



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Darwin Initiative Final Report

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders (<http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/>) it is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

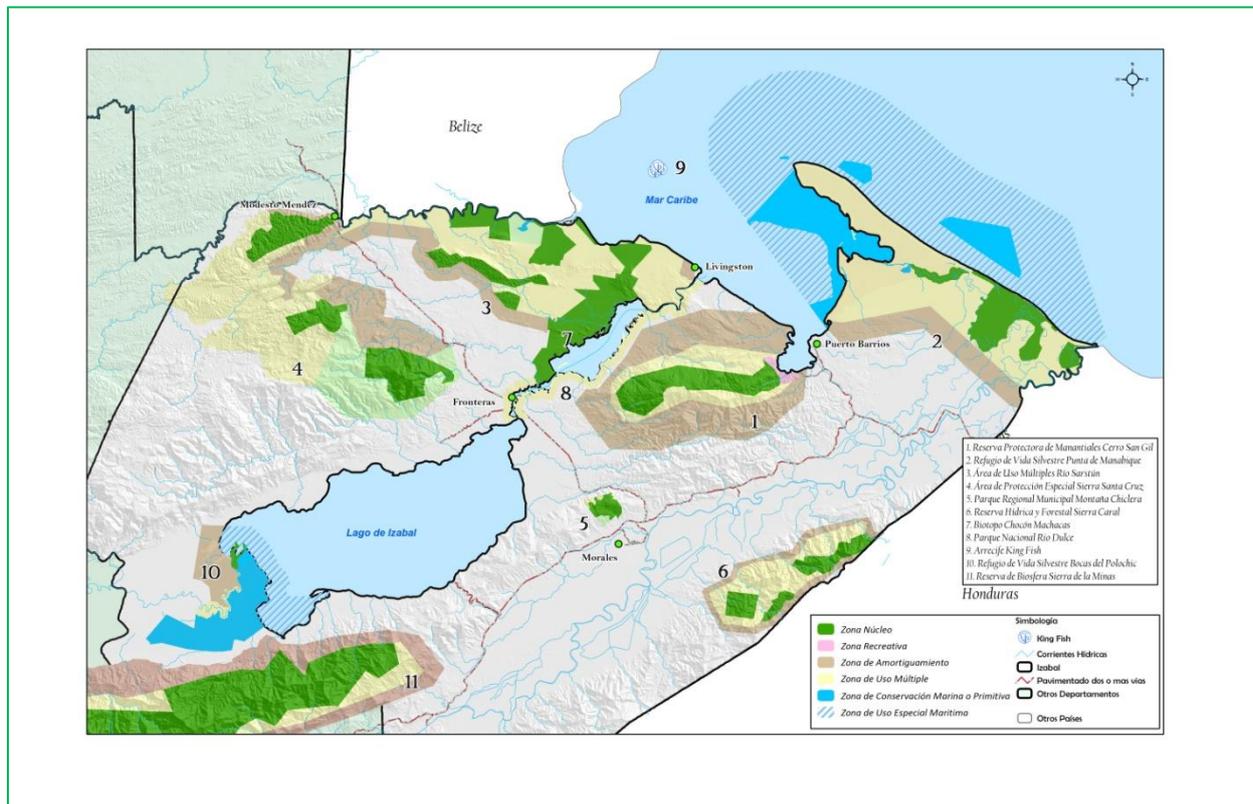
Darwin project information

Project Reference	20-025
Project Title	Scaling Up biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Connectivity in Caribbean Guatemala
Host Country/ies	Guatemala
Contract Holder Institution	FUNDAECO
Partner institutions	CONAP and INAB
Darwin Grant Value	269,445.8£
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DFID
Start/end dates of project	April 2013-March 2016
Project Leader's name	Byron Villeda
Project Website/blog/twitter	FUNDAECO website www.fundaeco.org.gt
Report author(s) and date	Karen Aguilar Ponce/Byron Villeda

1 Project Rationale

The Caribbean rainforests of Guatemala are one of the country's biodiversity hotspots. Almost 50% of its total biodiversity can be found in this region, including 56% of amphibians, 48% of reptiles, and 67% of birds species. This region is also an important center of endemism for plants, frogs, and beetles, and is critical for Neotropical migratory birds (120 species of which 46 rely on rainforest as primary wintering habitat).

Although Guatemala has done an important effort for the conservation of these unique rainforests -by legally establishing six protected areas and proposing two additional reserves (yet to be established)- between 1991 and 2010, a total amount of 146,159 ha of natural forests disappeared in the region (over 39% of the forest surface in 1991). Weak protected area management, the expansion of subsistence agriculture and extensive cattle ranching have been the main drivers of deforestation. This project will seek to scale up Biodiversity Conservation and ecological connectivity efforts across Caribbean Guatemala, by moving from a site based approach (each isolated protected area) to a Landscape Level approach, in order to consolidate and strengthen the whole Regional Sub-System of Protected Areas in Caribbean Guatemala, and halve deforestation rates over the next eight years.



The Caribbean rainforests of Guatemala are one of the country’s biodiversity hotspots. Almost 50% of its total biodiversity can be found in this region, including 56% of amphibians, 48% of reptiles, and 67% of birds species. This region is also an important center of endemism for plants, frogs, and beetles, and is critical for Neotropical migratory birds (120 species, of which 46 rely on rainforest as primary wintering habitat). Although Guatemala has done an important effort for the conservation of these unique rainforests -by legally establishing six protected areas and proposing two additional reserves (yet to be established)- **between 1991 and 2010, a total amount of 146,159 ha of natural forests disappeared in the region (over 39% of the forest surface in 1991)**. Weak protected

area management, the expansion of subsistence agriculture and extensive cattle ranching have been the main drivers of deforestation. This project will seek to scale up Biodiversity Conservation and ecological connectivity efforts across Caribbean Guatemala, by moving from a site based approach (each isolated protected area) to a Landscape Level approach, in order to consolidate and strengthen the whole Regional Sub-System of Protected Areas in Caribbean Guatemala, and halve deforestation rates over the next eight years.

2 Project Achievements

2.1 Outcome

Outcome:	The development of a regional strategy, methodologies and tools for the reduced fragmentation and deforestation of the remaining rainforests of Caribbean Guatemala, between the borders of Belize and Honduras.			Comments (if necessary)
	Baseline	Change by 2016	Source of evidence	
Indicator 1 Protected area management and forest fragment protection efforts across Caribbean Guatemala are being informed and oriented by a biodiversity and environmental services monitoring methodology, based on forest fragments analysis and prioritization	N/A	Surface prioritized for forest protection efforts is 78395 ha, within a broader territory of 400,000 where actions to reduce pressures over the forest will be also implemented.	Annex 1. Protection efforts map. Kathy	Forest inside and around protected areas were prioritized using a forest fragmentation analysis combined with the historical deforestation analysis, and cadastral information. Identified forests were included as part of the protection efforts in the Regional management plan and the REDD+ project.
Indicator 2 Two additional proposed protected areas have been declared in Caribbean Guatemala; their Management Plans have been formulated with ample participation from local communities and stakeholders, and participatory governance mechanisms have been established.	5 existing protected areas: Punta de Manabique, Montaña chiclera, Rio Sarstun, Cerro San Gil, Parque Nacional Rio Dulce	1 New protected área was declared in May 2014, Sierra Caral Forest and Hydric Reserve , adding more than 19000 ha to the National System of Protected Areas.	Annex 2. Sierra Caral PA Law	The process for the declaration of sierra Santa Cruz has a 60% of progress with a finalized Technical, study, several community meetings to define the PA zoning and an initial draft of the Law proposal for its declaration as PA. However communities still need more discussion to support the creation of this PA.
Indicator 3 The Financial Gap for the effective management of the Regional System of Protected Areas has been reduced by at	FUNDAEC O annual budget to manage PA is Caribbean Guatemala	Through a REDD+ contract signed with ACF the annual budget for management has been		ACF/FUNDAECO contract. (document is confidential).

least 40% through increased budgets, the enactment of PES mechanisms and REDD project contributions.	was of 1 million USD the beginning of the project	increased in 30% for the next 5 years.		
Indicator 4 The proposed “Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan” for the Regional Network of Eight Protected Areas has been produced and is being used to strengthen management effectiveness across the region	There were only a plan for Cerro San Gil and Rio Sarstun	100% complete. The Plan was prepared and is under implementation through the REDD+ Project Logic Framework	Annex 4. Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan” Annex 5. REDD+ Project Logic Framework	
Indicator 5. 5,000 hectares of selected high priority forests fragments are being protected and restored by communities and small forest owners through the provision of direct “forest protection incentives”	N/A	5384 hectares were protected and restored. From which 4850.03 ha got forest protection incentives.	Annex 6. List of project incentives	Files were prepared for the rest of the surface, 534.08ha, but didn't get incentives approval during the project life, which is expected at the beginning of 2017
Indicator 6. By the end of the project, Forest Protection Incentives are providing direct income to communities in excess of 137,000 £ per year, over a five year period	N/A	An average of 250,160.66 £ is paid annually to communities and small forest owners through the Forest Protection Incentives, during a five year period	Annex 6. List of project incentives (see payment columns in Q)	
Indicator 7. A regional funding facility for small scale productive projects has been established – The “Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable	N/A	The fund was established with 30,000.00£ of seed funds	Annex 7. Fund creation statement and operations manual	

Community Development Fund” has been established				
Indicator 8. Through the above mentioned funding facility, between 5 and 7 sustainable productive activities such as black pepper, non-timber forest products, and ecotourism, have been supported	N/A	6 projects were benefited during the project life	Annex 8. Small project reports	
Indicator 9. The REDD “Project Design Document” (PDD) has been validated and certified and an “Emissions Reductions Purchase Agreement” (ERPA) has been negotiated, with the endorsement from local participating communities, through an adequately documented “Free, Previous and Informed Consent” process	N/A	<p>The PDD has an 80% of progress.</p> <p>The FPIC was developed with the participation of 2300 people from 87 communities.</p> <p>The ERPA was signed with Althelia Climate Fund in May 2015. (the contract is confidential)</p>	<p>Annex 9. PDD brief (the full PDD is confidential until validated and uploaded at VCS site planned for December 2016)</p> <p>Annex 10. FPIC report</p>	<p>Since the PDD is confidential until its registry under VCS and CCB in early December 2016, this report contains a brief of the PDD.</p> <p>The PDD preparation requires to fulfil VCS and CCB standards, including the analysis under VM0015 methodology, this required FUNDAECO to hire external support that was only possible to do after the contract signing with ACF in May 2015. The implementation of VM0015 methodology is a complex process which required more time than initially planned.</p>

2.2 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

Impact statement from logframe:

The Impact of this Project will be the conservation of the remaining rainforests of Caribbean Guatemala, between the borders of Belize and Honduras -with an expected reduction of at least 50% in deforestation rates across the region over the next eight years- which will be achieved through the establishment and participatory management of a regional network of protected areas, and the provision of direct financial incentives for the protection and restoration of forests by local communities

contribution did your project make to this higher-level impact

By supporting the conservation and management of the sub-national system of protected areas of Caribbean Guatemala, and by directly supporting the development of a REDD+ “Grouped” project that will incorporate over 78000 hectares of tropical forests, the project has made an extremely important contribution to Biodiversity Conservation across the region.

It is also important to indicate that key watersheds within the protected areas of Caribbean Guatemala provide potable water to over 300,000 people in the largest towns and villages located in the region, thus giving particular relevance to Aichi Target 14.

contribution to human development (poverty alleviation) and welfare

The project fostered the diversification of family incomes, that originally only planted maiz and black bean as a subsistence crop, supporting them in:

- Technical training in the establishment of nurseries, reforestation plantations and agroforestry systems
- Provision of inputs (seedlings, trees, agricultural inputs, plastic bags, etc.) for the establishment of nurseries, reforestation plantations and agroforestry systems
- Technical advice and support for all productive activities
- Technical support for the inclusion of communities in the Forestry Subsidies Program
- It is expected that communities will be producing and selling products such as cardamom, black pepper, xate, cacao, and rubber in year 2018.

It is also important to consider this project within the larger activities and programs carried out by FUNDAECO in the Caribbean Region of Guatemala. Indeed, this project had a particular Strategy and Scope – directly linked to protected areas design and governance, REDD+, and productive activities-. However, FUNDAECO simultaneously carried out other strategies and activities in the same region and during the same period, that mutually complemented and reinforced those activities under the project’s logical framework. These included the following:

- Support to indigenous communities land legalization
- Support to rural women’s sexual and reproductive health, through a network of “Women Clinics” located in all the protected areas where the project worked
- Training and scholarships for young girls and youth from rural communities, in order to enhance their opportunities and foster local leaderships for nature conservation and sustainable development

2.3 Outputs

Output 1:	<p>Paste here</p> <p>Through GIS technology, field monitoring and data analysis, high priority forest fragments for biodiversity conservation, ecological connectivity and 2126 environmental services provision have been identified across Caribbean Guatemala, and are informing protected area management and habitat protection decisions.</p>		
	Baseline	Change recorded by 2016	Source of evidence
Indicator 1.1 Two annual reports of GIS forest cover analysis;	GIS report for 2010.	GIS reports 2014, with a spatial model analysis for deforestation.	Annex 11. Spatial model report forest cover and deforestation
Indicator 1.2 Three annual reports of biological monitoring of indicator taxa (birds; Beetles; Palms; Amphibians), including data collection and analysis	N/A (Chooosed taxa birds and amphibians)	Three monitoring reports were produced.	Annex 12 Annex 13 Annex 14 Annex 15 Annex 16
Indicator 1.3 One report of environmental services provision in protected areas	N/A	A report for three environmental services: water, erosion reduction and natural disaster reduction	Annex 17. Analysis for environmental services monitoring
Indicator 1.4 One Report on Forest fragments identified and prioritized for biodiversity conservation and environmental services provision, with regional management recommendations	N/A	Report was produced	Annex 18. Forest fragments for Biodiversity conservation report

Output 2:	<p>Paste here</p> <p>The Regional Network of Protected Areas of Caribbean Guatemala has been completed and strengthened- through the establishment and Management Planning of two additional Nature Reserves; the analysis of Financial Gaps and the proposal of "Payment of Environmental Services" mechanisms for the entire Regional System; the Production of a Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan for the Regional Network of Eight Protected Areas; and the strengthening of</p>		
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	participatory Governance Mechanisms		
	Baseline	Change recorded by 2016	Source of evidence
Indicator 2.1 One Technical study for Sierra Santa Cruz prepared, discussed and presented to CONAP; One Legal Declaration Decree prepared and presented to Congress (FFEM counterpart support); Two Legal decrees under consideration by Congress in the Legislative Agenda;	N/A	-Technical study for Sierra Santa Cruz is finished. - Two legal decree were prepared one for Sierra Caral, and One for Sierra Santa - The legal declaration decree for Sierra Caral was prepared and approved by the national Congress.	Annex 19. Sierra Santa Cruz Technical Study Annex 20. Sierra Santa Cruz Law Proposal Annex 2. Sierra Caral PA Law
Indicator 2.2 One final Report of a Consultative process with 40 communities in Sierra Santa Cruz, consulted for the creation of a new protected area	N/A	The FPIC was developed with the participation of 2300 people from 87 communities.	Annex 10. FPIC report
Indicator 2.3 Working paper on inputs from CONAP, Finance Ministry and other stakeholder for the Financial gap analysis for Caribbean network protected; One Report on Financial Gaps and mechanisms to reduce it	N/A	The financial gap analysis was prepared and presented to CONAP council and to the National Congress to promote the budget increase for protected areas (see annex 22 on lobbying activities).	Annex 21. Financial Gap Analysis Annex 22. Lobbying activities to increase PA budget.
Indicator 2.4 Working papers on inputs recorded in consultation workshops for the preparation of the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan; Final Document of a Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan for the Network of Protected Areas;	Existing plans for: Cerro San Gil and Rio Sarstun	Document of a Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan for the Network of Protected Areas;	Annex 4. Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan”

Indicator 2.5 One Report of participatory Governance Mechanisms designed and in place in the regional network of Protected Areas (FFEM counterpart support)	N/A	The report was prepared showing the different participatory governance mechanisms designed and implement in Pas co-managed by FUNDAECO	Annex 23. Governance mechanisms (learned lessons)
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Output 3:	Paste here Selected high priority forests fragments are being protected and restored by communities and small forest owners through the provision of direct incentives in at least 5,000 additional hectares across the biological corridor of Caribbean Guatemala; these incentives will provide significant income to local communities at least over a five year period		
	Baseline	Change recorded by 2016	Source of evidence
Indicator 3.1 20 Field Reports of participatory processes in which 20 communities are consulted to prioritize forests to be presented to the forestry incentives program	N/A	167 files were prepared and approved	Annex 24. Compendium for approved forest incentives files (selection). The files are signed by beneficiaries who are voluntarily presented to the incentives program
Indicator 3.2 Between 30 and 50 Technical and Legal Files for the registration of Forest Protection Incentives, including: Forest inventories; GIS thematic maps; Boundary geo-referencing; Legal documents; and Applications Forms; Between 30 and 50 Reception and certification resolutions by National Forestry Institute; Payment certifications;	N/A	167 files were prepared and approved	Annex 24. Compendium for approved forest incentives files (selection)
Indicator 3.3 500 families are	N/A	296 families were benefitted	Annex 6. List of forest incentive files, notice that

receiving forestry incentives for the protection and restoration of 5,000 ha of community forests			each beneficiary represent a family. The target for 5000 was reached benefitting less 296 families and not 500 as planned.
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Output 4:	Paste here A sustainable funding facility for small scale productive projects - The “Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund” - has been established, replenished through corporate donations and other sources, and is funding 5-7 projects over the duration of the project		
	Baseline	Change recorded by 2016	Source of evidence
Indicator 4.1 The “Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund” is designed and has been established in a local Bank. One operations manual has been approved.	N/A	The fund was established with 30,000.00£ of seed funds The Fund Operation Manual was produced and implemented.	Annex 7. Fund creation statement and operations manual
Indicator 4.2 The replenishment of the fund is presented to at least two sources (corporate donors and REDD investors)	N/A	The replenishment was presented to ACF as part of the the REDD+ project, as Conservation Agreements, with an allocation of £70000.00	Notice the agreement between ACF and FUNDAECO is confidential
Indicator 4.3 5-7 projects are funded through the “Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund”	N/A	6 projects were implemented, with 186 beneficiaries.	Annex 8

Output 5:	Paste here In collaboration with the Althelia Fund, a REDD “Project Design Document” (PDD) has been produced for the Caribbean Region of Guatemala and an “Emissions Reductions Purchase Agreement” (ERPA) has been drafted and negotiated, with the endorsement from local participating communities, through an adequately documented “Free, Previous and		
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	Informed Consent” process;		
	Baseline	Change recorded by 2016	Source of evidence
Indicator 5.1 50 communities, 3 municipalities, and other stakeholders are consulted in a “Free, Previous and Informed Consent” process for a REDD project;	N/A	87 seven communities, 3 municipalities and more than 2300 communities and stakeholders were consulted	Annex 10. FPIC report
Indicator 5.2 PDD considering results from the FPIC process is prepared and presented to the VCS and CCB standards for their approval	N/A	PDD integrating FPIC is under preparation with an 80% of progress.	Annex 9. PDD extract
Indicator 5.3 One ERPA is reviewed and discussed with The Althelia Fund	N/A	The ERPA between FUNDAECO and ACF was signed in May 2015	Notice ERPA is confidential

Output 6:	Paste here In conjunction with the CONAP, Natural History Museum of the National University, and local newspapers and radio stations, the high value of Biodiversity and protected in Caribbean Guatemala will have been communicated and disseminated at the regional and national level.		
	Baseline	Change recorded by 2016	Source of evidence
Indicator 6.1 10 Radio Spots in Maya-Q’eqchi and Spanish have been produced and aired in the main local radio station in CaribbeanGuatemala;	N/A	Radio spots in Spanish and Maya-Q’eqchi were transmitted in Two Local Radios Radio TU FM y Radio CORONA, 4 times a day during a month.	Annex 25. Radio spots
Indicator 6.2 Popular Education Publications for a local Newspaper and Three Brochures are designed, validated, produced and disseminated.	N/A	In order to increase the impact the project team decided to use videos in a local TV program, instead of brochures, since videos are more vivid tools. During year one 5 TV videos were transmitted in <i>Canal Antigua</i> which is a	Annex 26. Communications report

		<p>local cable channel. Each video has been transmitted 24 times in one month, and was also promoted through our social media network.</p> <p>Eleven publications were presented in local newspapers</p> <p>Videos at:</p> <p>Sierra Caral https://vimeo.com/77424013</p> <p>Río Sarstún https://vimeo.com/77424014</p> <p>Eco-tourism http://vimeo.com/76154301</p> <p>Cerro San Gil and Montanas del Mico http://vimeo.com/74889349</p> <p>Marine and Coast areas http://vimeo.com/72376295</p>	
<p>Indicator 6.3</p> <p>The communications campaign is adequately monitored and measured: Message retention and understanding are evaluated by project staff through informal interviews, Degree of agreement and compliance with suggested attitudinal changes is measured through “focus groups” methodology in selected communities.</p>	N/A	<p>This activity was not implemented</p>	<p>FUNDAECO didn't has a team to prepare this kind of assessment, and no costs were included in the budget for this activity.</p>

3 Project Partnerships

Partner	Role	Involvement during the project
<p>National Forestry Institute – INAB www.inab.g</p>	<p>INAB is the manager of the National Forestry Incentives Program. As a key element of this</p>	<p>FUNDAECO and INAB worked closely to get the forestry incentives files reviewed and approved in time. This meant an import effort in time</p>

<p>ob.gt</p>	<p>Project is to ensure access to the Incentives Program for local communities, and to mobilize approximately 137,000 £ of forest protection incentives to beneficiary communities, Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan.</p>	<p>considering that the 167 files, include legal documentation, forestry inventories and management plans.</p> <p>The payment of annual incentives to approved projects, INAB staff implemented field verification to each of the registered plots.</p> <p>FUNDAECO will continue working with INAB to expand impacts from the forestry incentives program within Caribbean Guatemala.</p>
<p>National Council of Protected Areas – CONAP www.conap.gob.gt</p>	<p>CONAP will be a central partner in three activities: the declaration of two new protected areas and their management plans; the co-management and participatory governance of protected areas; and the construction of a Financial Gap analysis and the Regional conservation and sustainable Management Plan.</p>	<p>CONAP Regional Technicians, Legal Department and Conservation Units Department had a permanent participation in the revision of the proposed decrees for protected areas legal declaration</p> <p>CONAP experts participated in workshops for the construction Financial Gap analysis of the SIGAP, as well as the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan.</p> <p>CONAP has provided counterpart support to this project, in the form of salaries for the Park Rangers across the regional network of Protected Areas.</p> <p>FUNDAECO and CONAP are drafting a long-term agreement to strengthen coordination and increase positive impacts for SIGAP.</p>
<p>Althelia Fund www.ecospherecapital.com</p>	<p>Althelia will provide support for development of the PDD and the ERPA for a REDD project. This support include funding both process, but also giving their feed back in the design of the REDD project.</p>	<p>Both institutions, ACF and FUNDAECO, have common interests to start an alliance. As the only foreign partner of the project ACF is contributing to national and international targets to reduce GHG emissions, and FUNDAECO is implementing all necessary strategies in the field.</p> <p>Through the ERPA, Althelia has provided financial and technical support to develop the all process related to the REDD+ PDD.</p>

4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Outputs

4.1 Contribution to SDGs

The project directly contributed to Goal 1: “End Poverty”; Goal 2: “End Hunger (...) and Promote Sustainable Agriculture”; Goal 13: “Combat Climate Change”; and Goal 15: “Protect terrestrial ecosystems (...) and halt biodiversity loss”. Relevant activities also contributed to Goal 5: “Empower all women and girls”.

Specific contributions to Goals 1 and 2 included the following:

- Direct support to small farmers in order to access the Forest Incentives Program, which will provide direct financial support over five years to beneficiaries, in order to support their forest protection and restoration activities. This income will directly contribute to the reduction of poverty in participating villages.
- Direct support to small farmers for the establishment of forest plantations and agroforestry systems, both through small grants provided by the Project and through counterpart funding. Selected Agroforestry systems supported by the project will protect the soil, provide selected cash crops, and sequester carbon, thus providing multiple benefits to farmers.
- Finally, the inclusion of community forests in a future REDD+ project – approved through a wide and inclusive FPIC process – will provide future benefits to participating communities through the sale of VCU’s and a fair and equitable “Benefit Sharing” proposition.

Specific contributions to Goals 13 and 15 were the following:

- The direct support to the development of a REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala, that will mobilize over 10 million Dollars in counterpart funding over the first seven years, and that will avoid the deforestation of over 50,000 hectares of tropical rainforests across the region.
- Once registered and validated, the REDD+ project for Caribbean Guatemala will protect biodiversity across the region and will avoid the emission of over 9 million tons of CO₂ over the next 30 years.
- The Legal enactment of a NEW PROTECTED AREA for Caribbean Guatemala (Sierra Caral) by the National Congress (increasing in 19000ha the SIGAP and protecting over 6,000 hectares of tropical rainforests)
- The implementation of direct conservation actions in a network of 8 protected areas in Caribbean Guatemala.

In regards to Goal 5, the project directly supported 29 women in the design, production and marketing of ecological handicrafts, and in the strengthening of Women groups that will produce and sell their handicrafts in selected local markets. Also, during the period, and with counterpart funding (from the European Union and other Donors), FUNDAECO established 12 “Women Clinics” across Caribbean Guatemala, that are providing sexual and reproductive health services to communities in the region. This initiative complemented the forest protection activities supported by the Darwin Initiative in the same region and during the same period.

4.2 Project support to the Conventions or Treaties (CBD, CMS, CITES, Nagoya Protocol, ITPGRFA)

This project was designed in order to directly contribute to the objectives of the Convention of Biological Diversity, and particularly to the targets and commitments established in the **Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA)**. Specifically, the project contributed to the achievement of Goal 1.2. and suggested activity 1.2.3. of the PoWPA: *“Integrate regional, national and sub-national systems of protected areas into broader land- and seascape, inter alia by establishing and managing ecological networks, ecological corridors and/or buffer zones, where appropriate, to maintain ecological processes and also taking into account the needs of migratory species”*.

Also, this project directly contributed to **Target 1** (“Awareness of the values of Biodiversity”), **Target 3** (“Incentives for Conservation”), **Target 5** (“Rate of loss of forests halved and fragmentation reduced”); **Target 11** (“effectively and equitably managed and well connected systems of protected areas”); and **Target 14** (“ecosystems related to water are safeguarded,

taking into account the needs of indigenous and local communities”) of the **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS** of the COP 10 of the CBD.

By supporting the conservation and management of the sub-national system of protected areas of Caribbean Guatemala, and by directly supporting the development of a REDD+ “Grouped” project that will incorporate over 100,000 hectares of tropical forests, the project has made an extremely important contribution to Biodiversity Conservation across the region.

It is also important to indicate that key watersheds within the protected areas of Caribbean Guatemala provide potable water to over 300,000 people in the largest towns and villages located in the region, thus giving particular relevance to Aichi Target 14.

4.3 Project support to poverty alleviation

As indicated above, the project directly contributed to poverty alleviation and the promotion of Sustainable Agriculture through the following activities:

- Direct support to 167 small farmers in order to access the Forest Incentives Program, which will provide direct financial support over five years to beneficiaries, in order to support their forest protection and restoration activities. This income will directly contribute to the reduction of poverty in participating villages.
- Direct support to 125 small farmers for the establishment of forest plantations and agroforestry systems, both through small grants provided by the Project and through counterpart funding. Selected Agroforestry systems supported by the project will protect the soil, provide selected cash crops, and sequester carbon, thus providing multiple benefits to farmers.
- Finally, the inclusion of community forests in a future REDD+ project – approved through a wide and inclusive FPIC process – will provide future benefits to participating communities through the sale of VCU’s and a fair and equitable “Benefit Sharing” proposition.
- Also, the project directly supported over 29 women in the design, production and marketing of ecological handicrafts, and in the strengthening of Women groups that will produce and sell their handicrafts in selected local markets. During the period, and with counterpart funding (from the European Union and other Donors), FUNDAECO established 12 “Women Clinics” across Caribbean Guatemala, that are providing sexual and reproductive health services to communities in the region. This initiative complemented the forest protection activities supported by the Darwin Initiative in the same region and during the same period.
- Thus, benefits to communities included the following:
 - Technical training in the establishment of nurseries, reforestation plantations and agroforestry systems
 - Provision of inputs (seedlings, trees, agricultural inputs, plastic bags, etc.) for the establishment of nurseries, reforestation plantations and agroforestry systems
 - Technical advice and support for all productive activities
 - Technical support for the inclusion of communities in the Forestry Subsidies Program
 - Inclusion and active participation in protected area governance structures by local communities and indigenous peoples associations
 - Inclusion and active participation in a FPIC Process for the development of a REDD+ Project in the region
- Finally, it is important to consider this project within the larger activities and programs carried out by FUNDAECO in the Caribbean Region of Guatemala. Indeed, this project had a particular Strategy and Scope – directly linked to protected areas design and governance, REDD+, and productive activities-. However, FUNDAECO simultaneously carried out other strategies and activities in the same region and during the same period, that mutually complemented and reinforced those activities under the project’s logical framework. These included the following:
 - Support to indigenous communities land legalization
 - Support to rural women’s sexual and reproductive health, through a network of “Women Clinics” located in all the protected areas where the project worked

- Training and scholarships for young girls and youth from rural communities, in order to enhance their opportunities and foster local leaderships for nature conservation and sustainable development

4.4 Gender equality

As stated above, the project directly supported over 29 women in the design, production and marketing of ecological handicrafts, and in the strengthening of Women groups that will produce and sell their handicrafts in selected local markets. Also, during the period, and with counterpart funding (from the European Union and other Donors), FUNDAECO established 12 “Women Clinics” across Caribbean Guatemala, that are providing sexual and reproductive health services to communities in the region. This initiative complemented the forest protection activities supported by the Darwin Initiative in the same region and during the same period. During project planning, an effort was made to identify potential productive activities that could benefit community women, and this is why an effort was made to create, strengthen and support handicraft production in selected villages.

Other four small projects supported through the “Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund”, were family based, this means that 64 women were involved in the project decision and participate of the project activities.

Also, during the FPIC process for the REDD+ project, a specific effort was made in order to inform community women, women associations and indigenous women representatives. The participation of women in the FPIC process was disaggregated and monitored, in order to ensure their active participation and consultation. A total of 821 women were consulted during the process.

4.5 Programme indicators

- Did the project lead to greater representation of local poor people in management structures of biodiversity? Yes,

During the project life FUNDAECO continue supporting the work of participatory management bodies “Executive Council, and Users Committees” for two protected areas; RPM Cerro San Gil and AUM Río Sarstun.

Sierra Caral Law, designed and promoted by FUNDAECO as part of the project outcomes includes the creation of the participatory Executive Council as well as the recognition of Sierra Caral PA communities Assembly (Consejo intercomunitario).

- Were any management plans for biodiversity developed?
The project did not included the formulation of management plans for biodiversity.
- Were these formally accepted?
N/A, see answer above
- Were they participatory in nature or were they ‘top-down’? How well represented are the local poor including women, in any proposed management structures?

FUNDAECO promotes the participation of local communities through their inclusion in the participatory management bodies called PA Executive Councils, during the project lifetime FUNDAECO continued this institutional policy and strategy for the protected areas of the project, and also promoted and achieved the creation of the participatory Executive council for the recently declared protected area Sierra Caral. FUNDAECO fully recognized and worked together with local groups and community councils.

- Were there any positive gains in household (HH) income as a result of this project?
Yes Through the project incentives an annual average of £373,671.55, over a 6 years period, will be received by benefitted families across the region.

- How many HHs saw an increase in their HH income?

167 HH are receiving an annual average of £ 2,231.56

- How much did their HH income increase (e.g. x% above baseline, x% above national average)? How was this measured?

A social assessment for the project region shows that the average annual income in most of the benefited communities is £2472, with this base the income increase would be of 90%. It is always important to consider that this is an average and that the received amount per HH will depend on size of forest or reforestation plot of each forest incentive beneficiary.

4.6 Transfer of knowledge

Did the project result in any formal qualifications? N/A

4.7 Capacity building

During the implementation of this project, three technical lines of discussion were developed:

- The integration of sub-national systems of protected areas into broader landscapes through ecological networks, ecological corridors and/or buffer zones
- The selection of agroforestry systems that provide incomes, while at the same time recovering forest cover, sequestering carbon and enhancing habitats
- The design and development of REDD+ strategies for avoided deforestation, biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation.

These discussions led to multiple meetings, presentations, consultations, field visits, environmental assessments, and lobbying meetings between 2013 and 2016. Key questions that were addressed were the following:

- Which are the most suitable agro-ecological/Agroforestry systems that support biodiversity conservation at the landscape level, while at the same time supporting income and employment?
- Which are the best agroforestry systems for ecological corridors?
- Are rubber plantations a suitable option to cattle pastures in ecological corridors?
- What are the most appropriate methodologies for the construction of a “grouped” REDD+ project across Caribbean Guatemala?
- Which activities should be integrated in a REDD+ project, in order to stop deforestation across the region?
- Which is the best “financial sustainability” strategy for a REDD+ project in the Region?
- Which is the best “benefit sharing” arrangement for a REDD+ project in the Region?
- How can we integrate forest conservation to regional development strategies?
- Which innovative partnerships are needed in order to implement a REDD+ project in the region?

These discussions led to the development of proposals, presentations, ecological impact assessments, and meetings with practitioners and policy makers in the following platforms:

- Board of Directors of the National Forestry Institute
- National Council of Protected Areas
- National REDD+ Implementing Group
- Ministry of the Environment
- Center for Conservation Studies of the National University
- The National Exporters Association
- The National Competitiveness Program
- The Ministry of Agriculture
- The National Association of Environmental NGO’s

The results of these discussions have been integrated into the “Project Design Document” (PDD) of the REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala, that will be submitted to VCS and CCB in January of 2017.

During this process, FUNDAECO significantly strengthened its institutional capacities in the following aspects:

- Design and implementation of Agroforestry Systems
- Ecological-Economic Zoning for biodiversity conservation and agro-ecological development
- Design of REDD+ projects

- i. Did any staff from developing country partners see an increase in their status nationally, regionally or internationally? For example, have they been invited to participate in any national expert committees, expert panels, have they had a promotion at work?

During execution of the project, and thanks to the expertise gained through the implementation of field activities, FUNDAECO Technical staff was invited to integrate the following platforms:

- Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA)
- National Group of REDD+ Implementing Agencies (GIREDD)
- National Group on Forests, Biodiversity and Climate Change (GBByCC)
- Board of Directors of the National Forestry Institute (JD INAB)
- National Group on Forest Restoration
- Healthy Reefs Initiative
- Birdscapes Initiative of the American Bird Conservancy
- Livelihoods Fund Project partners Group

- ii. What gender were they?

Amphibian Survival Alliance - ASA	Marco Cerezo (male)
GIREDD	Karen Aguilar (female)
GBByCC	Karen Aguilar (female)
JD INAB	Byron Villeda (male)
Healthy Reef In Initiative	Silja Ramirez (female)
Grupo restauracion forestal	Elvia Elías (female)

4.8 Sustainability and Legacy

The Key Project achievements that will endure beyond Project duration are the following:

- The Forest Incentives Requests prepared under the project will provide income for local farmers for a total period of five years, thus providing benefits beyond project duration.
- The established agroforestry plantations will provide produce and income for at least 5-7 years beyond project duration (depending on the type of agroforestry system).
- The regional Conservation Plan for the network of Protected Areas of Caribbean Guatemala will be funded and implemented with funding from the REDD+ project over the next five years through the sale of VCU's with support from The Althelia Fund.
- The REDD+ project, developed with support from the Darwin Project, will provide income to local communities from future sales of VCU's (Verified Carbon Units) for at least thirty years beyond project duration – once registered, validated and verified (which is expected to take place in February of 2017).
- The legislation for the Legal Declaration of Sierra Caral enacted by the National Congress will ensure the protection of this important forested remnant "into perpetuity", as Sierra Caral is now part of the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas.

It is important to indicate that ALL RESOURCES AND ALL PROJECT STAFF WILL CONTINUE WORKING IN THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF PROTECTED AREAS ACROSS THE REGION, with the leveraged funding resulting from the REDD+ Project and the established Contract with The Althelia Fund. This is undoubtedly the best proof of success of the project!

5 Lessons learned

The following issues may be relevant to improve and inform future Darwin projects:

- Initial training workshops, usually carried out in England, cannot be attended by local NGO's such as FUNDAECO. As Darwin Initiative develops stronger links with locally based NGO's, on-line training and webinars could facilitate the direct relationship between implementing NGO's and the Darwin Initiative
- Project Monitoring and Evaluation Systems, usually focused on the achievement of quantitative technical goals (planted surfaces, allocated funds, number of participants, etc.) must be adapted to gender indicators and other qualitative indicators, in order to best reflect the many types of activities and impacts achieved by the project.
- In order to carry out Social processes – such as FPIC processes- organizations need to strengthen their institutional capabilities.
- Lobbying activities are key to ensure the institutional support of local government agencies to project implementation in the field.
- Technical and scientific documents must be “translated” into “policy papers”, in order to be useful for practitioners and policy decision makers.

5.1 Monitoring and evaluation

- There were no major changes in the project design
- The internal M&E system allowed Project Director to identify delays or difficulties during the project execution, and to implement solutions in time. Most frequent difficulties were related to a need of improving guidance regarding expected outputs. In the case of delays, most of them were related to the PDD preparation, which depended on getting external support which required an additional fund leverage.
- No internal or external evaluations were developed for the project

5.2 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

N/A, the project did not received any feedbacks from annual reports

6 Darwin identity

The key actions that supported the visibility and identity of Darwin Identity were the following:

- A Press Conference for the Launching of the Project was done, with the participation of the Ambassador, which was widely covered by National media.
- The Darwin Initiative Logo was included in the Campaign on Protected Areas supported by the Project, which consisted of 300 Metropolitan Posters (“Muppies”) in Bus Stops and main streets in Guatemala City. This campaign was seen by more than 600,000 persons.
- The Darwin Initiative Logo was included in Five television programs that were aired on cable and national TV over the period, which were seen by more than 400,000 viewers.
- The Darwin Initiative Logo was always used in conjunction with the Logo of all the other Donors that provided counterpart funding to the Project.
- Darwin Logo was used in the field visit document presented during the visit of the Executive Secretary for the Convention on Biological Diversity Mr. Braulio de Souza. See Annex 26 and 27

7 Finance and administration

7.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2015/16 Grant (£)	2015/16 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)			14	Variance during the third and final year of implementation allowed to an adequate allocation for each budget category over the whole project duration, the next table shows the variance for the three years period.
Consultancy costs			0	
Overhead Costs			7	
Travel and subsistence			106	
Operating Costs			49	
Capital items (see below)			0	
Others (see below)			0	
TOTAL				

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2015/16 Grant (£)	2015/16 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)			-4	No significant
Consultancy costs			7	No significant
Overhead Costs			-3	No significant
Travel and subsistence			15	No significant
Operating Costs			-4	No significant
Capital items (see below)			-78	The efforts to prepare 167 forestry incentive files required to buy 1 additional computers and a GPS cable that were not initially planned
Others (see below)			0	No significant
TOTAL				

Staff employed	Cost
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(Name and position)	(£)
PROYECT COORDINATOR Byron Villeda	
FORESTY INCENTIVES PROGRAM COORDINATOR Walter Chavez	
BIOLOGICAL MONITORING COORDINATOR Alexis Mauricio Cerezo	
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION COORDINATOR Nely Paola Rosa/ Quetzali Cerezo	
PROJECT ACCOUNTANT Marco Antonio Pech	
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY BASED PROMOTERS Julian Perez/Marcos Tiul/Lucas Cuz Caal/Macario Maas	
MONITORING FIELD TECHNICIANS Miguel Ramirez	
TOTAL	

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
Cloud Router/switch Microtik 24 puertos, CRS125-24g-1s, 2HnD-IN. Cloud Router/switch Microtik 24 puertos, CRS125-24g-1s, 2HnD-IN. Computer serie 71JPFZ1 Marca Dell Optiplex 7010, Procesdor INTEL Core 13-3240, 4GB Ram, hd 500GB. CN0HDN9728723CLAUVB, Monitor Dell E1914H Computer portatil DELL N3437, Procesador INTEL Core 15-4200U, 6GB RAM, 1TB Disco, 14", I5-4200u, 6ram DDR 3 Wire to obtain GPS data Geodesico marca T Encuadernadora manual GBC mod. 7704250.	
TOTAL	

7.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
ACF	
FFEM	
Livelihoods fund	
FUNDAECO	
TOTAL	

7.3 Value for Money

For most of the activities the project hired only Guatemalan technicians which reduce costs, since it is not required to charge travel fees, we only hired a foreign external support with but as a counterpart from ACF.

Annex 1 Project's original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: the conservation of the remaining rainforests of Caribbean Guatemala, between the borders of Belize and Honduras -with an expected reduction of at least 50% in deforestation rates across the region over the next eight years- which will be achieved through the establishment and participatory management of a regional network of protected areas, and the provision of direct financial incentives for the protection and restoration of forests by local communities</p>			
<p>Outcome: the development of a regional strategy, methodologies and tools for the reduced fragmentation and deforestation of the remaining rainforests of Caribbean Guatemala, between the borders of Belize and Honduras.</p>	<p>Indicator 1 Protected area management and forest fragment protection efforts across Caribbean Guatemala are being informed and oriented by a biodiversity and environmental services monitoring methodology, based on forest fragments analysis and prioritization</p>	<p>Annual Biological Monitoring Reports; GIS thematic Maps and forest cover analysis; Biogeographic data bases; Reports on the provision of environmental services by protected areas; Data Analysis Reports on the state of forest fragments; Annual workshops Reports of meetings with Protected Area managers and adopted decisions and recommendations for management</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2 Two additional proposed protected areas have been declared in Caribbean Guatemala; their Management Plans have have been formulated with ample participation from local communities and stakeholders, and participatory governance mechanisms have been established.</p>	<p>Publication of Decrees in Official Gazette for the Declaration Laws of two protected areas; Participants lists for the Managements plans formulation workshops; Management Plan Documents; Reports on community participation in protected area management and governance;</p>	<p>The project is assuming the possibility of achieving the legal declaration of two additional protected areas; this however, ultimately depends on the National Congress, which is the entity under Guatemalan Law that can enact new nature reserves. A new legislature was invested in January 2012, and they have been very welcoming and supportive of conservation initiatives. We are assuming this support will continue over the next four years.</p>
	<p>Indicator 3 The Financial Gap for the effective management of the Regional System of Protected Areas has been reduced by at least 40% through increased budgets, the enactment of PES mechanisms and REDD project contributions.</p>	<p>Publication of Decrees in Official Gazette for the Declaration Laws of two protected areas; Participants lists for the Managements plans formulation workshops; Management Plan Documents; Reports on community participation in protected area management and governance;</p>	<p>In order to strengthen the Regional Network of protected areas in Caribbean Guatemala, a Financial Gap Analysis (for effective protected area management) will be carried out and used to promote improved public budgets and the adoption of PES mechanisms. We are assuming that the Fiscal situation in the Country will remain stable and will allow for a constructive and positive dialogue with</p>

			the Ministry of Finance and the Financial Commission of the National Congress; this is highly probable as a “Fiscal Reform” has recently passed and should provide additional fiscal income over the next years.
	Indicator 4 The proposed “Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan” for the Regional Network of Eight Protected Areas has been produced and is being used to strengthen management effectiveness across the region	Participants lists for workshops for the discussion of the Regional Management Plan; “Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan for the Network of Protected Areas of Caribbean Guatemala” presented to CONAP, local authorities, selected Universities and other stakeholders	As most coastal regions in the Wider Caribbean, Caribbean Guatemala is a drug trafficking route for cocaine smugglers. Over the past four years however, 9 out of the 12 most wanted drug barons in Guatemala have been captured, prosecuted and/or extradited, effectively reducing risks and territorial claims by cartels. We are assuming this policy will remain in effect, and that narco-related activities will lower or remain at their current level, thus allowing for strengthened protected area management strategies in the region
	Indicator 5. 5,000 hectares of selected high priority forests fragments are being protected and restored by communities and small forest owners through the provision of direct “forest protection incentives”	Forest protection incentives” technical files (maps, soil studies, legal files) presented to INAB for each beneficiary community or small forest owner; Resolutions of approval of Incentives by INAB (National Forestry Institute)	
	Indicator 6. By the end of the project, Forest Protection Incentives are providing direct income to communities in excess of 137,000 £ per year, over a five year period	Reports of paid incentives by INAB; monitoring database (on excel files) of yearly allocation of incentives per community	
	Indicator 7. A regional funding facility for small scale productive projects has been established – The “Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund” has been established	Legal documents of the Establishment of the small scale productive projects Fund and Operating Manual of the Fund.	

	Indicator 8. Through the above mentioned funding facility, between 5 and 7 sustainable productive activities such as black pepper, non-timber forest products, and ecotourism, have been supported	Technical proposals and Reports of 5-7 small projects funded through the fund.	
	Indicator 9. The REDD “Project Design Document” (PDD) has been validated and certified and an “Emissions Reductions Purchase Agreement” (ERPA) has been negotiated, with the endorsement from local participating communities, through an adequately documented “Free, Previous and Informed Consent” process	Report on FPIC process; Signed ERPA; PDD validated and certified by international standards VCS (Voluntary Carbon standard) and CCB (Climate Community and Biodiversity standard)	Over the past ten years, FUNDAECO has developed a close working relationship with local communities across Caribbean Guatemala. We are therefore assuming that “Free, Prior and Informed Consent” for a REDD project in the region will be obtained during the first year of project implementation.
Outputs: 1. Through GIS technology, field monitoring and data analysis, high priority forest fragments for biodiversity conservation, ecological connectivity and environmental services provision have been identified across Caribbean Guatemala, and are informing protected area management and habitat protection decisions	Indicator 1.1 Two annual reports of GIS forest cover analysis; Indicator 1.2 Three annual reports of biological monitoring of indicator taxa (birds; Beetles; Palms; Amphibians), including data collection and analysis Indicator 1.3 One report of environmental services provision in protected areas Indicator 1.4 One Report on Forest fragments identified and prioritized for biodiversity conservation and environmental services provision, with regional management recommendations	Maps on prioritized remnants and fragments, monitoring plan; Previous biology and environmental services analysis report; Second year monitoring analysis report; Third year monitoring analysis report; Annual Biological Monitoring Reports; GIS thematic Maps and forest cover analysis; Biogeographic data bases; Reports on the provision of environmental services by protected areas; Data Analysis Reports on the state of forest fragments; Annual workshops Reports of meetings with Protected Area managers and adopted decisions and recommendations for management	
2. The Regional Network of Protected Areas of Caribbean Guatemala has been completed and strengthened-through the establishment and Management Planning of two additional Nature Reserves; the analysis of Financial Gaps and the proposal of “Payment of Environmental Services” mechanisms for the entire Regional System; the Production of a	Indicator 2.1 One Technical study for Sierra Santa Cruz prepared, discussed and presented to CONAP; One Legal Declaration Decree prepared and presented to Congress; Two Legal decrees under consideration by Congress in the Legislative Agenda; Indicator 2.2 One final Report of a Consultative process with 40	Technical Study for Sierra Santa Cruz approved by CONAP; Community signed acts for the creation of Santa Cruz protected areas, and Decree proposal presented to the National Congress; Financial gap analysis document presented to different stakeholders, including CONAP, Finance Ministry, and National Congress; Two workshops for the	The project is assuming the possibility of achieving the legal declaration of two additional protected areas; this however, ultimately depends on the National Congress, which is the entity under Guatemalan Law that can enact new nature reserves. A new legislature was invested in January 2012, and they have been very welcoming and supportive of conservation initiatives.

<p>Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan for the Regional Network of Eight Protected Areas; and the strengthening of participatory Governance Mechanisms</p>	<p>communities in Sierra Santa Cruz, consulted for the creation of a new protected area</p> <p>Indicator 2.3 Working paper on inputs from CONAP, Finance Ministry and other stakeholder for the Financial gap analysis for Caribbean network protected; One Report on Financial Gaps and mechanisms to reduce it</p> <p>Indicator 2.4 Working papers on inputs recorded in consultation workshops for the preparation of the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan; Final Document of a Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan for the Network of Protected Areas;</p> <p>Indicator 2.5 One Report of participatory Governance Mechanisms designed and in place in the regional network of Protected Areas</p>	<p>presentation of the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan; Official reports of budgetary allocations to protected areas emitted by CONAP; number of newly assigned park guards for the region; Administrative and legal resolutions for the approval of PES mechanisms; Income reports from approved PES mechanisms</p>	<p>We are assuming this support will continue over the next four years</p>
<p>3. Selected high priority forests fragments are being protected and restored by communities and small forest owners through the provision of direct incentives in at least 5,000 additional hectares across the biological corridor of Caribbean Guatemala; these incentives will provide significant income to local communities at least over a five year period</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1 20 Field Reports of participatory processes in which 20 communities are consulted to prioritize forests to be presented to the forestry incentives program</p> <p>Indicator 3.2 Between 30 and 50 Technical and Legal Files for the registration of Forest Protection Incentives, including: Forest inventories; GIS thematic maps; Boundary geo-referencing; Legal documents; and Applications Forms; Between 30 and 50 Reception and certification resolutions by National Forestry Institute; Payment certifications;</p> <p>Indicator 3.3 500 families are receiving forestry incentives for the protection and restoration of 5,000 ha of community</p>	<p>Community agreements indicating the prioritized forest to be presented to the forestry incentive program; Forestry incentive files with approval resolution; Forestry incentives payment certificates; monitoring database (on excel files) of yearly allocation of incentives per community.</p>	<p>We are assuming that the Fiscal situation in the Country will remain stable and will allow for a constructive and positive dialogue with the Ministry of Finance and the Financial Commission of the National Congress, in order to increase funding to the network of protected areas and reduce the financial gap for their effective management</p>

	forests		
4. A sustainable funding facility for small scale productive projects - The "Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund"- has been established, replenished through corporate donations and other sources, and is funding 5-7 projects over the duration of the project	<p>Indicator 4.1 The "Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund" is designed and has been established in a local Bank. One operations manual has been approved.</p> <p>Indicator 4.2 The replenishment of the fund is presented to at least two sources</p> <p>Indicator 4.3 5-7 projects are funded through the "Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund"</p>	<p>Legal establishment document of the "Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund"; Proposal presented to at least two sources; Project reports and funding certificates for 5 to 7 projects;</p>	
5. In collaboration with the Althelia Fund, a REDD "Project Design Document" (PDD) has been produced for the Caribbean Region of Guatemala and an "Emissions Reductions Purchase Agreement" (ERPA) has been drafted and negotiated, with the endorsement from local participating communities, through an adequately documented "Free, Previous and Informed Consent" process;	<p>Indicator 5.1 50 communities, 3 municipalities, and other stakeholders are consulted in a "Free, Previous and Informed Consent" process for a REDD project;</p> <p>Indicator 5.2 PDD considering results from the FPIC process is prepared and presented to the VCS and CCB standards for their approval</p> <p>Indicator 5.3 One ERPA is reviewed and discussed with The Althelia Fund</p>	<p>"Free, Previous and Informed Consent" final document; PDD with reception stamp from VCS and CCB standards; Signed ERPA;</p>	<p>Over the past ten years, FUNDAECO has developed a close working relationship with local communities across Caribbean Guatemala. We are therefore assuming that "Free, Prior and Informed Consent" for a REDD project in the region will be obtained during the first year of project implementation</p>
6. In conjunction with the CONAP, Natural History Museum of the National University, and local newspapers and radio stations, the high value of Biodiversity and protected in Caribbean Guatemala will have been communicated and disseminated at the regional and national level.	<p>Indicator 6.1 10 Radio Spots in Maya-Q'eqchi and Spanish have been produced and aired in the main local radio station in Caribbean Guatemala;</p> <p>Indicator 6.2 Popular Education Publications for a local Newspaper and Three Brochures are designed, validated, produced and disseminated.</p> <p>Indicator 6.3 The communications campaign is adequately monitored and measured: Message retention and understanding are evaluated by project staff through informal interviews, Degree of agreement and compliance with</p>	<p>Radio Station Contracts; Audio tapes of Radio Spots; Contracts and publications with local newspaper; contracts and copies of brochures; Monitoring reports of communication campaign;</p>	

	suggested attitudinal changes is measured through “focus groups” methodology in selected communities.		
<p>Activity 1.1 Combined GIS initial analysis for forest fragments and remnants prioritization</p> <p>Activity 1.2 Field verification of prioritized forest fragments and remnants</p> <p>Activity 1.3 Monitoring design and preparation of monitoring plan</p> <p>Activity 1.4 Initial data collecting in the field, year one</p> <p>Activity 1.5 Data processing</p> <p>Activity 1.6 preparation of previous analysis for biology and environmental services monitoring report</p> <p>Activity 1.7 Presentation and discussion on the previous analysis for biology and environmental services monitoring report</p> <p>Activity 1.8 Preparation of Monitoring plan for year two</p> <p>Activity 1.9 Initial data collecting in the field, year two</p> <p>Activity 1.10 Data processing year two</p> <p>Activity 1.11 Preparation of Monitoring report year two</p> <p>Activity 1.12 Preparation of Monitoring plan for year three</p> <p>Activity 1.13 Initial data collecting in the field, year three</p> <p>Activity 1.14 Data processing year three</p> <p>Activity 1.15 Preparation of Monitoring report year three</p> <p>Activity 2.1 5 technical workshops and field trips for the preparation of the Technical study for sierra Santa Cruz</p> <p>Activity 2.2 3 workshops with CONAP for the preparation of Technical study for sierra Santa Cruz</p> <p>Activity 2.3 3 workshops with local communities for the discussion on the creation of Sierra santa Cruz protected area.</p> <p>Activity 2.4 Preparation and presentation of decree proposal to the National Congress</p> <p>Activity 2.5 Follow up with of the decree proposal with the National Congress</p> <p>Activity 2.6 Preparation Santa Cruz Management Plan</p> <p>Activity 2.7 Preparation Sierra Caral Management Plan</p> <p>Activity 2.8 meetings for the discussion of the Financial gap analysis for Caribbean network of protected areas</p> <p>Activity 2.9 Preparation and presentation of the Financial gap analysis for Caribbean network of protected areas</p> <p>Activity 2.10 Workshops and meetings for the preparation of the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan</p> <p>Activity 2.11 Preparation of the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan</p> <p>Activity 2.12 Presentation workshop of the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan</p> <p>Activity 3.1 Meeting and workshops with local communities to discuss and identify forest to be included in forestry incentives program</p> <p>Activity 3.2 Collecting of legal information: land property documents, identity documents, etc</p> <p>Activity 3.3 Delimitation of forest boundaries and Forestry inventories</p> <p>Activity 3.4 Statistical analysis on the forestry inventories and land use capacity maps</p> <p>Activity 3.5 Preparation of Forestry Protection and restoration plans</p> <p>Activity 3.6 Preparation and presentation of forestry incentive files to INAB</p> <p>Activity 3.7 Follow-up to incentives approval</p> <p>Activity 3.8 First year forest verification for the incentives payment</p> <p>Activity 3.9 Second year forest verification for the incentives payment</p> <p>Activity 4.1 Design of “Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund”</p> <p>Activity 4.2 Preparation and presentation of two proposal for the fund replenishment</p> <p>Activity 4.3 Funding of 5-7 projects</p>			

Activity 4.4 Field verification and report preparation for the financed projects

Activity 5.1 First meetings for the FPIC process: presentation of the project to the local communities and stakeholders

Activity 5.2 Realisation of the FPIC process (workshops, meetings, etc with more than 50 communities, 3 municipalities and other stakeholders)

Activity 5.3 Preparation of the FPIC document

Activity 5.4 Carbon and forestry inventories

Activity 5.5 Statistical analysis and project deforestation

Activity 5.6 REDD activities plan and budget preparation

Activity 5.7 PDD document preparation (includes the incorporation of FPIC results)

Activity 5.8 PDD presentation to the VCS and CCB standards

Activity 5.9 Follow-up to the PDD approval

Activity 5.10 Discussion and preparation of the ERPA

Activity 6.1 10 Radio Spots in Maya-Q'eqchi and Spanish are drafted, recorded, produced and aired in the main local radio station in Caribbean Guatemala;

Activity 6.2 Popular Education Publications for a local Newspaper and Three Brochures are designed, validated, produced and disseminated.

Activity 6.3 The communications campaign is monitored and measured: Message retention and understanding are evaluated by project staff through informal interviews; Degree of agreement and compliance with suggested attitudinal changes is measured through "focus groups" methodology in selected communities.

Annex 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements in the last Financial Year (2015-2016)	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal/Impact</p> <p>The long term reduction of fragmentation and deforestation of the remaining rainforests of Caribbean Guatemala, between the borders of Belize and Honduras, with an expected reduction of at least 50% in deforestation rates across the region over the next eight years, in direct compliance with Target 5 of the STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS of the COP 10 of the CBD</p>		5384 ha are under protection community protection or restoration, contributing to forest connectivity.	NA
<p><i>Purpose/Outcome:</i> the development of a regional strategy, methodologies and tools for the reduced fragmentation and deforestation of the remaining rainforests of Caribbean Guatemala, between the borders of Belize and Honduras.</p>	Protected area management and forest fragment protection efforts across Caribbean Guatemala are being informed and oriented by a biodiversity and environmental services monitoring methodology.	Analysis were integrated in the REDD+ project and area being used to prioritize conservation efforts	NA
	Two additional proposed protected areas have been declared in Caribbean Guatemala; their Management Plans have been formulated with ample participation from local communities and stakeholders, and participatory governance mechanisms have been established.	Sierra Santa Cruz Technical was completed One new protected area was declared	NA
	The Financial Gap for the effective management of the Regional System of Protected Areas has been reduced by at least 40%	Through a REDD+ contract signed with ACF the annual budget for 2015 was increased in 53% (USD, 798,765). And 49% for the next 5 years.	NA
	The proposed “Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan” for the Regional Network of Eight Protected Areas has been produced and is being used to strengthen management effectiveness across the region	The “Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan” was completed and is under implementation through the REDD+ Logic Framework	NA
	5,000 hectares of selected high priority forests fragments are being protected and restored through the provision of direct “forest protection incentives”	5384ha	NA

	By the end of the project, Forest Protection Incentives are providing direct income to communities in excess of 137,000 £ per year, over a five year period.	An average of 250,160.66 £ is paid annually to communities and small forest owners through the Forest Protection Incentives, during a five year period	NA
	The “Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund” has been established.	Done year 2014	NA
	Through the above mentioned funding facility, between 5 and 7 sustainable productive activities have been supported	6 projects were supported during the project lifetime	NA
	The REDD PDD has been validated and certified and an ERPA has been negotiated, with the endorsement from local participating communities, through an adequately documented “Free, Previous and Informed Consent” process	The ERPA was signed	NA
Output 1. Through GIS technology, field monitoring and data analysis, high priority forest fragments for biodiversity conservation, ecological connectivity and environmental services provision have been identified across Caribbean Guatemala, and are informing protected area management and habitat protection decisions. (insert original outputs with activities relevant to that outputs in lines below. Activities relevant to more than one output should be cross-referenced rather than repeated)	Two annual reports of GIS forest cover analysis;	Report was prepared using 2010, 2012 and 2014 maps	
	Three annual reports of biological monitoring of indicator taxa	Report were prepared for amphibians and birds	
	One report of environmental services provision in protected areas	Report was presented in year 2014.	
	One Report on Forest fragments identified and prioritized for biodiversity conservation and environmental services provision, with regional management recommendations	An initial report was prepared in 2014, and was complemented with the final cadastral analysis in 2016 (map)	
Combined GIS initial analysis for forest fragments and remnants prioritization (size, elevation, and connectivity)		done	
Field verification of prioritized forest fragments and remnants		done	
Monitoring design and preparation of monitoring plan		done	
Initial data collecting in the field, year one		done	

Data processing (includes the use of multivariate methods and techniques, MARK and COMDYN software)	done	
preparation of previous analysis for biology and environmental services monitoring report	done	
Presentation and discussion on the previous analysis for biology and environmental services monitoring report	The analysis was prepared using data from 2013-2014	
Output 2. The Regional Network of Protected Areas of Caribbean Guatemala has been completed and strengthened- through the establishment and Management Planning of two additional Nature Reserves; the analysis of Financial Gaps and the proposal of "Payment of Environmental Services" mechanisms for the entire Regional System; the Production of a Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan for the Regional Network of Eight Protected Areas; and the strengthening of participatory Governance Mechanisms	One Technical study for Sierra Santa Cruz prepared, discussed and presented to CONAP; One Legal Declaration Decree prepared and presented to Congress; Two Legal decrees under consideration by Congress in the Legislative Agenda	The Technical study was completed
	One final Report of a Consultative process with 40 communities in Sierra Santa Cruz, consulted for the creation of a new protected area	The Report was prepared
	Working paper on inputs from CONAP, Finance Ministry and other stakeholder for the Financial gap analysis for Caribbean network protected; One Report on Financial Gaps and mechanisms to reduce it (PES, REDD, and others);	Done in 2014
	Working papers on inputs recorded in consultation workshops for the preparation of the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan; Final Document of a Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan for the Network of Protected Areas;	The Regional Management plan was completed and is under implementation

	One Report of participatory Governance Mechanisms designed and in place in the regional network of Protected Areas (FFEM counterpart support)	Report was prepared
5 technical workshops and field trips for the preparation of the Technical study for sierra Santa Cruz		Done years 2013 and 2014
3 workshops with CONAP for the preparation of Technical study for sierra Santa Cruz		Done years 2013 and 2014
3 workshops with local communities for the discussion on the creation of Sierra santa Cruz protected area.		Done years 2013 and 2014
Preparation and presentation of decree proposal to the National Congress		The decree proposal was prepared
Follow up with of the decree proposal with the National Congress		This activity was delayed until there is a final agreement on the proposed zoning with local communities
Preparation Santa Cruz Management Plan		Sierra Santa Cruz Management Plan was not prepared since the Protected Area Law states that Management Plans are prepared after the legal declaration of a protected area
Preparation Sierra Caral Management Plan		Document in progress (60%)
meetings for the discussion of the Financial gap analysis for Caribbean network of protected areas		Done years 2013 and 2014
Preparation and presentation of the Financial gap analysis for Caribbean network of protected areas		Done years 2013 and 2014
Workshops and meetings for the preparation of the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan		done
Preparation of the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan		the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan and is under implementation
Presentation workshop of the Regional Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan		done

Output 3. Selected high priority forests fragments are being protected and restored by communities and small forest owners through the provision of direct incentives in at least 5,000 additional hectares across the biological corridor of Caribbean Guatemala; these incentives will provide significant income to local communities at least over a five year period.,	20 Field Reports of participatory processes in which 20 communities are consulted to prioritize forests to be presented to the forestry incentives program	At the end of the third year 167 files were approved for 4850 ha and another 129 were prepared for 534 ha, these last are to be approved at the end of 2016.
	Between 30 and 50 Technical and Legal Files for the registration of Forest Protection Incentives, including: Forest inventories; GIS thematic maps; Boundary geo-referencing; Legal documents; and Applications Forms; Between 30 and 50 Reception and certification resolutions by National Forestry Institute; Payment certifications;	
	500 families are receiving forestry incentives for the protection and restoration of 5,000 ha of community forests	
Meeting and workshops with local communities to discuss and identify forest to be included in forestry incentives program		Done for 129 files
Collecting of legal information: land property documents, identity documents, etc		Done for 129 files
Delimitation of forest boundaries and Forestry inventories		Done for 129 files
Statistical analysis on the forestry inventories and land use capacity maps (for restoration only)		Done for 129 files
Preparation of Forestry Protection and restoration plans		Done for 129 files
Preparation and presentation of forestry incentive files to INAB		To be presented at the end of 2016
Follow-up to incentives approval		N/A
First year forest verification for the incentives payment		Done for previous approved files

Second year forest verification for the incentives payment		Done for previous approved files
Output 4. A sustainable funding facility for small scale productive projects - The "Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund"- has been established, replenished through corporate donations and other sources, and is funding 5-7 projects over the duration of the project.	The "Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund" is designed and has been established in a local Bank. One operations manual has been approved.	The fund was created during the first year of the project and supported the implementation of 6 small projects. The fund was presented as part of the REDD+ strategies, and obtained an additional allocation of £70,000 for the implementation of small project under the concept of conservation agreements.
	The replenishment of the fund is presented to at least two sources (corporate donors and REDD investors)	
	5-7 projects are funded through the "Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund"	
Design of "Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund"		Done in year 2013
Preparation and presentation of two proposal for the fund replenishment		Done in years 2014 and 2015
Funding of 5-7 projects		6 projects approved and supported during the project life
Field verification and report preparation for the financed projects		Done
Output 5. In collaboration with the Althelia Fund, a REDD "Project Design Document" (PDD) has been produced for the Caribbean Region of Guatemala and an "Emissions Reductions Purchase Agreement" (ERPA) has been drafted and negotiated, with the endorsement from local participating communities, through an adequately documented "Free, Previous and Informed Consent" process;	50 communities, 3 municipalities, and other stakeholders are consulted in a "Free, Previous and Informed Consent" process for a REDD project;	FPIC done with the participation of 2300 persons from 87 communities and more than 20 different institutions and coordination groups. The FPIC is integrated to the PDD as part of the VCS and CCB standards requirements. The ERPA between ACF and FUNDAECO was signed in May 2015
	PDD considering results from the FPIC process is prepared and presented to the VCS and CCB standards for their approval	
	One ERPA is reviewed and discussed with The Althelia Fund	

First meetings for the FPIC process: presentation of the project to the local communities and stakeholders	done
Realisation of the FPIC process (workshops, meetings, etc with more than 50 communities, 3 municipalities and other stakeholders)	done
Preparation of the FPIC document	done
Carbon and forestry inventories	done
Statistical analysis and project deforestation	done
REDD activities plan and budget preparation	done
PDD document preparation (includes the incorporation of FPIC results)	Under preparation with a progress of 80%
PDD presentation to the VCS and CCB standards	To be done in December 2016
Follow-up to the PDD approval	To be done in December 2016
Discussion and preparation of the ERPA	Done

<p>Output 6. In conjunction with the CONAP, Natural History Museum of the National University, and local newspapers and radio stations, the high value of Biodiversity and protected in Caribbean Guatemala will have been communicated and disseminated at the regional and national level.</p>	<p>10 Radio Spots in Maya-Q'eqchi and Spanish have been produced and aired in the main local radio station in Caribbean Guatemala;</p> <p>Popular Education Publications for a local Newspaper and Three Brochures are designed, validated, produced and disseminated.</p> <p>The communications campaign is adequately monitored and measured: Message retention and understanding are evaluated by project staff through informal interviews, Degree of agreement and compliance with suggested attitudinal changes is measured through "focus groups" methodology in selected communities.</p>	<p>In order to increase the impact the project team decided to use videos in a local TV program, instead of brochures, since videos are more vivid tools. During year one 5 TV videos were transmitted in <i>Canal Antigua</i> which is a local cable channel. Each video has been transmitted 24 times in one month, and was also promoted through our social media network.</p> <p>Eleven publications were presented in local newspapers</p>
<p>10 Radio Spots in Maya-Q'eqchi and Spanish are drafted, recorded, produced and aired in the main local radio station in Caribbean Guatemala;</p>		<p>Done years 2013 and 2014</p>
<p>Popular Education Publications for a local Newspaper and Three Brochures are designed, validated, produced and disseminated.</p>		<p>Done years 2013 and 2014</p>
<p>The communications campaign is monitored and measured: Message retention and understanding are evaluated by project staff through informal interviews; Degree of agreement and compliance with suggested attitudinal changes is measured through "focus groups" methodology in selected communities.</p>		<p>This activity was not implemented</p>

Annex 3 Standard Measures

Research Measures		Total	Nationality	Gender	Title	Language	Comments/ Weblink if available
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (ies)	1 regional plan for Caribbean Guatemala PAs	Guatemala		Plan de Conservación Regional para el Corredor Caribe de Guatemala	Spanish	

Dissemination Measures		Total	Nationality	Gender	Theme	Language	Comments
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work	2	Guatemala				
14b	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.						

Physical Measures		Total	Comments
20	Estimated value (£s) of physical assets handed over to host country(s)	£1700	2 cloud routers, 2 computers, 1 GPS cable

Financial Measures		Total	Nationality	Gender	Theme	Language	Comments
23	Value of additional resources raised from other sources (e.g., in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	146825.84					

Annex 4 Aichi Targets

	Aichi Target	Tick if applicable to your project
1	People are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	X
2	Biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	
3	Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	X
4	Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	
5	The rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	X
6	All fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	
7	Areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	
8	Pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	
9	Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	
10	The multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	
11	At least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	X
12	The extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	
13	The genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.	

14	Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	X
15	Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	
16	The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.	
17	Each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	
18	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	
19	Knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	
20	The mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	X

Annex 5 Publications

No publications during the project lifetime

Type * (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Nationality of lead author	Nationality of institution of lead author	Gender of lead author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. web link, contact address etc)

Annex 6 Darwin Contacts

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