genus *Eriosyce*, and one AZE site for an amphibian trigger species with a strong baseline of conservation action. There are 63 known species in the genus *Telmatobius*, one of the most threatened in the Andes. Ten (10) species of the genus *Telmatobius* are found in Chile, seven of which are Critically Endangered (CR) or Endangered (EN), according to the IUCN Red List. Six of these seven CR / EN species are species that activate the AZE designation of a site. These six AZE trigger species are found at five of the eight sites in Chile selected for inclusion in this project: Zapahuira, Las Cascadas R?o Loa, R?o Vilama, Murmuntani and Puquios.

Six additional AZE sites in northern Chile (Tocopilla and Taita, Colinas costeras al sur de Cha?aral, Huasco-Totoral, Norte de Coquimbo and Los Molles ? Pichidangui) have AZE trigger species from the cactus genus *Eriosyce*. While some conservation actions, such as restricting illegal collection, will have a positive impact across the six sites, this project will specifically focus on two of these sites, Tocopilla and Los Molles ? Pichidangui. The eight selected sites in Chile are described below.

The AZE site **Zapahuira** is in the arid high Andes. Due to freshwater scarcity, small areas of habitat for two AZE trigger species, the Zapahuira Water Frog (*Telmatobius zapahuirensis*) and the Arico Water Frog (*Telmatobius pefauri*) are found at the site, in areas at and above 3,200 m.a.s.l. Zapahuira is in the Putre Commune, belonging to the Parinacota Province in the Arica and Parinacota Region. Zapahuira is located approximately 100 km from Arica, 32 km from Putre, 93 km from the Bolivian border, 34 km from Belen, and 2,120 km from Santiago. The Zapahuira site is very close to places of high pre-Hispanic value such as the Tambo de Zapahuira and the Pukar? de Copaquilla. This area belonged to and is currently inhabited by a population of the Aymara culture.

The Zapahuira River is located near the hamlet of Ancovilque and the city of Putre. The Zapahuira River belongs to the wetland ecosystem. According to the classification by Luebert & Pliscoff (2017), Zapahuira corresponds to the vegetation type called ?Andean tropical low scrub of *Fabiana ramulosa* and *Diplostephium meyenii?*. This is a dense thicket that is found on the western slopes of the foothills between 3,300 and 4,100 m.a.s.l., in which you can also find *Lophopappus tarapacanus* and *Baccharis boliviensis* that can reach more than 1 m in height. The Zapahuira River (2 km north of the Arica-Bolivia international road) has a bed of large, smooth stones 1 to 3 m wide. It corresponds to a land with little slope and pools of crystalline waters up to 1 m deep with little aquatic vegetation. *Polylepis tarapacana* and *Cortaderia speciosa* are abundant on the banks of the stream (Veloso et al., 1982). The AZE trigger species of this site are suspected to potentially also be found in nearby Belen and in the Salar de Ascotan site, and these sites will be included in monitoring to determine whether these species have a larger range than currently is confirmed.

The **Las Cascadas Loa River** AZE site protects a small stream outside of the city of Calama in northern Chile?s Atacama Desert. This site is the last known habitat for the AZE trigger species Loa water frog (*Telmatobius dankoi*). In 2019, a team including members of the Chilean Herpetological Association Network (RECH), a key project partner in the GEF-5 AZE project and in the proposed project, collected the 14 individuals from the site and transferred them to the National Zoo of Chile to start a conservation breeding program and 60 individuals have been transferred to Ojo Opache Town. Ideally, the frogs will be returned to the AZE site once it sufficiently restored to provide habitat for the frog. The Las Cascadas site is located 3 km south of Calama and 2.5 km from Ojo Opache Town, in the Loa Province in the Antofagasta Region.

The trigger species at this site occur in streams originating from the Loa River. Lobos et al., (2016) describe the system as a small watercourse with high speed due to the slope, with transparent water, shallow, narrow width, and high coverage of aquatic vegetation. The edges of the stream are covered by reeds (*Schoenoplectus pungens*). *T. dankoi* would use as shelter the aquatic vegetation and holes in the riverbed. According to the classification by Luebert & Pliscoff (2017) the vegetation floor corresponds to "low interior tropical desert scrub of *Adesmia atacamensis* and *Cistanthe salsoloides*", very open and extremely xeromorphic in which vegetation is generally associated with favorable microtopographic situations, where very little moisture is accumulated, and receives marginal influences from summer rains.

Close to this site is the tourist attraction Las Cascadas del R?o Loa, an area with pools formed in the Loa River and small waterfalls that has become one of the favorites to visit due to its proximity to the city of Calama. The commune of Calama is also made up of Indigenous communities of Quechua and Atacame?o origin.

The AZE site **R?o Vilama**, activated by the presence of *Telmatobius vilamensis,* is located near San Pedro de Atacama in northern Chile near the border with Bolivia. This species has not been observed since 2015. It is part of the Regional Priority Site Sector Volc?n Licancabur and is also included in the Zone of Tourist Interest (ZOIT) San Pedro de Atacama, one of the most touristic places in Chile. Rio Vilama is located 6.5 km NE of the city of San Pedro de Atacama, in the El Loa Province in the Antofagasta Region. It is located 100 km from the city of Calama.

The AZE trigger species at this site inhabits a semi-desert area with little vegetation (*Ephedra andina* and *Atriplex atacamensis*), located in the tropical marginal region (Di Castri 1968; In: Formas, Benavides & Cuevas 2003). According to the classification by Luebert & Pliscoff (2017), the vegetation floor corresponds to ?interior tropical desert scrub of *Atriplex atacamensis* and *Tessaria absinthioides*?. It is characterized as a tall and phreatophilic scrub, whose presence is associated with salt flats and is determined by the existence of a water table that provides enough moisture to compensate for the water deficit caused by the lack of rainfall. Occasionally thorny trees *Prosopis alba* and *Geoffroea* can be observed. This species tends to take refuge under lama (silt or soft mud) in areas of the stream with low torrent and medium depth.

The commune of Calama is characterized by having landscapes with great attractions and being visited throughout the year by both national and foreign tourists. Today, it has a mainly Indigenous population

of Atacame?o origin, however, a significant number of the population is made up of newcomers who have arrived from other regions of Chile and even the world and have decided to stay and live.

The AZE site **Murmuntani (Quebarda Amincha y Quebarada del Inca)**, triggered by *Telmatobius philippii*, is located north of Rio Vilama, also near the Bolivian border.

Quebrada Amincha y Quebrada del Inca is located 7 km from the commune of Ollag?e, 196 km from the city of Calama, El Loa province, Antofagasta Region. The commune of Ollag?e is located 413 km from Antofagasta and 1,732 km from Santiago.

T. philippii lives in backwaters of streams (2-3 m wide, 30 to 40 cm deep, and 8 to 10 ?C in temperature) with abundant vegetation (Ciperaceae). Algae of the genera Spirogyra (Clorophyta) and Chara (Charophyta) are found in the water. According to the classification by Luebert & Pliscoff (2017), it corresponds to the vegetation floor called ?Andean tropical low scrub of *Fabiana squamata* and *Festuca chrysophylla*?. This floor corresponds to a scrub with grasses, dominated by the bushes of *Fabiana squamata* and *Parastrephia quadrangularis* and the grasses *Festuca chrysophylla*, Jarava fr?gida, *Nasella nardoides* and *Anatherostipa venusta*.

The AZE site **Puquios** is the only known location of the CR *Telmatobius fronteriensis.* This small AZE site provides habitat for the frog up to 4,150 m.a.s.l. Puquios, 15 km northwest of the Ollag?e commune (on the border with Bolivia), belonging to the El Loa Province, in the Antofagasta Region. Ollag?e is located 198 km from Calama, 413 km from Antofagasta and 1,732 km from Santiago. There are no nearby towns or villages, only a church that is on the Bolivian side.

The trigger species *Telmatobius fronteriensis* was discovered in a small thermal pool without vegetation, with a water temperature of 22.9? C, and an ambient temperature of 9.8? C (December 1998). The locality is dry and is characterized by being a rocky area of ??substrate covered by "Yareta" (*Azorella compacta*), and low grasses and shrubs (*Festuca ortophylla, Stipa nardoides*) typical of the biogeographic province of Puna (Benavides, Ortiz & Formas, 2002). According to the classification by Luebert & Pliscoff (2017), Puquios corresponds to the vegetation floor called ?Andean tropical low scrub of *Mulinum crassifolium* and *Urbania pappigera*?.

The AZE site **Los Molles ? Pichidangui** is located 5 km from the border of the region with Valpara?so and 195 km from Santiago. The trigger cactus species *Eriosyce chilensis* grows from Pichidangui (31 ?

55 'S-71 ? 29'W) commune of Los Vilos in the Province of Choapa, Region of Coquimbo, to Punta Los Molles (32 ? 14'S-71 ? 31'W) (Hunt et al. 2006) La Ligua commune, Petorca Province, Valpara?so Region, Chile. Growth of the species is observed in coastal rock fissures between 10-100 meters above sea level.

The Los Molles-Pichidangui site is not within public or private protected areas. However, it is in the Los Molles-Pichidangui Priority Site. The priority sites do not correspond to protected areas as such but to zones in which the state will progressively implement forms of official protection in Chile.

The AZE site **Tocopilla** is located 158 km from the city of Calama, 189 km from Antofagasta and 1,530 km from Santiago. The trigger cactus species *Eryosice laui* has been observed south of the commune of Tocopilla, capital of the Province of Tocopilla, Antofagasta Region, 5 km inland from the coast, 400 meters above sea level (Luthy 1994). According to the vegetation classification of Gajardo (1994), this species would be found in the coastal desert of Tocopilla, in areas of morning mist, growing in rock fissures with the presence of *Eriosyce iquiquensis* and *Eulychnia iquiquensis* (HW).

The final AZE site included in this project, **Mehu?n** in the Valdivian rainforests of southern Chile, is activated by the presence of Miguel?s Ground Frog (*Eupsophus migueli*). Mehu?n is a town located on the coast of the commune of Mariquina, in the Province of Valdivia, Los R?os Region, Chile. It is located 26.7 km from San Jos? de Mariquina, about 70 kilometers northwest of Valdivia and 828 km from Santiago. This small site is located on land owned by Mapuche Communities north of the city of Valdivia. A strong baseline of conservation actions was initiated in the previous GEF AZE project that will significantly be scaled up in this proposed project.

The trigger species inhabits the understory of the native forests of the Cordillera de La Costa Valdiviana. They can be found in humid wooded areas, taking refuge during the day among rotten logs and rocks, while at night they can be seen walking on the litter. The vegetation with which it is associated is composed of *Aextoxicum punctatum*, *Amomyrtus luma, Eucryphia cordifolia* and *Gunnera tinctoria* (Rabanal and N??ez, 2012).

The Mehuin site is not within public or private protected areas. However, it is in the R?o Lingue Priority Site and the Curi?anco Priority Site. As mentioned above, priority sites do not correspond to protected areas as such but to zones in which the state will progressively implement forms of official protection and other forms of conservation. The Mehuin site has the Conservation Plan for the Alianza Cero Extinci?n Cordillera de la Costa de Mariquina Site. This plan was prepared in May 2018 and

contemplates a term of 5 years and includes as one of its objectives the conservation of the trigger species *Eupsophus migueli.*

AZE Sites in the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic boasts a diversity of ecosystems and habitats, which in turn are linked to high levels of biodiversity. Hispaniola Island has the second highest levels of floral diversity in the Caribbean, after Cuba. As not all taxa have been comprehensively surveyed, it is likely that real biodiversity levels could be even higher. The country is part of the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

The richness and uniqueness of the biodiversity of the Dominican Republic is well known. Four AZE sites have been identified to date in the country; two for amphibians, one for birds and one for cacti. It is clear, however, that as species data becomes increasingly available and as AZE sites for non-globally assessed species are increasingly evaluated for AZE status, other sites will qualify, particularly for plant species. Many endemic species are restricted to very small areas, and, unfortunately, threats to biodiversity are very serious.

The AZE site **Bayahibe**, one of the sites selected for this project, is in southeastern Dominican Republic. Its AZE status is activated by the presence of the cactus *Pereskia quisqueyana*. Known as the Rosa de Bayahibe, the flower of this cactus is the national flower of the Dominican Republic.

Bayahibe is a small town of about 3,000 inhabitants located in the province of La Altagracia, about 25 km from La Romana Higuey. It is a coastal fishing town which in recent years has been boosted by tourism. Inland, various ecosystems and terrestrial environments are represented in the area (broadleaf and riparian forests), aquatic (springs/caverns), coastal (mangroves / savannas brackish, rocky coast and sandy beaches) and marine (sea grasses and coral reefs), whose presence and extent varies according to its nature and degree of human influence. Between the eastern bank of the Chav?n River and the border of the Parque Nacional del Este, the area has been developed inland, with increasing roads and agricultural areas. The primary broadleaf forest is composed of three to four strata, with emergent trees that reach up to 18 m or more, but in general, the highest stratum does not exceed 12 to 15 m. There are patches of secondary broadleaf forest with remnants of the original vegetation in the Padre Nuestro region of the area. This forest in advanced regeneration is of short stature and presents the distinctive feature of the eastern coastal moist broadleaf forest to develop on limestone substrate with little organic matter, therefore, cacti species and other species with leathery and small leaves are abundant[4][4]. Up to 650 plant species have been observed in the Bayahibe Municipal District, with most studies being based on the neighboring Parque Nacional del Este where 7 species of amphibians,

26 of reptiles, 170 of birds, 300 of invertebrates and at least 3 freshwater fish species have been reported.

The second site in the project is the **Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuertes**, a national protected area designated as IUCN management category III. This biodiverse site in southwestern Dominican Republic in the Sierra de Bahoruco contains 25% of all species in the country, including 29 of the 31 endemic birds. The Monument holds the AZE amphibian species *Eleutherodactylus rufifemoralis* as well as other globally-threatened species.

The Padre Miguel Domingo Fuertes Natural Monument (Eastern Bahoruco) has an extension of 3,740 hectares, and is in the Province of Barahona, located in the southwest of the Dominican Republic. It occupies the territory of the Municipalities of Polo, Para?so and La Gu?zara, in the most Eastern Sierra de Bahoruco between the geographic coordinates 18? 05? 52? N and 18?08?45? N and 71? 15'10? W and 71? 08'40? W. The Lower Montane Forest occupies 46.6% of the park, and consists of mostly rugged terrain in the eastern part, covering the territory of the communities of Manuel Cruz, Payano, El Arroyo, Bahoruco and Guayabal, where the elevations range from 800 m to 2,200 m. Within the primary natural vegetation present in this life zone stands out the pine and broadleaf trees such as: *Juniperus gracilior*, *Podocarpus buchhii, Garrya fadyenii, Vaccinium cubense* and *Guazuma stormy* [5][5].

The Very Humid Lower Montane Forest occupies 43.31% of the park, where terrain of rugged topography of the mountainous system predominates, which is where the main tributaries of the area originate. This area covers territory of the communities of Tierra Blanca, La Gu?zara, and Las Auyama among others. Among the main indicator species for this area are *Garrya fadyenii, Weinmannia pinnata, Oreopanax capitatum, Brunellia comocladifolia* and *Didymopanax tremulum*. The most valuable species in the natural forest in this area are made up of pine and broadleaf species such as *Diospyros ebenaster* and *Pinus occidentalis*. On the other hand, the Humid Subtropical and Very Humid Subtropical Forests occupy 9.57% and 0.52% respectively. The humid subtropical forest is located on the slopes of the western part of the Monument where the communities of Bahoruco and Guayabal are found. In contrast, the area of ??very humid forest covers a small portion in the extreme southeast of the Monument where the community of Las Auyamas is located.

AZE Sites in Madagascar. Madagascar has been isolated from other land masses for 88 million years. It covers 587,000 km2, making it the world?s fourth largest island. Its long isolation, together with remarkable climatic variation, has led to its exceptional biological diversity and endemism in fauna and

flora unequalled by any comparably sized land mass. Endemicity reaches 98% or more in reptiles, amphibians and non-flying mammals, 80-90% in flora (which is also highly species-rich) and 50% in birds; moreover, very many (even most) species are endemic to parts (often very small parts such as single mountains or catchments) of the island.

Madagascar is divided into five Endemic Bird Areas (Western dry forest, Eastern rainforest, Southern spiny forest, Eastern wetlands, and Western wetlands) and 6 ecoregions (Madagascar Dry Forests, Madagascar Forests and Shrublands, Madagascar Freshwater, Madagascar Mangroves, Madagascar Spiny Thicket, West Madagascar Marine). Due to these characteristics, Madagascar has a very high number of AZE sites (53). Of these, 16 are triggered by amphibians, five by chameleons, one by conifers, 20 by mammals, one by reptiles, and 10 by multiple taxonomic groups. Madagascar has included the conservation of AZE sites in its NBSAP for 2015 - 2025[6][6].

Five sites have been selected for inclusion in the project in Madagascar: Itremo Massif Protected Area (IMPA), Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA, Mahavavy-Kinkony wetlands NPA, Bemanevika/ Tsaratanana massif and Ankafobe Forest. Three of the five AZE sites selected for this project, IMPA, Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA and the Mahavavy-Kinkony wetlands NPA, were also selected as CEPF Investment Priorities in Madagascar in the December 2014 Ecosystem Profile for the hotspot.

The **Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA** is in the central high plateau of Madagascar and is one of the last remaining fragments of the highland ecosystems. This NPA is an extinct volcanic mountainous region, managed by the national NGO Vondrona Ivon'ny Fampandrosoana Association (VIF). This site contains two AZE trigger species, Williams? Bright-eyed Frog (*Boophis williamsi*) and another locally endemic frog species (*Mantidactylus pauliani*), and an unconfirmed third candidate AZE trigger, the Marvelous Gecko (*Lygodactylus mirabilis*) is also present.

The Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA is in the district of Ambatolampy, Region of Vakinankaratra. The park contains features of social, religious, cultural and economic value including the "*doany*" or place of worship in Anosiarivo, natural forests, exotic forests, arboretums, a cold lake, a fish farm, the ladies' lake, a sacred waterfall, Mount Tsiafajavona at 2643 m altitude. The site provides ecosystem services including serving as the main water supply of surrounding municipalities, the city of Ambatolampy and industries. It is also an important water reservoir for the Vakinankaratra Region.

Key indicator species in the park include the two Critically Endangered (CR) AZE trigger species as well as the CR mountain gecko species *Lygodactylus mirabili*s, which inhabits savannas with rocks above 2,150 m altitude in Tambonana and Tsiafajavona. The site is also known to contain the CITES-listed gecko *Phelsuma barbouri* and the chameleons *Furcifer lateralis*, *Furcifer campani* and *Calumma hilleniusi*.

On flora, the Ankaratra massif is one of the high peaks of Madagascar considered to be an important center of endemism given the high percentage of endemic species, including orophilic flora. The vegetation of the Malagasy mountains presents indisputable physiognomic and biological characteristics linked to the altitudinal climatic characteristics. In the Ankaratra massif, there are several types of vegetation, including dense humid forest at 2400 m altitude in kalancho? and sclerophyllous forest at 2200m with an abundance of epiphytic species. Exotic reforested areas of coniferous forest, composed mainly of *Pinus* of different species and sometimes of *Cryptomeria* and *Acacia*, occupy about 1700 ha, or 20% of the Ankaratra massif. According to the last inventory of Missouri Botanical Garden (2005) in the Ankaratra massif, there are 141 species of plants distributed in 128 genera and 66 families that are most represented in these formations, including Rubiaceae (11 genera, 8 known and 6 unknown species), Lamiaceae (6 genera, 20 species), Asteraceae (6 genera, 5 known and 3 unknown species), Orchidaceae (6 genera, 3 known and 4 unknown species), Fabaceae (5 genera, 5 species), Euphorbiaceae (3 genera, 5 species), and Gentianaceae (3 genera, 3 species). Ferns are also well represented in the massif with 9 families, 13 genera, 5 known species and 9 unknown species.

The Itremo Massif Protected Area is also located on the Central Highlands of Madagascar and is another one of the remaining fragments of the highland ecosystems. This area is high in biodiversity, especially for amphibians and plants, and also is the source of several main rivers that supply water for domestic and agricultural use. IMPA, a protected area since 2012, is a rocky massif with humid gallery forests, savannah grasslands and moorland habitats. The site covers 100,110 ha and contains the AZE trigger conifer *Podocarpus capuronii*.

The Itremo Massif Protected Area is in the central highlands of Madagascar, 381 km south of Antananarivo, at S 20?23? to S 20?37? and longitude 46? 19? to 46? 34?, in the Amoron'i Mania region, District of Ambatofinandrahana. It borders three communes: Itremo, Amborompotsy and Mangataboahangy.

The IMPA is an ecosystem containing several major types of vegetation: "*tapia* woodland" (4 778 Ha), humid forest of medium altitude (765 ha), vegetation on inselberg (9 127 ha), wooded savannahs (10 624 ha), and swamps (82 ha). Among these vegetation types, the *tapia* woodland is under-represented

in the current network of protected areas. However, the presence of this distinctive type of vegetation in the PA justifies its great importance. The *tapia* woods in Itremo are almost entirely undisturbed and can be considered the best example of this type of vegetation in Madagascar. The ridges and summits of the Massif present rock formations with stunted vegetation and succulent plants. Despite its small area, the region is considered the richest of the genus *Aloe* (at least 16 species) in the world (Castillon & Castillon, 2010). The IMPA is a Central Highlands biodiversity hotspot with an estimated 800 plant species (10% locally endemic) across grasslands, woodlands, rocky outcrops, and humid gallery forests. This NPA is managed by Kew in collaboration with 8 local communities. It has IUCN protected area category V. The PA serves as the watershed for the Amoron?i Mania Region and feed rivers flowing to the dry west coast.

Compared to other areas on the Malagasy Central Highlands Plateaux, the Itremo Massif has the richest species of flora. The site is home to species belonging to two endemic families, Asteropeiaceae (three species) and Sarcolaenaceae (4 genera and 8 species). In 2020, a total of 16 species were documented as being locally endemic from the Itremo Massif.

The **Mahavavy-Kinkony Wetlands NPA** covers 275,900 ha of a wide diversity of ecosystems, including lakes, mangroves, coastal beaches, gallery forests, dry forests, and savannahs. The national NGO Asity Madagascar manages the site, which has two confirmed AZE species, Ahmanson?s Sportive Lemur (*Lepilemur ahmansonorum*) and the fish *Paretroplus dambabe*. This site is currently included in a GEF-6 project, *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Northwestern Landscape (Boeny region).*

Mahavavy Kinkony Complex (MKC) is in the Boeny Region, within the Mitsinjo district. The complex is located between the geographic coordinates 15?57' and 16?15' South latitude and 45?27' and 46?10' East longitude. It is bordered to the North by the District of Mahajanga, to the South by the District of Ambato-Boeny, to the East by the District of Marovoay and to the West by the District of Soalala1. It is 700km far from Antananarivo.

The MKC includes the Mahavavy River delta, extensive mangrove, dry forests, wetlands, and the vast Lake Kinkony. The most important ecosystems are the forest and wetland ecosystems. MKC is an IBA as well as a KBA. It includes the Ramsar site Lac Kinkony. The MKC is particularly known for its aviary richness, and especially for aquatic birds. It has the totality (100%) of the threatened bird species occurring in the west biome of Madagascar. Among these species are the Madagascar Fish-eagle (*Haliaaetus vociferoides*), the Black-banded Plover (*Charadrius thoracius*), the Sakalava Rail (*Amaurornis olivieri*) and the Madagascar Teal (*Anas bernieri*). Threatened lemurs in the MKC include Crowned (*Propithecus coronatus*) and (*Propithecus deckeni*) Decken's sifakas, Mmongoose Lemur (*Eulemur mongoz*), and Red Lemur (*Eulemur rufus*). Mahavavy Kinkony has also threatened reptiles,

such as *Erymnochelys madagascariensis* (CR) and fishes such as *Paretroplus dambabe* (EN) and *Paretroplus kieneri* (VU), and bats such as *Triaenops furculus* (VU), *Myzopoda aurita* (VU) and *Pteropus rufus* (VU).

The **Bemanevika/Tsaratanana Massif**, a Ramsar site since 2017, contains lakes, marshes, rainforests, and grasslands in Northwestern Madagascar. The variety of wetlands at the site maintain water regimes in the area and provide habitat for many species, including the AZE trigger species Margot Marsh's Mouse Lemur (*Microcebus margotmarshae*) and Madagascar Pochard (*Aythya innotata*).

The Bemanevika NPA is in the far north of the Central Highlands of Madagascar and is part of the Northern Highlands Ecoregion. It sits straddling the two rural municipalities of Antananivo-Haut and Beandrarezona, in the Bealanana District, Sofia Region. It is located 520 km north of Antananarivo and is accessible by road from Antsohihy via Bealanana. The site is located approximately 40 km northwest of the town of Bealanana. Access is by 4x4 all-terrain vehicle except during the rainy season from November to April during which the site is almost isolated. A landing strip, about 6 km northwest of the town of Bealanana exists for light aircraft, but it is not maintained. The area is characterized by a great topographical heterogeneity with an altitude varying from 510 m to 2,100 m. About 95% of the area is between 700 m and 1,800 m altitude. The highest points are formed mainly by the peaks of Antongoaniaombihely, Ambongohambana, Anjavidimena, Ambatokalanoro and Andongonambo. It is a complex of ecosystems made up of blocks and fragments of forests, with a large area of grassy savannas, marshes and swamps, lakes, rivers, and streams.

The importance of this site has been observed since the partial biological inventory and the socio-economic study carried out in December 2007 and January 2008. Indeed, the site is a refuge for many endangered endemic species such as the red owl, the serpent eagle, the Madagascan harrier, seven species of lemurs, and chameleons such as *Calumma hafahafa*. The flagship species of the Bemanevika NPA are the Madagascar Pochard (*Aythya innotata),* the Malagasy Harrier (*Circus macrosceles*), the Bizarre-nosed Chameleon (*Calumma hafahafa*), and the frog *Scaphiophryne boribory.*

The **Ankafobe Forest** has been under temporary protection since 2018. Located 135 km NW of Antananarivo, this site is one of the last remaining areas of highland forest. In addition to the AZE trigger species, the CR *sohisika* tree (*Schizolaena tampoketsana*) (CR), this site is home to the VU Goodman?s Mouse Lemur (*Microcebus lehilahytsara*) and the VU Red Stinkwood tree (*Prunus africana*). Ankafobe is a tiny strip of native forest growing near the headwaters of a highland stream. Water-loving *Pandanus* trees demarcate the stream bed and provide fruits for several lemur species, with the Souimanga Sunbird (*Cinnyris soyimanga*) being a common sight. The site is bordered by highly flammable grassland. Between clumps of grass is baked, orange laterite ? rock hard soil

bereft of life and nutrients. Ankafobe is a rare gem; a green emerald that stands out from the surrounding countryside.

Socio-Economic Context

Colombia

The local economy in areas surrounding Chingaza National Park has always been based on the commercialization of livestock and wild fauna meat, traditional and new crops such as flowers, rice, strawberries, beans, mojarra, cachama, poultry, and pig farms. Brick factories and some mining companies are also active in the area. Since 2013, agriculture and livestock have become fundamental to economic development. However, ecotourism has been strengthened as an economic alternative. The population near Chingaza Park consists of subsistence farmers, and socially it has its own forms of organization and cultural patterns that differentiate the farmers from those from other regions of the country. Although at present there are no groups of Indigenous communities within the territory of Chingaza, the relationship that the Muisca civilization had with paramos like Chingaza more than 10,000 years ago is of great relevance, as lagoons, rock shelters, mountains, and especially water represented ceremonial centers and sacred sites of worship and respect. Recent studies indicate that in the Muisca language, the region could have been Chim-gua-za, which means "Mountains of the God of Night".

The Munchique National Park has been inhabited by farmer communities since before its creation as a protected area. Colonization occurred in the 1950s and 1960s in the townships of Playa Rica and La Gallera. The property characterization of the park shows that there are 110 subsistence farming families that live or have plots within the park in the village of La Gallera. The census of the Playarica township has not yet been updated, but the presence of around 300 families is estimated. Bordering the park in its northwestern area is the collective territory of the Play?n de Sigu? Community Council, constituted by Resolution 1645 of October 2004, and made up of five communities: El Bajo, Cabecitas, Gualal?, Santa Cruz and El Play?n. The northeastern part of the park is bordered by the Honduras reservation and is ??influenced by the Chimborazo and Agua Negra reservations, home of the Nasa People.

Coffee production is the primary economic activity in the Paraguas - Farallones corridor, while sugar cane is the predominant crop at the lower elevations. Tourism and fisheries are also important economic activities in the corridor. The origin of the population in the Farallones National Park that today makes up the Kwes'x Kiwe Nasa Indigenous Council of Alto de La Mona is related to the origin myth of the Nasa people, in which their ancestors are Uma (woman who weaves life) and Tay (man who builds life). The main ethnic group present in the area is the black ethnic group in the villages of El Placer, La Cascada, El Cauchal, Monos, Danubio, Bajo Anchicay? and Ladrilleros-Bellavista. In the

rest of the park, mestizos predominate and there are some Indigenous Peoples in the highest part of La Mona.

Chile

The communities that currently inhabit Zapahuira are the Aymara, however, pre-Hispanic vestiges remain, which according to research were of high importance for the Incas. Nearby (5.6 km from Zapahuira) is the Tambo de Zapahuira archaeological complex (on kilometer 20 of the international highway to Bolivia). It was built in the 16th century as the Inca Empire expanded to the South. Near the Tambo are two rectangular adobe towers called chullpas, which served a funerary purpose, as well as corrals in a circular and rectangular shape. These ruins were declared a National Monument in 1983 due to their representation of Incan-influenced architecture. The Pukar? de Copaquilla, located 5.5 km from Tambo de Zapahuira, is an archaeological complex in the commune of Putre at about 3,000 meters above sea level. This place in Quechua means "ash-colored dust" and was built during the 12th century for defensive purposes. In 1983, it was declared a National Historic Monument.

Currently there are 15 houses in the town of Zapahuira, some of them abandoned or in ruins. The existing population is dedicated to agriculture, growing products such as oregano and potato chu?o. Inhabitants belong to the Aymara ethnic group and there is a low population density at the site. The commune of Putre has a population of 2,765 inhabitants, of which 711 are women and 2,054 are men; 9.04% of the population corresponds to children under 15 years of age (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE); 78.6% of the population lacks basic services and 23.5% live in crowded homes (Integrated Social Information System with Territorial Disaggregation (SIIS-T), MDS. 2017).

The Cascadas del R?o Loa site is not specifically a tourist attraction; however, it is close to a place called Cascadas del R?o Loa that is a popular destination for both local populations and tourists due to its pools, waterfalls, and attractive rock formations. It is one of several tourist attractions near the city of Calama, which has 165,731 inhabitants, 79,682 of whom are women and 86,049 are men. Of the total inhabitants, 36,923 are children under 15 years of age, comprising 22.28% of the population (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE). In total, 11.35% is be Atacame?a, 4.52% is Quechua, 3.08% is Aymara, 2.77% is Mapuche and 2.15% is Diaguita (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE). Almost one-fifth (19.8%) of the population lives without basic services and 23.3% reside in crowded living conditions (Integrated Social Information System with Territorial Disaggregation (SIIS-T), MDS. 2017).

At the Rio Vilama AZE site, the most important economic activity is tourism. San Pedro de Atacama is one of the archaeological capitals of Chile and it has become an increasingly important tourist

destination in recent years. In its surroundings there are innumerable Atacame?o archaeological sites, such as Pucar? de Quitor, Aldea de Tulor and Zapar. The city center has an urban and architectural layout with a clear Spanish colonial influence. San Pedro de Atacama has a population of 10,996 inhabitants, of which 4,835 are women and 6,161 are men. In total, 16.36% of the population are children under 15 years of age (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE). Regarding declared native peoples, 37.95% of the population identifies as Atacame?a / Likanantay, 4.95% as Quechua, 3.18% as Mapuche and 3.13% as Aymara (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE). Over half (56.8%) of the population lives without basic services and 24.7% are in overcrowded homes (Integrated Social Information System with Territorial Disaggregation (SIIS-T), MDS. 2017).

At the Puquios site, there is only one Indigenous person who lives in the area and who practices subsistence agriculture. Lobos et al., (2018) comment that a pond was built to accumulate water at the head of the stream in Puquios. It is possible that the water rights belong to a mining company, which is one of the largest copper mines in Chile and the second-largest producer in the world, Compa??a Collahuasi, which is located 20 km northwest of the site where this species is found.

The commune of Ollag?e has a population of 321 inhabitants, of which 114 are women and 207 men. Of the total population, 18.07% are children under 14 years of age (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE). Regarding Indigenous communities, 57.64% identify Quechua, 4.78% as Aimara, 2.23% as Atacame?o and 1.59% as Diaguita and Mapuche (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE). Almost half (44.5%) of the population lives without basic services and 22.9% in overcrowded households (Integrated Social Information System with Territorial Disaggregation (SIIS-T), MDS. 2017).

At the Mehuin site, with support from the GEF5 AZE project the communities developed in a participatory manner a conservation plan for the site, which recognizes the Lafkenche culture and cultural traditions as part of the conservation objects. On the coastal edge of the site, the main economic activity focuses on the collection of species of commercial interest, such as the loco, piure, hedgehog, cholga, mussel, luche, cochayuyo, pelillo, luga and snails. In the area there are several Benthic Resource Management Areas (AMERB). In addition, artisanal fishing is practiced, which is the second most economically important activity in the region, after forestry. Another existing activity in the area is home gardens, which correspond mainly to small areas per property, with various fruit and vegetable species destined for family consumption and in some cases for local sale. There is also an incipient livestock market that sells lambs and cattle on a very small scale. Additionally, there are other economic activities in the territory related to the production, collection, and sale of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), such as edible mushrooms, murta, hazelnut, pil pil boqui, foliage, and medicinal herbs. Tourism is beginning to be developed in the area, particularly in the Villa Nahuel sector and on the beaches of Mehu?n and Maiquillahue (Prog. Ecoregi?n de Los Lagos Sustentable, 2004).

Approximately 1,900 people live in the area. Of these, 15.3% are in the Mehu?n - Mississippi area (urban), while 84.7% are rural and live in the towns of Playa Cheuque, Villa Nahuel, Piutril, Yeco, Quesquech?n, Tringlo, Alepu?, Maiquillahue, Epuco, Panguineo, Chan Chan, Quillalhue, Pelluco, Llenehue and Pichicuy?n (Of. T?cnico de Borde costero, 2009). The town of Mehuin has a population of 951 inhabitants, of which 491 are women and 460 are men (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE). The town of Mariquina has 21,278 inhabitants, of which 10,671 are women and 10,607 are men. Of the total population, 23.5% are children under 15 years of age (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE.). In all, 41.06% of the population self-identify as Mapuche. About one-third (35.7%) of the population lacks basic services and 19.7% live in crowded homes (Integrated Social Information System with Territorial Disaggregation (SIIS-T), MDS. 2017).

Table 2. Summary Baseline Status of Trigger Species at 20 AZE Project Sites

Country	AZE Site	Area (Hectares)	Key Species	Baseline Status		
				Declining	Threatened	Stable
Chile	Puquios-Ollagüe	900	*Telmatobius fronteriensis*	X		
	Las Cascadas Loa River	753	*Telmatobius dankoi*	X		
	Mehuin 1	11,122	*Eupsophus migueli*	X		
	Murmuntani	17,355	*Telmatobius philippii*	X		
	Los Molles - Pichidangui coastal area	36,098	*Eriosyce chilensis*	X		
	Río Vilama	36,579	*Telmatobius vilamensis*	X		
	Tocopilla coastal hills	12,401	*Eriosyce laui*	X		
	Zapahuira	11,626	*Telmatobius pefauri*	X		
			Telmatobius zapahuirensis	X		
Colombia	Farallones – Paraguas Corridor:			X		
	▪ Farallones de Cali	191,589	*Atelopus pictiventris*			
	▪ Enclave Seco del Río Dagua	7,549	*Stenocereus humilis*			
	Munchique Natural National Park and southern extension	73,291	*Atelopus famelicus*	X		
	Páramo Urrao / Colibrí del Sol Bird Reserve	30,446	*Atelopus nicefori*	X		
			Grallaria fenwickorum	X		
	Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza and surroundings	84,763	*Antelopus lozanoi*	X		
			Antelopus muisca	X		
Dominican Republic	Bayahibe	11,814	*Pereskia quisqueyana*	X		
	Padre Domingo Fuertes Natural Monument	3,740	*Eleutherodactylus rufifemoralis*	X		
Madagascar	Ankafobe	123	*Schizolaena tampoketsana*	X		
	Itremo	114,796	*Podocarpus capuronii*		X	
	Mahavavy - Kinkony wetlands NPA	300,428	*Lepilemur ahmansonorum*	X		
			Paretroplus dambabe	X		
	Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA	3,005	*Boophis williamsi*	X		
			Mantidactylus pauliani	X		
	Bemanevika / Tsaratanana massif	106,336	*Microcebus margotmarshae*	X		
			Aythya innotata			X
TOTAL	**20**	**1,054,714**		**23**	**1**	**1**

The Molles-Pichindangui site is much visited for its scenic appeal and by photography lovers. There is a great threat from cactus gatherers and permanent real estate construction. Despite being a priority site for the conservation of biodiversity, it is in a very easily accessible and recognizable site, which increases its vulnerability. There are options with communities of Los Molles to increase ecotourism in this area and inquire into protection instruments.

Los Molles is in the commune of La Ligua, which has 35,390 inhabitants, of which 18,050 are women and 17,340 are men. One-fifth (20.2%) of the population corresponds to children under 15 years of age (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE.), 15.3% lack basic services and 13.7% live in crowded

homes. Los Molles itself has a population of 93 inhabitants, of which 49 are women and 44 are men (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE).

Pichidangui is in the commune of Los Vilos, which has a population of 21,382 inhabitants, of which 10,321 are women and 11,061 are men. One-fifth (20.95%) of the population are children under 15 years of age, 15.9% of the lack basic services and 13.6% live in crowded homes (Integrated Social Information System with Territorial Disaggregation (SIIS-T), MDS. 2017). Pichidangui has a population of 1,380 inhabitants, of which 675 are women and 705 are men (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE). In all, 4.19% of the population is Mapuche, 0.68% Diaguita, 0.46% Quechua and 0.41% Aymara (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE).

The Tocopilla site is close to projects associated with mining and nitrate operations, which can be a threat to species. Other activities related in general to the mining sector are also developed in the area. The most important thermoelectric plant is in Tocopilla, supplying important sectors of the north of Chile. Tocopilla city has a population of 25,186, of which 12,705 are women and 12,481 are men. Of the total population, 23.95% are children under 15 years of age (Population and Housing Census 2017, INE). In total, 3.58% of the population are Mapuche, 1.74% Aymara, 0.48% Quechua and 0.27 Atacame?o. In all, 14.2% of the population lacks basic services and 15.6% live in crowded homes (Integrated Social Information System with Territorial Disaggregation (SIIS-T), MDS. 2017).

Dominican Republic

The economy of the Municipal District Bayahibe was traditionally based on fishing and to lesser extent agriculture. In recent years the territory has become a tourist destination. Increased hotel capacity has led to more tourists, and a range of large, medium and small companies focused on serving the growing tourist population have been developed, including businesses focused on information services, travel, accommodation, food, land and sea transport, excursions, and entertainment. Many fishermen now work as tourist guides and in sport fishing. In a period of about 20 years, the number of fishermen fell from hundreds to a dozen, while the number of hotel rooms went from zero to 3,194 rooms.

In 2010, the total population for the province of Altagracia was 21,967, of which 12,094 were males and 9,873 females, while in Bayahibe there was a total of 2,260 people, 1,239 of which were men and 1,021 women. In the province, a total of 3,342 people had not attended school at all, of which 2,157 were males and 1,185 were females; 6,014 males and 4,800 females had received only a primary school level education. The illiteracy rate in the population over 15 years of age was 12.9% in 2010 and the

illiteracy rate in the young population between 15 and 24 years of age was 6.9%. The Gender Parity Index between the illiteracy rate of women and men between 15 and 24 years old in 2010 was 65.1[7][7].

The Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuertes is located between the Municipalities of Polo, Para?so and the District Municipalities of La Ci?naga, Bahoruco and La Gu?zara, in the province of Barahona. Eight communities have a direct impact on the protected area, including Cachote, Cortico de Polo, Cortico de Para?so, La Lanza, Cuacho, La Pendula, Quince, Guindadero and Aut?. The population of the municipalities and municipal districts that affect the protected area is 29,945 people, of which 16,766 are male and 13,170 are female.

In the communities located on the periphery of the protected area, the following productive activities are carried out: short-cycle agriculture, coffee production, livestock production, tourism, mining, and small businesses. The activities carried out within the protected area by the residents are ecotourism, coffee production, short-cycle agriculture, and livestock production.

Madagascar

The region of the Itremo Massif Protected Area is populated by subsistence farmers dependent on zebu farming and silk production from *tapia* woodlands for income. Staple crops are meager, diets are poor and food security is uncertain in this degraded landscape. Artisanal mining is also a secondary source of income, as the area is rich in crystal and tourmaline. The population surrounding the park are dominantly from the Betsileo ethnic group (80%), as well as the Bara (18%) and Merina (2%) ethnic groups. The area has a population density of 8 inhabitants/ km2. It is a young population with 61.9% of all people under 18 years old and is 54% women and 46% men.

At the Bemanevika/Tsaratanana Massif**,** the closest town to the protected area is Bealanana, which is the district capital. There are also six rural municipalities (Antananivo-Haut, Beandrarezona, Bealanana, Ambararata-Nord, Mangindrano, Marotolana) and 24 Fokontanies (capitals of villages and hamlets).

The economy of the inhabitants in the rural municipalities of Antananivo-Haut and Beandrarezona focuses on traditional agricultural and pastoral activities, particularly coffee and beef production. In addition, economic and subsistence activities include the collection of forest products such as honey and wild yam, the hunting of tenrecs and lemurs for subsistence purposes, and logging by selective cutting of valuable timber. The park provides water for rice cultivation in the Ankizina plain, which contains more than 10,000 ha of paddy fields; for the Amberivery Pico hydropower plant of 75 kW;

and ecosystem services by regulating the climate. Ecotourism is of emerging importance to communities surrounding the park, although it is still in an early development stage. The population directly linked to the park is 42,539.

The school enrollment rate is around 43.6% across the region for students aged 6 to 10. Beyond this age, a significant drop in the number of children in school is observed (9.3%). Health coverage remains limited and the difficulty of accessing health centers is particularly felt in rural areas where 35% of the population lives more than 10 km from a health center. The use of health services remains low; only 31.2% of the population make outpatient consultations in basic health centers. In addition, health coverage of the population decreased with the closure of certain health centers from 2008 to 2012.

The nearest town to the Mahavavy-Kinkony Wetland Complex (MKC) is Mitsinjo. Mahajanga is 100 km from Mitsinjo. To reach Mitsinjo from Mahajanga a ferry crossing in Bombetoka Bay is necessary (Mahajanga-Katsepy). The mix of existing ecosystems in one location provides a range of economic opportunities for the surrounding population and investors. The MKC thus possesses economic potential in the agricultural, fishing, ecotourism, mining, and petroleum sectors. This mix of environmental and economic interests requires very effective coordination to ensure sustainable development in the region. Economic activities of the population in the Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex are characterized by a strong dependence on existing natural resources. Agriculture does not use any modern methods. Similarly, livestock breeding does not use pens or feed for cattle. The cattle are released freely into the wild to feed. Most of the population lives near lakes and the sea, where subsistence fishing is common.

The population of Mitsinjo numbers approximately 135,552 with an annual migration rate of 2.5%. It is composed peoples in the Sakalava ethnic group of Marambitsy (19%) and migrants from groups including Betsirebaka (32%), Tsimihety (12%), Betsileo (9%), Merina (2%) and Antandroy (26%). In Boeny Region, there is a balance of male and female residents (100) in the rural area. In the Boeny Region, the literacy rate in rural areas is 71%. There is an educational imbalance between men and women, with 75% of men and 67% of women educated. In rural areas, the incidence of poverty reaches 69.9% compared to less than 50% in urban areas.

Policy & Institutional Context

The overarching policy context for the project in the participating countries resides in their commitment to the CBD, and thus the extent to which the AZE concept has been integrated into national CBD reports, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, as well as other national policies and plans, including Protected Areas Management Plans, site conservation plans and the System of National Protected Areas. Overall, the AZE concept has not yet gained widespread integration in project countries at the policy level.

Out of the 20 AZE sites, nine have some form of protection, two are partially protected and nine are unprotected. Twelve of the sites have had management plans, of which two are still current.

Three countries (Chile, Colombia and Madagascar) have current NBSAPs, while the NBSAP of the Dominican Republic expired in 2020. All four of these NBSAPs have objectives and targets or goals related to the following areas, which are relevant to the objectives of the current project:

- National communication campaigns and awareness-raising for the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Integration of biodiversity in sector plans, programs and policies
- Sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- Elimination of negative and introduction of positive economic incentives for conservation
- Restoration of ecosystems
- Relevance of natural ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaption
- Expansion and effective management of protected areas.

The only NBSAP that explicitly mentions AZE sites is that of Madagascar. In Chile?s NPBSAP, there is a mention of ?Up-dating and identifying priority sites from areas of high ecological value and their ecosystem services to target and implement actions of effective protection, restoration and sustainable management.? The Madagascar NBSAP is the only one that mentions the importance of protecting endemic species, while the Colombian NBSAP does not mention species conservation as a separate objective or goal.

Another element of policy context lies in the increased global recognition of the role that nature plays in upscaling climate action. Through various international processes such as UNFCCC and the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration, countries have made commitments to promote and implement nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Studies have shown that nature-based solutions can provide over 30% of the climate mitigation action needed by 2030, as well as supporting climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Chile, Dominican Republic and Colombia already explicitly refer to ecosystem-based adaptation measures in their National Adaptation Plans, while Madagascar?s NAP highlights the need to enhance synergies with other international environmental Conventions ? such as the CBD and UNCCCD ? as one of the main criteria to select priority adaptation measures. Chile, Dominican Republic and Colombia also submitted an updated National Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC in 2020. While Chile and the Dominican Republic acknowledge the value of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based measures for adaptation, Colombia explicitly acknowledges the value of nature-based solutions in both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Additionally, Colombia, Chile and Madagascar also have REDD+ Strategies.

To summarize, the following activities and goals included in-country partners? climate plans are deeply relevant to the objectives of the project:

- Incorporate ecosystem-based approaches in climate adaptation plans, biodiversity, and sustainable development policies.

- Implement ecosystem-based adaptation measures for mangroves, seagrass, and other coastal ecosystems.

- Address the drivers of deforestation, de-vegetation, degradation of forests and other vegetation resources, as well as those barriers that prevent or interfere negatively in implementing activities on restoration, conservation, sustainable management, enrichment, and regeneration of vegetation resources.

- Develop and implement Payment for Environmental Services (PES) and ecotourism activities.

A brief description of the project-relevant enabling policy and institutional framework per country is presented below and is further strengthened in Section 7: ?*Consistency with National Priorities*?.

Chile

In 2010, Chile amended its Environmental Law (1994) which has enabled the country to achieve notable success in recent years with respect to institutional strengthening and designing and implementing policies, plans and programs for the environment and biodiversity within the context of sustainable development. Chile?s National Plan for Climate Change Adaptation consists of 9 sectoral plans, one of which relates specifically to biodiversity. The Plan for Biodiversity is based on sustainable management and ecosystem conservation and restoration, through measures aimed at reducing anthropogenic and bioclimatic stresses and increasing capacity in the fields of research, monitoring, information, and training. Additionally, regulations have been prepared and are currently being formalized for developing plans for the recovery, conservation, and management of classified wild species. Plans have been proposed for the Chilean Woodstar (XV Region), Peruvian Tern (XV Region, I Region, II Region), Ruddy-headed Goose (XII Region), Darwin's Fox (VIII Region, IX Region, XIV Region, X Region), Pink-footed Shearwater (V Region, VIII Region) and Short-tailed Chinchilla (XV Region, I Region, II Region, III Region).

Several institutions are directly and indirectly involved in biodiversity policy and in managing protected areas. The Ministry of Environment (MMA) oversees national biodiversity policy, while two separate institutions manage protected areas: the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) under the Ministry of Agriculture, in charge of most terrestrial protected areas; and the National Fishing and Aquaculture Service (SERNAPESCA), responsible for marine protected areas. The Environmental Superintendence (SMA) and its regional offices enforce environmental laws, including in protected areas.

The establishment of the Council of Ministers for Sustainability in 2010 provided a tool for policy coordination and improving mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations in policymaking. Several inter-institutional and multi-stakeholders committees co-ordinate specific biodiversity-related policy aspects. This includes the classification of species by conservation status, invasive exotic species control and national protected areas. Nevertheless, this fragmentation of roles creates significant governance and coordination challenges. With each organization focused on its individual mandate, it is difficult to develop a coherent, integrated biodiversity policy that addresses trade-offs and synergies with water management, urban and infrastructure development, and sectoral policies.

The proposed Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP) will address biodiversity-related governance challenges and complete reform of environmental institutions. This is in line with the recommendation of the 2005 OECD/ECLAC Environmental Performance Review to review institutional and legislative arrangements for the management of nature and biodiversity. This proposed institutional reform aims to reduce institutional fragmentation; improve the coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of biodiversity policy; increase participation of the private sector and the public in policy development and implementation; and, ultimately, to help achieve the country?s international commitments. The bill for the proposed reform is working its way through Chile?s legislative process,

with the aim of creating the SBAP as soon as possible. It foresees the creation of an integrated National Protected Areas System (SNAP), which would comprise official marine and terrestrial protected areas and private protected areas.

Being one of fastest-growing economies in Latin America, the finance sector plays a key role in supporting sustainable development in Chile, with significant infrastructure development and project investment expected in the country in the coming decades. Public financing institutions will be fundamental for this process and foremost among these are key regional IFIs, such as the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB), Banco de Desarrollo de Am?rica Latina (CAF), World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC). In addition, at a national level Banco del Estado de Chile and CORFO (Corporaci?n de Fomento de la Producci?n) are prominent, both with somewhat limited environmental and social (E&S) policies.

Colombia

The objective of Colombia?s National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNACC) is to reduce risk and the socio?economic and ecosystem impacts associated with variability and climate change. In order to attain these goals, the national government aims to provide a series of methodological inputs to guide sectors and territories to: (a) generate a better understanding of the potential risks and actual impacts, which includes an economic assessment; (b) seize the opportunities associated with change and climate variability; (c) incorporate climate risk management in the planning of sector and territorial development; and (d) identify, prioritize, implement, evaluate and monitor adaptation measures to reduce vulnerability and exposure of socio?economic systems to climatic events.

The National Policy for Integrated Management of Biodiversity and its Ecosystems Services (PGIBSE), from 2014, aims to promote the comprehensive management of biodiversity and its ecosystem services, to maintain and improve the resilience of socio?ecological systems, at national, regional, local, and transboundary scales, considering scenarios of change and through the coordinated and concerted action of the State, the productive sector and civil society. The PNGIBSE frames and orients conceptually and strategically all the other environmental management instruments (policies, norms, plans, programs, and projects) and constitutes a basis for inter?sectoral coordination.

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) is the governing entity managing the environment and renewable natural resources, responsible for guiding and regulating the

environmental planning and defining the policies and the regulations related to restoration, conservation, protection, planning, management, use and sustainable exploitation of renewable natural resources and environment of the country. The Ministry promotes the development of eight sectors of the country, decoupling the growth of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the national economic growth through the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy ECDBC. MADS also assists in the formulation of the sector and territorial plans for adaptation to climate change as a strategy to reduce the risk of climate impacts on populations and Colombian ecosystems, and with a view to conducting activities on Emission Reduction by Deforestation and Degradation of Forests, through the National Strategy REDD+. Likewise, the Ministry leads biodiversity policy and regulation and its monitoring and assessment, and the proposed policies associated with the priority restoration and conservation in areas of greatest environmental relevance.

Associated with MADS is the National Natural Parks of Colombia (PPN). The PPN is a national Special Administrative Unit without juridical personality but with administrative and financial autonomy and jurisdiction in all the national territory according to the terms of Article 67 Law 489 of 1998. The entity oversees the administration and management of the Systems of National Natural Parks and of the coordination of the National System of Protected Areas. The Regional Autonomous Corporations (CAR) are the environmental authorities at the regional level, and serve an important role in management at the sub-national level.

The mission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) is to formulate, coordinate and evaluate policies that promote the competitive, equitable and sustainable development of the agricultural, fishery and rural development processes through decentralization, coordination, and participation criteria, which contribute to improving the level and quality of life of the Colombian population. It is the responsibility of the MADR to design incentives and programs for rural development that can progressively begin to address the goals of reduced deforestation and low?emission development and specific intervention policies at the territorial scale. Regarding special environmental protection zones, such as biodiversity sanctuaries, natural and regional parks, forest reserves, and protected areas, it is the MADR?s responsibility to regularize, control, and monitor the agricultural activities that take place or likely will take place (when it is permitted) in these areas, in coordination with the environmental authorities.

According to Article 298 of the Constitution, the departments have autonomy for the administration of sectional matters and planning and promotion of economic and social development within its territory. Departments exercise actions on administration, coordination, the complementarity of municipal action, intermediation between the national government and municipalities and the provision of services determined by the Constitution and laws. The departmental governments administer directly, and coordinate actions related to the management and promotion of comprehensive development of its territory, in accordance with the Constitution and laws. The departmental governments shall issue

special provisions relating to the environment; give technical, financial, and administrative budgetary support to existing environmental authorities in their territory; coordinate and direct the environmental control and monitoring activities between municipalities supported by the security forces in connection with the mobilization, utilization, and commercialization of renewable natural resources; among others.

As it appears in Article 311 of the Constitution, "Municipalities as fundamental entities of the political-administrative division of the State are responsible for providing public services specified by law, build the works required by local progress, order the development of its territory, promote community participation, social and cultural improvement of its people and fulfil other functions assigned by the Constitution and laws.

In the case of Indigenous territories, councils created and regulated according to the customs of their communities shall exercise the functions related to the application of legal rules on land use and settlement of their territories, receive and distribute resources, policy and plans and programs of economic and social development, promote public investments in their territories and ensure its proper implementation, among others (Art. 330 Political Constitution of Colombia). The Indigenous territorial entities have the same functions and duties defined for municipalities environmental matters (Act 99 of 1993.).

Public and private investment is on the rise in Colombia, in part due to the need for infrastructure and other development sectors in the country, that is limiting economic growth potential. A number of development banks support national financing and asset portfolios, with somewhat varied E&S safeguards. In addition to regional IFIs mentioned previously, these include BANCOLEX (business development), Financiera del Desarrollo (FDN) (infrastructure), Financiera De Desarrollo Territorial S.A. (Findeter) (regional infrastructure) and Fondo para el Financiamiento del Sector Agropecuario (FINAGRO) (agriculture/rural sector). It is understood FINAGRO is supporting agro-environmental banking approaches under its products.

Dominican Republic

The General Law on Environmental and Natural Resources was adopted in 2000 and is the primary instrument for promoting biodiversity mainstreaming in other sectors, including the conduct of environmental impact assessments. The ?Estrategia Nacional de Conservaci?n y Uso Sostenible de la Biodiversidad y Plan de Acci?n (2011-2020)? constitutes the country?s first NBSAP. Aligned with the global framework, 20 national targets have been developed for the short, medium, and long terms, as have milestones and indicators. The Ecosystem Approach is promoted in planning processes. The

mission of the NBSAP is to ?apply effective measures to conserve and stop the loss of biodiversity to ensure by 2020 that ecosystem services contribute to the well-being of Dominicans and the reduction of poverty?. Of relevance to this proposed project are ?Strategic objective C: Improve the situation of biological diversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity? and ?Strategic objective D. Increase the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services for all?.

The National Development Strategy (2010-2030) and the NBSAP (2011-2020) are mutually supportive. In parallel with the preparation of the NBSAP, the National Red List of Threatened Species of Flora and Fauna and the National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species were also prepared, and the Endemic and Native Seeds Bank established. The revised Sectoral Law on Protected Areas establishes a policy on the co-management of protected areas, as well as revised regulations for establishing private protected areas. The National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) has been strengthened through the implementation of SINAP?s Master Plan (2010-2030) and the establishment of an Endowment Fund for Protected Areas. A process has also been initiated to prepare a Financial Sustainability Plan for SINAP as well as to train persons in the production of business plans.

A National Biodiversity Committee has been established by Presidential decree. In addition to measures previously outlined which aim to strengthen the National System for Protected Areas (SINAP), guidelines have been developed for establishing a National System for Biodiversity Monitoring. The Ministry of Environment is the primary agency responsible for the environment and protected areas.

In the Dominican Republic, Banco de Reservas de la Rep?blica Dominicana and Banco Agr?cola de la Rep?blica Dominicana (BAGRICOLA) are the most prominent public financing bodies (in addition to global/regional IFIs) supporting socio-economic development in the country.

Madagascar

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) is the key institution responsible for the creation and management of protected areas. Other associated institutions include the National Office for the Environment (ONE) mandated by the Malagasy State for the implementation of procedures relating to the environmental impacts; Commission of the Madagascar System of Protected Areas headed by the General Directorate of Environment Governance (DGGE); the Natural Resources Governance Committee which functions at the regional or inter-municipal level; and the Superior Council for the Protection of Nature (CSPN).

Madagascar ratified the Conservation of Biological Diversity (CBD) through Decree No. 95-695 of 03 November 1995, as well as most of the major international environmental conventions including the Algiers Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural, the International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the World Heritage Convention, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the Climate Change Convention. Of note is that Madagascar?s protected areas system is currently based on the direct application of the Algiers Convention of 1968.

Madagascar?s principal national law and policy on the environment is the National Charter for Environment (Law 90-033) which lays down basic environmental principles and promulgates the national environmental action plan (NEAP) and its three successive five-year phases (EP1, EP2, and EP3). The AZE concept has already been integrated into Madagascar?s CBD reports and NBSAP. The next steps are to integrate the concept in all national documents, including Regional Development Plans (PRD) and Communal Development Plans (PCD).

A host of other institutions including Civil Society Organizations and academia will have crucial roles to play in project implementation and success, as defined below in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. In terms of finance, the African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank and IFC are the key development banks in the country. At a national level, there are other commercial financial institutions, such as Acc?sBanque Madagascar (ABM), that provide funds for development activities.

Threats / Root Causes

The key root causes of threats to many of the AZE sites and the species within them are habitat loss caused by small-scale deforestation (further linked to agriculture, logging and other causes) and the presence of invasive species. The exploitation of ecosystems around protected areas further contributes to the threats to these sites. AZE trigger species, which often have tiny global ranges, are especially vulnerable to such external threats.

Chile has high levels of endemism and many microendemic species, several of which face multiple threats due mainly to land use changes, the presence of invasive species and pollution. Other threats to biodiversity in Chile include urban expansion, deforestation, mining impacts and other causes of habitat loss. To address these concerns, the country developed a National Biodiversity Strategy for 2017-2030, which includes action plans for protected areas, wetland conservation, the conservation of

native species and the management of invasive species. More specifically, the five AZE sites triggered by species in the *Telmatobius* genus in northern Chile share common threats of water extraction from streams for agricultural and human use and for mining operations, as well as contamination of water caused by mining activities. Illegal harvesting is the main threat to the AZE species *Eriosyce laui* at Tocopilla and *Eriosyce chilensis* at Los Molles ? Pichidangui; however, mining is a potential additional threat at the Tocopilla AZE site while urban development and the sale of land for vacation homes in the area is a secondary threat to Los Molles ? Pichidangui. In southern Chile, the AZE site Mehuin confronts habitat loss, the introduction of invasive animals and exotic trees (plantations), trampling produced by livestock, emerging diseases, riparian forest degradation and forest fires.

The underlying drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems in Colombia include increasing social inequality and the more than five decades of internal armed conflict, both of which have resulted in the displacement of the rural poor into marginal lands; redirection of the economy towards the production of primary commodities (e.g., mining and agriculture); conflicting policies regarding access to and titling of land; coca cultivation; and implementation of extensive livestock and agricultural production models. Biodiversity and ecosystem integrity have been heavily impacted by human settlement and production activities and by both legal and illegal use and extraction of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources. Deforestation and biological invasions are primary causes of biodiversity loss. The trend in urban development is forming large urban agglomerations (such as in Bogota and the axis of the Cauca Valley) with the consequent transformation of the territory, mainly in the Andean region, where 77.4% of the population lives. These dynamics also generate pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Habitat loss is a primary threat to AZE sites. Agricultural expansion is the main cause of this habitat loss. Other threats include diseases (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* fungus), pollution from agrochemicals, fire, logging, and climate change. At the Farallones de Cali AZE site, habitat loss due to cattle grazing and agriculture, as well as illegal mining, are the main threats. Similarly, the primary threat to the Munchique AZE site is habitat loss caused by an advancing agricultural and ranching frontier. Deforestation for ranching, unregulated tourism, and avocado cultivation are the primary threats to the AZE site P?ramo Urrao / De Las Aves Colibri El Sol. Threats to the AZE site Chingaza include agricultural activities, such as cattle grazing. Climate change, due to temperature and rainfall variations, is also a threat to this and other sites. Threats to Enclave Seco del R?o Dagua include extensive cattle ranching on steep slopes; agriculture, including pineapple plantations; forest fires; the extraction of native flora, particularly cacti and orchids, and logging.

Dominican Republic's biodiversity is under threat from several sources, including mining, infrastructure development, agriculture, forestry, fuelwood production, and forest fires. The underlying causes of this biodiversity loss are population growth, poverty and existing inequality, land tenancy issues, and fiscal and development policies, among others. Bayahibe faces degradation due to livestock farming and ranching, logging and wood harvesting, and housing development. The Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuerte is threatened by agricultural expansion, livestock grazing, illegal

logging and firewood harvesting, and the artisanal mining of larimar, a stone used in jewelry found in the north of the site.

In Madagascar the main threats to biodiversity are deforestation, forest degradation and fragmentation, shrinking of lakes and marshes and fragmentation of streams, change in the marine environment, hunting for local consumption, trafficking of animals and plant species, invasive alien species, agricultural fires, biodiversity erosion, and more recently, the impacts of COVID-19. The direct causes of threats are agricultural expansion, erosion, and sedimentation, wildfires, invasive species, climate change, industrial development, and overexploitation. Coupled to these are indirect causes such as poverty, habitat and customs, governance gaps, lack of safeguards, unsustainable production, and consumption modes, diseases, and lack of regulatory mechanisms. Habitat loss and degradation due to ongoing agricultural practices, combined with unsustainable fishing methods, are the main threats facing the Mahavavy-Kinkony Wetland Complex, while swidden (so-called ?slash-and-burn?) agriculture in the rice-producing region degrades the Bemanevika / Tsaratanana massif. Itremo faces threats from deforestation, firewood harvesting, fire and livestock grazing and the Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA is threatened by crop field extension, annual burning (wildfire), overgrazing, and by illegal logging for charcoal production and for construction. The endemic species of Ankafobe are threatened by the loss of their habitat, mainly caused by fires and wood harvesting. Wildfire kills and/or prevents the growth of juvenile *Schizolaena* plants from reaching maturity, thus causing a gradual decrease in the numbers of individuals. In addition, the fauna species (lemurs, bats and birds) that disperse the seeds of this species are also threatened by fires.

Long-term Solution and Barriers

The long-term solution sought by the project is to improve the conservation of AZE sites and reduce pressures from direct and indirect drivers by mainstreaming AZE site conservation into diverse sectors and broader initiatives at different scales. However, the following barriers are preventing this solution.

Barrier 1 - Limited efforts in conservation of AZE sites and trigger species. The primary barrier to achieving this component is a lack of implementation of participatory conservation action to reduce the key threats at each site. Gaps in data availability to inform conservation action are also a barrier in some project countries. Eight of the 20 project sites are currently completely unprotected with limited conservation actions. At these eight sites, comprehensive monitoring data on the AZE trigger species to provide information to direct conservation plan development is lacking. Specific conservation actions, including the establishment of protected areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), need to be tailored to the conditions at each of these sites. At the twelve sites with full or partial protection, there is insufficiently targeted conservation of the AZE trigger species, including for

example actions to reduce invasive species impacts. Efforts to reduce the main threats to these AZE sites, including agricultural expansion and uncontrolled fires, are inadequate. Finally, there is a lack of emphasis on long-term sustainability through collaboration with local communities of different kinds, government, civil society groups and other partners at all sites. There is limited involvement of the full range of stakeholders, including local and regional actors, women, and Indigenous Peoples, in determining and implementing conservation measures. Furthermore, since AZE sites and their species are influenced by the surrounding landscape, the lack of a connection and integration between broader sustainable development efforts and AZE site conservation is part of this barrier. AZE site conservation cannot be successful in a vacuum, but rather must be situated and integrated into larger sustainable development initiatives, such as reforestation and watershed conservation.

Barrier 2 - Insufficient knowledge of AZE among sectors, particularly the private sector, finance sector and some governments, and limited tools to mainstream AZE site conservation into diverse sectors across scales. There are inadequate efforts to mainstream AZE site conservation into the policies and actions of key sectors, including industry, financial institutions, global and disaggregated targets of the CBD and the United Nation?s Sustainable Development Goals, and climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. While necessary advances were made during the GEF-5 AZE project, including mainstreaming of AZE into World Bank, IFC and Equator Principle standards, additional progress in mainstreaming AZE into local, sub-national, national and regional banks and investors is needed, as are efforts to integrate AZE into a broader range of sectors. Such mainstreaming is key to the long-term conservation of AZE sites. In this regard, and except for the Madagascar Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025 which clearly identifies the protection of AZE sites, there is no specific reference to AZE sites in national development strategies, action plans, sector development plans, protected area management plans, or policies in the project countries. This very visible deficiency in the policy enabling framework for AZE site protection must be addressed as a matter of priority if AZE trigger species are to be protected.

Key global and regional financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC) refer to AZE sites in the safeguard policies (e.g., World Bank's Guidance Note Environmental and Social Standards 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources and IFC Performance Standard 6 on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources). The new environmental and social safeguard policy of the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) makes reference to Key Biodiversity Areas as a type of Critical Habitat. Nevertheless, other state regional banks (e.g., IDB, CAF, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and African Development Bank (AfDB)) as well as national banks and investors are often lacking in this formal reference and awareness and therefore acknowledgement of the importance of AZE safeguarding. Furthermore, there is also a gap between policy and practice i.e., whether, to what extent and how such safeguarding standards are implemented in practice. Similarly, the majority of private companies operating in and around these AZE sites do not have the awareness or tools (e.g., IBAT) accessible to enable appropriate screening, safeguarding or investment in biodiversity, and to prevent impacts and understand their dependencies on nature.

In terms of environmental funds, where multi-scale conservation financing is accessible in project countries, for example the Network of Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Funds (RedLAC) or CAF? (the Consortium of African Funds for the Environment), these are not specifically targeted towards AZE sites and there is a need to build awareness of AZE sites within these funding mechanisms.

Specific barriers to mainstreaming AZE site conservation in climate change mitigation and adaptation actions include a lack of awareness and information gaps in the climate change impacts to AZE sites as well as the benefits that AZE sites conservation can provide to climate mitigation, adaptation, and buffering of natural hazards. As climate change is projected to become the largest driver of biodiversity loss in the second half of this century, integrating biodiversity and particularly sites with fragile status into adaptation strategies is of crucial importance but remains limited. Within the climate change context at the country partners? level, AZE sites management is not explicitly mentioned in current REDD+ policies, national adaptation plans and NDCs.

Barrier 3 - Limited knowledge products to enhance understanding of and interest in AZE site conservation across sectors and scales. While much data was generated in the GEF-5 project, we are now at a phase when data and knowledge on AZE sites must be communicated and promoted to a variety of stakeholders across scales to encourage them to use this knowledge. Without the resources of the proposed project, the project team will not be able to develop such strategies nor build the capacity necessary for these strategies to be sufficiently disseminated. Although the GEF-5 AZE project increased the number of AZE sites identified and documented around the world, this is still only a partial list. As the KBA Standard is applied systematically to an increasing range of taxonomic groups in more and more countries, it is expected that the number of confirmed AZE sites will grow further. The knowledge about and capacity to implement AZE site conservation by local, sub-national, national, regional, and global stakeholders is still insufficient. Information and buy-in at the local, sub-national, national, regional, and global levels on the conservation of AZE sites are also still inadequate. While much progress has been made in recent years, it has mainly been at global and national levels. Awareness of AZE site conservation remains lacking at local, sub-national and regional levels. While at the national level 31 countries now include AZE in their NBSAPs and national reports, most countries still do not explicitly pledge to protect these critical sites for threatened endemic species conservation. There are not platforms or mechanisms for sharing experiences, lessons learned and good practice examples at the sub-national, regional and global level by groups working to conserve AZE sites.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

In the absence of the proposed project and its additional funding, it is expected that some progress in the conservation, management and mainstreaming of AZE sites will continue, but at a much slower rate. In Chile and Madagascar, efforts initiated at selected AZE sites during the GEF-5 AZE project would continue to be implemented using existing funding streams. However, in the absence of new funding, protection, and targeted conservation measures, these and other AZE sites could experience increased pressure resulting in habitat loss or degradation, which in turn could lead to further population declines with potentially irreversible effects, including species extinction. While such pressures are not unique to AZE sites, the scale of the consequences of habitat loss and degradation at AZE sites is likely to be much more severe given the fragile status of these sites and the AZE trigger species within them. Coupled with this are the evolving socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 which are yet to be quantified and which may result in additional pressure on AZE sites.

Safeguard mechanisms and policies of international and regional financial institutions that have integrated AZE sites will continue to provide protection to these sites if fully implemented. However, and as stated above, the lack of specific reference to AZE sites in national development strategies, action plans, sector development plans, protected area management plans, and policies is a major bottleneck to achieving AZE site and trigger species protection. Additionally, many financial institutions, particularly at the national and regional level, still lack such safeguards and can continue providing funding for projects that pose a threat to unprotected (and sometimes even protected) AZE sites. Similarly, there is a lack of awareness of national and local industry stakeholders. In the absence of strong, coordinated efforts from international and national actors, mainstreaming of AZE sites is expected to be ad-hoc rather than systematic and strategic. NBSAPs already including a reference to AZE sites will continue to be implemented, depending on government funding, NGO capacity and local stakeholder involvement. Mainstreaming of AZE sites into national and international policies not directly relevant to biodiversity conservation (e.g., land use planning, climate change adaptation) is, however, unlikely in the absence of dedicated, sustained efforts of civil society experts working in close collaboration with government agencies.

There are several KBA National Coordination Groups being established, mostly in Africa, whose efforts are expected to include training on the identification of KBAs for a wide range of biodiversity elements. However, understanding of the KBA identification process, which includes AZE site identification, is limited in the focus countries of this project. Therefore, it is expected that the identification of KBAs and more specifically new AZE sites would proceed slowly. The World Database of KBAs, the KBA Website and the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) database will continue to hold information on AZE sites as a sub-set of KBAs. Nevertheless, the continued development and maintenance of these key infrastructures is unlikely without further efforts. Without adequate platforms, the sharing of information and best practices on AZE site identification, documentation, conservation, management, and safeguards is expected to be low, preventing other countries from benefitting from lessons learned in the focus countries.

Donor-funded Baseline

The Regional GEF-5 Project ?Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE): Conserving Earth?s Most Irreplaceable Sites for Endangered Biodiversity? (total budget at project?s end USD 5,734,177). The project used an ecosystem approach at local, national and international scales, developing local management plans for protected areas and community conserved areas, supporting the development of national AZE strategies and integration into national conservation and development plans, and at the global level influencing the updating of standards and guidelines as well as developing tools to ensure development funded by international financial institutions (IFIs) safeguards AZE sites and the wider ecosystems in which they are located. The project incorporated adaptive management to deal with the dynamic nature of ecosystems and the lack of full understanding of their functioning, and integrated single-species conservation programs and participatory conservation planning to determine and implement strategies to safeguard AZE trigger species at the sites, at the same time as demonstrating the value of the sites for the provision of ecosystem services to local people.

Colombia: The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) implements the project ?*Designating marine protected areas*? to designate and sustainably manage protected areas for marine and coastal biodiversity, with funding from the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ). The total budget of the project is $5,456,875 for the period 2019 ? 2023. The project?s approach is to enshrine protected areas that are to be designated and expanded in a marine development plan. The national park authority, local environmental authorities and local communities are therefore supported in developing integrated management plans. The plans allow the local population to use resources sustainably and take wider economic interests into account.

The Instituto de Investigaci?n de Recursos Biol?gicos Alexander von Humboldt, a research institute of the Government of Colombia, is implementing with many partners a project on *Preserving, Restoring and Managing Colombian Biodiversity Through Responsible Innovation*, funded by UK Research and Innovation. The total budget of the project is $6,912,347 for the period 2017 ? December 2021.

The Government of Colombia, with funding support from USAID, implements a *Natural Wealth* project to protect priority ecosystems and species, develop financial incentives for conservation and advance land-use planning and management to reduce threats to biodiversity. The total budget of the project is $38,989,581 for the period 2017 ? 2022.

This project *?Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Ci?naga Grande de Santa Marta (GEF Project ID 10567)*? may provide some baseline and coordination opportunities, in areas dealing with

approaches and methodologies to improve capacities of the public and private institutions governing and managing biological and hydrological assets, and in experiences and lessons learned for improving planning and management effectiveness of protected areas. The total budget of the project is $8,219,178 for the period 2020-2025.

The project, *?Paramos for Life (GEF Project ID 10361)?* may also provide relevant lessons learned, particularly for paramo management for the Chingaza and P?ramo Urrao/De Las Aves Colibri El Sol sites.

Mainstreaming lessons, collaboration and exchange of experiences may be pursued with the project ?*Contributing to the integrated management of biodiversity in the Pacific Region of Colombia to build peace (GEF Project ID 9441)*?, that is focused on mainstreaming the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services that support human welfare and vulnerable landscapes of Colombia?s Pacific region in view of generating global and local environmental benefits and supporting the peace process. The total budget of the project is $7,562,558 for the period 2019 ? 2024.

Dominican Republic: The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and SOH Conservaci?n are implementing a project to conserve ecosystems in the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park and the Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuerte. The total budget of the project is $154,000 for the period 2019 ? 2020.

The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources implement a project to increase the adaptability of ecosystems in biosphere reserves in border regions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with funding from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ). The total budget of the project is $4,350,420 for the period 2014 ? 2022.

Likewise, the GEF-7 AZE project will be aligned to the project *Strengthening the Biological Corridor in the Caribbean* implemented by the Secretariat of the Biological Corridor with Headquarters in DR-UNEP-Panama/ORPALC-Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The project is funded by the European Union for $4,116,070 and will run from July 2017 to 2021.

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund is financing a $200,000 project with Fondo Marena to restore and conduct environmental education related to the Flor de Bayahibe, one of the focal AZE trigger species in this project.

The project *?Mainstreaming Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Productive Landscapes in Threatened Forested Mountainous Areas (GEF ID: 9424)?*, which seeks to mainstream the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in public policies and practices to effectively buffer current and future threats across productive mountain landscapes, will provide important baselines for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in buffer zones of protected areas. The total budget of the project is $8,176,165 for the period 2016 ? 2022. The ?Proyecto para la conservaci?n, educaci?n y reconocimiento de la Pereskia Quisqueyana, Rosa de Bayahibe, Flor Nacional Rep?blica Dominicana? of Fondo Marena, financed by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, also has complementary objectives to this proposed project, and with which close coordination will be ensured.

Madagascar: NPAs benefit from support from the Madagascar Biodiversity Fund (Fondation pour les Aires Prot?g?es et la Biodiversit? de Madagascar, or FAPBM). FAPBM was created through an initiative of the Malagasy government, with initial support from Conservation International and WWF. It funds more than 40 protected areas with a capital of $75 million. NPA promoters are NGOs that are currently delegated as managers of NPAs. The capital of FAPBM is placed on the financial market, from which income is generated, and potential market recession because of the COVID-19 pandemic may have a negative effect on the NPA funding and sustainability.

A $19,000 CEPF project to help develop an effective management plan for Itremo, *Map Plant Diversity, Land Use and Fire History for Effective Management of Itremo and Ambatofinandrahana Biodiversity*, was completed in early 2020 by the Royal Botanic Gardens and will provide important lessons learned that will be carefully studied by the project to improve project implementation efficiency.

In addition to the recurrent support by the Fondation pour les Aires Prot?g?es et la Biodiversit? de Madagascar, at the Itremo Massif Protected Area (IMPA), there are two more projects that are complementary to this proposed project to be initiated shortly. Project 1: Mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Itremo NAP and Ambatofinadrahana KBA to be funded by CEPF/Tany Meva. The objective is to give local communities the means to conserve biodiversity and sustainably manage natural resources as response to the pandemic. The anticipated duration will be 12 months from May 2021 to May 2022 with a

budget of 57,447 USD. Local partners will include the IMPA survey committee (COS), the Directorate of the Ministry of Environment (DREDD), and the NGO Ny Tanintsika. Project 2: Native grass forage management to feed people and protect forests, funded by Darwin Initiative. The objective is to support the CBD by contributing to the conservation of native and endemic grasses and their sustainable use as forage, through the development of grazing systems to maximize rangeland biodiversity. The project will be planned for three years from April 2020 with a budget of ? 70,000. At IMPA, local partners will be involved, such as COS and COGE, DREDD, MAEP. Project 3: Developing a sustainable landscape management model for community-led forest conservation, carbon storage, and livelihoods enhancement across Madagascar's protected area network. This a consortium project of 9 protected areas including Itremo for ensuring the protection of threatened biodiversity, improving the wellbeing of communities within the surrounding landscape, acting as long-term carbon storage, mitigating effects of climate change and providing a model for the rest of Madagascar?s PA network. It is a six years project with a budget of nine millions pounds. The NGOs participating in the project will work closely with MEDD, DREDD, COS, COGE, and local communities.

At the Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA, an EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered) Fellow has been working since 2017 to increase knowledge of the distribution, abundance and gene flow of both Madagascar frog and William?s bright-eyed frog and to promote conservation actions by local communities. This project focuses on population monitoring, gene flow characterization, and raising awareness in local communities about assisting conservation. A $160,000 CEPF project, *Preserving the Endangered Species of Manjakatompo Ankaratra, Madagascar, through Supporting Community-Based Ecosystem Management,* concluded in 2020 and focused on supporting local community-based organizations in engaging in the protection of the forest through monitoring of endangered species and reforestation activities while also developing alternative livelihood options.

There are several activities contributing to the baseline at the Bemanevika/Tsaratanana massif. The project *Strengthening the national network of new protected areas (GEF ID:5351)*, with the objective of a strengthened network of PAs in Madagascar that provides enhanced protection and better representation of key ecosystems and delivers economic and environmental benefits to local communities. The project has a budget of US$3,905,265 and duration from 2017 ? 2022.

Work by the Peregrine Fund on the conservation of the Madagascar Pochard is already occurring at Bemanevika. A 5-year project (2018-2022), with investments in 2019 of US$124,000 and US$161,000 in 2020, is being implemented at three sites: the Bemanevika, Tsimembo Manambolomaty and Mandrozo protected areas. The Peregrine Fund is also working on the Malagasy pond heron (*Ardeola idae*) in three protected areas complexes: Tsimembo Manambolomaty, AP Mandrozo and AP Bemanevika. Investment in this latter case totalled US$226,000 in 2020.

The Project *Conservation of key, endemic, threatened and economically valuable species (GEF ID:5352*), sought to develop, implement, and disseminate local strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of 20 globally significant flora and one globally significant fauna species. The project

focused at promoting the conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity based on the ?species approach?, complementing the currently dominant trend based on the ?ecosystem approach?, through the development, implementation, and dissemination of participatory local strategies for key endemic, threatened and economically important species. The budget was $5,650,000 with an implementation period of 2016 ? 2021.

SOS Lemurs supported the project *Strengthen the conservation of Tsimembo Manambolomaty and Mandrozod lemurs in western Madagascar, Melaky Region* over the period 2017-2020, with a budget of US$
104,000. SOS Lemurs also supports the project *Strengthen the safeguard of endangered lemur species in the New Protected Areas Bemanevika and Mahimborondro in Bealanana*, during the period 2019-2021, with a budget of US$ 160,000.

Two projects are currently supporting conservation at Ankafobe. The Nature Fund supports efforts by the Sohisika Association to improve agricultural techniques by adopting dynamic agroforestry (DAF) reconciling traditional agriculture with the restoration of degraded landscapes. The project has two objectives: to support pilot farmers in the practice of the DAF approach and to improve the capacity of the pilot farmers to manage harvests and revenue. This project has a duration of 3 years (with the possibility of extension), and a budget for 2021 in the amount of $12,597.

The FRANKLINIA Project by the Missouri Botanical Garden supports a project to conduct ecological restoration and propagate rare species. The objectives of the project are to establish an inventory of rare species and propagation of seedlings of native plants for forest restoration and the reinforcement of rare species. This project has a duration of 3 years and a budget of US$5,000 per year.

A $6.8 million 5-year GEF-6 project approved in 2019, *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Northwestern Landscape (Boeny region),* will contribute over $1 million to strengthen the management and sustainable financing of five protected areas, including the Mahavavy-Kinkony Wetland Complex.

Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar (2017 ? 2026) is a $53.5 million Green Climate Fund medium-sized project being implemented by Conservation International (CI) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The project aims to demonstrate a replicable model for addressing smallholder vulnerability that mobilizes both the public and private sector. The project will achieve this by improving resilience to climate change in vulnerable local populations; avoiding/limiting deforestation of natural forests and other habitats for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services; improving or protecting the ecosystem services of natural habitats; strengthening communication management capacity, the management of protected areas and the maintenance of ecosystem services;

and working to reduce soil erosion and improve soil structure and fertility through sustainable agricultural practices.

Government-funded Baseline

Chile: In in April 2020, the Regional Government of Antofagasta approved a USD$290,000 project, "Diagnosis and conservation of amphibians of the Antofagasta region.? This project will focus on species in the *Telmatobius* genus and will run from 2021-2023. This project will strengthen the proposed project and will make possible greater conservation gains for the selected AZE project sites. Since the end of the GEF 5 AZE project in Chile, at Mehuin AZE site, a total of 8.1 ha of *Eupsophus migueli* habitat has been fenced off to safeguard the species, and local communities have successfully garnered support from local authorities, including the regional offices of the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Public Works, and from the Municipality of Mariquina, to continue the project. In addition, the Ministry of Environment is implementing an environmental education program and a conservation plan for the endemic amphibians of Mehuin, together with a public-private committee. The total budget of the project is $20,000 for the period 2020 ? 2023. This strong baseline will provide support for continued and expanded conservation at the Mehuin AZE site.

Madagascar: At Itremo NPA, there is a project by the General Directorate for the Environment, Madagascar Biodiversity Fund (FAPBM), to improve site conservation. The project ?*Support for the protection and sustainable management of the natural resources of the NAP of the Massif d'Itremo*? is renewed annually. The objective is the sustainable use and rational management of natural resources in the NAP of the Massif d'Itremo for the well-being of local based communities. The annual budget is $197,432.

3) The proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area[8][8] strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

Intervention Logic ? Theory of Change

As illustrated in Annex A2, this GEF-7 AZE proposal builds on and expands the baseline provided by the GEF-5 AZE project, *Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE): Conserving Earth's Most Irreplaceable Sites for Endangered Biodiversity*. Under that project, AZE sites have been identified and mapped globally for a wide range of taxonomic groups, providing a blueprint for future conservation actions directed at these sites; mainstreaming of AZE sites is evidenced by 31 countries now including AZE in their NBSAPs and other CBD reports and financial institutions, including the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Equator Principles and The World Bank, incorporating AZE site protection into their safeguard policies. AZE sites have joined UNESCO Natural and Mixed World Heritage Sites as the *only* sites designated as the most critical of Critical Habitat by the IFC. At the five demonstrations AZE sites, success has been achieved through protected area creation and improved management with the input and participation of local communities and Indigenous groups.

The intervention logic of the project is guided by the ?drivers?, ?assumptions?, and ?logical pathways? needed to achieve the ultimate impact of the project: **To improve the conservation of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites,** and consequently delivering on the global environmental benefits anticipated. The key drivers are those activities and processes that the project can potentially and directly sponsor (inputs), in support of project outputs and outcomes, while the assumptions are those conditions and circumstances that are necessary to achieve the desired project results but are outside the control of the project. The logical or impact pathways are the set of steps, consisting of activities, processes and assumptions that collectively will deliver the desired project objective (see full illustration in the Results Framework in Annex A).

The project?s proposed interventions/activities (drivers) build on the baseline conditions which already exist, and which were described above as achieved by the GEF-5 AZE project and seek to drive those additional steps and processes required to achieve further incremental results. The project will address enhanced management of 20 AZE sites while protecting 25 trigger species over 1 million hectares; will improve or restore essential ecosystem services, identify, and develop nature-based livelihood measures for financial sustainability, secure the mainstreaming of AZE into the policies of global, regional and national financial institutions, and the generation and dissemination of targeted knowledge on opportunities for AZE site mainstreaming sub-nationally, nationally, regionally, and globally.

The project?s intervention logic also capitalizes on the enabling environment provided by the commitments of the Governments of Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Madagascar with respect to various international conventions and agreements, the main one being the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Primary *drivers* include:

? Support for the development and strengthening of conservation plans; achievement of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM); the integration of local communities and various civil society actors into conservation planning processes; opportunities for long-term financial sustainability of AZE site conservation including commitments by private sector entities; and the development of nature-based livelihood options such as ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), and REDD+ projects.

? Provision of awareness building and technical services to sub-national, national, regional, and global lending institutions and investors for mainstreaming of AZE site conservation; support to countries to include AZE in their national policies, regulations and projects; assistance to businesses for strengthening AZE integration into industry policies, standards, and projects; and mainstreaming of AZE site conservation into climate mitigation and adaptation actions at the landscape and national scale.

? Support capacity development in pilot countries for the application of KBA standards; documentation, and dissemination of existing and new AZE sites; collaboration across focus countries and sectors; development of capacity on monitoring and managing AZE sites at local, sub-national, national, and global levels; and broad communication of the AZE concept.

The project?s key *assumptions* are:

a) **Outputs to Outcomes:** Private sector and community organizations fully embrace the project?s objectives and effectively participate.

? Indigenous Peoples support the project?s interventions.

? The private sector understands and appreciates the benefits of integrating AZE site conservation into their business model.

b) **Outcomes to the Intermediate States:** The project can deliver the results anticipated with visible metrics necessary to replicate and expand interventions.

? Private and Finance Sector is willing to take on time and cost implications in the short term to achieve a corporate cultural shift towards mainstreaming AZE site conservation in the day-to-day planning and operations of financial institutions and companies.

? Government institutions implement, enforce, and monitor policies and plans developed locally, sub-nationally and nationally.

? The COVID pandemic gradually decreases and does not pose a significant barrier to the implementation of the project activities over the project?s lifetime.

c) **The Intermediate States to Impact/GEBs:** Project?s sustainability strategy holds true to deliver Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs).

? Nature-based income-generating activities in and around AZE sites demonstrate financial feasibility in absorbing or significantly contributing to the management and monitoring of AZE sites

? Generation and dissemination of knowledge, experiences, and benefits of AZE site conservation is effective at the national, regional, and global levels resulting in increased AZE site conservation across the globe

The project?s *logical pathways* are summarized below:

Pathway 1: This logical pathway proposes that to address the limited efforts that exist in the conservation of AZE sites and trigger species, a series of targeted interventions are required which will collectively lead to improved protection of critically endangered and endangered species. Central to this pathway is the development and implementation of site conservation plans, the exploration of legal protection and other effective area-based conservation measures, the full integration of communities and gender-based participation in planning processes, effective private sector engagement, and the identification of financial sustainability options for AZE site management and monitoring. This logical pathway assumes that Indigenous Peoples (in countries where applicable) will not boycott the project?s interventions and that the private sector will understand and appreciate the benefits of integrating AZE site conservation into their business models.

Pathway 2: This pathway advocates that a multi-prong approach is required to be able to mainstream AZE site conservation across public and private institutions at different scales and that both sectors are equally important and necessary to enhance biodiversity conservation and reduce threats to AZE sites

and trigger species. This pathway adopts a knowledge and tools-based approach to empower and enable public and private institutions to integrate AZE site conservation, and specifically seeks to support lending institutions, businesses, processes for national policies and regulations, and mainstreaming of AZE site conservation into climate mitigation and adaptation actions and climate resilience strategies at national and global levels.

Pathway 3: This pathway proposes that the knowledge and experiences developed under pathways 1 and 2, coupled to targeted capacity development, can be instrumental in advancing KBA standards and enhancing understanding and interest in AZE sites across all sectors and scales, while also demonstrating the linkages between the processes advocated across all three pathways. This pathway will systematize Knowledge Management and capacity for the application of the KBA Standards, documentation of existing and new AZE sites, knowledge of site-based conservation, collaboration across focus countries and sectors, and communication strategies to advocate for AZE site protection and management at the local, sub-national, national, regional, and global scale.

Project Objective

To improve the conservation of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.

Components ? Outcomes ? Outputs

Component 1. Improvement of the conservation status of 20 AZE sites and associated AZE trigger species in focus countries:

The updated map of AZE sites completed in the GEF-5 project provides a blueprint for national-level conservation planning aimed at AZE site conservation. A total of twenty AZE sites have been selected to receive different forms of project support in this regard. Critical to the persistence of successful AZE site conservation, and the prevention of loss of AZE trigger species within those sites, is the integration of site-level conservation with broader sustainable development goals. Such integration, which could use an ecosystem approach tailored to the goals of each project country, may include safeguarding and enhancing natural habitat through sustainable management, reforestation, watershed protection, climate change adaptation and resilience, and other sustainability initiatives and adaptive strategies developed for AZE sites, including those particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Although AZE sites are the primary focus of this project, it is important not to separate them from those areas with which

they relate at a landscape level and in a broad territorial context, and which most likely have pressures and require restoration and rehabilitation. Rather than being viewed as "islands," which in the medium and sometimes even in the short term compromises their existence, AZE sites must be viewed in a broader context. AZE sites are in larger landscapes that include a variety of land uses that must be considered when developing conservation strategies.

Chile: In Chile, the project will commence with the development of a conservation plan for each of the AZE sites included in the project, with the full participation of local actors, including Indigenous and Local Communities, local NGOs, and women. The exception is the AZE site Mehuin, which already has a participatory conservation plan. A major objective across all 5 AZE sites triggered by frogs in the *Telmobatius* genus will be reducing impacts of water extraction in their very arid habitats. The project will work in collaboration with existing conservation projects at these AZE sites to amplify results. At the sites triggered by cactus from the *Eriosyce* genus, Tocopilla and Los Molles ? Pichidangui, actions will include reducing the illegal collection of the AZE trigger species and impacts from mining and the real estate sector. Across the sites in northern Chile, the project will engage with mining companies to find solutions and to promote a shared obligation to the conservation of these sites. For example, a water reinjection technique used at the AZE site Murmuntani (Quebrada Amincha y Quebrada del Inca) to conserve *Telmatobius philippi* will be evaluated for possible application at other AZE sites. The project will build upon the high level of local involvement at the Mehuin AZE sites during the GEF-5 project to advance the implementation of a strong conservation approach in collaboration with local Mapuche Communities. Conservation measures begun during the GEF-5 project, such as instituting improved livestock management practices, will be scaled up throughout multiple communities.

Colombia: In Colombia, the project will begin with an assessment of gaps in the sites? current management plans to determine where the project can make the largest contribution, such as in species-specific actions for AZE trigger species conservation or actions that have been identified as urgent needs that have not yet been implemented. Local civil sector organizations, Indigenous Communities, local NGOs, park authorities (where applicable) and others will be fully involved in decision making to ensure that project activities meet stakeholder needs and priorities and to enable strong collaboration in activity implementation.

Dominican Republic: In the Dominican Republic, the project will begin with the development and strengthening of a conservation plan for both AZE sites included in the project, with the full participation of local actors, including local NGOs, farmers associations and women. At Bayahibe, and in coordination with MRENA, measures that will be proposed for inclusion in the conservation plan are determining locations with intact remnant populations of the AZE trigger species; developing and conducting local educational and pride campaigns about the AZE trigger species, the national flower of the Dominican Republic and thus a national priority; and building capacity in local communities to find the remaining populations of the species by providing financial benefits for locating these individuals,

following a model used in other parts of the country. The project will partner with the Central Romana Corporation, which has expressed interest in establishing a private reserve for the species. At the Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuerte, the project will focus on improving site management, including better training for guards, establishing a private reserve adjacent to the Monument but within the AZE site, and advancing nature-based livelihood opportunities with local communities, such as the promotion of ventures including tourism, shade coffee cultivation, REDD+ projects, and PES projects. The Dominican Republic is also interested in considering other conservation mechanisms for the site, such as expanding the protected area or having a private protected area.

Madagascar: In Madagascar, the project will start with the development or refinement of conservation plans for the 5 AZE sites included in the project, with the full participation of local actors, including local NGOs, women, and in collaboration with existing efforts to magnify conservation impacts. At Itremo NPA, work will build upon the development of a management plan in 2020 and will focus on implementing conservation actions. At Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA, the project will propose advancing conservation efforts begun in a recent CEPF project to support local community-based reforestation efforts and fill existing conservation gaps. At Bemanevika / Tsaratanana massif, the project will identify gaps in current conservation actions and fill them to ensure the conservation of the AZE trigger species at the site. At Mahavavy-Kinkony wetlands NPA, the project will complete conservation action defined in the management plan, including conservation of AZE trigger species, ecological restoration and income-generating activities development. At Ankafobe, conservation efforts will support the Sohisika Association?s management plan. Nature-based livelihood opportunities, already identified for each site, will be promoted and/or enhanced.

Outcome 1.1. Improved protection of critically endangered and endangered species through implementation of priority AZE site conservation actions.

Output 1.1.1. Conservation plans for each site developed and implemented.

Conservation action plans will be developed for AZE sites that do not have one and refined for those that do. The plans will include the following actions to improve the conservation status of said sites: 1) Capacity building to improve site management effectiveness; 2) An assessment of potential site conservation measures, such as the establishment of new protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) (Output 1.1.2), and support for strengthening the management of existing protected areas; 3) Strong involvement of local communities, including women and Indigenous Peoples and NGOs (Output 1.1.3); 4) The identification of mechanisms to improve or restore essential ecosystem services (e.g., reforestation, watershed protection, and climate change adaptation and mitigation); and 5) The identification and development of nature-based livelihood measures for

financial sustainability to continue site conservation after project completion, where applicable. The project will seek the implementation of these actions during the project?s lifetime and beyond (Output 1.1.5).

Activities to be conducted in the delivery of this output include the gathering of comprehensive monitoring data on the AZE trigger species at eight (8) unprotected sites to provide information to direct conservation plan development, while at sites with existing conservation plans, the project will ensure that actions to conserve the AZE target species at the site are included in revised or updated plans. Public education and awareness campaigns will be developed and implemented, targeting the reduction of illegal collection of the AZE trigger species, and building awareness of the impacts of development on AZE species. Training in AZE site management will be provided to both technical personal of management authorities and NGOs associated with the sites, as well as members of the communities adjacent to the sites. Finally, the project will support the application of the METT to inform site management improvement actions.

Output 1.1.2 Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) approach tested and OECM status achieved. Where applicable, process to designate AZE sites as new protected or conserved areas initiated and advanced.

This project provides an excellent opportunity to test the OECM approach to achieve OECM status for some of the unprotected AZE sites. A recently published study[9][9] conducted by Birdlife International found that in 10 countries across the world a majority of unprotected KBAs (76.5%) were at least partly covered by one or more potential OECMs. The conservation of ecosystem services or biodiversity was a stated management aim in 73% of these OECMs. Local or central government bodies managed the highest number of potential OECMs, followed by local and Indigenous Communities and private landowners. Therefore, there is a good likelihood that OECMs can be an important supplementary site conservation mechanism for AZE sites. The document ?Recognizing and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures? recently published by the IUCN provides guidance on a screening tool to identify candidate OECMs that can be used in the project countries to identify OECMs that overlap with AZE sites. There are plans at two of the AZE sites in the Dominican Republic to establish private reserves, for example, that will likely meet the criteria for OECM status.

Activities to deliver this output include the application of existing methodologies to determine whether priority AZE sites in project countries that are not currently protected areas could be identified as OECMs; the development of proposals for OECM status for those sites that meet the criteria; and

assessment of whether priority AZE sites in project countries could be declared protected areas and begin designation process for those sites.

Output 1.1.3. Local communities and NGOs fully integrated into conservation planning process. Participation of women and Indigenous and Local Communities prioritized in the development and implementation of conservation plans.

Robust participation of local communities of different kinds, aiming at improving their livelihood opportunities, and a focus on sustainable development goals, including reforestation, watershed conservation and climate adaptation, must be central to the conservation of AZE sites. The project will assess whether, to what extent and how women and Indigenous Communities participate in the development, updating and implementation of conservation plans across the AZE sites and project countries (using a standardized participation assessment tool) and develop and implement an Action Plan for ensuring full, effective, and equitable participation of civil society, women, and Indigenous Communities in conservation site planning. Members of civil society, women and Indigenous and Local Communities will also be trained in AZE site conservation planning.

Output 1.1.4. Opportunities for long-term financial sustainability of AZE site conservation actions identified, such as commitments by private sector entities to finance the management of AZE sites, and implemented where applicable.

The Project's financial sustainability will be based on four revenue streams, including public funds, private sector partnerships, nature-based livelihoods in local communities, and market-based mechanisms, such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) approaches. To provide some examples of the proposed potential financing strategy, private sector partnerships with corporations in the Dominican Republic and Chile may be promoted to support AZE site management at Bayahibe and at several sites for the *Telmatobius* genus, respectively. PES approaches may be initiated at the AZE site Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuerte and advanced at several AZE sites in Colombia, while nature-based livelihood opportunities, including ecotourism, beekeeping and silkworm farming, will be a focus at several sites in Madagascar. The project will conduct an assessment of private sector participation options in AZE site conservation and will further rank and prioritize options based on the local circumstances affecting each site. The assessment will analyze and compare options such as environmental compensations, PES programs, ecotourism concessions, tax exemptions for donations, tourism activities, land conservation, trust funds or endowments in perpetuity, environmental funds, environmental corporate social responsibility programs, and public-private partnerships. The results of this assessment will be used as a baseline and to inform activities under Output 1.1.5.

Output 1.1.5. Nature-based livelihood options, including ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) projects, and REDD+ projects, identified and turned into income-generating activities around the AZE sites, where applicable.

Using the ranked and prioritized options obtained in Output 1.1.4, the project will conduct site-specific feasibility assessments based on a standardized methodological approach. Options deemed feasible will receive seed capital to be further developed into pilot projects and applied initially to two to three sites, to be used as models for further expansion and replication to other sites.

Component 2. Mainstreaming AZE site conservation at global and national levels.

Through the GEF-5 project?s success in mainstreaming AZE site conservation into a few key sectors, we have built the capacity and knowledge required to substantially expand mainstreaming into a much wider group of sectors. Our success in working with International Financial Institutions (IFIs), for example, has led to an understanding of the importance of also mainstreaming AZE into the policies of regional and national financial institutions, one goal of the proposed project. To effectively achieve the long-term goal of conserving all AZE sites to prevent global species extinctions, it is essential to bring AZE and broader KBA site conservation into the mainstream by integrating AZE site conservation into wider sustainable development planning across multiple sectors and scales. This will be achieved by mainstreaming language pertaining to AZE conservation priorities into the policies, spatial plans, and standards of a wide variety of sectors. The objectives of this component will be achieved through the following outcome and four outputs as described below.

Outcome 2.1. Biodiversity conservation enhanced and extinction threat reduced through mainstreaming AZE site conservation.

Output 2.1.1. Technical services provided to lending institutions, including local, regional, and national banks and investors, for mainstreaming of AZE site conservation.

The project will target engagement with financial institutions on two key elements:

1. The importance of mainstreaming biodiversity safeguards into project financing

2. Mobilizing resources for conservation financing/gain (will also complement output 1.1.4).

AZE site conservation will be integrated with financial institutions, including local, sub-national, national and regional banks and investors, including those mentioned previously under the policy and institutional context for each project country, to achieve global proactive financing of vulnerable species and sites, nature-based solutions and national and regional safeguards. This will be accomplished through direct engagement and discussions with such institutions and at workshops demonstrating the conservation, economic, and reputational benefits of avoiding damage and/or supporting nature-positive initiatives to irreplaceable global biodiversity sites. This project will also engage with the Sustainable Banking Network (SBN) to reach their membership comprised of regulators and banking associations, which are relevant for setting policy for local banks. The policies of IFIs that include AZE will be used as examples to demonstrate how local, sub-national, national and regional banks and investors can also integrate AZE site conservation into their policies and operations. Similarly, conservation finance stakeholders/opportunities to support AZE safeguarding will be identified (e.g. Network of Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Funds (RedLAC) and CAF? (the Consortium of African Funds for the Environment). Mapping of funding for the most extensive and/or damaging development projects to AZE sites will be undertaken in the focus countries and the main investors in these projects will be identified (building on the initial stakeholders identified in this document). Work will also continue with IFIs that have already adopted adequate safeguard measures to assess how critical habitats, including AZE sites, are mainstreamed within the organizational workflow. This will also include the identification of necessary tools and gaps to initiate the organizational behavior change to ensure internal processes take proper considerations for AZE sites. Results of this assessment will be presented as a case study and via workshops in relevant events for wider engagement of the private sector. The project will advocate for financial institutions to incorporate the drivers of biodiversity loss into their internal mainstreaming process.

The project will support the integration of AZE sites with KBAs by completing the process of consultation, documentation, review and verification required for all AZE sites as KBAs. AZE sites are an official subset of KBAs. Through the full integration of AZE sites with KBAs, a greater focus by local and national stakeholders, such as through the establishment of KBA National Coordination Groups, on AZE site conservation can be realized. KBAs including AZE sites can also be mapped and assessed via the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT), which brings together data on KBAs (and AZE site information as a sub-set of KBAs), protected areas and IUCN Red List threatened species for easy access for decision-makers, scientists and the business community. Many of the most prominent international and regional banks, as well as various private sector companies that are important target audiences of this project, are already subscribers to IBAT. Therefore, assuring that IBAT has the latest information on AZE sites is a high priority.

Specific activities under this output include mapping of the most relevant financial stakeholders to engage and influence on AZE safeguards and nature-positive investments and identify those that are already IBAT subscribers; developing, adapting, translating and share guidance materials for AZE mainstreaming, including the repackaging of the BirdLife financial institution safeguard factsheet for other relevant financial institutions and the creation of single-issue fact sheets (business and KBAs,

IFC best practices, etc.); developing an online guide to provide a central information source of existing tools, guidelines and case studies in English, Spanish and French; organizing and conducting training workshops for national partners, including NGOs and ministries (where appropriate) to strengthen the capacities of these stakeholders to advocate and advance AZE mainstreaming via lending institution, investors, and private sector safeguards and investments; the promotion of AZE and IBAT awareness raising through webinars in project countries for financial institutions;; preparation of a case study on mainstreaming of AZE in IFIs; development of tools for organizational behavior change; and the promotion of AZE and IBAT awareness raising through webinars in project countries for financial institutions and the private sector.

Output 2.1.2. Financial and technical support to project countries to include AZE in their national policies and regulations.

To support and facilitate national processes to integrate AZE into national policies and regulations, the project will map opportunities for including the AZE concept into relevant national policies and regulations in each country and work with relevant agencies to promote AZE integration into these policies and regulations and to build capacity for implementing said policies. A process will be implemented to embed AZE into existing efforts, such as UN Biolabs work in Colombia, and an assessment will be conducted to scope opportunities to embed AZE into each project country?s spatial mapping of nature, carbon and other ecosystem services.

Output 2.1.3. Technical support provided to businesses for strengthening AZE integration into industry policies and standards.

The integration of AZE site conservation into private sector policies will also be strengthened through outreach to private-sector networks and groups, such as the CBD Global Platform on Business and Biodiversity, and the creation of guidance documents for the private sector showing how businesses have included AZE site conservation in their policy approaches. We will build upon the experience of project partners in developing similar documents focused on the broader KBA network of sites. We will also ramp up efforts to encourage governments to include the conservation of AZE sites in their NBSAPs and CBD reports to prevent extinctions and safeguard essential habitats by increasing awareness among the government officials, who lead NBSAP formulation, and by providing south-south exchange opportunities across countries.

Activities to deliver this output will complement those being implemented in Output 2.1.1. for financial institutions, and will include the mapping of the most relevant *private sector stakeholders* (other than lending institutions) to engage and influence on AZE safeguards and nature-positive business models and identify those that are already IBAT subscribers, as relevant; promote AZE and IBAT awareness-raising through webinars in project countries for identified/relevant businesses; develop, adapt, translate and share guidance materials for AZE mainstreaming, including the repackaging of the BirdLife financial institution safeguard factsheet; and develop, adapt and/or share guidance materials for AZE mainstreaming across multiple business sectors.

Output 2.1.4. Technical support provided for mainstreaming of AZE site conservation into climate mitigation and adaptation actions, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), REDD+, and climate resilience strategies and policies at national, regional and global levels, including national biodiversity, climate, water, forest and land management targets, strategies and plans at the landscape and national scales.

There is a need to better understand climate change impacts to AZE and broader KBA sites and options for building resiliency into the network of sites, which was highlighted by the plight of one of the world?s most threatened species, Stresemann?s Bristlefront, at the GEF-5 AZE demonstration site in Brazil. Following the worst drought in recorded history, likely exacerbated by climate change, and related fires, the species was in an extremely perilous position and was undetected at the site for several months. Through the efforts of the GEF-5 project partners, the species was eventually found; however, the effects of the fires have made the long-term survival of this species more precarious. By mainstreaming AZE site protection into climate strategies, we can help guard against the continual worsening impacts of the climate crisis and prepare for new conditions. This project will work with the global climate community and at national levels to mainstream AZE sites into climate mitigation and adaptation actions, including REDD+, and climate resilience strategies and policies at national and global levels.

The project will deliver this output by building partners' capacity to mainstream AZE into nature-based solutions initiatives. This will require the organization and implementation of trainings for country partners on biodiversity mainstreaming and the importance of AZE, as well as nature-climate synergies; adapt existing training materials on nature-based solutions including a series of three webinars used for a BirdLife International project on the Atlantic Forest and develop case studies to country partners' national contexts; identify, highlight and advocate for opportunities for AZE mainstreaming into country partners' national policies and goals through assessing country partners' national biodiversity and climate strategies, REDD+, NDCs, national adaptation plans and post-2020 recovery and stimulus packages and wider climate finance initiatives; integrate AZE into country

partners? commitments to global restoration initiatives and spatial planning at the national and sub-national level, including the Bonn Challenge and the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration; determine opportunities to build climate resilience at the site level through restoration; and scope opportunities for influencing and mobilizing green recovery strategies and packages by highlighting the importance of the role of biodiversity to project partners and strengthening their capacity to influence national plans when adapted.

The project will also invest in the integration of AZE into country partners' commitments to global restoration initiatives, and spatial planning at the national and sub-national level, consistent with partners? commitment to the Bonn Challenge and partners' involvement in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The final activity under this output will be the scoping of opportunities for influencing and mobilizing green recovery strategies and packages and highlight the importance of the role of biodiversity to project partners.

Component 3. Knowledge management to enhance understanding of and interest in AZE site conservation across sectors.

This component of the project will promote the communication of both the importance of and the methods to conserve AZE sites to diverse stakeholders and sectors. Much information and knowledge about AZE conservation, at the site, national and global scales, was generated during the GEF-5 project. In this project, the focus will be on disseminating this information broadly. Information will be tailored to different groups so that it is accessible, through online toolkits, webinars and seminars, workshops and training, and other communication activities. Lessons learned in the GEF-5 project will be communicated to show how site-level conservation can be achieved, AZE site conservation can be incorporated into national plans and strategies, and approaches to mainstreaming AZE can be integrated into the financial institutions and other safeguard policies.

Within this component, we will create a map showing all 853 AZE sites with links to the relevant KBA Factsheets. This will be published through the AZE website. We will develop the map in such a way that whenever we publish an update to AZE sites, or their data, as part of the overall KBA program the details in the map will be automatically updated minimizing the need for ongoing management and maintenance. Already identified AZE sites are sometimes inadequately documented, overlap with other types of KBAs (e.g., with Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas), incorrectly delineated or may be out of date. The project will enlist the help of national experts to reassess and confirm these AZE sites, leading to a consolidated list of AZE sites, which are also confirmed as KBAs in each country. If

budget allows the identification of new AZE sites for hitherto unassessed taxonomic groups will be implemented. Given that the new KBA Standard has not been comprehensively applied in any of the four countries, one of the urgent priorities is to organize training workshops aimed at scientific experts with relevant knowledge on the application of the KBA Standard and the KBA identification process. In 2020, a standard training course with 12 Modules was developed as part of a project funded by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF), another KBA Partner and strategic donor of KBAs. Several workshops, both physical and online have already been organized at the national and regional levels using these Modules and the agenda and structure of these workshop can easily be adapted to the circumstances of the project countries. Due to the uncertainties around how the COVID epidemic will develop in the future, we are including both the remote and the physical option (as well as hybrid format) of holding such workshops for experts in these countries.

A suggestion for improvement highlighted in the GEF-5 MTR is greater exchanges between project countries. While such exchanges were strengthened towards the end of the GEF-5 project, more can be done. The proposed project will facilitate direct exchanges between countries through South-South exchanges and ?Communities of Practice? starting very early in the project. A social media strategy will be developed to support increased collaboration among project partners specifically and among AZE partners in general. In this way, we anticipate creating strong connections between project partners at project inception, which will lead to greater communication throughout the project.

This project?s knowledge management approach will include regional workshops led by project countries to broaden knowledge of AZE site conservation outside of project countries, thus promoting the AZE concept beyond the partners involved in this project to support AZE site conservation globally. Nationally and locally, summits held in project countries at the beginning, middle and end of the project will encourage cooperation across sectors, including government and civil society, to support both site-level and mainstreaming efforts. Communication tools will be developed to assist governments, NGOs, and others to successfully disseminate information on conserving AZE sites. Members of the Alliance for Zero Extinction will be targeted by communication efforts to help them become more effective advocates of AZE sites at all levels.

Outcome 3.1. Application of KBA standards is advanced in pilot countries.

Output 3.1.1. Capacity developed in pilot countries for the application of KBA standards.

The primary activities under this output will include the preparation, organization, and implementation of KBA training workshops and webinars for biodiversity, conservation, and protected areas experts in the focus countries. Participants will be equipped with in-depth knowledge on how to apply the KBA criteria, assessment parameters, thresholds, and delineation procedures consistent with the KBA Standard. A trained cadre of experts in project countries will ensure that all KBA procedures are rigorous, transparent, and scientifically defensible.

Output 3.1.2. Documentation of existing and new AZE sites developed, shared, and disseminated through the World Database of KBAs and the AZE and KBA websites.

Project resources will fund a comprehensive assessment of existing, new, and potential AZE sites in project countries. The data gathered in this assessment will be used to recreate maps in a new ESRI portal that can be embedded in the AZE website. The project will support technical assistance to create a view of AZE sites from the master KBA dataset so that the AZE map refreshes automatically with every data release and will support the preparation of annual up-dates of AZE sites on the AZE Website. Additionally, project support to countries will reassess candidate and proposed AZE sites with incomplete data and assist countries? readiness to submit relevant data on AZE sites for newly-assessed taxa.

Outcome 3.2. Increased understanding and application of AZE site conservation implementation in policies and plans by local, national, regional, and global stakeholders.

Output 3.2.1. Improved knowledge of site-based conservation in non-project countries supported.

This output will compile and synthesize key insights and learning from the project (e.g., in the form of policy briefs, guidance notes, project videos and databases) and share widely for scaling up and applying to other AZE conservation contexts elsewhere. Capacity-focused activities will be conducted, including the development of training tools and guidelines on the implementation of conservation plans, on site monitoring, and how to incorporate the AZE concept into conservation and community practices. These capacity building products will be made widely available online to project and non-project countries.

Output 3.2.2. Capacity development programs (trainings and workshops) on monitoring, conserving, and managing AZE sites designed and implemented at local, national, and global level. The participation of women and Indigenous Communities in these programs will be prioritized.

This output will implement trainings for women and Indigenous Peoples in all project countries to build their capacity to effectively participate in AZE site planning, management, and conservation. This output will also incorporate use of participation assessment tools to extend capacity building to other stakeholder groups such as government officials and the private sector and will systematize and disseminate experiences and lessons through national workshops and global webinars as part of the project?s Knowledge Management strategy.

Output 3.2.3. Communication strategies produced and provided to governments for the promotion of improved understanding of the AZE concept at local, regional, and national levels.

This output will promote AZE awareness raising through fit-for-purpose webinars conducted in collaboration with governments in project countries for relevant local, sub-national, national and regional stakeholders. The project will develop, adapt, translate, and share country-sensitive guidance materials for AZE mainstreaming with governments, and will prepare social media content aimed at promoting understanding of AZE site conservation during and beyond the project cycle, in collaboration with project governments.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

Component 1 addresses drivers and seeks sustainable solutions to protect and improve management at AZE sites and the species that occur in them. This component focuses on determining and implementing conservation actions to protect and improve management at 20 AZE sites in project countries. This component also focuses on identifying and developing financial sustainability opportunities for the long-term persistence of conservation at these sites. Additionally, the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) will be used at the beginning, middle and end of the project to both measure and provide recommendations for improvements in AZE site effective management. Therefore, the project is aligned with the BD-2-7 ?Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species

and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate?.

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This project, in particular Component 2, focuses on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across landscapes and in priority sectors and is in line with GEF Biodiversity Focal Area Outcome ?BD-1-1 Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors.? An important aspect of this component is ensuring that land use planning and development decisions consider the global biodiversity conservation sites in most urgent need of conservation: AZE sites. First, this project seeks to ensure that land and resource use planning incorporates the safeguarding of AZE sites, and, consequently, avoids siting development or other projects where they will negatively impact AZE sites. This project will do so through broad outreach to incorporate AZE site conservation into the policies and standards of key sectors and institutions, including lending and business groups and climate mitigation and adaptation actions and resilience strategies. Second, this project seeks to spearhead wider landscape conservation in which AZE sites are located within a wider context of nature-based livelihood options, which will include income-generating activities around the AZE sites. Often, AZE sites hold the remnant of a formerly more widespread distribution of one or more trigger species. For such species, the option of restoring parts of their former habitat within or outside the AZE site will be explored, involving local communities and other key stakeholders. We aim to demonstrate that AZE sites should be recognized as ?the jewels in the crown? of a larger suite of sustainability objectives, including restoration and scaling up space for nature.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

The incremental/additional GEFTF and co-financing contribution will build upon the strong advancements made by the GEF-5 AZE project and pave the way for both substantial global progress in AZE site-level conservation and for the lasting integration of AZE site conservation into key policies and standards and across multiple sectors.

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The differing budget allocations from each country will be reflected in the level of effort that the project will undertake in each country. However, even countries with lower budget allocations will be able to advance AZE site conservation, mainstreaming and knowledge management in their countries. The sites selected for these projects, particularly in countries with lower allocations, are those in which considerable conservation advances can be achieved by working synergistically with existing conservation partners and baseline projects. By strategically focusing on sites with critical conservation

needs that have some level of support from existing partners and projects, the GEF-7 AZE project will complement current conservation efforts to maximize conservation success.

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Chile: Under the GEF-5 AZE project, Chile succeeded in advancing the conservation and improving management at three AZE sites, Mehuin 1, Mehuin 2 and Isla Mocha. Project-funded scientific research led to the removal of Mehuin 2 as an AZE site, to improved management of the habitats used by the AZE trigger species on Isla Mocha, and to strong community support for the conservation of the AZE trigger species at Mehuin, which resulted in the safeguarding of over 8 ha of its habitat. The GEF-5 AZE project spurred interest in strengthening the conservation of other amphibian AZE trigger species in Chile. Baseline projects slated for upcoming years including national and regional amphibian conservation projects focus on species in the *Telmatobius* genus and on *Eupsophus migueli* at the Mehuin AZE site. However, much remains to be done to save these and other highly threatened species from extinction. As part of the GEF-7 AZE project, urgently-needed species monitoring will be conducted and specific actions for each site will be designed and executed at the five AZE sites that are home to six AZE trigger species in the *Telmatobius* genus, as well as at the two AZE sites for cactus in the *Eriosyce* genus. Implementation of the participatory conservation plan developed and initiated at the remaining Mehuin AZE site will be scaled up, cementing strong local interest in and control of the conservation of this site. With the support of the GEF-7 AZE project, the 9 AZE species at these sites, as well as the sites? other threatened species, will be safeguarded, preventing what would otherwise be likely imminent extinctions. To advance the conservation of all Chilean AZE sites, mainstreaming of the AZE concept will be conducted with private, public, and civil society sectors in Chile with the solid backing of the Ministry of Environment, a strong actor already committed to the sites? conservation.

Madagascar: Among its achievements under the GEF-5 AZE project, Madagascar successfully protected and improved management at the 58,500-hectare Tsitongambarika Forest AZE site, gathered and mapped information on all the country?s AZE sites, and developed a national strategy for AZE mainstreaming to integrate AZE sites into national and regional plans. Baseline projects include funding to develop management plans at Itremo and reforestation efforts by the 275 members of local communities from the four villages surrounding the Ankafobe reserve. There are other ongoing efforts in Madagascar to optimize sustainable land use management and land use planning, strengthen the long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, improve management effectiveness of NPAs, and the creation of eco-villages. Notwithstanding the progress being made, there is a strong need to develop and implement a comprehensive approach for the long-term persistence of AZE sites. The GEF-7 AZE project will deliver such an approach in coordination with local and national actors. This project will emphasize reducing the key threats identified for each site and trigger species and identifying and implementing nature-based livelihood opportunities for and with local communities. While a national strategy for AZE mainstreaming in Madagascar has been prepared, there is currently no funding to implement the 4-year strategy. The GEF-7 AZE project will enable the implementation of this strategy, which includes raising awareness and providing information about the AZE concept nationally, establishing a national AZE working group, preparing suggestions for federal AZE decrees

for sites of international importance, and promoting research and monitoring on AZE trigger species beyond the project sites to inform action plans.

Colombia: Four of the five project AZE sites in Colombia all have some level of protection and are fully or partially covered by National Natural Parks or by a Protective Forest Reserve. The fifth site, Enclave Seco del R?o Dagua, is currently unprotected. Each site has public baseline conservation projects in progress, and several have additional conservation action led by NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, and other actors. However, despite this strong baseline, much needs to be done to safeguard these AZE sites and to prevent extinctions of AZE trigger species. While the exact actions to be conducted under this project will be determined during the project development phase in consultation with stakeholders and the national natural parks, the activities will be focused on actions to conserve the AZE trigger species and build sustainability into site conservation.

Dominican Republic: At Bayahibe, local NGOs such as Ecoparque and national institutions such as the National Botanical Garden work to conserve the AZE trigger species and national flower, *Pereskia quisqueyana*. A diverse set of actors, including government agencies, local and international NGOs, small farmers associations and community groups, collaborates to conserve the Miguel Domingo Fuerte Natural Monument AZE site. Combined, the baseline projects and strong community interest in safeguarding each of these sites provide an effective framework for the conservation of both sites; however, substantial gaps in current conservation action at both sites remain. The GEF-7 AZE project will fill these gaps by conducting essential monitoring to determine the exact locations of the AZE trigger species *Pereskia quisqueyana* and identify the best site for a private protected area. At the Miguel Domingo Fuerte Natural Monument, unresolved management issues, including reducing illegal logging and mining impacts, increasing patrolling in less-accessible parts of the site, and initiating nature-based livelihood programs that have been conceptualized but not implemented, will be tackled. At a national level, the AZE concept is not well known in Dominican Republic. This project will enable workshops and trainings to be conducted with local and national participants to integrate the conservation of AZE sites into the national conservation conversation.

Global: Building on excellent progress in mainstreaming AZE site conservation into a few limited sectors in the GEF-5 project, additional funding will facilitate the project team in greatly expanding AZE site conservation mainstreaming to a wider range of sectors and investors, including those at national and regional levels. The effectiveness of existing safeguards will also be assessed and used for improved protection of AZE sites. The conservation of AZE sites through inclusion in a variety of policies and industry safeguards will become standard across sectors, providing many different routes by which AZE sites are conserved in perpetuity. The project?s knowledge management approach will be applied globally. This broad effort, which will not be limited to the project countries, will advance integration of these important sites for biodiversity conservation into policies, strategies and plans developed or implemented by local communities, private sector groups, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

Project countries at different levels of AZE site conservation implementation will benefit from knowledge sharing through South-South exchanges among project partners, while additional countries will increase their capacity to safeguard AZE sites through regional workshops and evidence-based guidance materials provided in appropriate languages on the AZE website and through other venues. Members of the Alliance for Zero Extinction will be empowered to actively promote the conservation and management of these sites at different levels. Support will be given to various structures developed by the KBA Programme, including Regional Focal Points, the KBA Secretariat and the KBA Database and website. These structures are essential to continue and expand the identification of KBAs, including AZE sites, for a wide range of biodiversity elements.

Co-financing

The project has secured a total co-financing of US$8,500,000 and consists of a mixture of grant and in-kind as primary sources. Investments Mobilized by ABC?s for co-financing will come directly through fundraising to support AZE site conservation in project countries and outside of project countries. Similarly, Investments Mobilized for BirdLife?s co-financing will come directly through fundraising to support AZE site conservation in project countries as well as global policy and technical work to integrate AZEs into the KBA database and wider policy processes. Co-financing from the beneficiary governments are in-kind and represent recurrent expenditure.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The project will deliver global environmental benefits through the direct conservation of 25 AZE trigger species, which will be achieved through the creation of new protected areas, the declaration of OECMs, improved management at existing protected areas, and improved management at AZE sites outside of protected areas. Such actions will not only help to safeguard at least 20 of the most important sites globally for biodiversity conservation but will also provide models for conserving similar sites in other countries around the world. Over 935,770 ha of protected areas will be created or under improved management for conservation. Global environmental benefits will extend beyond these 20 sites, as efforts to scale up AZE site conservation, including the development of guidance materials and regional workshops to build awareness and capacity for safeguarding AZE sites outside of project countries, will promote the conservation of more AZE sites. By providing case studies and lessons learned from project countries at different stages of AZE site protection, this project can help other countries and actors safeguard critical sites in similar situations elsewhere.

The global environmental benefits of the mainstreaming component of this project are potentially enormous as AZE site conservation becomes increasingly integrated into the policies and standards of a wide range of sectors. Moving beyond the initial successes of the GEF-5 project, AZE site conservation will be mainstreamed into business best practices, regional and national financial institution safeguards, and national spatial planning, helping project partners and other countries to deliver on their post-2020 biodiversity targets, climate commitments and sustainable development goals. Such a multi-sectoral approach shifts AZE conservation from being a small-scale endeavor to embed it into wider, long-term, mainstream environmental sustainability and climate policies, as well as on-the-ground efforts around climate adaptation and resilience, while providing the considerable additional global environmental benefit of preventing the extinction of the most urgently threatened species globally.

AZE sites, already a subset of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), will be fully integrated with the KBA and IBAT databases, maps, and the various structures and activities of the KBA Programme, leading to improved efficiencies in identifying, delineating, and updating AZE sites, and magnifying awareness of both AZE sites and KBAs. This in turn will result in global environmental benefits to both AZE sites and the larger group of KBAs essential to global biodiversity conservation. Global environmental benefits will be enhanced because of the project?s strong knowledge management approach, detailed in Component 3, to support information sharing and awareness raising, which is anticipated to promote broad multi-sectoral understanding of and interest in AZE site conservation.

The project will specifically contribute to the following GEF Core Indicators:

Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares): 935,770

Core Indicator 4: Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (excluding protected areas) (Hectares) 400,000; and total area under improved management (Hectares) of 1,463,286

7) Innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling up

Innovativeness

The proposed approach has evolved since the GEF-5 project on AZE because of progress made and lessons learned from the earlier project. Learning from the previous project, which focused on five AZE sites in the project countries, the proposed project will amplify the number of AZE sites for conservation action to 20 sites. Seeking to maximize the impact of this project, this amplification will be achieved in part through economies of scale. In Chile, the project will focus on five AZE sites for the same genus of amphibians, which face similar threats, and on two AZE sites for the same genus of cactus, which likewise have common threats. It will also build on initial successful efforts at the AZE site Mehuin. While gaining local stakeholder trust at Mehuin took time during the GEF-5 AZE project, community support for AZE site conservation is now in place and will be essential to the success of the proposed project.

Sites for the project were selected with strong consideration of the likelihood of success. In Madagascar, conservation impact will be maximized by working at AZE sites that have a strong chance of successful conservation due to existing baseline projects. In Dominican Republic, the likelihood of success will be increased due to the selection of a site activated for AZE status that holds a species of interest to many Dominicans, the national flower. Similarly, the choice of Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuerte, a site with a diverse set of existing projects and stakeholders, will increase the likelihood of success of conservation actions. In Colombia, two of the focal sites, Farallones de Cali and Enclave Seco del R?o Dagua, are located in the Farallones ? Paraguas corridor. Their inclusion in this project should dovetail with the prioritization of this biodiversity corridor in other national initiatives.

The proposed strategy also includes a much more targeted mainstreaming approach than the earlier project by evolving past a focus specifically on international financial institutions (and global development bank lending) and learning from our experience in that sector. This project seeks to integrate AZE site conservation into a much broader range of sectors, including regional and national banks and investors, the private sector and national climate policy decisions. Realizing the limitations of an exclusive focus on the global setting of international development (lending) finance, this project therefore includes a strategic focus on mainstreaming into regional and national banks and investors (as well as the local offices/representatives of international finance institutions), since many funding decisions are made at the national and sub-national level. In addition, engagement will attempt to go beyond site-based project financing but also portfolio/corporate financing by these institutions. We anticipate that this project will impact investing and operations at AZE sites, due to this focus on engaging with more representative, relevant and diverse stakeholders within the project countries.

This project has evolved to become more innovative through a strong focus on knowledge management, particularly at regional, national and community levels. Understanding of and capacity for AZE site conservation will be built at regional levels through workshops outside of project countries, at national levels through close collaboration with government and civil society to encourage

AZE conservation, and locally through trainings on monitoring and conserving AZE sites. Finally, within the project itself, direct exchanges between project countries, which are at different phases of implementing AZE site conservation, will be actively facilitated in response to suggestions in the evaluation of the GEF-5 project on AZE.

The KBA Standard, KBA Partnership and KBA Programme are relatively recent initiatives, all launched in 2016. Although there have been decades of experience in working with previous forms of KBAs, such as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) as well as AZE sites, applying the KBA Standard across a wide range of taxa and using KBAs as the international currency for site conservation are still in their early stages. Indeed, it is the first time that the GEF Strategic Directions explicitly refers to KBAs under the Protected Areas programme, giving an opportunity to finance KBA relevant activities at the global level. This project will provide an invaluable opportunity to be the testing ground for KBAs using AZE sites as a high priority KBA subset. Experience learned through this project can be shared through the various relevant structures of the KBA Programme including the KBA Consultative Forum (bringing together end users, such as financial institutions, global conventions, and governments) and the KBA Community (which provides a platform for the KBA experts and other stakeholders working to conserve these sites). This in turn will allow innovative solutions and methods to be transferred to new countries and sites, increasing the global impact of this project.

Sustainability

Several strategies are incorporated into this project to ensure sustainability. At the site level, the full integration of local communities, including women and Indigenous Peoples, essential to the long-term success of AZE site conservation, will be a key aspect of the project. With communities fully vested in project outcomes, the continued safeguarding of AZE sites and the trigger species within them beyond the life of the project is much more certain, particularly if local communities can couple site conservation with improved livelihood opportunities. In addition, by using a globally-recognized tool to measure and track site management effectiveness, the METT, local conservation organizations and communities will have a simple but clear approach to determine the most important strategies for continually improving site management. The project?s efforts to build capacity outside of project countries will also increase its sustainability. One way in which the project will build capacity outside of project countries is through working with the members of the AZE partnership. Regional workshops will create connections between conservation decision-makers and practitioners across countries that will continue beyond the course of this project, which can be instrumental to knowledge sharing on AZE site conservation well into the future. In addition, user-friendly guidance materials on AZE site assessments and conservation, created with project countries at different stages of AZE site conservation implementation, will continue to serve as models to other countries eager to protect their AZE sites. Such materials will be tailored for different audiences, as national-level and local-level authorities have different goals and needs to develop planning approaches. Similarly, this project?s diversified approach to integrating AZE site conservation into the policies and standards of

organizations and institutions across a range of sectors will increase the likelihood that AZE sites are safeguarded after the conclusion of this project. Finally, central to the sustainability of this project is our Knowledge Management Approach, explained in more detail below.

The Project's financial sustainability will be based on four revenue streams. The first source will be public funds, which are for the promotion of sustainable development actions at the local level. Some governments have established competitive funds for environmental protection. The Project will support AZE site managers to seek such revenue streams and prepare proposals for funding. The second revenue source is expected to be from large corporations operating around the targeted AZE sites. Partnerships with local industry will be established to create a shared obligation to AZE sites with the long-term goal of safeguarding of these sites in the future. The third source will be through creating income-generating activities for local communities. The income activities will be either through implementation of conservation activities such as constructing firebreaks, planting seedlings for reforestation, etc. or promoting nature-based livelihood options, such as craftsmanship, beekeeping, sustainable agricultural production, and ecotourism. The fourth source will be through market-based mechanisms such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) approaches. Financial sustainability will be achieved through these variety of financial mechanisms based on the situations of the different AZE sites and countries in the project.

Dominican Republic: Much of the region surrounding the **AZE site Bayahibe** is owned by the large corporation Central Romana. Project partners have collaborated with Central Romana on other conservation work in Dominican Republic, and the corporation has established and managed private reserves nationally. Once the best area for a reserve in the AZE site is known, Central Romana is interested in establishing a private reserve for the AZE trigger species within the AZE site and financing the long-term management of this reserve. In addition, educational and pride campaigns will be developed and conducted for the AZE trigger national plant, in collaboration with the local NGO Ecoparque. Capacity will be built in local communities to train locals to find remaining populations of the species. Locals will receive financial benefits for locating these individuals, following a model used in other parts of the country. At the **AZE site Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuerte**, the GEF AZE project will advance several different approaches to financial sustainability, including organic agriculture and ecotourism initiatives, REDD+ and PES projects, and a partnership with local industry. Project partners will work with local government in the town of Polo on the joint goal of promoting organic coffee in the region around the AZE site. This will build upon baseline efforts to advance organic coffee for premium prices, including local workshops on bird-friendly coffee conducted by the Smithsonian Institution in late 2019. Two ecolodges are planned just outside the Monument. Ecotourism is already occurring in the region and will be further promoted by the GEF Project. Capacity building workshops will be held for local community members from the towns of Cortico and Cachote to work in ecotourism. A REDD+ Project will be implemented in the area. REDD+ is new to the Dominican Republic, but the government has approved the initiation of such projects. The project will work to advance a REDD+ Project in the area in and surrounding the AZE site to provide for financial sustainability through the protection of forests. Khoury Industrial, a cement company in the

province of the AZE site with an interest in the environment, has been involved in conservation at the AZE site. This company will provide funds for management at the AZE site, including reforestation work, community education, and water protection efforts, and will continue to finance site management beyond the Project period. Finally, this project seeks to begin a PES approach through commitments by local companies to protect water resources.

Chile: Sustainability at the AZE sites for species of the genus *Telmatobius* will be achieved through strong collaboration with the Quechua and Aymara communities that own the land and with the mining companies that operate near the sites. The project will fully involve local communities in project implementation and work with them to reduce water extraction from areas that threaten AZE trigger species, and in the development of skills and pilots for nature-based livelihood options based on feasibility assessments to be conducted with their full participation. Four of these five AZE sites (Zapahuira, Murmuntani, R?o Vilama, and Puquios) are on Indigenous-owned land. To advance sustainability at the fifth site, Las Cascadas R?o Loa, we propose the establishment of a nature sanctuary to protect the site in perpetuity. The Ministry of Environment (MMA) will work with mining companies to advance improved management practices to reduce impacts on the sites. All companies must complete environmental evaluations and mitigate damage. The MMA will work with various stakeholders who live and use the sites or resources associated with them to draft a Management Plan for the sites that consider monitoring and mitigating threats, including commitments from the various stakeholders. In addition, the Ministry of the Environment will implement direct measures in the Antofagasta Region with the project financed by the Regional Government and will prepare a Recovery, Conservation and Management Plan for the species of the *Telmatobius* genus. At the **AZE site Murmuntani (Quebrada Amincha/Quebrada del Inc),** the water company El Abra has implemented a water reinjection system for the recovery of the fertile plain, which has allowed the survival of *Telmatobius philippi.* This approach will be examined for potential replication at other sites. As part of this project, project partners will engage mining companies in project development to create a shared commitment to these sites, with the long-term goal of encouraging mining companies to commit to the safeguarding of these sites in the future. At the five AZE sites with trigger species from the *Telmatobius* genus and the two AZE sites with trigger species from the cactus genus *Eriosyce*, mining companies operating near these sites have shown interest in being involved in this project. The MMA has a competitive fund called the Environmental Protection Fund (FPA, http://fpa.mma.gob.cl/), which promotes sustainable development actions at the local level. As part of the development of the project, communities will be supported in the application process to receive these funds for conservation actions at the AZE sites. Several copper mining companies also have competitive funds that local communities can apply to receive, which will provide additional opportunities for financing site conservation after the end of the GEF project.

Colombia: At the two AZE sites in the Cauca Valley, government incentives that support nature-based livelihoods, including ecotourism and the production of organic agricultural products, such as coffee, honey, and chocolate, will help to provide long-term sustainability, and PES programs will reinforce local safeguarding of AZE sites and the areas surrounding them.

Sustainability at both **P?ramo Urrao / De Las Aves Colibri El Sol** and **Chingaza** will be enhanced through funding from water use charges. Chingaza National Natural Park is the main supplier of water to the Bogot? Aqueduct and Sewer Company (EAAB), contributing 80% of Bogota?s drinking water. In addition, REDD+ projects may be developed by the Government of Colombia at the P?ramo Urrao/De Las Aves Colibri El Sol AZE site.

Madagascar: Sustainability through nature-based livelihoods at the **Mahavavy-Kinkony Wetland Complex** concentrates on income-generating activities related to expanding craftsmanship using raffia as a raw material, beekeeping, and ecotourism. At the **Bemanevika / Tsaratanana massif**, ecotourism, agricultural sustainable value chains, and beekeeping can help to generate local incomes and more profitable incomes from sustainable agriculture. Ecotourism, agroforestry, and silkworm farming will be the focus of nature-based livelihoods at **Itremo**, and beekeeping and potato production at the **Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA.** To advance all of these efforts, this project will provide a broad range of training, from sustainable agricultural practices to basic finance and access to subsidies, with the full participation of local community organizations. **Ankafobe** is under ongoing designation as a special reserve, a designation which prohibits activities conducted by local communities inside the protected area. Therefore, to support local communities surrounding the reserve, a dynamic agroforestry project is being developed. A pilot project began with local farmers in 2017 and today there are 30 local family farms implementing the techniques in over 17,000m? of land subdivided into 30 parcels. The innovative agriculture techniques improve soil fertility, allow for continuous harvesting, provide income for daily needs for families, and increase forest area as corridors are created between forest fragments. The local community members in areas surrounding Ankafobe, 300 people in total, are paid salaries for their work during the implementation of conservation activities, such as constructing firebreaks, planting seedlings for reforestation, etc. Community members also generate income through work as guides to support tourism with ORTANA (Malagasy tourists offices) and to help visiting researchers.

Potential for Scaling Up

Scaling up occurred in the countries that benefitted from the GEF-5 investment on AZE, and we will replicate and build upon the GEF-5 approach in the current project. In Brazil, the project scaled up initial work on AZE site conservation to successfully enact two federal decrees recognizing AZE sites, the first in the world. On July 12, 2018, Brazilian Ministry of Environment Ordinance No. 287 was published, which recognizes the Brazilian Alliance for Zero Extinction and links it to the National Biodiversity Council. On October 31, 2018, Brazilian Ministry of Environment Ordinance No. 413,

recognizing Brazilian Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, was published. At a global level, the GEF-5 project successfully amplified its impact by achieving a total of 22 countries that incorporated AZE into national CBD reports and NBSAPs, far above the goal of 9 countries. In Chile, the current project substantially scales up the commitment by the national government to invest in AZE site conservation, as demonstrated by the larger STAR allocation and greater number of AZE sites that will be included in the project. Similarly, Madagascar has scaled up to include a greater number of sites as priorities in the GEF-7 project.

Despite the successful scaling up of the GEF-5 project, challenges remain. A central challenge is that while there are currently 853 AZE sites globally, there is not sufficient funding to have a detailed, tailored conservation approach for each site. Given the importance of these sites to preventing species extinctions, other approaches to conserve these sites are needed. For that reason, we propose a stronger focus on mainstreaming in this project than we had in the GEF-5 project. This focus on mainstreaming will include promoting strong policies in regional, national, sub-national and local banks, as much of the funding that leads to impacts on AZE sites comes from banks at these levels. We also propose a stronger emphasis on knowledge management in this project, most of all on communicating both the importance of and the methods to conserve AZE sites. We will apply lessons learned in the GEF-5 project to show how site-level conservation can be achieved, the ways in which AZE site conservation can be incorporated into national plans and strategies, and approaches to mainstreaming AZE into financial institution and other safeguard policies. This project will have a much broader focus on reaching out to diverse sectors to encourage AZE site conservation. Finally, by including a focus on OECMs, the project will try to take advantage of a new and potentially very productive approach to site-based conservation.

Perhaps the greatest opportunities for scaling up are in the mainstreaming component of this project. As increasing numbers of local, sub-national, national, and regional business groups, investors and lending institutions incorporate AZE site conservation into their policies and financial/corporate decisions, opportunities for scaling up these achievements into the policies and operations of other groups and sectors will multiply. By targeting those institutions and businesses that have the greatest impact and potential for influencing other sector stakeholders, this project will aim to leverage this influence to generate widespread and organic transformation. The approaches employed to implement a knowledge management model to reach wider audiences and sectors from multiple sectors and scales can serve as models for future projects. Regional-level workshops can provide lessons for communicating the AZE concept to new audiences, while meetings of project partners can demonstrate an integrative approach to global project management. These approaches, as well as South-South exchanges and ?Communities of Practice?, can be scaled up as model tactics to advancing and sharing knowledge of conservation approaches aimed at protecting threatened species.

As Nature and more specifically nature-based solutions have been identified as a priority theme at the upcoming UNFCCC COP26, there is also a significant opportunity to emphasize and enhance synergies between the biodiversity and climate action, outlining the climate benefits of ecosystems protection and restoration, and therefore integrating AZE sites conservation in project country?s climate action.

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[1] Instituto de Investigaci?n de Recursos Biol?gicos Alexander von Humboldt. 2012. Pol?tica Nacional para la Gesti?n Integral de la Biodiversidad y sus Servicios Ecosist?micos (PNGIBSE). Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Republica de Colombia

[2] Franco, Baptiste and Diaz. 2011. Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species ? Colombia. Accessed on the 8th January 2020 at https://www.gbif.org

[3] Parques Nacionales de Colombia. https://www.parquesnacionales.gov.co/portal/en/ Accessed on 27th February 2021

[4] USAID. 2013. Estudio de capacidad de carga turistica en el Distrito Municipal Bayahibe. Programa para la Proteccon Ambiental. The Nature Conservancy, 105p

[5] Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales. 2016. Plan de Manejo 2015-2020. Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuertes (Bahoruco Oriental). santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana, 47p

[6] Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forests. 2016. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025. Government of Madagascar and UNEP, 203p

[7] Oficina Nacional de Estadisticas (ONE). 2016. Tu Municipio en Cifras. ISSN 2518-2153 ? Diciembre 2016

[8] For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project?s consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

[9] https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/conl.12659

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Maps of the AZE Sites are provided in Annex E.

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

This section describes the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the project. The SEP is designed to ensure effective engagement between all stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the project. The project will aim to maintain dialogue with the relevant government ministries, regional and municipal governments, the private sector, local community groups, NGOs, academia, and international organizations. The SEP embraces the definitions of ?stakeholder? and ?stakeholder engagement? as defined in the GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement:

Stakeholder means an individual or group that has an interest in the outcome of a GEF- financed activity or is likely to be affected by it, such as local communities, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, and private sector entities, comprising women, men, girls, and boys

Stakeholder Engagement means a process involving stakeholder identification and analysis, planning of Stakeholder Engagement, disclosure of information, consultation and participation, monitoring, evaluation and learning throughout the project cycle, addressing grievances, and on-going reporting to stakeholders.

Consistent with the definitions above, the SEP seeks to ensure that stakeholders are identified, and their meaningful participation and involvement secured through-out project preparation and implementation; those consultations are gender-responsive and free of manipulation, interference, and/or discrimination; and those stakeholders have access to all relevant project information in an easily accessible and timely manner. Stakeholders were identified and placed in 1 of 3 levels according to their relationship with the project:

Level 1: persons and groups who can influence and decide the outcomes and the manner of the

Project implementation or make decisions based on the outputs of the project

Level 2: persons and groups that participate in the project directly or indirectly

Level 3: persons and groups affected directly or indirectly by the outcomes of the Project implementation.

Key project stakeholders and their relationship level with the project are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Key Project Stakeholders

Institution/organization	Role/mission	How the project will engage during implementation phase	Level of Relationship
Chile			
Chilean Ministry of Environment	Project executor	Direct, plan and manage the implementation of the Prodoc, in coordination with ABC and UN Environment. Contact and include relevant actors and local communities in the planning and management of the PPG. Support in planning and project formulation at AZE sites in Chile, which will be necessary for all project components.	Level 1
Chilean Network of Hepetology (RECH)	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
National Zoo of Chile (Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urbanism)	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2

Institution/organization	Role/mission	How the project will engage during implementation phase	Level of Relationship
Indigenous communities in Zapahuira, Murmuntani, Socoroma and Bel?n	Collaborating partner	Support in the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Quechua community of Ollag?e and the Indigenous community Cebollar Ascot?n, Calama, and San Pedro de Atacama (In the region of Antofagasta)	Collaborating partner	Support in the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Indigenous communities in Mehu?n (In the region of Los R?os)	Collaborating partner	Support in the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Center for Sustainability Research, Universidad Andr?s Bello, Chile	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
Department of Science, University of Chile	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
Municipalidad de Calama	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
Municipalidad de Tocopilla	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2

Institution/organization	Role/mission	How the project will engage during implementation phase	Level of Relationship
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
Corporaci?n de Cultura y Turismo de Calama	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
Colombia			
Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS)	Project executor	Direct, plan and manage the implementation of the Prodoc, in coordination with ABC and UN Environment. Contact and include relevant actors and local communities in the planning and management of the PPG.	Level 1
Natural National Parks of Colombia (PNN)	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 1
Subnational Environmental Authorities/Regional Autonomous Corporation (CARs)	Public entities of the Colombian government endowed with administrative and financial autonomy in charge of the public administration of environmental resources and their protection in each jurisdiction	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
Humboldt Institute for Biological Resource Research	An independent research institute of the Government of Colombia charged with conducting scientific research on national biodiversity	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2

Institution/organization	Role/mission	How the project will engage during implementation phase	Level of Relationship
Fundaci?n Atelopus	Local NGO focused on the conservation of amphibians in the *Atelopus* genus	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
WCS - Colombia	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
Universities of Antioquia and Valle de Cauca	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
Municipalities where priority AZE sites are located	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
Maza ? Fonte Tourism Association	A tourism association in the Chingaza region	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Colibr? del Sol Civil Society Nature Reserve	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Association of Users for the Protection and Improvement of the Hydrographic Basins of the Yotoco and Mediacanoa rivers (Asoyotoco)	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Asociaci?n Calidris	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2

Institution/organization	Role/mission	How the project will engage during implementation phase	Level of Relationship
Corporaci?n Serraniagua	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Fundaci?n Fedena	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Asoduende	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Fundaci?n Tr?pico	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Resguardo Navera Drua de R?obravo	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Asor?obravo	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Fundaci?n Ecovivero	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Maestros el Agua	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Corporversalles	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Asopaneleros de Riobravo	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
CORFOPAL	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Fundaci?n Agr?cola Himalaya	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2

Institution/organization	Role/mission	How the project will engage during implementation phase	Level of Relationship
Fundaci?n Dapa Viva	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Re:wild	Collaborating partner	Designing the planning and implementation of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Dominican Republic			
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Project executor	Direct, plan and manage the implementation of the Prodoc, in coordination with ABC and UN Environment. Contact and include relevant actors and local communities in the planning and management of the PPG.	Level 1
Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Collaborating partner	Technical support in the implementation of the ProDoc, including the identification of local actors that should be included in the process.	Level 2
SOH Conservacion	Collaborating partner To conserve conservation of endangered species and their habitats on the island of La Hispaniola.	Project planning and implementation support on Dominican AZE sites, which will be necessary for all project components.	Level 2
National Botanical Garden of the Dominican Republic	Collaborating partner To promote the conservation, study, and dissemination of Dominican flora, through the promotion of research, environmental education and recreation	Planning and implementation support of projects in Dominican AZE sites, which will be necessary for all project components.	Level 2
Central Romana	Large corporation and collaborating partner	Project planning and implementation support for the Playa Bayahibe AZE site	Level 2

Institution/organization	Role/mission	How the project will engage during implementation phase	Level of Relationship
Ecoparque (an NGO)	Collaborating partner	Project planning and implementation support for the Playa Bayahibe AZE site	Level 2
National Museum	Collaborating partner	Project planning and implementation support for the Playa Bayahibe AZE site	Level 2
Farmers Association of Polo	Collaborating partner	Project planning and implementation support for the Playa Bayahibe AZE site	Level 2
Local communities of Cortico and Cachote	Collaborating partner	Project planning and implementation support for the Playa Bayahibe AZE site	Level 2
Ecological Society of Barahona, a local NGO	Collaborating partner	Project planning and implementation support for the Playa Bayahibe AZE site	Level 2
Khoury Industrial	Cement company and Collaborating partner	Project planning and implementation support for the Playa Bayahibe AZE site	Level 2
Grupo Jaragua	Collaborating partner	Advisers of projects in prioritized AZE sites	Level 2
Madagascar			
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Executing Partner	GEF Focal Point; Legal role; Administrative support. Monitoring, control, and evaluation	Level 1
Madagascar Protected Areas System Commission (SAPM Commission)	Collaborating partner Government-Civil Society (national and international) commission hosted by MEEMF; responsible, through working groups, for technical and administrative support to implementation of the target to treble the Protected Areas coverage in Madagascar.	Consultative space, made up of MEDD, PA promoters and managers, other ministerial sectors	Level 1

Institution/organization	Role/mission	How the project will engage during implementation phase	Level of Relationship
Regional, District and Commune Government	Collaborating partner	Administrative support. Conflict resolution	Level 2
	Collaborating partner	Key partner for project implementation on the ground; source of data and technical support	Level 1
Asity Madagascar (BirdLife Partner in Madagascar)		Design the annual work plan. Coordinate and carry out activities on the ground with local actors, and operations. Support the VOI. Prepare activity reports.	Level 2
Missouri Botanical Garden		Design the annual work plan. Coordinate and carry out activities on the ground with local actors, and operations. Support the VOI. Prepare activity reports.	Level 2
The Peregrine Fund		Design the annual work plan. Coordinate and carry out activities on the ground with local actors, and operations. Support the VOI. Prepare activity reports.	Level 2
Madagasikara Voakajy		Design the annual work plan. Coordinate and carry out activities on the ground with local actors, and operations. Support the VOI. Prepare activity reports.	Level 2

Institution/organization	Role/mission	How the project will engage during implementation phase	Level of Relationship
Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre	A consortium of local organizations has been created to implement community-based conservation programs. A typical model involves grassroots communities (Communaut?s locales de Base or CoBa) as the fundamental units of a community-based management structure, collectively forming an umbrella body or ?platform? with technical support, coordination, and facilitation by an NGO (national or international) or Government agency	Prepare the planning of activities. Implementation of field activities. Afforestation and reforestation. Control and monitoring of natural resources and PA. Participatory ecological monitoring.	Level 2
Local NGOs and community-based organizations in Madagascar			
Global	Collaborating partner To designate and effectively conserve the most important sites for global biodiversity conservation	Project planning for all components.	Level 1
Alliance for Zero Extinction	Collaborating partner To map, monitor and conserve the most important places for life on earth	Project planning for all components.	Level 2
KBA Partnership	Collaborating partner	Support to mainstreaming AZE with financial institutions.	Level 2

Stakeholders participated in the identification of project priorities and in the definition of planned outputs and outcomes during virtual consultations, due to restrictions related to COVID-19. Project

stakeholders had the opportunity to review and comment on proposed project activities and to provide specific inputs to the project formulation process. During project implementation, stakeholder participation will include the provision of co-financing, participation of technical staff in workshops, training, and tools development, the facilitation of local project events and processes, the provision of project oversight through participation on the Project Steering Committee (PSC) or Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as data sources, technical expertise and knowledge management through the institutionalization of project results and lessons learned to allow for up-scaling, replication, and sustainability. The inclusion and engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the public in the implementation of the project will be ensured via their direct participation in the governance and decision-making bodies of the project. Special effort will be made to ensure that CSOs and NGOs active or present in influence of the project are represented in project decision-making and in interventions which may affect their interests. In all instances, the standards and guidelines of the GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards and the GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement shall apply, especially as it relates to ensuring appropriate stakeholder participation.

Key stakeholders identified in the mapping exercise include cross-sectoral government institutions; local communities involved in efforts to minimize the impacts on AZE sites; (from landowners to neighboring dwellers, Indigenous groups, and women); finance institutions; private sector actors in the mining, hydroelectric, tourism, agriculture, and other sectors; and general civil society working on conservation in the target geography.

Consistent with the engagement approach described above, the project?s Stakeholder Engagement Plan is summarized in Table 3 below, while the corresponding monitoring plan in accordance with the minimum standards required by the GEF, is presented in Table 4. The required budget for the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is absorbed under the project?s Knowledge Management Approach in Component 3.

In terms of "prior and informed consent" from the Indigenous Peoples, informative and consultation meetings will be held with the relevant Indigenous authorities as appropriate in Chile, Colombia and Madagascar, in accordance with the legal provisions of each country and the Indigenous Peoples Participation Planning Framework that has been prepared for the project and presented in Annex M, in accordance with the definitions and guidelines as defined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and with the Social and Safeguards Policy of UNEP and the GEF.

Table 3. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder Group	Engagement Purpose	Engagement Method	Frequency	Responsible Entity

Level 1: persons and groups who can influence and decide the outcomes and the manner of the Project implementation or make decisions based on the outputs of the project	Define details of project intervention strategies	Physical or virtual meetings of the PSC	Progress reports quarterly	Chair of the Project Steering Committee
	Review of project work plans and budgets	Written Progress Reports	Audit reports annually	Individual Project Steering Committee members
	Review and approval of project progress reports	Written letters	Physical or virtual meetings quarterly	Project Coordinator
		Official project emails		GEF Operational Focal Point
	Review of project Audit Reports	Written grievance reports	Grievance deliberations on an as needed basis.	National Project Liaisons
	Conduct fiduciary duties	Written Audit Reports		American Bird Conservancy
	Address project conflicts	Project Meetings with the GEF Operational Focal Point		UN Environment Programme
	Addressing stakeholder grievances			
	Conflict resolution at all levels			
	Agree on project policy communications with the Government and UN Environment Programme			

Level 2: persons and groups that participate in the project directly or indirectly	Consult on project work plans and budget Technical inputs to Terms of Reference Validation of technical reports Exchange of technical data and lessons learned Joint planning and collaboration Extension services and provision of technical assistance	Technical Working Groups Focus Group Sessions Meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee Field extension visits Field data collection and monitoring Workshops and trainings in the field Memorandum of Understanding between organizations and the project Project website, social media, printed materials, Project Progress Reports	Technical Advisory Committee meetings at least every 4 months Field extensions, data collection and monitoring at least quarterly Project website postings and social media on a continuous basis Progress reports quarterly	American Bird Conservancy BirdLife International Project Coordinator National Project Liaisons Project Staff Members of Technical Advisory Committee

Level 3: persons and groups affected directly or indirectly by the outcomes of the Project implementation.	Inform on the project implementation status Collect opinions and concerns during public meetings or other contacts Register, analyze and address grievances or comments submitted	Local and community level informative and focus group discussions Social media Local radio and TV in language of local community and with tailor-made messages Brochures Community level trainings and workshops	Focus group discussions at least every 4 months Workshops at least twice per year Radio and TV messages on a periodic basis Guidance and other materials on a continuous basis	American Bird Conservancy Project Coordinator National Project Liaisons Project Staff Local community leaders Landowners and companies Technical directors of private companies interested in IBAT and AZE integration

Table 4. Stakeholder Engagement Monitoring Plan

Parameter	Monitoring & Reporting Responsibility	Reporting Frequency
1. Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase	Project Coordinating Unit	Annually

2. Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in the project implementation phase	Project Coordinating Unit	Annually
3. Number of engagements (e.g., meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase	Project Coordinating Unit	Annually
4. Percentage of stakeholders who rate as satisfactory the level at which their views and concerns are considered by the project	UN Environment Programme - Outsourced	Annually
5. Grievances handling mechanism ? how grievances are received, and results communicated to all stakeholders	Project Coordinating Unit	Annually

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; No

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Gender Overview

Colombia has ratified all current international treaties on human rights and women's rights and has made significant progress in developing laws to promote gender equality and guarantee women's rights. At the international level there are two key conventions ratified: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979; and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of ?Belem do Para?) 1995. Worthy of note are the Public Policy Guidelines for Gender Equity for Women and the Comprehensive Plan to guarantee women a life free of violence approved in 2012; the Victims and Land Restitution Law, passed in 2011, with important provisions on gender equality; as well as Law 1257 of 2008, which includes ?regulations on awareness, prevention and punishment of forms of violence and discrimination against women"; and Law 1719 of 2014, which guarantees access to justice for victims of sexual violence, especially sexual violence on the occasion of the armed conflict. Women?s organizations fought for 10 years from 1990 to 2000 for the adoption of Law 581 of 2000 (known as ?the Quota Law?), which establishes that a minimum of 30 percent of appointed positions must be occupied by women in the three branches of public power: executive, legislative, and judiciary[1].

While these norms provide a solid framework for advancing women's rights, there are still challenges to be addressed. As of April 2017, the National Registry of Victims (RUV) estimates that there are over 8.1 million victims of armed conflict in Colombia, representing 18% of the Colombian population[2]. Most victims (4.5 million) were females affected by forced displacement and sexual and gender-based violence, and were mostly female adolescents, single mothers or widows with children affected by the war. In the Department of Putumayo of which Mocoa is the Departmental Capital, the proposed project intervention area, 167,137 persons are victims of the armed conflict[3]. At least 40% of the victims were women below the age of 29; approximately 10% were girls and young women between 10?19 years old; about 40% were adult women between 30?59 years old; 13% were older women above the age of 65; and 4% were octogenarian?s women over 80 years old. Women belonging to Indigenous and Afro-Colombian ethnic groups have been disproportionately affected by conflict-derived violence; Of 3,445 cases of homicides of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian people, 65.5% were women[4]. According to the report of the National Institute of Legal Medicine in Colombia (INMLCF) in 2014, 1,007 women were murdered, 37,881 cases of violence against women in ??the couple were registered and 16,088 cases of sexual violence were against women, 86% of the total victims of this crime, with girls and adolescents being the main affected by this form of violence.

According to UN Women, in Chile, 83.3% of legal frameworks that promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality, with a focus on violence against women, are in place. The adolescent birth rate is 33.4 per 1000 population as of 2016, down from 40.6 per 1000 population in 2015. As of February 2019, 22.6% of parliament seats are held by women. In Chile, only 39.8% of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective are available, with gaps in key areas such as Violence Against Women, Key Labor Market indicators such as Gender Pay Gap and Skills in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). In addition, many areas such as gender and poverty, women?s access to assets including land, physical and sexual harassment, and gender and the environment currently lack comparable methodologies for comprehensive and periodic monitoring. Addressing

these gender data gaps is a prerequisite for understanding the situation of women and girls in Chile and for achieving the gender-related SDGs commitments.

In Dominican Republic, 75% of legal frameworks that promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality, with a focus on violence against women, are in place. As of February 2019, 26.8% of parliament seats are held by women. The proportion of women age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods in 2013 year stood at 81.7%. In Dominican Republic, only 44.9% of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective are available, with gaps in key areas such as skills in ICT. In addition, indicators on concerns such as women?s access to assets including land, physical and sexual harassment, and gender and the environment currently lack comparable methodologies for comprehensive and periodic monitoring. Addressing these gender data gaps is a prerequisite for understanding the situation of women and girls in Dominican Republic and for achieving the gender-related SDGs commitments.

In Madagascar, the proportion of women age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods in 2009 year stood at 60.5%. However, work still needs to be done in Madagascar to achieve gender equality. 33.3% of legal frameworks that promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality, with a focus on violence against women, are in place. The proportion of women aged 20-24 years old who were married or in union before age 18 is 41.2%. The adolescent birth rate is 152 per 1000 population as of 2014, up from 145 per 1000 population in 2011. As of February 2019, there are only 19.2% of parliament seats held by women[5]. In Madagascar, only 34.7% of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective are available, with gaps in key areas such as Violence Against Women, Unpaid Care and Domestic Work and Key Labor Market indicators such as Gender Pay Gap. In addition, many areas such as gender and poverty, women?s access to assets including land, physical and sexual harassment, and gender and the environment currently lack comparable methodologies for comprehensive and periodic monitoring. Addressing these gender data gaps is a prerequisite for understanding the situation of women and girls in Madagascar and for achieving the gender-related SDGs commitments. In Madagascar, in 2015, women using modern methods of contraception was 38.8%, maternal mortality ratio was 353, women giving birth in health centers was 38% and women who have experienced some form of gender-based violence (GBV) was 30%, thus showing that there is progress to be made[6].

Gender Inequalities

Analyses conducted using The World Bank Gender Data Portal suggest that in Chile, women hold 28% of senior and middle management positions and 35% of ministerial positions; in the Dominican Republic, they hold 37% and 21%; of these positions; and in Madagascar, 25% and 17%, respectively.

Furthermore, according to the Gender Gap Index of 2018 (Word Economic Forum), Dominican Republic ranks 74th overall and 69th in political empowerment, Madagascar ranks 84th and 96th, Colombia ranks 40th and 59th, and Chile ranks 54th and 31st, respectively. There is clearly a wide range in gender gaps between project countries, though all countries can benefit from increased attention to and promotion of women?s involvement in conservation decisions and actions.

In terms of gender inequality, Colombia has made substantial progress, but there is still much to be done. In terms of the Quota Law, the executive branch at the national level meets this quota, but there are significant differences among institutions and ministries. Some of them have fewer women in senior management positions than the quota established - in some cases it is 0 percent. However, the real concern is that various administrations and departments do not meet the requirements of the Quota Law year after year but there is no sanction. Women's political participation has increased from 6% to 11% in popular election positions, and from 7% to 21% in congressional elections in the last 20 years. However, it is one of the Latin American countries with the least representation of women in politics. In 2015, women comprise only 14% of councilors, 17% of deputies, 10% of mayors and 9% of governors. Figures still well below the parity that would do justice to the proportion of women within society. In relation to economic rights, women's access to formal employment and their participation in the labor market, although it has been growing, is still limited. In 2013, the labor participation gap was 20.94% (compared to 26.63% in 2001); the unemployment gap was 5.30% (compared to 7.38 in 2001); and 2012 gender pay gap was 23.28% (compared to 17.61% in 2002)[7].

Despite general progress made, in Chile there is still work to be done to achieve gender equality. Women and girls aged 10+ spend 22.1% of their time on unpaid care and domestic work compared to 9.9% spent by men. Similarly, in the Dominican Republic, work still needs to be done to achieve gender equality. The proportion of women aged 20-24 years old who were married or in union before age 18 is 35.9%. The adolescent birth rate is 89.5 per 1000 as of 2013, down from 89.8 per 1000 population in 2012. In 2013, 16% of women aged 15-49 years reported that they had been subject to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Also, women and girls aged 15+ spend 16.7% of their time on unpaid care and domestic work compared to 3.8% spent by men. In Madagascar, women report ill health more often than men by 14 percent on average, and in urban areas, the gap is greater (20 percent); more strikingly, women above the age of 15 report ill health 60 percent more often than men.

Project Activities to Mainstream Gender Perspectives

To address the inequalities described above, and within its possibilities, the Project will seek to institutionalize gender mainstreaming at all levels of intervention and operation by promoting gender equity. In its efforts to fully integrate gender mainstreaming, the Project will be guided by the principles that gender elements are important drivers and incentives for achieving global environmental and adaptation benefits, and in ensuring gender equity and social inclusion. The Project also embraces the fact that the needs, interest, and capabilities of women are habitually structurally different from

those of men, in relation to the access, use, and management of biodiversity resources within project intervention areas, and thus must be given special consideration in ensuring equal access to the resources and services of the project. The project?s gender mainstreaming objectives address the following action areas of the GEF: closing gender gaps in access and control of resources; improving women's participation and decision-making; and contributing to social and economic benefits or services for women.

In the context of overall training and capacity building programs, both women and men will be involved in a balanced way, ensuring that the selection criteria for training include gender-specific characteristics that will ensure meaningful and significant participation by women in all trainings offered by the project (up to 50% where feasible), with the intention of ensuring that at least 5,000 women benefit overall from the project interventions, consistent with the GEF-7 Core Indicator No. 11 of the project. The gender aspect will also be considered in the information and communication strategy of the project, by formulating messages specifically tailored to women and men independently, whenever relevant, and by considering gender aspects and the representation of both genders in all project implementation activities, and particularly in all communication and information materials.

Additionally, to ensure that this project meaningfully engage women in decision-making, women will be fully involved in the project countries? teams during project implementation. Through the appointment of women in relevant authorities and bodies, the project will seek to increase the number of women in decision-making positions. In this regard, during the project implementation phase, stakeholder consultations with gender perspectives, such as with NGOs focused on women?s rights and conservation organizations that include the promotion of gender equality in their goals, will be actively sought out for participation and involvement in project implementation and decision-making. Central to this project is the involvement of local communities in safeguarding AZE sites through protection, improved management, and other measures, inclusive of gender-sensitive approaches. Since community involvement is essential to the success of this project, it is imperative that the fifty percent of communities comprised of women is fully integrated into the project?s activities. Successful efforts to engage Indigenous women in the GEF-5 project in Chile, such as in restoration projects with native species, will be amplified and will serve as models for this project.

Finally, this project will use its strong focus on knowledge sharing through regional workshops and other exchanges to ensure that women are involved at all levels in these meetings, including in presentations at workshops. It will also focus on developing communication products aimed at reaching women, to ensure that information is easily and conveniently accessible and absorbed. Building upon the strong role of women in leadership positions in the GEF-5 project, which was highlighted in the project?s Mid-term Review, this project will have many women in project leadership roles. The lead on this project from American Bird Conservancy and several leads among the NGOs involved in this project are all women.

In consideration of the above, a Gender Mainstreaming & Action Plan was developed for the project and presented below in Table 5. It specifically highlights project outputs under which gender has been mainstreamed and targets/indicators disaggregated by sex have been defined, in addition to required resources and budget. The cost for implementing the Gender Mainstreaming and Action Plan has been budgeted as a separate budget line in the project?s overall budget.

Table 5. Gender Mainstreaming & Action Plan

Relevant Project Output	Project Due Diligence Activities	Target Disaggregated by Sex	Required Resources	Estimated Gender Budget (USD)
Output 1.1.3. Local communities and NGOs fully integrated into conservation planning process.	Ensure community consultations for the design and validation of plans, with provisions for equal participation for male and female. Ensure delivery of training on conservation planning includes provisions for equal participation for male and female.	50% men 50% women 50% men 50% women	While in general literature, notices and updates would be generic for both men and women, the project will be sensitive to the specific needs of women and adjust in the presentation of the information and training material if necessary.	$2,000 staff time Consultation materials budgeted under technical components Budgeted under Technical components

Output 1.1.5. Nature-based livelihood options, including ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) projects, and REDD+ projects, identified and turned into income-generating activities around the AZE sites, where applicable.	Ensure all capacity building and support provided by the project for nature-based livelihood options are designed and implemented in a gender-sensitive fashion	At least 50 men/country At least 50 women/country	Gender Specialist to assist in mainstreaming all relevant materials to reflect gender perspective	$3,000 Gender Specialist Gender related materials. mainstreamed in development of materials budgeted under technical components
Output 2.1.1. Technical services provided to lending institutions, including local, regional, and national banks and investors, for mainstreaming of AZE site conservation.	Ensure criteria is developed that require lending and financial institutions to apply gender balance in staff selection to receive project support	50% men 50% women	Technical expertise in gender sensitive approach	$6,000 Staff time Materials budgeted under technical components
Output 2.1.2. Financial and technical support to project countries to include AZE in their national policies and regulations.	All training to countries in AZE integration into policies and regulations must seek to achieve gender balance in participation	At least 10 men/country At least 10 women/country	Training manuals and materials Technical expertise	$6,000 Staff time Materials budgeted under technical components

Output 2.1.3 Technical support provided to businesses for strengthening AZE integration into industry policies and standards	Ensure criteria is developed that require businesses to apply gender balance in staff selection to receive project support	50% men 50% women	Technical expertise in gender sensitive approach	$6,000 Staff time $4,000 materials
Output 3.1.1. Capacity developed in pilot countries for the application of KBA standards.	Ensure delivery of training on applying KBA standards includes provisions for equal participation for male and female.	50% men 50% women	Technical expertise in gender sensitive approach	$2,000 Staff time
Output 3.2.2. Technical assistance provided for strong collaboration across focus countries and sectors, including government, civil society, and other partners.	Ensure that all opportunities for cross country exchanges and trainings are equally shared between men and women	At least 3 men/country At least 3 women/country	Technical expertise in gender sensitive approach	$4,000 Staff time
Output 3.2.3. Capacity development programs (trainings and workshops) on monitoring, conserving, and managing AZE sites designed and implemented at local, national, and global level. The participation of women and Indigenous Communities in these programs will be prioritized.	Ensure men, women and Indigenous Peoples have equal access to capacity building opportunities.	At least 2 men/country At least 2 women/country At least 2 Indigenous persons per country, where applicable	Technical expertise in safeguards and gender to develop selection criteria	$4,000 Staff time

Output 3.2.4. Communication strategies produced and provided to governments for the promotion of improved understanding of the AZE concept at local, regional, and national levels.	Ensure all communication materials are gender-sensitive and target Indigenous communities	At least 4 communication strategies that are sensitive to gender and Indigenous Peoples	Technical expertise in communications and safeguards and gender to ensure strategies are truly mainstreamed	$4,000 Staff time
Gender Mainstreaming in Project Management and Decision-Making				
Project Staff	Ensure equitable access	At least 1 of the 4-project staff must be women	Gender-sensitive Staff selection criteria	$2,000 staff time
Project Steering Committee (PSC)	Ensure equal representation	50% men 50% women	Gender-sensitive Member Profiles for PSC	$2,000 staff time
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Ensure equal representation	50% men 50% women	Gender-sensitive Member Profiles for TAC	$2,000 staff time

[1] Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment in Public Administration. Colombia Case Study. UNDP, 2012

[2] Juan Carlos Rivillas et al. 2018. How do we reach the girls and women who are the hardest to reach? Inequitable opportunities in reproductive and maternal health care services in armed conflict and forced displacement settings in Colombia.

[3] Politica publica de equidad de genero para las mujeres del Putumayo: Dignidad, Reconocimiento y Territorio. 2017

[4] Mainstreaming gender equality in Colombia, Capacity4dev, Published 7th October 2019

[5] UN Women. Madagascar - Country Fact Sheet. https://data.unwomen.org/country/madagascar Accessed 1st March 2021.

[6] PSI Madagascar. 2019. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Analysis and Action Plan. USAID, 64p

[7] ONU Mujeres Colombia. Las mujeres en Colombia. https://colombia.unwomen.org/es/onu-mujeres-en-colombia/las-mujeres-en-colombia Referenced February 2020

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

Private sector engagement is a focus of the project through working with financial institutions and business groups. The project seeks to mainstream AZE site conservation into policies and safeguards of regional and national banks and investors. Private sector groups including the International Finance Corporation (IFC) were engaged during project development. AZE site conservation will be integrated with financial institutions, including local, regional and national banks and investors, to achieve global proactive financing of nature-based solutions and national and regional safeguards. This will be accomplished through direct contact with such institutions and at workshops demonstrating the biodiversity, economic, and reputational benefits of avoiding damage to irreplaceable global biodiversity sites.

In the Dominican Republic initial work has begun on a Payment for Ecosystem Services project to finance sustainability through commitments by two local companies to fund management at one AZE site with the further objective to protect water resources. The Central Romana company in the Dominican Republic is interested in supporting the creation of a private reserve for the protection of an AZE trigger species. In Chile, several mining companies are interested in supporting the project at sites near their projects.

Long-term financial sustainability options will be explored at all 20 AZE sites. Sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, payments for ecosystem services and REDD+ projects are the most likely candidates for securing future income streams for the conservation of these sites. The project will conduct site-specific feasibility assessments based on a standardized methodological approach. Options deemed

feasible will be further developed into green business pilot projects and applied initially to at least 2 sites for further extrapolation and expansion to other sites.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risk	Risk Level	Proposed mitigation measures

Risk	Risk Level	Proposed mitigation measures
Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic	High	A key risk of COVID-19 is prolonged social distancing measures and recurring national quarantine measures in project countries. To guarantee the continuation of the project despite prolonged social distancing requirements, project meetings and the engagement processes could transition on-line or to a combination of in-person and virtual participants to minimize contagion risks. Remote technological infrastructure would be used to facilitate this type of engagement including easily accessible videoconferencing services. For those who cannot participate remotely, in-person meetings could be held with a reduced number of participants and holding social distancing and hygiene best. The development of the crisis will be closely monitored, and creative responses will be explored and implemented along the way focused on advancing project outcomes through alternative forms of engagement, and flexibility in case meetings and field visits must be rescheduled. Similarly, innovative ways of ensuring co-financing funds can be effectively deployed under a COVID-19 risk scenario may also have to be explored. The project will exercise extreme caution in ensuring that its activities do not increase the risk of transmission and spread. COVID-19 may affect the physical availability of technical expertise to provide in-situ support due to travel restrictions and limitations on physical gatherings imposed by countries. As suggested above, virtual means of delivery will be used in such cases and required adjustments to the timeline to accommodate the effects of the pandemic will be given due consideration during the project?s annual planning processes. The project provides an opportunity for green recovery and building back better through the development of nature-based income option in the vicinity of AZE sites and by engaging the private sector and lending institutions to embrace consideration for protecting AZE and KBA sites in their develop models and lending instruments.

Risk	Risk Level	Proposed mitigation measures
Climate change impacts degrade or alter the last remaining habitats of one or more AZE trigger species	Low	To build site-level resilience to climate change impacts, potential mitigation measures include buffering AZE sites through restoration with native species, which will enlarge potential habitat for AZE trigger species, helping both to mitigate climate change impacts and to provide additional habitat for species. Another option could be translocating AZE trigger species to former or new sites with appropriate habitat.
Climate change impacts have uncertain effects on AZE sites	Low	The proposed project will integrate AZE site conservation into policies, analysis and spatial planning focused on climate mitigation and adaptation. In this way, the project seeks to improve AZE resiliency to climate change on a global scale.
Weak or poor commitment by government agencies	Medium	Given political uncertainties in some project countries, and potential political changes in all countries, there is a risk that government agency commitments to this project may be reduced. Mainstreaming AZE site conservation will help to mitigate this potential risk, as the integration of AZE site conservation into national plans and policies will help to reinforce it within governmental objectives. For sites, community-based management approaches also mitigate instability in governments.
Lack of participation of local Indigenous Communities and/or of the financial sector	Medium	Robust efforts to solicit the participation of Indigenous Communities and the financial sector during the project design phase should strengthen the participation of both groups during project implementation, as well as compliance with the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework developed for the project.
Political instability or changes alter governmental priorities related to biodiversity conservation.	Low	To mitigate the potential effects of political changes on the conservation of AZE sites, this project integrates a wide variety of actors, from governmental officials at the national and sub-national level to civil society to groups in the private sector, as project participants. Through the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, the project aims to mitigate potential changes in the governmental sector by ensuring continued support of participants in other sectors. If national governments express disinterest in biodiversity conservation, we propose to focus efforts even more strongly with sub-national governmental agencies and civil society as a path forward for continuing the conservation of AZE sites and working to prevent extinctions.

Risk	Risk Level	Proposed mitigation measures
A snapshot approach to AZE site assessments could miss longer-term trends that affect site vulnerability	Low	The inclusion of a reliable multitemporal dataset of geographic information to evaluate the status and trends of habitat loss and fragmentation at many AZE sites in the Americas (dependent on data availability) will inform prioritization decision-making.
Lack of interest in or resistance to conservation actions at AZE sites by local communities	Low	Learning from the GEF-5 AZE project, which faced and overcame this challenge, the proposed project will promote robust inclusion of local communities during the project planning and implementation phases. Additionally, local community participation in AZE site conservation decisions and implementation will be an integral part of the project so that stakeholders have a real voice in such decisions. The OECM approach, which may be more compatible with and acceptable to local communities than traditional protected areas, will support the Project's efforts to increase interest of local communities. The project?s Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will ensure robust and structured stakeholder participation and engagement.
Gender mainstreaming by the project may be undermined without a series of activities aimed at understanding women?s challenges, and if the project does not take advantage of their capabilities and leadership roles within the family unit and the local community.	Low	The project will have to be genuinely gender mainstreamed, from the initial design phase, through the implementation, and impact evaluation. Particular attention must be paid to addressing all possible information gaps that may place women in an unfavorable position. The project has developed a Gender Mainstreaming Plan, inclusive of a Gender Action Plan, to ensure that the project is truly gender-sensitive and minimize any potential gender risks.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Institutional Arrangements

UNEP will act as the GEF Implementing Agency. ABC will lead the overall execution of the project and project execution of Component 1 in project countries. BirdLife will lead on mainstreaming efforts (Component 2) and with the KBA Partnership and Programme (Outcome 3.1 of Component 3). BirdLife will also ensure that AZE site data is stored in the World Database of KBAs and is available for use at the

KBA Website and through IBAT. The project will be developed with and overseen by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The four project countries will work collaboratively on this global project. Chile and Madagascar were both project countries in the GEF-5 AZE project and will provide continuity with the previous project and help guide the amplification of AZE conservation in other countries. Including countries at different stages of AZE conservation implementation is a goal of this project and will enable countries to learn from each other. Colombia has worked on AZE site conservation in past years and seeks to reinvigorate its focus on AZE, while Dominican Republic is newer to AZE site conservation and can take advantage of lessons learned from other project countries. The four countries will also work with non-project countries to increase awareness of AZE site conservation regionally. Each country will focus outreach regionally, in the Southern Cone (Chile), Tropical Andes (Colombia), Caribbean (Dominican Republic), and Eastern Africa (Madagascar).

As megadiverse countries, Colombia and Madagascar can demonstrate the importance of conserving AZE sites to other members of the Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries group. Similarly, Dominican Republic will be able to demonstrate the application of AZE site conservation in the Caribbean, a region that to date has not had a strong focus on AZE. A further description of the institutional arrangements is provided in Annex I.

Coordination

The Project will coordinate with the following relevant GEF financed projects:

In Chile, **t**he Project will coordinate mainstreaming actions with the GEF Project ?Economic instruments and tools to support the conservation of biodiversity, the payment of ecosystem services and sustainable development? (GEF id 10213) implemented by UNDP. The Project will coordinate the actions on coastal AZE sites with the GEF Project ?*Strengthening management and governance for the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in coastal marine ecosystems in Chile*? (GEF id 10075) implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). - The Project will further coordinate with the UNEP implemented GEF Project ?Mainstreaming Conservation of Coastal Wetlands of Chile?s South Center Biodiversity Hotspot through Adaptive Management of Coastal Area Ecosystems? (GEF ID 9766).

In Colombia, the Project will coordinate with the GEF Project ?*P?ramos for Life?* (GEF id 10361) currently under development and to be executed by UNDP and FAO. The project will coordinate actions with the GEF project ?*Contributing to the Integrated Management of Biodiversity of the Pacific Region of Colombia to Build Peace?* (GEF Project ID 9441) currently under implementation with support from FAO. Actions will also be coordinated with the GEF project (GEF Project ID 5680) ?*Consolidation of the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) at National and Regional Levels*?, which is currently under implementation with support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

In Dominican Republic, the Project will coordinate with the GEF Project ?*Mainstreaming Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Productive Landscapes in Threatened Forested Mountainous Areas*? (GEF id 9424). This project is being implemented by UNDP.

In Madagascar, the Project will coordinate with the GEF Project ?*Conservation and Improvement of Ecosystem Services for the Atsinanana Region through Agroecology and the Promotion of Sustainable Energy Production*? (GEF id 9793), which will be implemented by UNEP. The project will also coordinate actions with the ongoing GEF project ?*Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Northwestern Landscape (Boeny region*)? (GEF id 9606), which is implemented by Conservation International. Furthermore, the Project will seek to generate synergy with the GEF funded Projects ?*Expanding and Consolidating Madagascar?s Marine Protected Areas Network*? (GEF id 9546) and ?*A Landscape Approach to Conserving and Managing Threatened Biodiversity in Madagascar with a Focus on the Atsimo-Andrefana Spiny and Dry Forest Landscape*? (GEF id 5486). In addition, the Project will coordinate with the GEF Project ?*Conservation of Key Threatened Endemic and Economically Valuable Species in Madagascar*? implemented by UNEP (GEF id 5352); and with the GEF Project ?*Strengthening the Network of New PAs in Madagascar*? implemented by UNEP (GEF ID 5351).

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The information presented below complements and further substantiates the extended descriptions provided above under ?Policy & Institutional Context?.

Chile: The project is consistent with the overall objective of Chile?s National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2017 ? 2030 and more specifically contributes to four of the five strategic objectives of the NBSAP: to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity for human wellbeing while

reducing threats to ecosystems and species; to increase awareness, participation, information and knowledge regarding biodiversity; to include biodiversity objectives in public- and private-sector policies, plans and programs; and to protect and restore biodiversity and its ecosystem services.

The project also aligns with the Chile National REDD Strategy. This strategy establishes eight activities containing 26 action measures, which are intended to address the drivers of deforestation, de-vegetation, degradation of forests and other vegetation resources, as well as those barriers that prevent or interfere negatively in implementing activities on restoration, conservation, sustainable management, enrichment, and regeneration of vegetation resources. These activities include adaptive management to climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought; sustainable management of vegetation resources; farm and livestock management for protection of vegetation resources; preventative management on forest fires; sanitary plant protection; restoration of substituted areas by exotic species; crosscutting management measures that include legal issues, regulatory, enforcement, outreach, and environmental education, among others.

Colombia: The project is consistent with Colombia?s Biodiversity Action Plan ? BAP (2016-2030). The overall objective of the Action Plan is to promote the integrated management of biodiversity conservation. The Project contributes to this objective. Furthermore, the Project will contribute to the implementation of the following thematic axes of the BAP: 1. Biodiversity, conservation, and the care of nature; 2. Biodiversity governance; 4. Biodiversity and the management of knowledge, technology, and information; and 5. Management of risk and supply of ecosystem services.

The Project also aligns well with Colombia?s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Colombia, as a megadiverse country, must ensure that it preserves its enormous wealth in ecosystems, biodiversity, and water resources. Therefore, from the adaptation and mitigation measures of the NDC, special attention is paid to protected areas, as well as to the conservation and restoration of strategic ecosystems such as paramos, mangroves, wetlands, coral reefs, glaciers, oceans and tropical forests, in recognition of their intrinsic value and the environmental services they provide for Colombia and the world. Within the NDC there are specific provisions for the adoption and implementation of 100% of the Plans for the Management and Integrated Management of Coastal Environmental Units (POMIUAC) with ecosystem-based adaptation actions (EbA) on mangroves and seagrasses, and other ecosystems

Dominican Republic: The project is consistent with overall objective of the National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan (NBSAP) and more specifically contributes to national targets to strengthen protected areas, improve the conservation status of threatened species, and to include biodiversity in national planning processes. The updated Dominican Republic NDC contains specific provisions to incorporate Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA) into sectoral climate change adaptation plans,

biodiversity, and sustainable development policies. The project aligns with the country?s National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2012-2030 in Strategic Objective 4: Increasing the resilience of ecosystems, biodiversity and forests, Focal Area 4.5: Promote the connectivity of habitats, species, communities, and ecological processes (landscape linkage) and the continuity of altitudinal gradients, as well as the expansion and / or the establishment of new areas aimed at reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

Madagascar: The project is consistent with overall objective of Madagascar?s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which aims to set up measures to effectively reduce the loss of biodiversity; to ensure the provision of essential ecosystem services and equitable sharing of benefits from biodiversity; and to ensure social welfare and economic and environmental development for current and future generations. More specifically, the Project contributes to the following strategic objectives: 1. In 2025, policymakers and 65% of the Malagasy people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the measures they can take to protect and use it sustainably; 2. In 2025, at the latest, biodiversity values, opportunities and benefits of conservation and sustainable use will be recognized and integrated into the country's socio-economic development activities; 3. In 2025, at the latest, inappropriate and negative incentives on biodiversity will be eliminated or gradually reduced to minimize negative impacts; while positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources will be developed and applied; and 4. By 2025, the rate of degradation, fragmentation and loss of habitats or ecosystems is reduced.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

Knowledge management is designed as a standalone component in the project. Component 3 promotes learning and continuous improvement, documents existing and new AZE sites, generates documents for upscaling of lessons learned and aids with strong collaboration across countries. The lessons learned will be communicated to the direct and indirect beneficiaries in various ways, mainly: training activities, technical publications, educational material, and awareness campaigns. The knowledge management approach will be based on evidence of success and failure with the GEF-5 project.

The project will help to develop the tools needed to systematize, extract, and organize the acquired knowledge, and disseminate the results, lessons, and good practices. Information will be tailored to different groups so that it is accessible, through online toolkits, webinars and seminars, workshops and trainings, and other communication strategies.

The project will facilitate direct exchanges between countries through South-South exchanges and ?Communities of Practice? very early in the project, during the project development phase. The project will organize regional workshops led by project countries to broaden knowledge of AZE site conservation outside of project countries, thus promoting the AZE concept beyond the partners involved in this project to support AZE site conservation globally. Nationally and locally, summits held in project countries at the beginning, middle and end of the project will encourage cooperation across sectors, including government and civil society, to support both site-level and mainstreaming efforts.

Communication tools will be developed to assist governments, NGOs, and others to successfully disseminating information on conserving AZE sites.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project will follow the UN Environment Programme?s standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the legal instrument to be signed by the Executing Agency and the UN Environment Programme.

The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework is presented in Annex A of this CEO Endorsement Request and includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome, means of verification, as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Annex J of this CEO Endorsement Request will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The project?s Costed M&E Plan is presented in Annex L of this CEO Endorsement Request, with all mentioned M&E costs fully integrated in the overall budget of the project, presented in Annex H of this CEO Endorsement Request as a separate Excel file.

The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-?-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception workshop. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the project management team, but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Coordinator to inform UNEP of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The Project Steering Committee will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project

oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the GEF Task Manager at UNEP. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager?s supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-?-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UN Environment Programme. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

A mid-term management review or evaluation will take place on June 30, 2023, as indicated in the project milestones. The review will include all parameters recommended by the GEF Evaluation Office for terminal evaluations and will verify information gathered through the project PIRs and quarterly progress reports, as relevant. The review will be carried out using a participatory approach whereby parties that may benefit or be affected by the project will be consulted. Such parties were identified during the stakeholder analysis. The Project Steering Committee will participate in the mid-term review and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented.

In-line with the GEF Evaluation requirements, the project will be subject to an independent Terminal Evaluation. Additionally, a performance assessment will be conducted at the project?s mid-point. The Evaluation Office will decide whether a Mid-Term Review, commissioned and managed by the Project Manager, is sufficient or whether a Mid-Term Evaluation, managed by the Evaluation Office, is required.

The Evaluation Office will be responsible for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) and will liaise with the project manager throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results

and lessons learned among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project?s operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office to feed into the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalised.

The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the project manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalization of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.

M & E BUDGET:

Type of M&E activity	**Responsible Parties**	**Budget from GEF**	**Co-finance**	**Time Frame**
Inception Workshop	American Bird Conservancy, Project Team, Steering Committee, UNEP	1,000	10,000	Within 2 months of project start-up (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Inception Report	American Bird Conservancy/Project Coordinator	6,000	7,000	1 month after project inception meeting (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Measurement of project indicators (Core Indicators, outcome, progress, and performance indicators,) at national and global level	American Bird Conservancy/Project Coordinator & Project Team; Consultants	12,000	40,000	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)

Project Steering Committee	? Project Manager as *Ex-officio* member (secretariat) ? UNEP Project Task Manager ? A senior representative of American Bird Conservancy ? Project Liaison of each country	4,000	37,613	At least once a year, and via electronic media per request and need (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Learning missions/ site visits	American Bird Conservancy, BirdLife International	11,000	60,000	As appropriate
Project Implementation Review (PIR)	Project Task Manager; UNEP		40,000	Annually, part of reporting routine (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
GEF Tracking tools at MTR and TE	? Project Coordinator ? PCU ? External consultant(s)		15,000	Mid-Term and End of Project (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Mid Term Review/ Evaluation	? Project Coordinator ? PCU ? External consultant(s) ? UNEP	20,000	30,000	At mid-point of project implementation (*Note: If a Mid-Term review is not required for this MSP, these resources will be applied to the Terminal Evaluation)
Terminal Evaluation	UNEP EO	40,000	50,000	Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Total M&E Plan Budget		**71,000**	**289,613**	

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The project will directly benefit 5,000 women and 5,000 men in the communities of the project intervention area. The nature-based livelihood options to be developed and piloted in communities adjacent to AZE sites will provide numerous opportunities for both women and men to participate in nature-based livelihood practices, directly strengthening the economic position and the livelihoods of the affected communities. Additionally, the project?s gender mainstreaming approach will ensure that women receive their fair share of project benefits with a direct positive impact on their economic independence. Training materials will be gender sensitive and gender balance will be sought through the implementation of the Gender Action Plan developed specifically for the project. The participation and access by Indigenous communities will be secured and guided by the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Framework developed for the project.

The project will deliver global environmental benefits through the direct conservation of 25 AZE trigger species and through its contribution to GEF Core Indicators 1, 4 and 11:

Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares): 935,770.

Core Indicator 4: Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (excluding protected areas) (Hectares) 400,000; and total area under improved management (Hectares) of 1,463,286.

Core Indicator 11: **Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender** as co-benefit of GEF investment: 5,000 females; 5,000 males.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low	Low		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
10581 AZEGEF7 SRIF at CEOEnd	CEO Endorsement ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Project Objective: To improve the conservation of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.				
Outcome 1.1. Improved protection of critically endangered and endangered species through implementation of priority AZE site conservation actions				

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
1. Management plans developed and adopted for over 1,054,714 ha at 20 AZE sites in project countries	Baseline 12 Management Plans	***Midterm**:* 14 Management Plans ***Project End**:* 20 Management Plans	Copies of Management Plans Approval/Adoption instruments from relevant government entity	Technical data on sites is timely and of the quality required for management plan development. Authorities support official adoption of management plans.
2. Populations of key species at pilot sites remain stable and/or increase	Baseline Declining: 23 Threatened: 1 Stable: 1 Increasing: 0	***Midterm**:* Declining: 0 Threatened: 1 Stable: ? 14 Increasing: ?10 ***Project End**:* Declining: 0 Threatened: 0 Stable: ?10 Increasing: ?15	Report of Population Abundance Surveys or other monitoring data	Management Plans are implemented and are responsive enough to minimize threat to key species and improve their status and outlook at AZE sites.
3. Increase in the METT scores of the targeted AZE sites	Baseline METT Scores (1 ? 3) **Chile AZE Sites** Puquios-Ollag?e: 1 Las Cascadas Loa River: 3 Mehuin 1: 39 Murmuntani: 1 Los Molles - Pichidangui coastal area: 7 R?o Vilama: 1	***Midterm**:* ? 5% increase from baseline for all sites ***Project End**:* ? 20% increase from baseline for all sites	Completed GEF-7 Biodiversity Tracking Tool Management Plan Reports	Counterpart support is timely to ensure proper management plan implementation, leading to enhanced management effectiveness. Project counterparts ensure quality of METT values are good enough to meet needs of GEF-7 BD Tracking Tool for mid-term and end of project.

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
6. GEF Core Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity	Baseline 0	***Midterm**: Actions towards 978,749 hectares of landscapes under improved management agreed by the stakeholders* ***Project End**: 978,749 hectares of landscapes under increasingly improved management*	Management plans that take into account the conservation of AZE site buffer zones Participation of local communities and stakeholders in management of the landscapes	

***Outputs*:**

Output 1.1.1. Conservation plans for each site developed and being implemented.

Output 1.1.2. Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) approach tested and OECM status achieved. Where applicable, process to designate AZE sites as new protected areas initiated and advanced.

Output 1.1.3. Local communities and NGOs fully integrated into conservation planning process. Participation of women and Indigenous Communities prioritized in the development and implementation of conservation plans.

Output 1.1.4. Opportunities for long-term financial sustainability of AZE site conservation actions identified, such as commitments by private sector entities to finance the management of AZE sites and implemented where applicable.

Output 1.1.5. Nature-based livelihood options, including ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) projects, and REDD+ projects, identified and turned into income-generating activities around the AZE sites, where applicable

Outcome 2.1. Biodiversity conservation enhanced and extinction threat reduced through mainstreaming AZE site conservation.

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Number of financial institutions (national, regional, and global banks and agencies) in the four project countries that integrate AZE site conservation into their policy/operational approaches and ongoing screening of potential investments and project financing impacts to AZE sites.	Baseline National Lending Institutions: 1 (Bancolombia S.A.) Regional Lending Institutions: 2 (Inter-American Development Bank) (Development Bank of Latin America)	***Midterm*** National Lending Institutions: 2 Regional Lending Institutions: 3 ***Project End*** National Lending Institutions: 4 Regional Lending Institutions: 4	Copy of the financial institution?s procedural handbook for loans and credits Financial institutions environmental and social policies Project financing reports Credit portfolio reports	ABC, BirdLife International and local counterparts as project leads can engage and maintain the interest and enthusiasm of the financial institutions and business sector in the pursuit of environmentally-friendly credit facilities.
Number of reports and plans by project country governments that include the conservation of AZE sites.	- - Baseline 12 Management Plans	***Midterm*** *14 Management Plans* *11 METT Reports* ***Project End*** *20 Management Plans* *20 METT Reports*	AZE Site Management Plans METT Reports for the AZE sites Company Strategic Plans Company Policy Statements Company Blogs	Counterpart support is timely to ensure proper management plan implementation, leading to enhanced management effectiveness. Project counterparts ensure quality of METT values are good enough to meet needs of GEF-7 BD Tracking Tool for mid-term and end of project.
Number of finance institutions and companies operating in the four project countries and more broadly using IBAT to better scope and plan their actions within the vicinity of AZE sites	Baseline Chile: 0 Colombia: 0 Dominican Republic: 0 Madagascar: 0	***Midterm*** 4 in project countries ***Project End*** 12 in project countries	Company Site assessment Studies IBAT Records	The project can successfully engage the private sector to consider IBAT in their Corporate Social Responsibility strategy.

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
***Outputs*:** Output 2.1.1. Technical services provided to lending institutions, including local, regional, and national banks and investors, for mainstreaming of AZE site conservation. Output 2.1.2. Financial and technical support to project countries to include AZE in their national policies and regulations. Output 2.1.3 Technical support provided to businesses for strengthening AZE integration into industry policies and standards. Output 2.1.4 Technical support provided for mainstreaming of AZE site conservation into climate mitigation and adaptation actions, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), REDD+, and climate resilience strategies and policies at national and global levels, including national biodiversity, climate, water, forest and land management targets, strategies and plans at the landscape and national scale.				
Outcome 3.1 Application of KBA standards is advanced in pilot countries.				

Outcome Level Indicators	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**
Number of existing and new AZE sites, confirmed and documented in the project countries.	Baseline Chile: 21 AZE sites, 196 KBAs in total Colombia: 39 AZE sites, 152 KBAs in total Dominican Republic: 4 AZE sites, 35 KBAs in total Madagascar: 53 AZE sites, 240 KBAs in total	***Midterm*** Chile: Baseline + 1 Colombia: Baseline + 1 Dominican Republic: Baseline + 1 Madagascar: Baseline + 1 ***Project End*** Chile: Baseline + 2 Colombia: Baseline + 2 Dominican Republic: Baseline + 2 Madagascar: Baseline + 2	AZE site proposals Online presentations and references to reassessed and new AZEs on the KBA and AZE Websites	Governments commit to AZE site confirmations
***Outputs*:** Output 3.1.1. Capacity developed in pilot countries for the application of KBA standards. Output 3.1.2 Documentation of existing and new AZE sites developed, shared, and disseminated through the World Database of KBAs and the AZE and KBA websites.				
Outcome 3.2. Increased understanding and application of AZE site conservation implementation in policies and plans by local, national, regional and global stakeholders				

Outcome Level Indicators	**Baseline**	**Targets and Monitoring Milestones**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**
Number of policies, strategies and plans developed or implemented by local communities, private sector groups, NGOs, and other stakeholders to apply AZE knowledge in their conservation and community practices, including at least 1 on-the-ground intervention. GEF Core Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries as co-benefit of GEF investment	Baseline Policies, strategies, and plans: 3 (Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Madagascar) 0 women, 0 men	***Midterm:*** Policies, strategies, and plans: 7 ***Project End:*** Policies, strategies, and plans: 11 ***Project end:*** 5,000 women; 5,000 men	Copies of policy, plans and strategy documents Monitoring and evaluation reports with gender disaggregated benefits	Stakeholders broadly embrace AZE site conservation tools and initiate institutionalization process.
Outputs: Output 3.2.1. Improved knowledge of site-based conservation in non-project countries supported. Output 3.2.2. Capacity development programs (trainings and workshops) on monitoring, conserving, and managing AZE sites designed and implemented at local, national and global level. The participation of women and Indigenous Communities in these programs will be prioritized. Output 3.2.3. Communication strategies produced and provided to governments for the promotion of improved understanding of the AZE concept at local, regional, and national levels.				

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

GEFSec Comments	Agency Responses at PIF	Agency Responses at CEO Endorsement

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators? **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion** **4/7/2020** There are several inconsistencies in Table B that require clarification. Please rewrite the objective into one objective, not three. You could probably put a period after sites and that is your objective. What follows that are outcomes that you identify in Table B. Component One: The PIF notes that some countries have made their decision on what sites they will work in already, thus, these should be listed in Table B. Please also provide in the text of the PIF document a shortlist for each country from which the final list of 20 sites will be identified. Include in this list the set of criteria that are more robust and that are better aligned with the theory of change underpinning the project than is currently presented in the PIF. For example, we would expect that other criteria would include: the likelihood of success, the presence of a strong baseline where a modest GEF investment would be meaningful etc., Please present the criteria in an evaluation matrix so we can understand why the countries have already selected certain sites and what these sites are and how the remaining countries will select their sites. These sites should then be entered into the Core Indicators by the time of CEO approval of the MSP. It is not clear why output 1.1.1 and output 1.1.2 of the project are required as we would expect that these activities would be undertaken during the PPG and ONLY for the 5 sites per country that the project will support. Remove these outputs as they are part of PPG activities and revise Table B. Under Outcome 1.1 the first indicator should state that the 20 sites will be identified during	Response:19/06/2020 1. We revised the objective as suggested. Now it reads as: "To improve the conservation of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites." 2. We inserted the provisionally identified sites in Table B. 3. We provided the list of criteria that was used to identify the priority AZE sites. We also provided the evaluation matrices for each site in Annex E of the PIF. 4. We removed output 1.1.1 and output 1.1.2. 5. We already identified the 20 sites. However, **we will confirm these 20 sites at the PPG,** and we clarified this under the first indicator of Outcome 1.1 6. We provided evidence regarding financial sustainability based on output 1.1.6 in the Sustainability section under 1a.7. 7. We included	<u>February 2021</u> A total of 20 sites have been confirmed during the PPG as follows: **Chile AZE Sites** Puquios-Ollag?e Las Cascadas Loa River: Mehuin 1 Murmuntani Los Molles - Pichidangui coastal area R?o Vilama Tocopilla coastal hills Zapahuira **Colombia AZE Sites** Enclave Seco del Rio Dagua Farallones de Cali Munchique Natural National Park and southern extension P?ramo Urrao / Colibri del Sol Bird Reserve Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza and surroundings **Dominican Republic AZE Sites** Bayahibe: Padre Domingo Fuerte Natural Monument: **Madagascar AZE Sites** Ankafobe Itremo Mahavavy - Kinkony wetlands NPA Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01) **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion** **4/2/202** The PIF notes that some countries have made their decision on what sites they will work in already, thus, these should be listed in the core indicators. If for some justified reason the proponents are unable at this time to provide the names of all the actual sites, please provide in the text of the PIF document a short list for each country from which the final list of 20 sites will be identified. Include in this list the set of criteria that are more robust and that are better aligned with the theory of change underpinning the project than is currently presented in the PIF. For example, we would expect that other criteria would include: the likelihood of success, the presence of a strong baseline where a modest GEF investment would be meaningful etc., Please present the criteria in an evaluation matrix so we can understand why the countries have already selected certain sites and what these sites are and how the remaining countries will select their sites. These sites should then be entered into the Core Indicators by the time of CEO approval of the MSP. 6/25/2020 Adequate clarifications. Cleared.	Response:19/06/2020 We inserted the identified sites in Table B. We also provided the evaluation matrices used to identify the priority AZE sites. **The 20 sites provisionally identified will be confirmed at the PPG and we will reflect the list in the Core Indicators at the CEO Endorsement request phase**	<u>February 2021</u> A total of 20 sites have been confirmed and are listed in the Core Indicators Worksheet in Annex F of this CEO Endorsement Request

6. Are the project?s/program?s indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits? **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion** **4/7/2020** Yes, for the most part but please improve the indicators for assessing the condition of the 400,000 hectares of the productive landscapes that will be improved for the benefit of biodiversity. 6/25/2020 Adequate clarifications. Cleared.	Response:19/06/2020 We have identified the 20 sites and we know whether the sites are protected and/or have a management plan. The targeted productive landscapes will be around these identified sites. However, we don't have accurate data and information for assessing these landscapes. **The data and the condition will be assessed at the PPG phase.**	February 2021 Productive landscapes within the context of the indicator refer to areas adjacent to (buffer zone) declared protected areas that are also AZE sites. Those sites with existing management plans are better poised for management benefits to be applied to adjacent zones. Therefore, the buffer zones of the 12 sites where nature-based financing options will be developed will also be used as the reference sites for meeting the 400,000 hectares target for productive landscapes.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 49,635

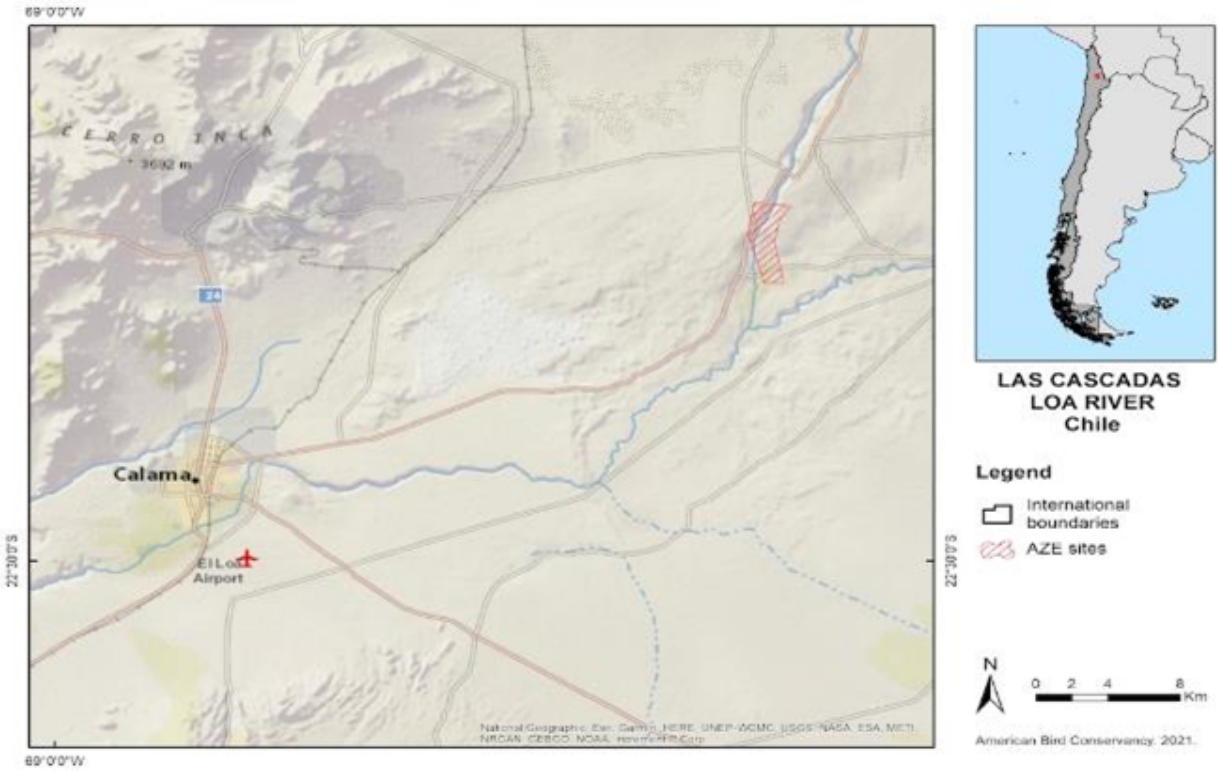
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	*GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)*		
	Budgeted Amount	*Amount Spent to date*	*Amount Committed*
Lead consultant	22,000	15,400	6,600
Environmental and Social Safeguards consultant	5,000	5,000	0
International biodiversity Consultant	8,000	4,000	4,000
Sub-grants to project partners in Colombia, Chile, Madagascar and/or Dominican Republic	14,635	7,500	9,000

Total	49,635	31,900	19,600

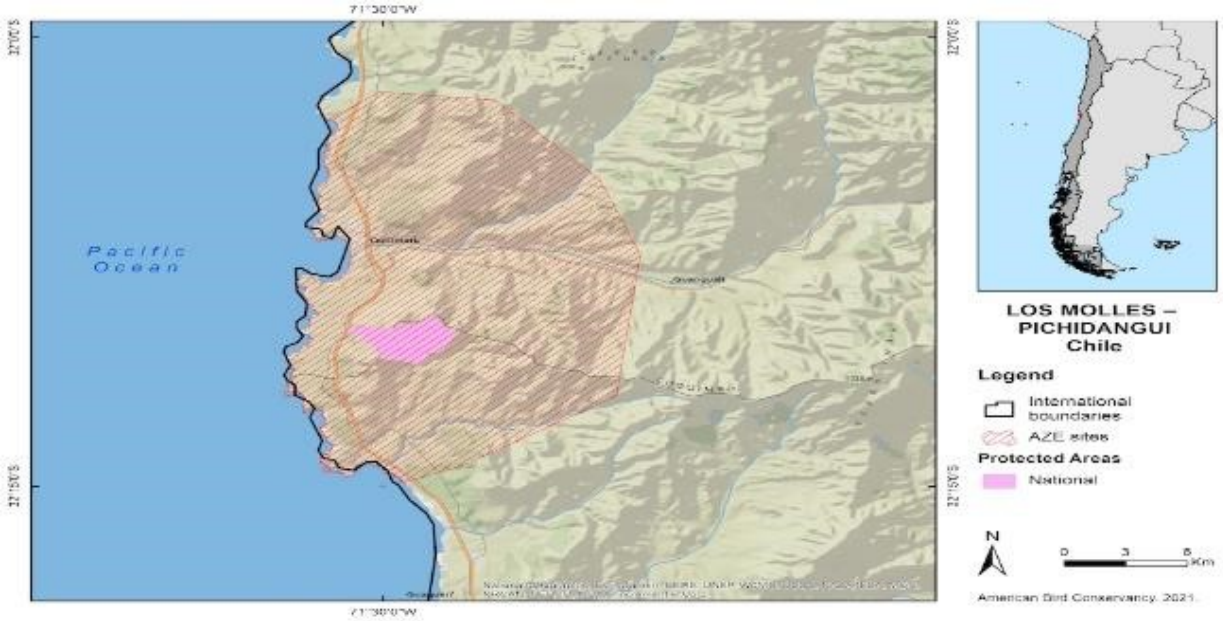
ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

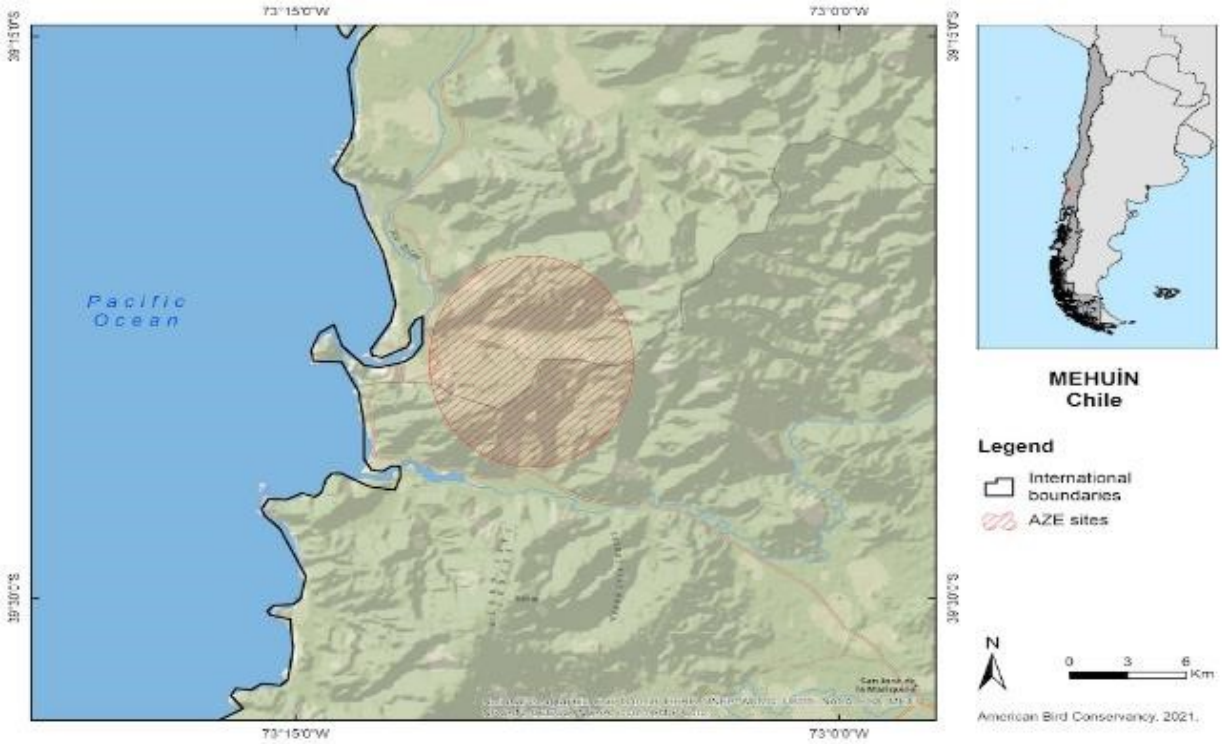
AZE Project Sites in Chile



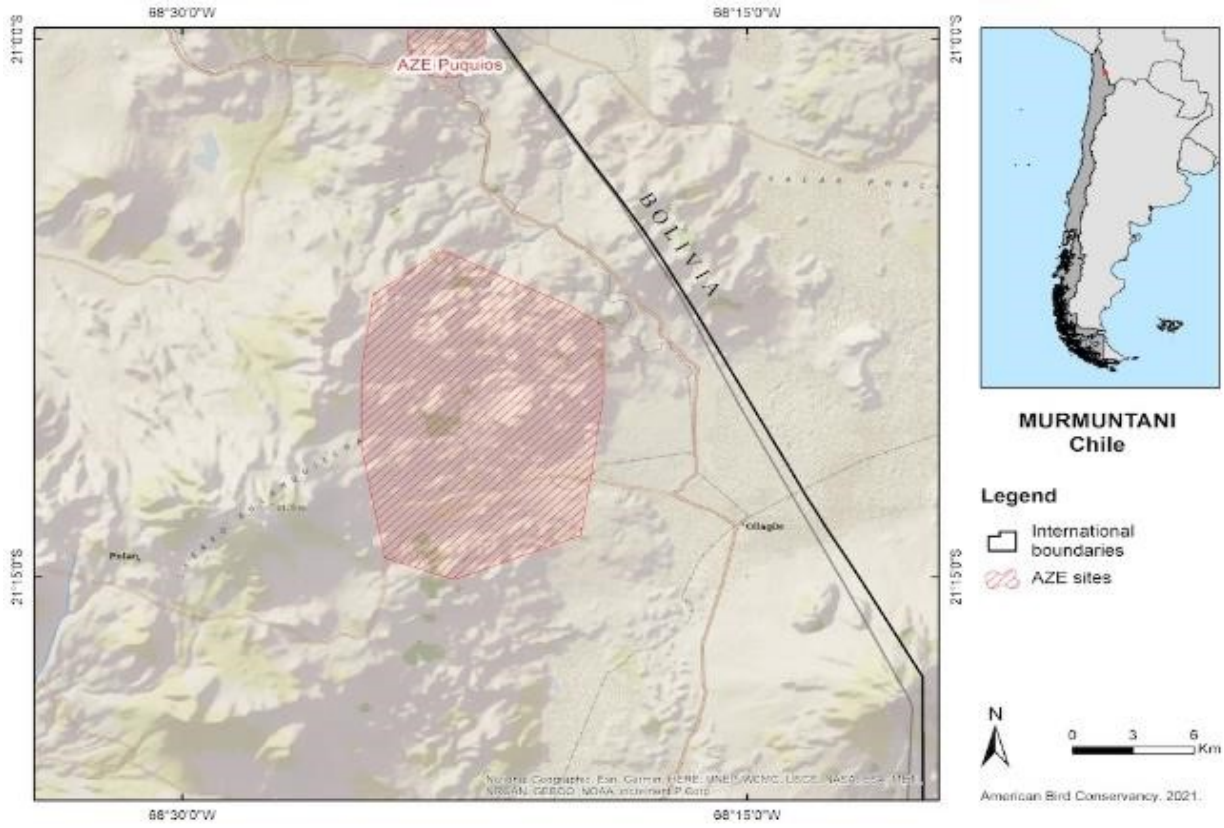
Las Cascadas Loa River AZE Site



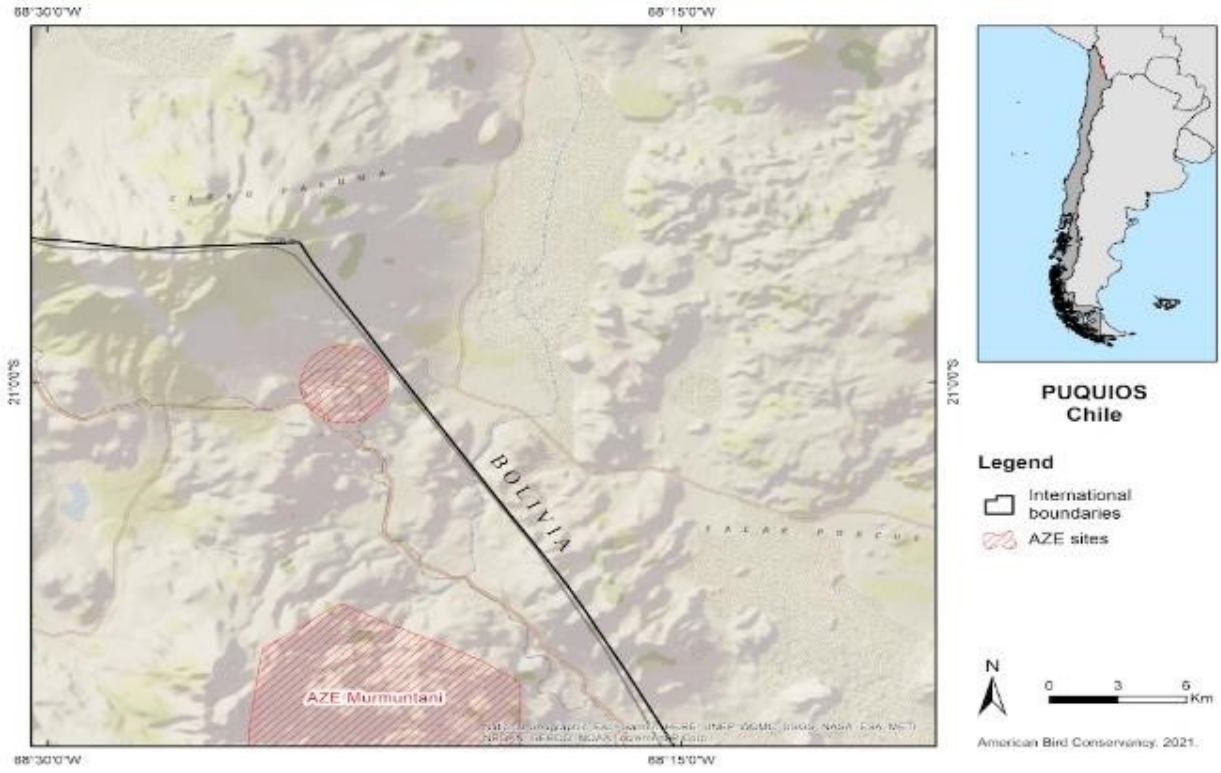
Los Molles - Pichidangui Coastal Area AZE Site



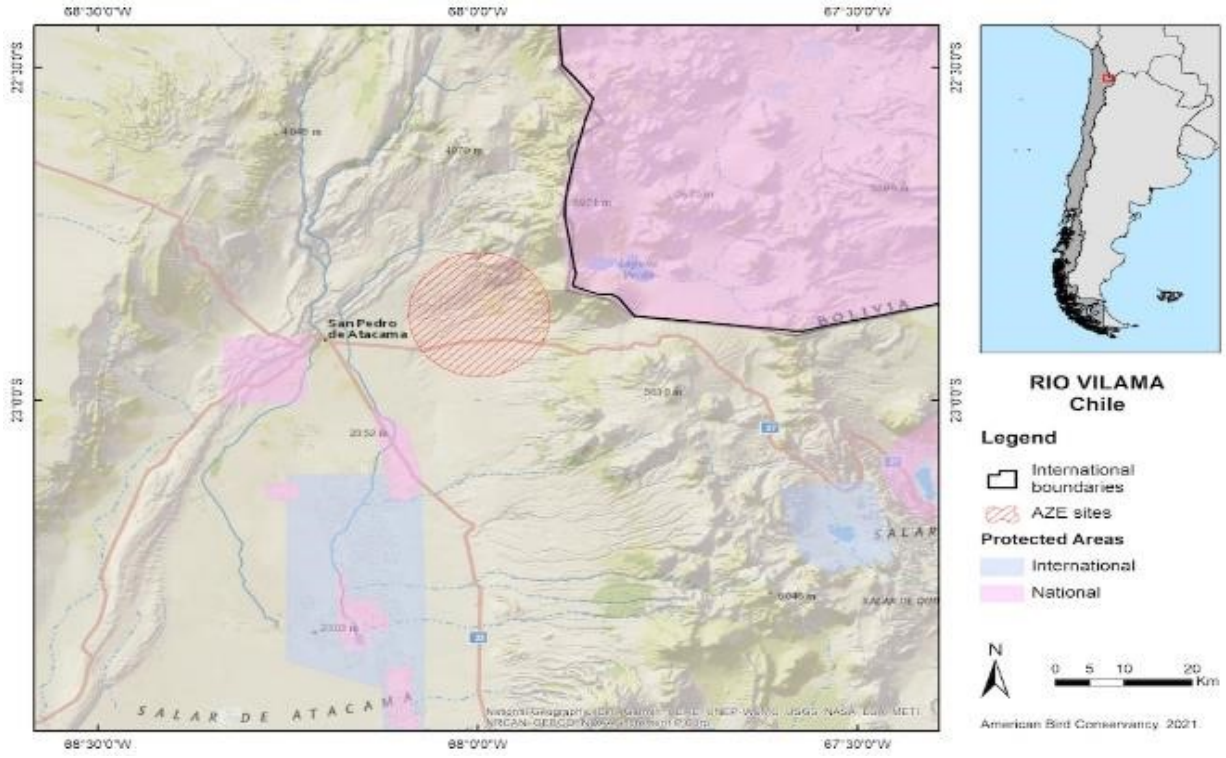
Mehuin 1 AZE Site



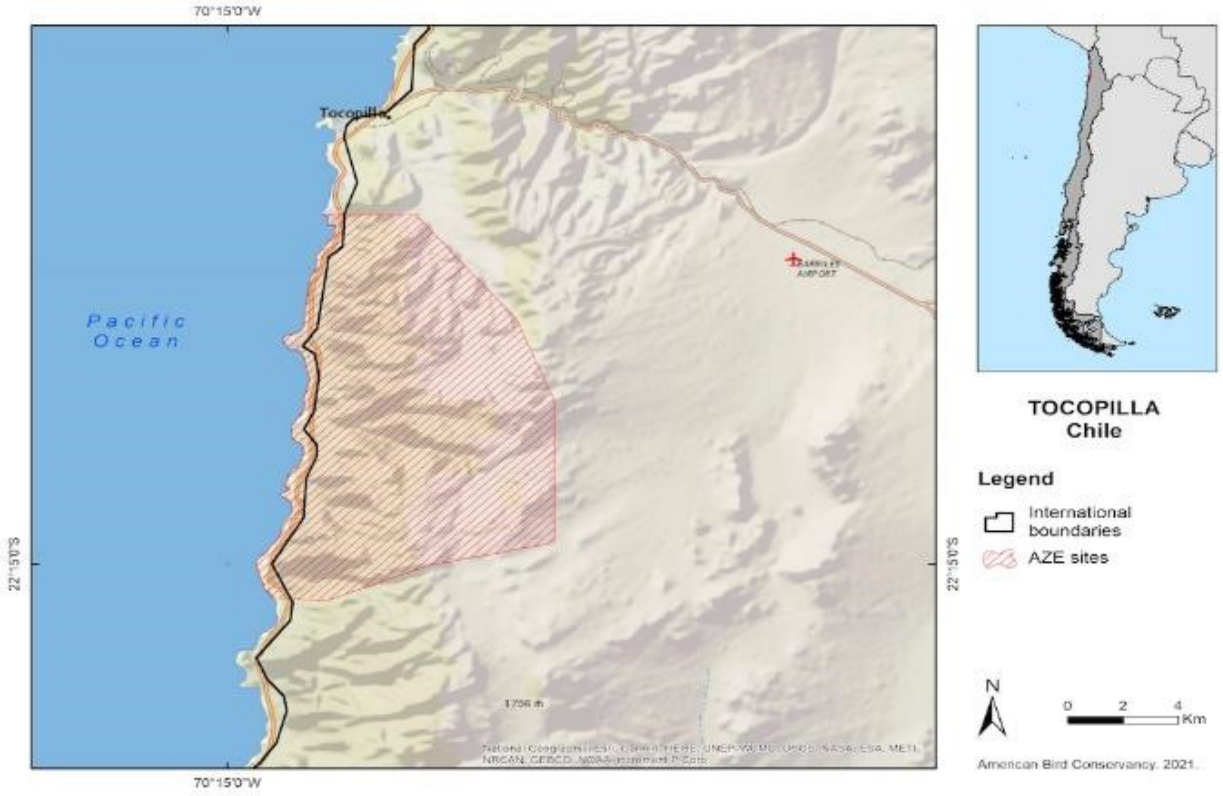
Murmuntani (Quebarda Amincha y Quebarada del Inca) AZE Site



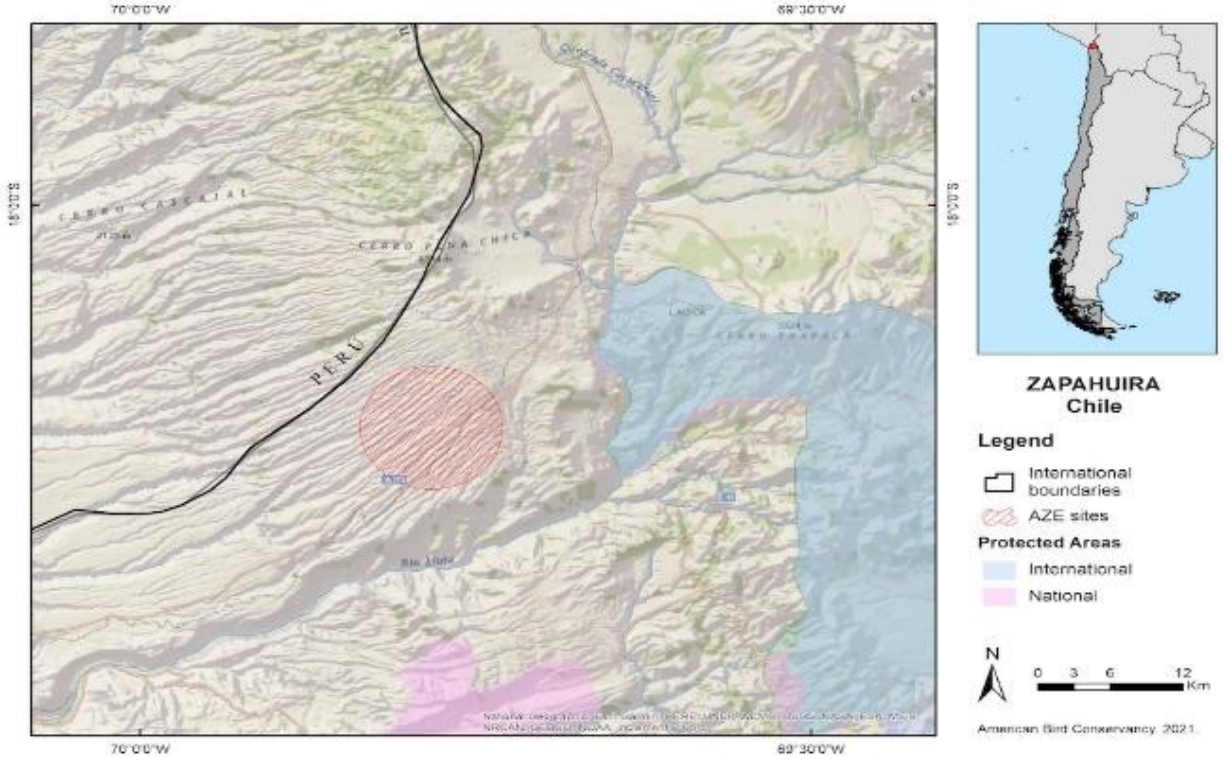
Puquios-Ollag?e AZE Site



Rio Vilama AZE Site

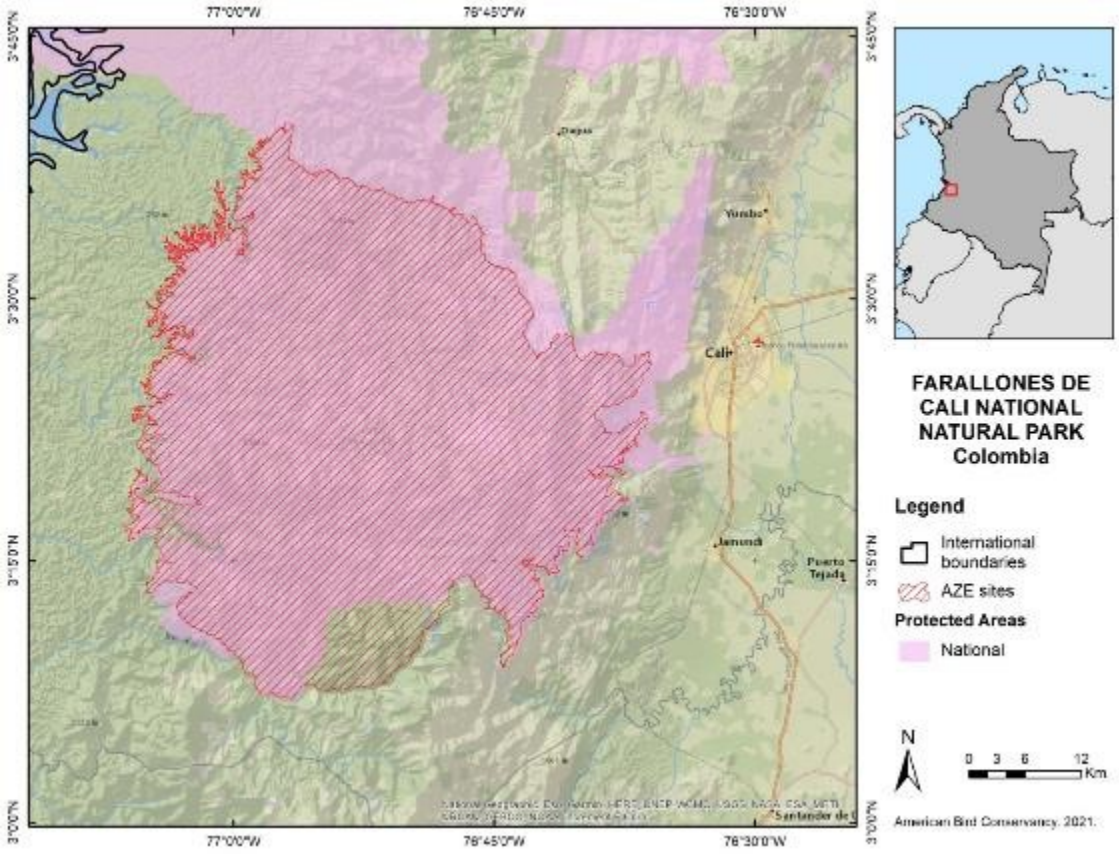


Tocopilla Coastal Hills AZE Site

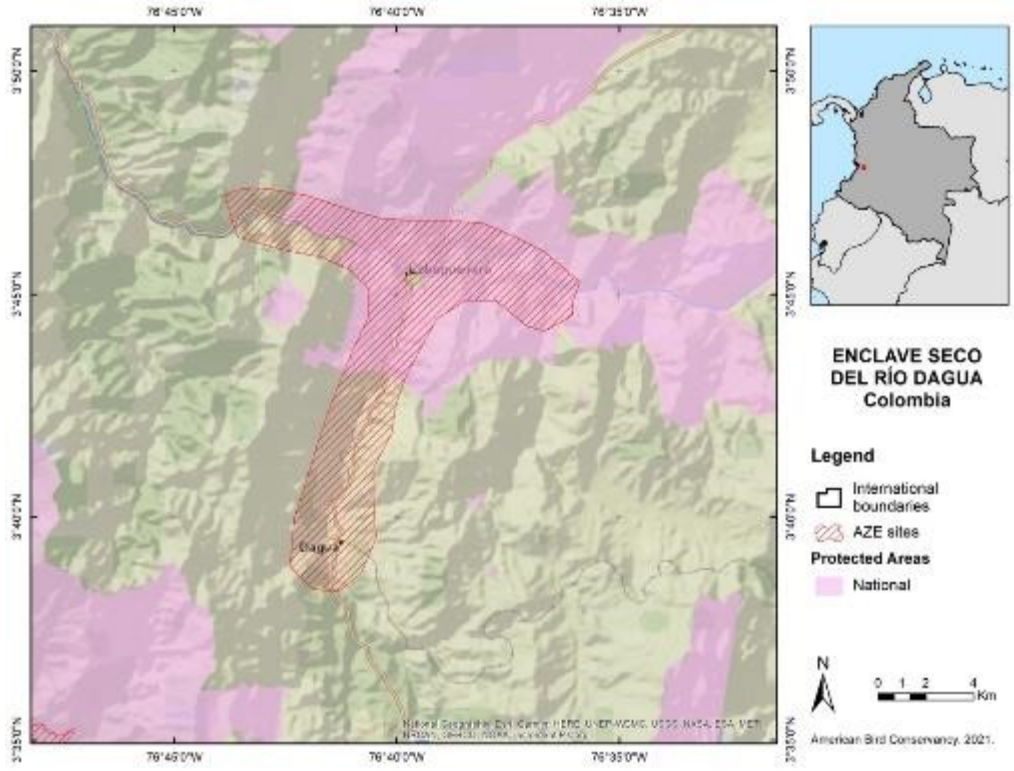


Zapahuira

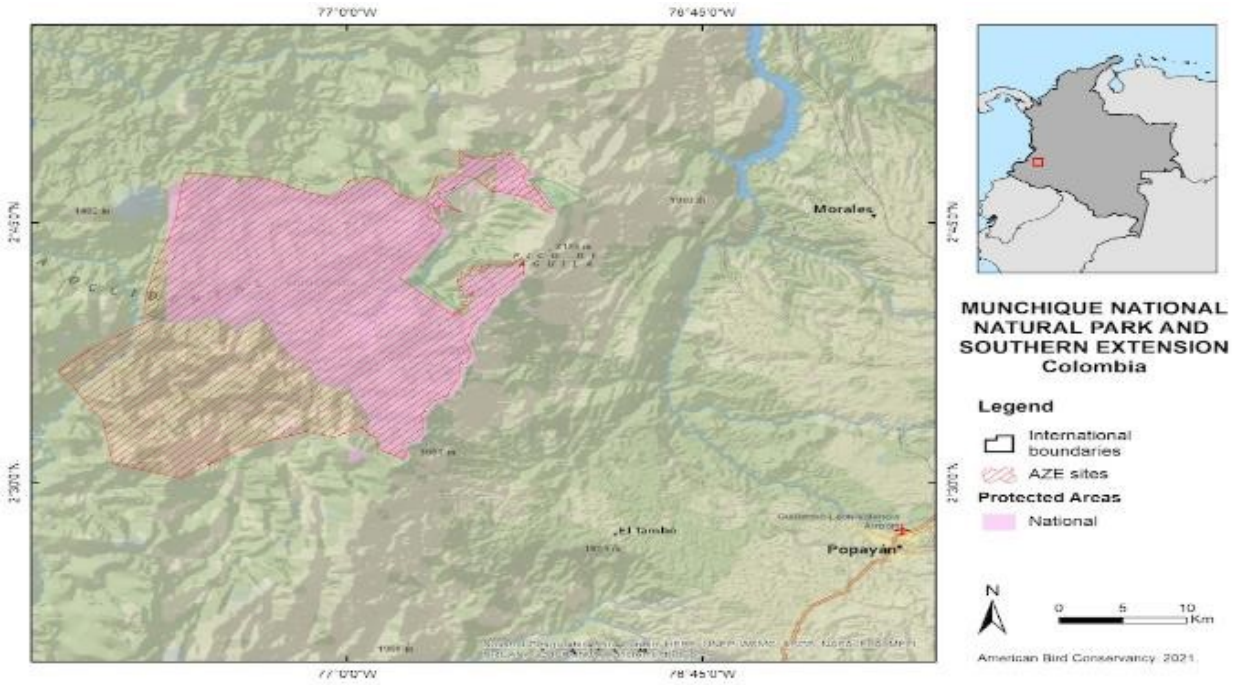
AZE Project Sites in Colombia



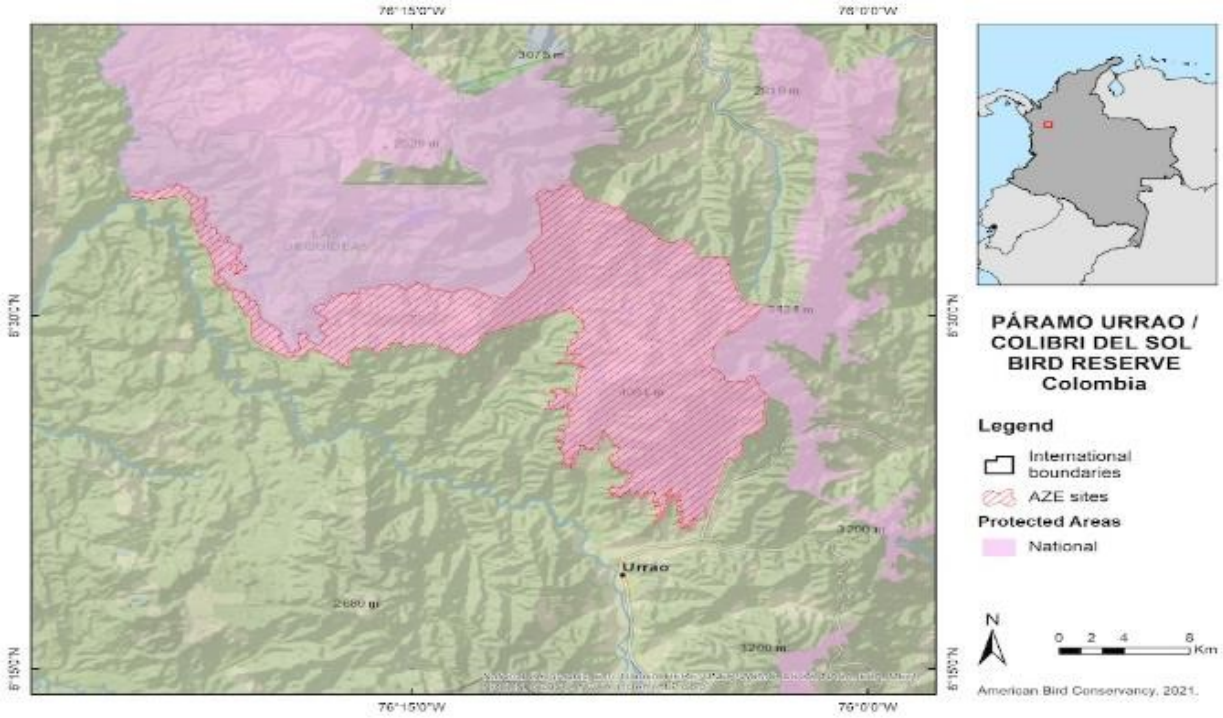
Farallones de Cali ? AZE site



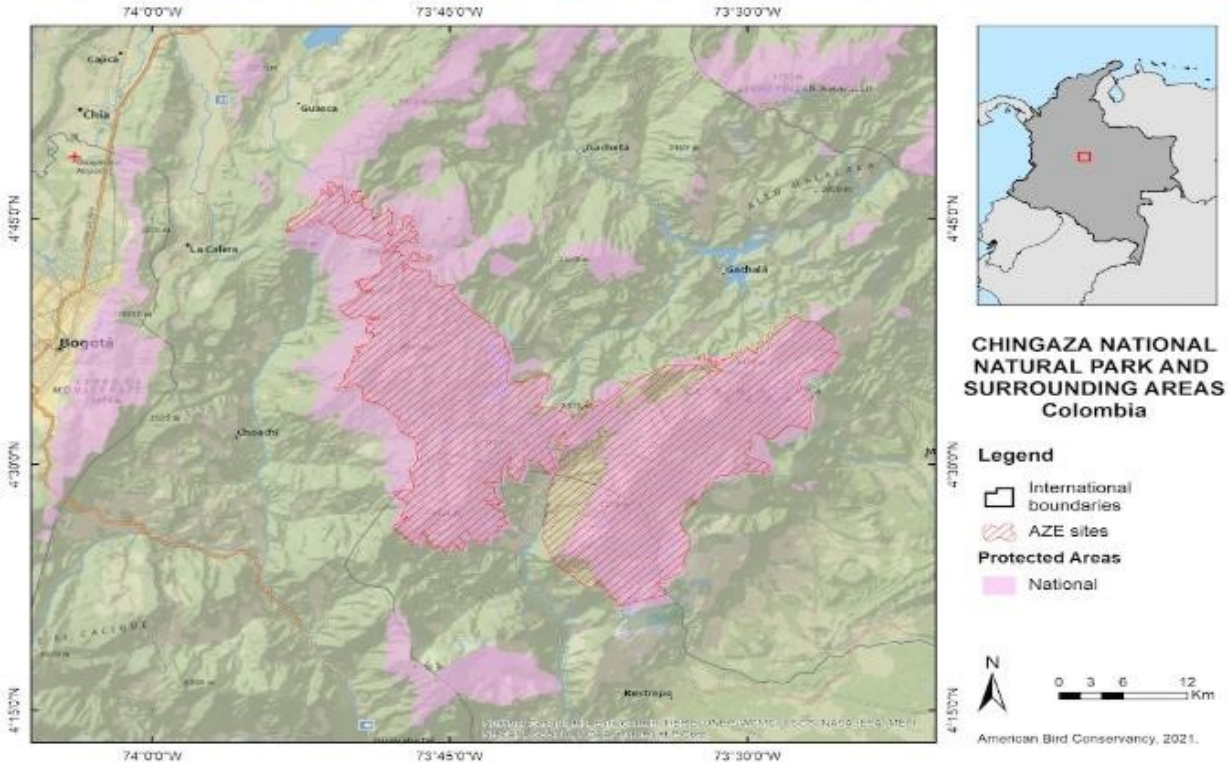
Enclave Seco del Rio Dagua ? AZE site



Munchique Natural National Park and Southern Extension ? AZE Site



P?ramo Urrao / Colibri del Sol Bird Reserve ? AZE Site



Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza and Surroundings ? AZE Site

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AZE Project Sites in the Dominican Republic

Bayahibe AZE Site

Padre Domingo Fuertes Natural Monument ? AZE Site

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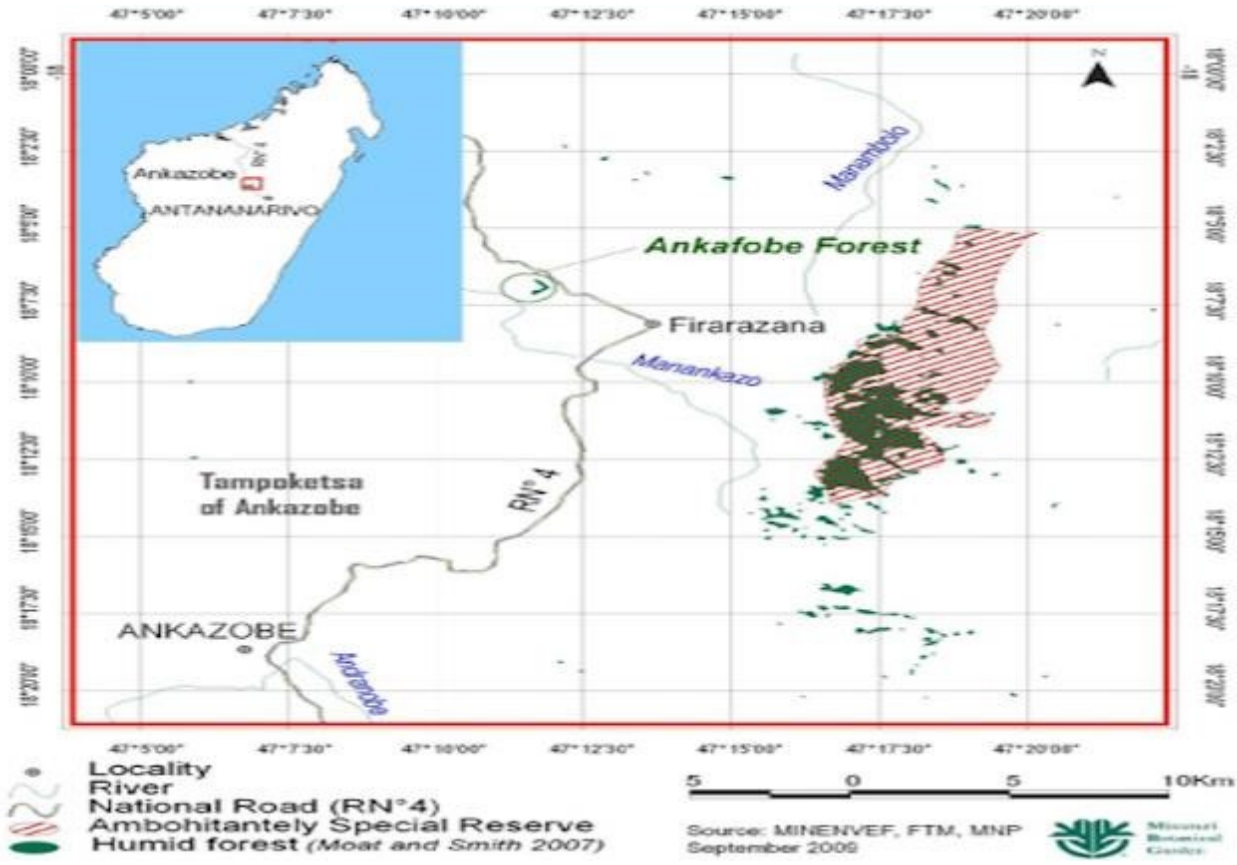
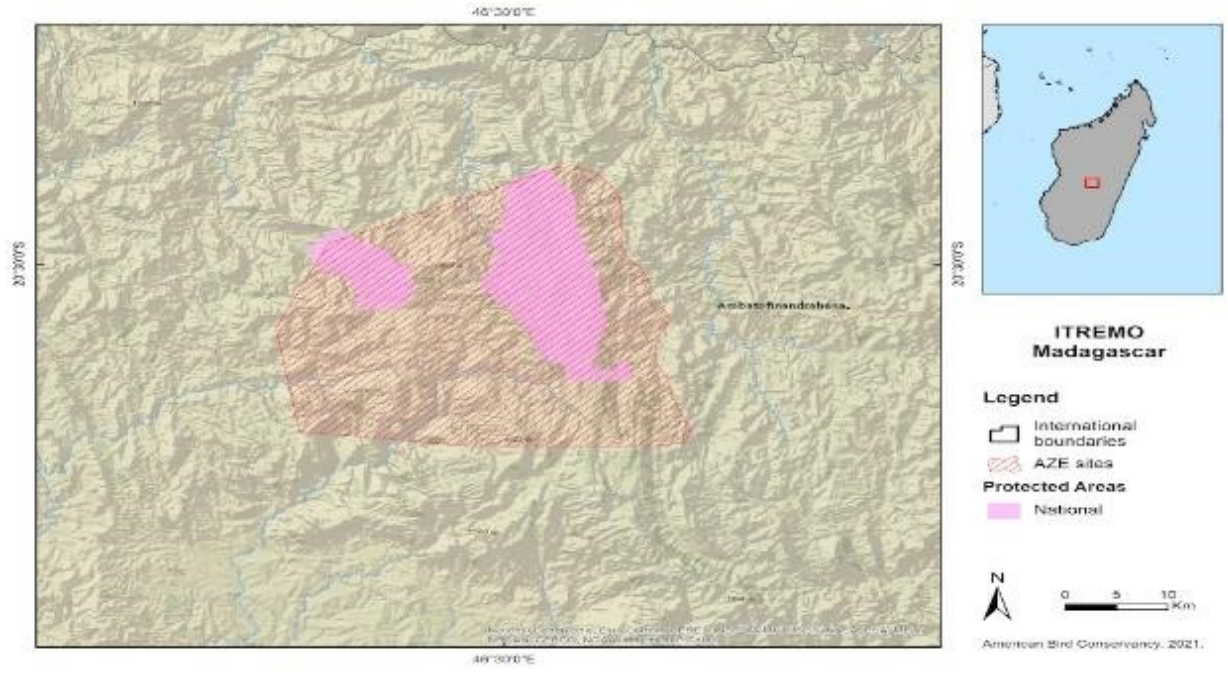
AZE Project Sites in Madagacar



Ankafobe AZE Site



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Itremo AZE Site

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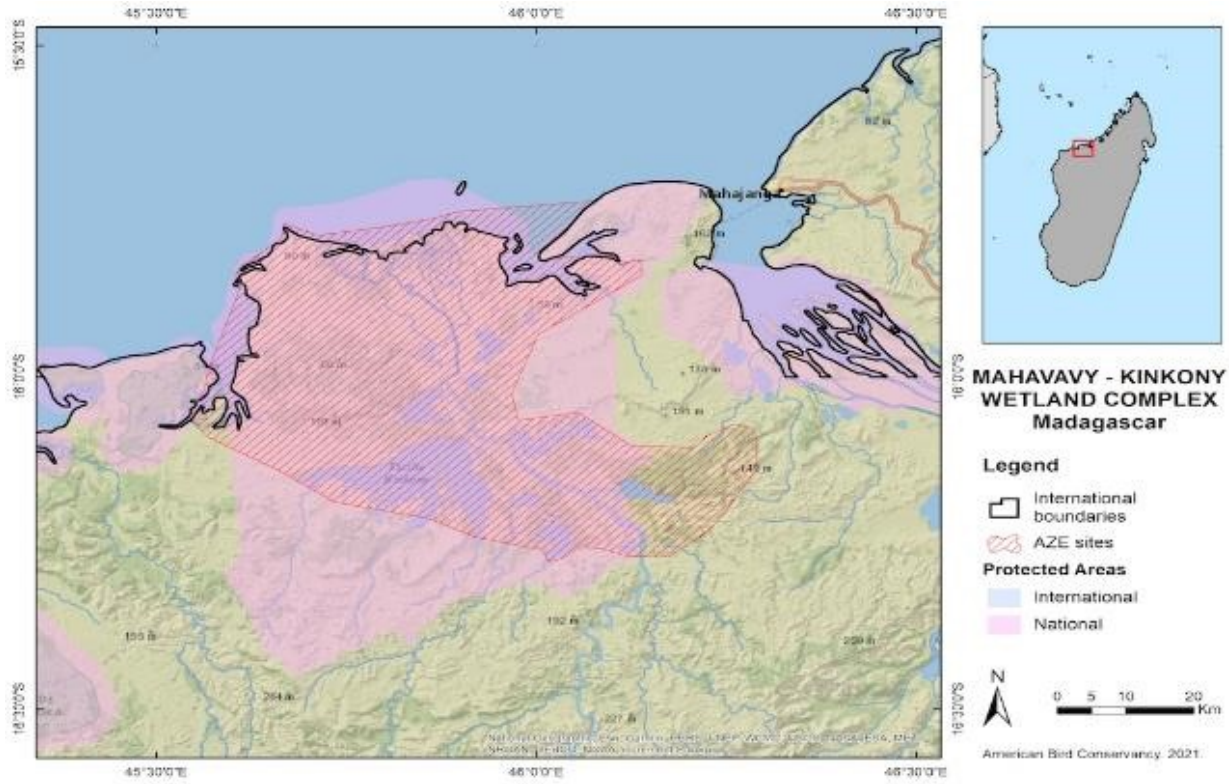

Mahavavy - Kinkony wetlands NPA ? AZE Site

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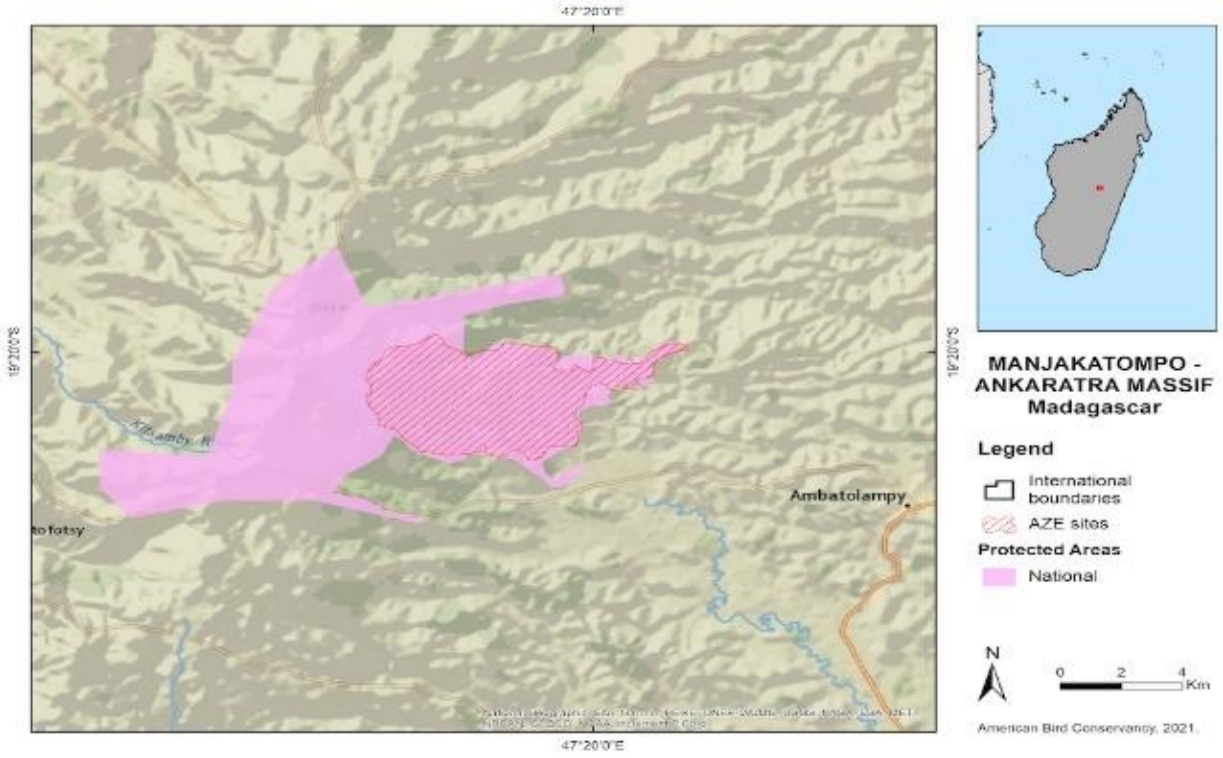

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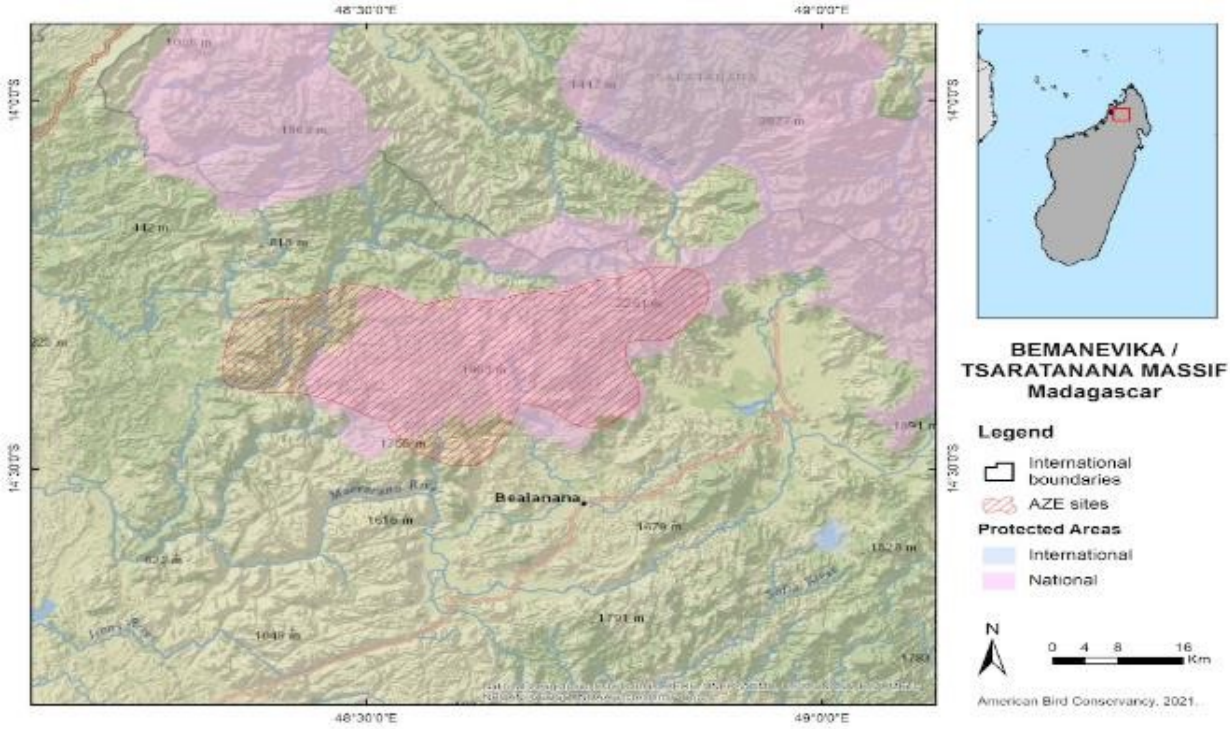
Manjakatompo-Ankaratra Massif NPA AZE Site



Bemanevika / Tsaratanana Massif AZE Site

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	COMPONENT (USDeq.)				Sub-Total	M&E	PMC	Total	Responsible Entity
		COMP 1	COMP 2	COMP 3						
		O1.1	*O2.1*	*O3.1*	*O3.2*					

International Consultants	*International consultants for site-specific feasibility assessments and green business pilot projects*	40,000	0	0	0	40,000			40,000	American Bird Conservancy
SUBTOTAL		**40,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**40,000**	**0**	**0**	**40,000**	
National Consultants	*Chile subcontract*	492,480	200,000	61,120	75,000	828,600			828,600	
	Colombia subcontract	39,600	42,000	36,000	41,400	159,000			159,000	
	DR subcontract	33,700	21,706	31,294	7,600	94,300			94,300	
	Madagascar subcontract	189,200	86,600	72,600	52,600	401,000			401,000	
SUBTOTAL		**754,980**	**350,306**	**201,014**	**176,600**	**1,482,900**	**0**	**0**	**1,482,900**	
Salary and Benefits and Staff costs	*Project coordination, including project meetings and reporting*					0		100,000	100,000	American Bird Conservancy
	Project assistant					0		10,000	10,000	American Bird Conservancy
	Financial manager					0		12,000	12,000	American Bird Conservancy
	Project technical support for component 2		129,480			129,480		10,000	139,480	BirdLife International
	Project technical support for component 3			19,750		19,750		5,000	24,750	BirdLife International
SUBTOTAL		**0**	**129,480**	**19,750**	**0**	**149,230**	**0**	**137,000**	**286,230**	

Trainings, Workshops and Meetings	*Meetings/Conferences*		25,315			25,315		16,294	41,609	American Bird Conservancy
Subtotal		**0**	**25,315**	**0**	**0**	**25,315**		**16,294**	**41,609**	
Travel	*Learning mission/site visits*	0	9,500	5,000	0	14,500	11,000	5,000	30,500	American Bird Conservancy ($16,000) /BirdLife International ($14,500)
Subtotal		**0**	**9,500**	**5,000**	**0**	**14,500**	**11,000**	**5,000**	**30,500**	
Other Operating Costs	*Financial Audits*	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	Independent auditor contracted by ABC
	Mid-Term Review/Evaluation	0	0	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	UNEP
	Terminal Evaluation	0	0	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	UNEP
Subtotal		**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**60,000**	**20,000**	**80,000**	
Total		**794,980**	**514,601**	**225,764**	**176,600**	**1,711,945**	**71,000**	**178,294**	**1,961,239**	

See the Excel sheet for country subcontract details.

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template

provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).