



*Al servicio
de las personas
y las naciones*

**ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION PROJECT at
Communities of THE
CENTRAL FOREST CORRIDOR IN
TEGUCIGALPA - HONDURAS
MID-TERM EVALUATION
FINAL REPORT**

NOVEMBER 22, 2021

I. Basic information of the Report

Project name	Ecosystem-Based Adaptation at Communities of the Central Forest Corridor in Tegucigalpa
UNDP PIMS number	5839
AF ID Number	HND/WED/Multi/2016/1
MTR Execution Period	From July 30, 2021 to October 22, 2021
Date of Report	October 22, 2021
Region and countries included in the report	Honduras
Action Area/Strategic Program of the AF	Central Forest Corridor: 14 Municipalities. Department of Francisco Morazán (13 municipalities), Department of Comayagua (1 Municipality).
Executing Agency/Executing Partner and other Project Partners	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (Mi Ambiente +), Forest Conservation Institute (ICF), National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), 14 Municipalities (San Antonio de Oriente, Talanga, Cedros, Central District, Cantarranas, Villa de San Antonio, Villa de San Francisco, Santa Lucía, Valle de Ángeles, Tatumbla, Santa Ana, Ojojona and San Buenaventura).
MTR Consultant	Marietta Fonseca

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The Evaluator wishes to extend their gratitude to all the people who contributed to this evaluation, both with the administrative and logistical support to carry out the interviews, as well as the provision of information and opinion.

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The evaluation was coordinated by the UNDP Honduras Country Office and was carried out by Marietta Fonseca, an international consultant.

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III. Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACRONYMS	NAME
AMHON	Association of Municipalities of Honduras
ARS	Fifth Evaluation Report
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
CATIE	CATIE
CFC	Central Forest Corridor
CEAOSS	Center for Atmospheric, Oceanographic and Seismic Studies
CONADEH	National Commissioner for Human Rights
NPWSC	National Potable Water and Sanitation Council
PECOCO	Permanent Contingency Commission
HHRR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
FIRSA	Honduras Agri-Food Sector Reactivation Program
REPWSS	Regulating Entity for Potable Water & Sanitation Services
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
WPMD	Watershed Protection and Management Department
NDCC	National Directorate of Climate Change
AF	Adaptation Fund
ICF	Institute of Forest Conservation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework.
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
MIAMBIENTE	Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
PCO	Project Coordinating Office
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NOCCSD	National Observatory on Climate Change and Sustainable Development
EAP	Economically Active Population
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
AOP	Annual Operating Plan
POPP	Policies and Procedures on Operations and Program
EWAS	Early Warning and Action System
SAL	Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock
NASAS	National Autonomous Service of Aqueducts and Sewers
EWS	Early-Warning System
FORESY	Forest Research System
EU	European Union
U-ESNACIFOR	National School of Forestry Sciences
MEU	Municipal Environmental Unit
ONE-CATACAMAS	National University of Agriculture
UNAH	National Autonomous University of Honduras

1. Executive Summary

The AdaptarC project main objective is to increase climate resilience of the most vulnerable communities in the Central Forest Corridor and the adaptation capacity of its municipalities with emphasis on securing livelihoods and the continued provision of ecosystem goods and services for Tegucigalpa and surroundings. The project focuses mainly on promoting local and community governance, knowledge management and adaptation technology measures considering climate change scenarios.

The Project with a total budget of USD 4,036,590.00 is financed by the Adaptation Fund, with UNDP acting as its Implementing Entity and the Ministry of Environment as the project's Executing Entity. The project has as responsible parties, the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF), the National Autonomous University of Honduras and the National Climate Change Observatory for Sustainable Development and the 14 municipalities of the CFC. Strategic allies for the project are the Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization, the Association of Municipalities of Honduras, the National Autonomous Service of Aqueducts and Sewers and the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation. The project is conducted under the overall guidance of a Project Board / Steering Committee Project (SCP), MiAmbiente assumes the executive role, UNDP assumes the role of senior provider. The project beneficiaries are represented by the Agroforestry cooperatives, the Association of Municipalities of Honduras and the Secretary of Exterior Relations and International Cooperation (SRECI).

To achieve the above objective, the project will focus on three components that are closely related:

COMPONENT 1: Strengthening of local and community governance for climate resilience

COMPONENT 2: On the ground adaptation measures for forest, land and water resources management

COMPONENT 3: Strengthening knowledge, information management and monitoring systems on climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity.

The implementation of the AdaptarC project has undergone different stages. The first corresponds to an inception period to lay the foundations for the project's operation and initiate studies and coordination, which lasted approximately one year (April 2019-March 2020). During this stage, the project's hiring processes were carried out, indicators were adjusted, baseline studies were reviewed, project's components strategies were proposed and reviewed. This resulted in the adjustment of a couple of project indicators, especially in components 1 and 2. During this period, the "Letters of Agreement" were also established with the project's Responsible Parties and the technical team for the project was organized. Subsequently, a series of situations arose that slowed the initial progress of the project that included changes of Authorities within MiAmbiente, three different ministers have

been in charge of the project during the period (September 2019-July 2021¹). Situations like these interrupted the normal execution of the Project, causing delays within its management. Likewise, the administrative processes for the acquisition of goods and services for project execution were also interrupted. In 2020, the government entered a long process as it was evaluating to change the Executing Entity for the project, and change from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to the Presidential Office of Green Economy (OPEV), this caused uncertainty and delays in project activities. In December 2020 it was resolved to keep the project under MiAmbiente+. In addition, the position of project coordinator and some members of technical staff were cleared in January 2021 by the Executing Entity, and open for a new procurement process. The project operated with an interim coordinator from January to July 2021, with limited technical capacity and staff.

In this context, the Pandemic caused by COVID-19 appeared, further delaying the actions of the project. Furthermore, during this time hurricanes IOTA and ETA came along, which also slowed down the project's initial progress.

During this project execution period (April 2019- July 2021), a series of actions were carried out by the Project and the Responsible Parties as addressed below. Also, there is evidence of a clear commitment of the current Authorities and the Responsible Parties to expedite the execution of the Project.

It is expected that with the new coordination installed, the technical team, and the support of the current Authorities, progress will be made with greater fluidity in the planned activities, which has been evidenced in the streamlining of procedures and actions in the field.

Table 1. Project Information

Project Name: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation at Communities of the Central Forest Corridor in Tegucigalpa		
Country: Honduras	Implementing Partner: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MiAmbiente+)	Management Arrangements: National Implementation Modality (NIM)
Region: Latin America	Action Area/Strategic Program of the FA Central Forest Corridor: 14 Municipalities. Dept. Francisco Morazán (13 municipalities); Dept. Comayagua (1 Municipality).	Executing Agency/Executing Partner and Other Project Partners Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Mi Ambiente +), Forest Conservation Institute (ICF), National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), 14 Municipalities (San Antonio de Oriente, Talanga, Cedros, Central District, Cantarranas, Villa de San Antonio, Villa de San Francisco, Santa Lucía, Valle de Ángeles, Tatumbla, Santa Ana, Ojojona and San Buenaventura).
Atlas Project ID (formerly award ID):		Product ID in Atlas (formerly Project ID):

¹ The deputy minister was delegated as minister in charge, between March to June 2021, prior to the appointment of the current minister who took office in June 2021).

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UNDP PIMS Number 5839	AF ID Number: HND/WED/Multi/2016/1
Financing Plan	
GEF Trust Fund (Adaptation Fund) USD 4,036,590	(1) Total budget administered by UNDP: USD 4,036,590
(2) Total Co-financing of the project: N/A	Grand total of project financing: USD 4,036,590
Anticipated Start Date March 2019	Estimated end date: March 2024

Table 2. Summary of MTR Ratings and Achievements

Parameter	MTR Rating		Achievement Description
Project Strategy		MI	During implementation, the projection of a project's development and its various stages must be discussed with local actors, so that they too become part of these, and their onset is clear and if necessary can be adjusted considering their points of view. The project team does not have a technical professional or direct specialist, on gender and intercultural issues (the gender specialist is shared with other projects run by MiAmbiente). The project requires strategies of gender and interculturality that are explicit and monitored not only implicit. These must have defined actions and resources.
Progress in achieving results	Global Objective	MI	Improvements in the global environment are expected, although it is still very uncertain if it will be possible to estimate them.
	Development objective	MS	Improvements are expected in production processes, forest landscape restoration, improvement of people's living conditions. Monitoring the project's "Theory of Change".
	Outcome 1	(3) MS	The consolidation of the Management Platform for the CFC is still incipient. Regulations related to natural resources are not yet being applied. The financing scheme for CC adaptation measures is still in terms of reference. However, a series of actions aimed at speeding up these mechanisms was noted.
	Outcome 2	(4) MS	The goal for this indicator was modified from 8,000 ha protected, to 1,500 ha restored; due to the fact that the approved indicator measures "# of affected pine forests and restored mixed forests... ." The technical activities of restoration, with respect to those of protection, differ in costs. Restoration is a process that goes beyond planting trees as it refers to the recovery of the landscape, therefore it implies higher investment costs. To date, restoration actions have been carried out in a total of 1,320 ² ha of prioritized areas affected by pests and forest fires thus surpassing the established goals. Of these, 64.70 ha have been restored via plantations and 1,221.90 ha by evaluation and management of natural regeneration. A study of the Vulnerability Index to Climate Change was carried out.
	Outcome 3	(3) MI	There is not yet substantial progress reported in the activities that correspond to this result. Although the UNAH shows progress in the vulnerability index in terms of its measurement, as of 2019, it was done as an evaluation before the intervention of the project. However, it will be measured at the end (it is

² Information provided by the ICF, updated as of August.

Project execution and adaptive management			estimated 2023), because the evaluation of the IVCC requires many variables that are measured in a base year, (for the 2019 and 2022 project). The orders of magnitude of these variables, so that they can have significant changes, require not only activities, interventions, applied measures, etc., but also to both the physical and social environments that respond to these changes and can therefore be seen as measurable. The rest of activities have not yet reached the mid-term goals.
		(3) MI	There is a weak M&E system for the project. It is necessary that the specialist in charge of monitoring and follow-up, support the coordinator, and help ensure that the instruments and the delivery of the products comply with the quality standards of all Parties. The technical and financial execution is too low, the adaptive management is limited. Reorienting planning as it is taking place, adjusting according to what is happening and reorienting strategies, so that they respond to the development needs and priorities of interest to the project, is a highly effective mechanism that has not been effectively applied in the AdaptarC project.
Sustainability		(3) AP	In general terms, it is somewhat probable that the results that the project can generate will be sustainable in the medium and long term, without additional resources, technical assistance and initiative to consolidate what has been achieved. The sustainability of the results is not assured. The necessary bases for this are in the very early process, both due to technical and financial capacities, as well as those of management.

Concise Summary of Conclusions

In the framework of the Mid-Term Review, the conclusions obtained in the process are presented below. They have been nourished by the opinions of the different actors:

1. The AdaptarC Project is relevant in terms of its focused working areas (expressed in the outputs) in the PRODOC, given the national/regional context, which prevailed at the start of the project (2018-2019). Although it was designed in another context, it is still relevant, especially because of the issue of vulnerability. The execution modality used is based on coordinated inter-institutional work and participatory activities, to promote the sustainability of what has been achieved. The strengthening of capacities (institutional and of the communities) and the generation of information is another contributing element.
2. The Project has generated guiding instruments to implement the actions that have been carried out. For the municipalities (14 in total) Municipal Forest Protection Management Plans were generated, as well as plans for restoration of areas degraded by forest fires and pests. All these activities are within the framework of the Agreement with the ICF. However, there are activities that require a greater degree of consolidation for their effectiveness.
3. The evaluation recognizes the actions to strengthen technical capacities, based on the execution of two diploma-based courses and other research and information generation activities carried out within the framework of the "agreement" with the UNAH. Officials of the institutions and the technicians of the municipalities have acquired and strengthened their knowledge on issues related to adaptation to climate change and potential adaptation measures, Integral Management of Natural Resources (IMNR), and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which should be replicated in the assistance processes carried out in the communities. This knowledge is also highly valued by interviewees from institutions, municipalities, and civil society organizations (with a high participation of young people).

4. Whereas, the execution of the Project has been seriously affected, among other aspects, by the change of senior authorities within MiAmbiente and the discontinuation of contracts of project coordinator and some technical staff in the Management Unit, hence compromising the performance of the Project, which to date has almost fourteen months of delay and a budget execution in nearly three years of 31%, (March 2019 to July 2021).
5. From the interviews carried out and the analysis and interpretation of information, it is concluded that: the delay in the effective management of the processes for the acquisition of goods and services, the learning curve of the personnel involved, the lack of knowledge of some administrative procedures has caused delays in the execution of the actions of the different Annual Workplans (AWPs). As well as the activities contemplated in the framework of the “agreements with the responsible parties”. Parallel to this situation, weak leadership and communication was evidenced between the technical-administrative Management Unit and the Ministerial Office. This perception is shared by different actors.
6. Procedures and institutional arrangements: The Ministry of Environment has a substantial track record as an Associate in the execution (Implementing Partner) of GEF projects. However, in the case of the AdaptarC project, the lack of effective communication and knowledge of the institutional and especially administrative procedures within the Ministerial Office (new authorities) and Management Unit (partially, due to new personnel) caused considerable delays in its execution. This was mainly due to the various institutional changes. This situation was confounded by the appearance of the COVID-19 Pandemic which limited the mobilization and execution of activities particularly in the field. If one compares the initial execution in 2019, it shows a good pace and financial execution of: USD 521,273.29 representing a 13% of total project funds. While in 2020 the financial execution was of USD 355,071.23, representing 9% of project funds. In 2021 until July of this year, the budget execution is USD 381,335.82, about 10% of the total project funds. As of July 2021, a recovery of operations is observed despite the sanitary limitations are still in effect as indicated by government authorities.
7. The solid implementation of a project with high contextual demands, such as AdaptarC, requires having a professional team, not only with technical skills, but also very good management skills, articulation with political and territorial actors, as well as of conceptualization and systematization. This team must be structured from the beginning, with clear thematic and strategic responsibilities to be able to consistently implement the intervention. The foregoing does not imply that the current team does not have those skills; however, it is desirable to incorporate all the specialists indicated in the PRODOC (gender, communication, monitoring, and evaluation), to ensure a better delivery and quality of the expected products.
8. The Monitoring System presents challenges in terms of improving current planning and monitoring instruments, such as: annual reports, standard progress reports, periodic evaluation of the Theory of Change, among others. Reporting based on activities does not allow to visualize all the positive effects generated by the Project. It is not the ideal mechanism to perform based on results or effects. It is convenient to strengthen the follow-up and monitoring system, to ensure that it complies with the requirements and standards of MiAmbiente, the UNDP Country Office and the Adaptation Fund.

9. In regard to the legal figure to be formalized for the structure of the CFC, this activity is still very incipient. Considering the time remaining for the project, establishing the figure will not be enough if it does not become operational.
10. To develop and implement adaptation practices to climate change that reduce the vulnerability of communities, component 2 of the Project, provides support to communities through financial and technical support. In terms of the granting of "micro capitals" a strategy was not found to guide its implementation beyond developing business plans (the project has in its budget, 650,000 dollars in low value grants, according to the multiannual work plan, august 2019).
11. Regarding a Communication Strategy, the Project does not have this tool which is required to inform, sensitize and promote citizen participation through the use of alternative social communication, with local and national media. According to interviews, the communication actions would be delivered to the MiAmbiente Communication Unit, for greater coordination and integration, also with other NIM projects. However, the project needs to have a clear communication strategy that ensures knowledge dissemination and transfer.
12. There was no evidence or information obtained on the development of an exit strategy at the end of the project intervention, with commitments acquired and resources assigned by all parties. This lack would put much of what is achieved at risk since it is not enough to only have had a joint work experience.

Summary Table of Recommendations

Below, some recommendations resulting from the ETM process are made available to **MiAmbiente** and **UNDP**, which can be considered for the implementation strategy of the AdaptarC project.

Table 3. Summary Table of Recommendations

1	The first recommendation is: streamline, expedite the management mechanisms to improve the performance of the Project. For such purposes, the rhythm of execution of agreements and other actions need to be analyzed. It will be useful to keep a coordinated dynamic between MiAmbiente and UNDP to give a closer follow-up to the operational execution issues, also anticipating that a national electoral process is approaching and that it is a complex issue. A transition and connection process should be established.
2	<u>The continuation of ICF is suggested, beyond the current “established amended agreement”</u> , especially to consolidate the activity of “decentralization of ICF services, (Non-Commercial Wood Licenses)”. This is possibly a result with great difficulty due to its timeframe which coincides with the general elections (November 2021) and the change of government. This added to the expected completion of the ICF’s participation in the project (planned by June 2022). This is a challenge that is pending to be met. Likewise, the continuity to consolidate the CFC platform is required.
3	<u>It is recommended to assess the capacities of the UNAH or a responsible party, to support the execution of product 3.4, referring to the elaboration of a “Communication Strategy”</u> . These considerations are made under the criteria of quality, sustainability and impartiality, both for information management and accessibility. Also, to be considered: the establishment of strategic alliances with entities such as : Environmental Prosecutor's Offices and other entities with competence on territorial planning. Also, there is a need to conduct activities of dissemination and awareness actions for the prevention of bad practices.
4	Assign the resources (i.e., specialist) and time necessary to design and implement a more detailed monitoring plan, based on quality indicators, which provides timely and useful information, complementing if necessary, the available instruments.
5	Regarding the legal structure of the CFC, it is suggested to consider the functioning of a governance figure, such as the “Basin Councils”, as coordination instances at the basin level, based on the General Water Law, approved in Honduras, in 2009. This would allow the opportunity to have economic support from the Government.
6	For the implementation of the “micro capitals”, prepare a “strategy” containing the guidelines and their operating mechanisms, the procedures for proper administration and the management instruments. In this direction, it is important that the formats of the proposals (technical, financial and the guidelines for financial and administrative management), the evaluation matrixes of the proposals and the formats, to be used during the implementation and closing phase are incorporated.
7	It can be said that the creation of working groups, meetings and other activities has been fulfilled, but these do not represent the necessary political impact at the CFC level due to the specific lack of a strategy that defines the roadmap to get closer to the goal, along with the integration of a gender plan. The results associated with this activity would have the possibility of being achieved within the project execution period, if and only if, efforts are focused on defining a specific work plan for these issues, in which the interested parties participate.
8	<u>Promote providing feedback to the national and regional counterparts of the substantive progress generated by the project</u> under mechanisms that are not exclusively activity reports to the donor. Given the capacities of UNDP, dialogues or similar instances could be promoted at the national level, which would also serve to identify areas and specific sectors of real application of the mechanisms, and strategies developed by AdaptarC. From a knowledge management point of view, it would be desirable to go beyond this in order to ensure better complementarity and synergies, for example with other projects, even at the regional level.
9	It is recommended to have a desirable exit or transfer strategy for the actions of the project prepared in advance.
10	<u>Allocate technical resources, experience, knowledge and technique to strengthen the administrative and financial capacity of the implementing unit</u> . This facilitates efficient management, not only for the preparation of reports on time and content, but also to streamline purchasing processes, avoiding delays that put the achievement of results at risk.
11	<u>It is recommended to give priority to resolving the situation with the responsible party ONCCSD,</u> and to analyze some alternatives that could contribute to its strengthening from the AdaptarC project.

12	<u>The formation of a Technical Committee</u> is also suggested, which provides advice and technical inputs related to the execution of the Project (for further reference on page 65 of the PRODOC, the terms of reference of this Advisory Committee are established).
13	<u>Given the circumstances of the pandemic, it is important that the provision of basic computer equipment be valued, especially to partner organizations to maintain communication and strengthen capacities in this regard. As well as supplies to continue with the strict and complete biosecurity protocol necessary, which allows continuity to the execution of the Project.</u>

Introduction

Purpose of the MTR and Objectives

The Honduras Country Office of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is responsible for managing the mid-term review (MTR), the UNDP-FA handled the regular or medium-sized project named “Adaptation Based on Ecosystems in the Central forest Corridor of Tegucigalpa”, (PIM 5839), implemented by the UNDP in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, under the national implementation modality.

The project began in March 2019, has a duration of 5 years, with a total investment of \$ 4,036,590.00 USD, provided by the Adaptation Fund (AF). It is currently in its third year of execution.

The objective of this evaluation, according to the TOR, is to evaluate the progress towards the achievement of the objectives and results of the project established in the PRODOC, analyzing the first signs of success or failure, to identify any changes that may be necessary, in order to get back on track with the project and achieve the proposed results.

The evaluated period covers from 2019 to July 2021. The time in which the evaluation mission was carried out spans from July 30 to October 22, 2021. The evaluation covered the following criteria established in the TOR:

- Project design and strategy
- Progress in achieving outcomes
- Project execution and adaptive management
- Logical Framework Analysis
- Project Risks
- Sustainability of results

The criteria were rated according to the scale indicated in the Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP. With financing by GEF (Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects) Likewise, conclusions and recommendations were formulated regarding the execution of the project. The contents for the different points that were evaluated are described in the TOR.

In summary, an analysis table is presented where the following aspects are mentioned:

- i. To analyze the relevance of the project and if the participation conditions of the key actors have been met during project preparation, as well as interpreting the results framework to verify that they are correctly prepared and in line with the SMART criteria.
- ii. To measure the progress of the project with respect to the indicators of progress and its contribution to policies and programs of the UNDP, FA, and the government.
- iii. Regarding the execution of the project: to evidence the management arrangements used, the quality of the implementation by the executing agency, the adaptive management, M&E, and adjustments made, stakeholder participation, as well as administrative-financial aspects of the project.

iv. To analyze the risks for sustainability (financial, technical, socio-economic, institutional, and political) of the actions carried out during this period.

v. Cover the criteria of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, and Impact.

Table 4. Analysis Content Performed

Phase	Criterion	Item to review
Design	Relevance	To verify whether the project is included within the priorities and programs of the AF, UNDP, national and local government agencies, as well as the priorities of the stakeholders who will benefit from the project.
		To verify the outputs and expected outcomes of the project are in accordance with the magnitude of the problem, the level of financing, execution time, institutional capacities and the economic, social and political reality of the country and location of the project.
	Project indicators	To verify if the indicators established in the PRODOC meet the SMART criteria (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, with established time).
	Implementation Arrangements	Review of agreements and consultations with relevant stakeholders before the project was approved by the GEF. To verify also if the responsibilities of each stakeholder are specified a priori in the project document.
	Assumptions and Risks	Analysis of the main sources of information and their accuracy, to verify that the main assumptions and risks of the project had real basis.
	Institutional capacities	To verify whether the project design analysis adequately weights the implementation capabilities of each relevant stakeholder. The project's contribution to capacity building of the stakeholders involved (government, electricity sector companies, communities involved, etc.) will also be verified.
	Gender Focus	Verify if the project contemplates this approach in the participation of women, equal opportunities and if the benefits of the project are equal for men and women. If this approach does not exist, make recommendations to integrate this issue in this type of project.
	Integration	Verify if the project took advantage of the experience of similar projects previously executed.
	Using M&E Tools	To verify whether the project's logical framework was used as a management tool, whether there was a systematic M&E mechanism to make the necessary adjustments to the project, and whether there were adequate and controllable annual operating plans.
	Financing	To verify if the amounts of the project and co-financing are adequate to the present reality and if the financing commitments are being fulfilled. In addition, to verify the preparation of annual budgets and procurement rules that meet UNDP standards and whether there was monitoring of expenditures, audits and whether additional funding could be leveraged.
	UNDP support	To verify if the M&E system had the necessary resources to fulfill its functions. To analyze the efficiency and effectiveness of the expenditures made. Indicate weaknesses and strengths and recommendations to improve the weaknesses found.
	Quality	To verify if there is a focus on outcomes, type of support provided and its opportunity (technical and management, facilitation), quality of risk management and annual reports and adaptation.
Execution	Project executing agency	To check if there are contingency plans, M&E, adequate risk management, quality of annual reports, national ownership
	Interaction with actors	To verify if what was planned has a relationship with what has been achieved during the implementation of the project.
		To analyze the operation of the Project Board, types of decisions taken and activities of the actors.

	Adaptive management	To analyze if the project management fits the real context of implementation. Possible causes may be inadequate indicators, such as change in the economic, political and social context, too ambitious objectives, new actors, etc.
		To verify if there is a review of the project and if the proposed changes are being applied and if they are affecting the outcomes of the project.
	Achievement, results	To verify whether the project's objectives (global and developmental) were achieved or are on track to be achieved.
		To compare whether the activities and products are being carried out according to plan.
		To verify if the impacts will be achieved once the project is finished and in the long term.
	National Appropriation	To verify if the outcomes of the project, or its activities or objectives, are found in plans, programs, policies, regulations of government entities and key stakeholders.
	Repetition	Probability of replicating the experience in other sectors or localities (dissemination of lessons learned).
	Impacts	To verify if progress is being made on development objectives and if it is on the way to reduce.
		To analyze the causality - effect on the impacts of the project and their likely permanence.
		Extent of stakeholder involvement in the execution of the project.
	Transversality	To verify if the results are in line with the priorities of the UNDP, FA, national government, authorities, and local stakeholders. The CFC platform was strengthened, as a result of the project, to implement ecosystem-based adaptation processes through territorial planning.
	Integration	To verify how the project was coordinated with other projects similar and/or complementary to it, whether they are UNDP projects and that may be under implementation in the project's areas of intervention.
		Also, it will be verified whether there is a gender and minority group approach (e.g., equal access to opportunities, benefits, and information). Likewise, it will be verified whether there is a human rights approach (e.g., promotion of organizations, transparency, effective participation in decision making and freedom of opinion).
	Sustainability	To verify if the regulatory, financing, and political conditions exist so that the project outcomes can be maintained in the future.
		To verify if there are social, political, environmental, governance and financial risks that may threaten the sustainability of project outcomes.
	Repetition	Probability of replicating the experience in other sectors or localities (dissemination of lessons learned).
	Impacts	To verify if progress is being made on development objectives and if it is on the way to reducing impact.

Scope and Methodology

The evaluation was carried out according to the guidelines, norms and procedures established in the "Guide for the Conduct of the Mid-Term Exam in Projects Supported by the UNDP and Financed by the GEF", including the guidelines for the midterm evaluations of projects/programs of the Adaptation Fund.

Given the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19, it was established in the TOR that these would be done virtually and remotely. The use and accessibility of the internet, computer, or other mobile device of the people to be interviewed was foreseen. Efforts were made to ensure equitable and inclusive participation. Likewise, the best combination of instruments and techniques was used, which generated the most reliable and valid answers to the evaluation questions, within the limits of

resources and data availability. Extensive documentary reviews, data analysis, evaluation questionnaires, and product audits were carried out, covering the different established criteria, in addition to identifying the contribution of the intervention in the pertinent areas.

Stakeholder participation was critical to the success of the MTR. Said involvement included interviews with actors with responsibilities or ties to the project such as: implementing agencies, officials at different levels, the technical team, the Project Board, interested parties, academic representatives, local governments, community organizations, etc. (UNDP, My Environment, FUNDAUNAH, Institute of Forest Conservation, Municipalities, Project Coordinating Office, NOCCSD, others).

To achieve the objective of this evaluation (in addition to the evaluation questions) other support instruments were developed. Among them were the matrix and the questionnaire (which complement or expand the evaluation) instruments for product auditing, (guide, list of collation according to the products and expected results, indicators), Portfolio of Evidence (guide for requesting documents generated by the project, financial reports, system of evidence of project performance, and more).

Methods and Procedures of Information Collection

The compilation of the information was carried out according to the practice usually applied to this type of evaluations:

- ✓ The one delivered by the project team (reports, studies carried out, interviews).
- ✓ Contextual (government policies and plans, country climate commitments, municipal plans, economic and social studies and the different sectors).
- ✓ Integration with other activities and policies (similar or complementary projects under implementation, UNDP and government policies, municipal plans, budgets of organizations, municipalities and ministries).
- ✓ Interviews with key informants: 39 virtual interviews were conducted with the project team, UNDP, authorities, government officials, institutions linked to the execution of the project, NGO partners, universities, key actors from municipalities, and local organizations. The selection of key informants was carried out under a selective approach due to the difficulties caused by COVID-19, randomly identifying informants from the set of all the actors who participated in or are linked to the project directly or indirectly. Two criteria have been applied fundamentally: the accessibility to the informant and the quality of the participation of the same in the development of the Project.
- ✓ For this evaluation, based on non-experimental research techniques, the deductive analysis method has been combined based on predefined objects and phenomena, which has allowed us to reach some logical conclusions, along with the inductive method based on initial arguments or hypotheses. All quantitative and qualitative information collected has been processed and systematized based on the evaluation questions. For the interpretation of the findings and their subsequent validation, triangulation techniques have been used. This means that it has been sought to obtain the same information from different sources and through different collection techniques.

Limitations of the Methodology

The assessment mission occurred at a time of crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which meant great uncertainty about whether they could conduct all the proposed interviews virtually on the planned agenda. Aspects of internet access due to constant interruptions, especially in the field, implied the reprogramming of many variables, which meant it took more time than expected to carry out the interview stage on the ETM timeline.

On the other hand, as in all evaluation cases, it had different methodological risks for the reliability of the information collected. These risks consisted of: (i) possible self-censorship because the informants could inhibit themselves from responding freely for thinking that there was some institutional risk or because of fear of jeopardizing the future of the Project. This bias was addressed by emphasizing the questions about specific facts and reiterating the reflective and purposeful nature of the ETM. All the interviews were done by the evaluator autonomously. (ii) Another possible bias was the potential interests of the sources consulted or positions established in relation to the intervention, which could distort the information elements. For this, it was searched in all the actors (by levels), to carry out cross-checks.

In another area, it is also important to keep in mind that, when it comes to interviewing people from indigenous territories, they must have prior consent from their authorities, especially by Free, and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC).

Regarding information, it is important that in the corresponding instances it is organized and structured, to facilitate timely and agile access.

It should be noted that the logistical support in some communities had the participation of the interim coordinator of the Project, but the interviews were carried out **without interference**. In general, it is considered that the people interviewed are representative of the target universe and that there were no limitations that compromised the development of the evaluation.

Structure of the MTE Report

The document is structured in 6 sections. The cover shows general information about the project (monetary amounts, identification codes, implementing and executing agencies, deadlines, etc.), followed by a glossary of terms and an executive summary where a synthesis of the project is made. This section includes the main findings, recommendations, and conclusions, in addition to the overall rating of the project.

Section No. 2: it is introductory and goes through the purpose and objectives of the evaluation in more detail, identifying its main phases and the main outputs generated. The evaluative criteria that have guided judgments and evaluations about the project are also addressed.

Section No. 3: Focuses on the analysis of the country's development context in relation to the problem to be addressed and how to tackle it, detailing the expected timeframe for project implementation, its immediate objectives, expected outcomes and key indicators; as well as the coordination and partnership arrangements with key stakeholders involved.

In **Section No. 4:** the findings of the evaluation appear, which cover the design, execution (financial and activities) and the results obtained, and their sustainability are found.

In **Section No.5:** Conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned are **shown**.

Also, part of this report is a list of annexes in **Section 6**, which include the Terms of Reference for the Evaluation, the evaluation matrix, the list of people interviewed, and information gathering instruments, among others.

3. Project Description and Context

Development Context

The Republic of Honduras has a territorial extension of 112,492 km². It is the second country in the Central American region with the largest geographical area. In 2013, the population was estimated at 8,721,014 inhabitants (52% of women); more than half of this population (53.3%) lives in rural areas. Throughout the national territory, there are 7 indigenous peoples and 2 Afro-Honduran peoples, which together represent approximately 7% of the national population. The country has experienced relative economic growth in recent years, but continues to present significant development challenges, with high levels of poverty, unemployment, and social and economic inequality for Latin American standards. It is estimated that more than 60% of households are in a situation of poverty, where rural areas are the most affected.



Illustration SEQ * ARABIC 1. AdaptarC Project Intervention Area

Historically, Honduras has been experiencing the effects of climate variability, particularly that of the El Niño and La Niña phenomenon, which have produced a significant impact, both in the distribution of rainfall and in the national economy in the last year. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the country was affected by storms ETA and IOTA.

The ECLAC evaluation estimates that the effects of both storms translate into an impact of 45,676 million lempiras and a reduction of -0.8% in GDP growth for 2020, which are added to the effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Half of these effects are direct damages, while 45% are losses, and the remaining 5% are additional costs that arose because of the two storms.

On the other hand, the alarm caused by the increasing number of positive cases of COVID-19, adds to the inception of an economic, social, and political crisis, which was already in the making at the end of 2019. The tensions derived from the climate of political uncertainty, corruption and drug trafficking scandals, problems related to water scarcity, soil degradation, pollution, and climate change. They have deepened the problems of poverty in the country, threatening its governance in the medium term. There is no doubt that the arrival of COVID-19 has added greater complexity and uncertainty to the reality of an unstable country.

The country has an area of 5.4 million ha of natural forests, being a country with a forestry vocation. The pine and mixed pine forest cover is approximately 2.2 million hectares, which represents 41% of the forest nationwide. Pine forests are ecosystems of great environmental, economic, and social importance that can be managed as productive forests and are vital for the supply of water and the protection of biodiversity.

The project intervention area is the Central forest Corridor (CFC), which covers the capital of Honduras, Tegucigalpa, located in the department of Francisco Morazán. The CFC provides different ecosystem services and livelihoods to the population, supplying water to almost two thirds of the total water in the capital. The approximate population in the 14 municipalities of the CFC, is estimated at: 1,427,699 inhabitants (more than 16% of the country's total population). In three municipalities of the CFC (Ojojona, Santa Ana and Lepaterique) there are settlers who belong to the Lenca indigenous people.

The Central Forest Corridor (CFC) is an important initiative that seeks to safeguard the water-producing areas, which supply 14 municipalities in the central area of Honduras. It also guarantees the connectivity of the 186,525 ha which legally make up the area and restore degraded areas under a rational management of natural resources. It is made up of five declared protected areas, sub-basins, and micro-basins, 66 zones with plans for the use of forest management, agricultural crops, urbanized and industrialized areas. For this reason, it is important to work, under an ecosystem-based adaptation approach, through the integrated management of water resources.

The CFC platform was created in 2014 and was promoted as a measure of adaptation to climate change for the protection of water-producing areas and restoration of degraded areas. This is under rational conditions for the management of natural resources to increase the quantity and quality of water for different users, particularly in the Honduran capital. This platform is currently recognized at the level of municipalities and institutions of the environmental sector but requires regulation

through a legal instrument which recognizes its sustainability, as well as an action plan, for its effective operation. According to the limits already established, the CFC is composed of:

- ✓14 municipalities
- ✓21,78 protected areas that represent 21.78% of the CFC. All these areas have a management plan, except for the Carías-Bermúdez Multiple Use Area.
- ✓41,99 sub-basins that represent 41.99% of the CFC. Three sub-basins have a management plan (Guacerique, Río del Hombre and Concepción or Río Grande). Río del Hombre and Guacerique are the largest and with the highest water capacity, accounting for 77% of the water supply for Tegucigalpa.
- ✓25 micro-basins for water supply, 25 of them have an action plan.
- ✓66 areas of forest use, which have their management plan approved by the authority (ICF, National Institute for the Conservation of Forests).
- ✓Agricultural crop areas
- ✓Urbanized and industrialized areas

According to the forest map (2014) of the Institute of Forest Conservation (ICF), the CFC has an area of approximately 186,525 ha. Of those, 102,786 have forest cover, which represents 55% of the CFC area. Approximately 56% (57.547 ha) of the forest cover is pine, the rest are mixed forests, dry forest, and broadleaf forest. This forest area is constantly under natural and anthropogenic pressures, which inhibit its natural development and put at risk the capacity of the forest to provide ecosystem benefits for the population that lives in the CFC. The impact of climate change exacerbates this situation.³

In institutional aspects, the Honduran environmental management system is governed by the General Environmental Law (Decree 104-903). This law declares that the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the environment and natural resources are in the public interest and includes the legal provision for the roles of MiAmbiente. In this direction, the regulations governing the project under evaluation are mainly linked to the Ministry of the Environment; however, the municipalities also have powers through their Environment Units (MEU). With respect to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), MiAmbiente is the focal point, through its General Directorate of Biodiversity (DiBio).

Honduras has a climate agenda that is immersed in the Environmental Agenda of Honduras and is the strategic framework of the State of Honduras. Also, with a National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which is a strategic instrument which visualizes adaptation to climate change, as a development process, which places people at the center of the intervention and is part of the System of National Planning. Its implementation was foreseen with a prospect until 2030, consolidating a first period of compliance

³ ICF (2016) Pest Control Report 2016. Area reported as of January 15, 2016.

with the National Climate Change Strategy in (2010), in accordance with the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of 2030, in particular SDG 13 “Action for the Climate”. The NAP is also linked to other instruments of National Strategic Planning, the Environmental Agenda, the different Sector Strategies for Adaptation to Climate Change, the Country Vision and the National Plan (VPPN), the 20/20 Plan, the Programa Todos Por Una Vida Mejor, "Vida Mejor" program, the National Action Plan, the Law to Combat Desertification and Drought (PAN-LCD) and the Water, Forests and Soils Master Plan (WFS in English, ABS in Spanish).

ICF is another important entity regarding the protection of biodiversity and that depends on MiAmbiente. However, it is a decentralized entity dependent on the Presidency of the Republic, with exclusivity in the competence determined by this law, which it will exercise with technical, administrative, and financial independence.

The main objective of the Project is "to increase the climate resilience of the most vulnerable communities located in the Central Forested Corridor (CFC)", increasing the adaptation capacity of their municipalities with emphasis on ensuring livelihoods and the continuity of the provision of goods and ecosystem services for the city of Tegucigalpa and its surroundings. To achieve this objective, the Project will focus on three components that are closely related.

The direct beneficiaries of the actions that are implemented are: residents, community organizations located within the fourteen municipalities which cover the CFC area selected based on the criteria of: quality of life index, frequency of extreme hydro meteorological events, presence of water recharge areas, among others.

Problems the Project tried to Address:

As established in the PRODOC, the Project would address the situation presented in the CFC, which is subject to threats generated by the impacts of climate change, such as: increased temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, and modification of the patterns of frequency and intensity of extreme events, which have led to droughts, water stress, floods (especially in the Central District, loss of biodiversity, fires and the aggravation of the current bark beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) plague. The pine forests of Honduras are regularly affected by the bark beetle, which represents the most destructive insect pest in recent years, since the 1960s. According to investigations carried out, in March 2016, 381,400 ha were affected in phase 11112. In April 2016, there were a total of 800,000 ha, affected nationwide between phases 1, 11, and 11113. Faced with this alarming situation, the government of Honduras declared a national emergency during 2015 and 2016 aimed at: a) pest control, b) extraction of accumulated forest biomass against fires, c) forest protection against forest fires and ecological restoration of degraded areas.⁴

A study by Rivera et al, from Honduras shows that, “considering the relationships between the bark beetle and environmental conditions in a linear model, it was found that increases in the average temperature, climatic anomalies of hot months and annual effects by forest fires influence on the occurrence and spread of pests of D. frontalis. This study makes a direct correlation between areas

⁴ Phase III is when the damage is visible, in phases II and I, the weevil has attacked the tree, but we cannot detect it with the naked eye.

affected by fires and areas affected by the plague, concluding that forest areas, annually affected by forest fires, are subjected to very high levels of stress, generating a weakening of the trees and generating in this, less resistance to the attack of the barked insect ..., observing that the occurrence of fires is directly related to drier and hotter climates ”. However, more research is necessary to ensure this correlation and take the appropriate measures to address the problem at its causes. All these problems directly affect the livelihoods of the population and the provision, by this corridor, of the ecosystem services and goods it provides.

The problem of droughts and the consequent water crisis in the central region is a serious problem since there are no dams, but a management system, which produces the rationalization of the liquid.

The other problem that this project seeks to address is the lack of knowledge and sensitivity, on the part of the inhabitants, to the importance of carrying out good practices, which do not degrade the soils and do not affect biodiversity, so that their economic activity, in the medium and long term, can be maintained.

Description and Strategy of the Project: Objective, Products and Expected Results

The main objective of the Project is: “to increase the climatic resilience of the most vulnerable communities, located in the Central Forest Corridor (CFC), increasing the adaptation capacity of their municipalities, with emphasis on ensuring livelihoods and the continuity of the provision of ecosystem goods and services for the city of Tegucigalpa and its surroundings”; strengthening governance structures, with a focus on land use and landscape planning. In addition, working with communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and prioritizing actions that provide co-benefits to communities

To achieve this objective, the Project focuses its action strategy on three components that are closely related: (1) Strengthening local and community governance under climate change (CC) and climate variability scenarios; (2) Adaptation, ecosystem-based measures, and technologies for building resilience in the Central forest Corridor; and (3) Strengthening of knowledge management systems, information, and monitoring of adaptive capacity.

The Project results framework was reviewed and adjusted for some indicators, which are detailed below.

10 goals were set at the end of the project:

1. Establishment, by law of the CFC Authority, with institutional coordination mechanisms, defined functions, and trained personnel.
2. At least 10 municipalities incorporate climate change adaptation plans in their municipal budgets.
3. At the end of the Project, municipal adaptation plans, and micro-watershed plans are available to all CFC municipalities.
4. Municipal Payment Devices for Ecosystem Services, (revised water rates), are replicated in at least 5 municipalities at the end of the Project. A proposal designed for an inter-municipal PES pilot is developed.

5. 8,000. Protection and restoration of 1,500 hectares of forests, (this goal was adjusted to 1,500 hectares restored since the approved indicator measures "number of hectares of pine forests affected and mixed forests restored"). The technical activities of restoration, with respect to that of protection, differ in costs.
6. The vulnerability index improves to medium-low for all CFC municipalities.
7. Production of 5 relevant studies on the links between climate change, pests, fires and adaptation measures in the CFC.
8. 2,500. Training of 35 technicians, at least 100% of them women (target adjusted to 50 technicians and at least 50% women).
9. At the end of the Project, all CFC municipalities have operational EWS.
10. Systematization and communication of at least 2 experiences and lessons learned (2 of them related to gender).

Gender Approach of the Project

The PRODOC includes activities that the project must carry out in order not to exclude women or increase their inequality gap, as well as to carry out a gender diagnosis with recommendations that the project will adopt to implement a "gender plan".

Project Implementation Mechanisms

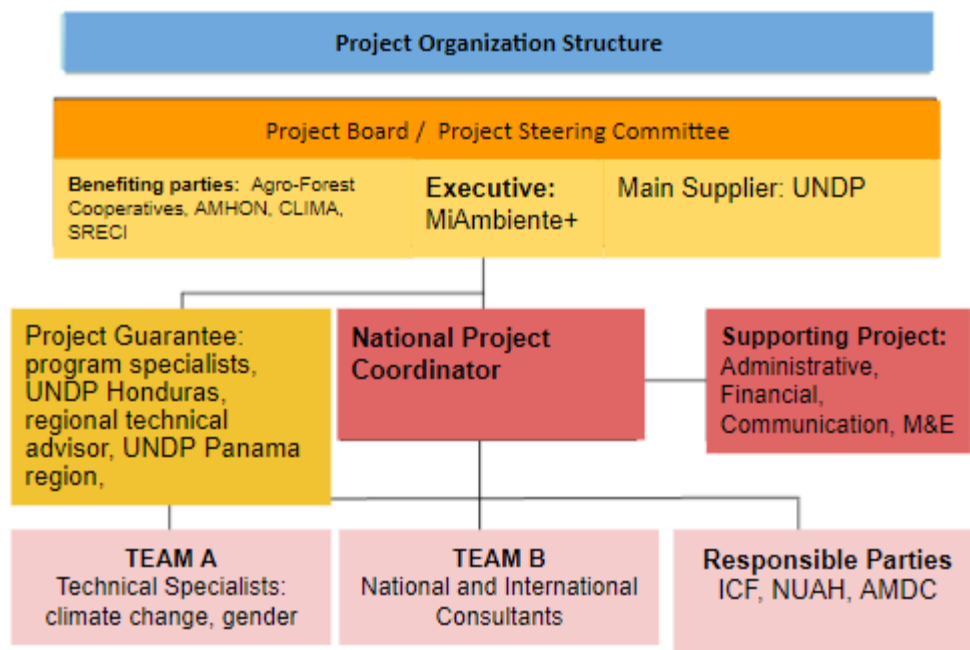
The project is executed under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), according to the standard basic assistance agreement between UNDP, the Government of Honduras and the Country Program.

The Ministry of the Environment (MiAmbiente) is the implementing partner of the Project, through the Project Coordination Office. UNDP provides the technical and administrative support required. As a multilateral implementation entity, it is responsible for providing a number of management services, including but not limited to general supervision and oversight, including participation in project reviews, briefings for staff and consultants, distribution and reporting to donors of financial resources and more. Based on this context, UNDP provides support to the Project Director and Coordinator to maximize its scope and management, as well as the quality of its products. At the same time, it is responsible for managing the resources according to the specific objectives defined in the Project Document. The financial management and accountability of the resources allocated, as well as other activities related to the execution of the activities, are carried out under the supervision of the UNDP Country Office, the UNDP Regional Center, and the UNDP headquarters.

The governance of the Project is established through a Project Board, which is the highest decision-making and strategic support body. At the operational level, there is a Management Unit, which carries out the substantive, programmatic and administrative execution, directed by a Project Coordinator.

The Project defined its implementation strategy, with those responsible identified in the Project Document, through "Letters of Agreement" (standard contract between the parties), which were signed between UNDP and the responsible parties. These responsible parties according to PRODOC,

are: ICF, UNAH, AMDC.⁵ However, later, the National Climate Change Observatory for Environmental Sustainability of Honduras (Observatorio Nacional de Cambio Climático para el Desarrollo Sostenible de Honduras, NOCCSD) was integrated as a responsible party.⁶ For each one of them, an annex was included with the guideline information, through which the project team would provide technical and administrative follow-up within the framework of compliance with the technical and financial proposals.



*SEQ Illustration * ARABIC 2. Organizational Structure of the Project*

Brief description of the Project Board, Agreements with the Main Partners in the Execution

The Project Board or the Project Steering Committee is structured as indicated in the Project Document, to 1) comply with consensus decision-making, 2) make management decisions, in which the project manager needs guidance, including the recommendation for UNDP/partner approval, in the implementation of project plans and reviews. The decisions of the Project Board must be prepared in accordance with standards that guarantee the management of results for development, a better price-quality ratio, justice, integrity, and transparency.

The Project Board is made up of the Ministry of the Environment (who presides over UNDP), the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC) and the Ministry of Governance, Decentralization and Justice. The following act as observers: Fundación Vida, the National Directorate for Climate Change (NDCC-MiAmbiente +), the Management Planning and Evaluation Unit (MPEU-MiAmbiente +). As established in the PRODOC, the

⁵ According to the Project Document, p. 46.

⁶ According to the Project Board Minutes of January 30, 2020.

Project Steering Committee (PSC) is assisted by a Technical Advisory Committee. However, at the time of the MTE, there was no information on the composition of this committee⁷

Project Execution Deadlines

The project began in December 2018 with a duration of 5 years and a total investment of \$ 4,036,590.00 USD, provided by the Adaptation Fund (AF).

⁷ Annex Page 65 TOR of the Technical Advisory Committee.

SEQ Illustration * ARABIC 3. Milestones to be met during its development



Main Stakeholders: Summary List.

PRODOC identifies fourteen (14) stakeholders; however, the key parts in this project are: MiAmbiente and the National Institute of Forest Conservation and Development and Protected Areas, UNAH, Municipal Mayor's Office of the Central District (AMDC):

- ✓ Forest Conservation Institute (IFC): National institution, responsible for promoting forest development and preserving wildlife. It will provide technical assistance and training in the implementation of the best restoration practices in areas affected by pine weevil.
- ✓ Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH): It will provide support for the development of baseline studies and municipal vulnerability indices.
- ✓ Municipal Mayor's Office of the Central District (MMOCD), will provide support to comply with the components, indicators, and activities associated with the design and implementation of adaptation measures, based on ecosystems; also facilitating work with local communities.⁸
- ✓ Subsequently, the NOCCSD was integrated as a responsible party, (the MTE did not find support for this incorporation; except for the agreement in PSC on August 6, 2019). The PRODOC establishes that it is an instance to be strengthened but does not assign it as a responsible party.

4. Proven Facts

4.1. Project Strategy

Incorporation of relevant experiences from other projects

PRODOC, points out that other experiences have been considered for the formulation of this project, naming the first project of the Adaptation Fund: "**Facing climate risks in water resources in Honduras**". This project was the initial Platform of the CFC, which operated through ad hoc meetings. In those instances, it was determined that, for its formalization, legal support and regulations are required. It is mentioned that the project prepared a proposal for an Executive Decree and collected information; however, it does not indicate how these experiences have been incorporated or will be incorporated in the future. The project progress reports only refer to this experience, without mentioning that it has been useful, to introduce adjustments in the conduct of the project and related activities.

Project Design

The interviews carried out and the documentation reviewed show that the preparation of the project was quite participatory. Consultations were carried out at the level of technical experts, on the topics of restoration, the weevil plague, watershed management, knowledge management, hydro-meteorological information, and agroforestry practices, among others. For this, bilateral meetings and/or focus groups of experts from government institutions were held, such as the Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment (MiAmbiente +), the Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock (SAL), the National Autonomous Service of Aqueducts and Sewers (NASAS), ICF, National Commissioner for Human Rights of Honduras (NCHRH), Permanent Committee on Contingencies (PECOCO) and the Honduran Coffee Institute (HCI); from academic institutions such as UNAH, National School of Forest

⁸ According to the interviews conducted, there was no greater interest on the part of this party in establishing an agreement.

Sciences (U-ESNACIFOR) and, National Agrarian University (NAU-Catacamas); the staff of the National Observatory of Climate Change and Sustainable Development (NOCCSD); of cooperators. About the participation of the private sector, there is only one specific company participation. Additionally, a Theory of Change exercise was carried out, with experts from the same institutions.⁹

In effect, the different key actors in the process were consulted, affirming that the design was carried out with broad participation.

From the onset, the Project proposes an adaptation approach based on ecosystems, seeking an integral management of the territory in a productive landscape such as the CFC (involving training, technical support, productive practices, protection, restoration areas, micro-capital, generation of information, etc.). In this sense, a pertinent and coherent design was reached in its structuring.

On the other hand, an uncontrollable variable at the project design level has been the political situations that have arisen in the country that have limited the execution and development of activities. Although this has largely hindered the good performance of the activities, it has also served to verify the ability to adapt to changing situations of the Project itself, an example of which is the continuity of the activities of the ICF and UNAH.

Results Framework/Logil Framework

The intervention logic of the project is based on the fact that, in order to safeguard the goods and services that the CFC offers to the population, and to be able to sustain more resilient community and municipal construction processes in the intervention area before the impacts of climate change, it is necessary to strengthen the governance systems of the 14 municipalities of the CFC. This by supporting these local governments to exercise their functions, regulations, and standards that have been granted to them through decentralization. Also, addressing financial problems through the design and management of compensation mechanisms for water resources, among others.

To implement the actions that will contribute to the resilience of the communities, it will be necessary to make use of Municipal Plans for Adaptation to Climate Change, as mechanisms for the design and implementation of these actions. This will be centered around the protection and optimal use of the resources of water and forest, including considerations of future climate change scenarios in protocols, manuals, and research that will guide these adaptation measures and technologies. Generating information and its adaptation for different audiences that contribute to informed decision-making, will be one of the pillars that support the interventions of adaptation to climate change in the CFC communities.

From the documentary analysis, and according to the interviewees, the Project Results Framework incorporated some adjustments related to the reality of the intervention area. This decision was approved by the Project Board and subsequent request for approval to the Adaptation Fund.

This review also implied the analysis of feasibility of complying with some proposed results. Thus, the issue of project risks was also addressed as related to consulting the Lenca peoples, which had been

⁹Paragraph 38 of PRODOC.

presented as low risk. However, it was placed at a medium risk, considering the current reality of the country, with which the Project Risk Matrix was updated.¹⁰

As reported in the PCR 2020, the Project Board¹¹ reviewed and approved some changes in the results framework, mainly regarding the objectives for certain indicators, such as:

Result 1: Result 1.3: Indicator 1.3: based on the lessons learned from the municipal planning processes and to promote sustainability and the inclusion of the climate change issue, it was decided to review the Municipal Development Plans (MDP) and include the ECP, as a cross-sectoral issue, rather than developing additional municipal adaptation plans. This change was adopted in consensus with the municipal governments, since the MDPs are the instruments established by the law for the operation and financing framework of the municipal governments.

Result 2: Indicator 2.1: The goal for this indicator was changed from "8,000 hectares protected" to "1,500 hectares restored", since the approved indicator measures "number of hectares of pine forests affected and mixed forests restored..." The technical activities of restoration, with respect to that of protection, differ in costs. In addition, forest protection activities are included in production, in product 2.2.

Indicator 3.2: This indicator was adjusted. The reference figure for the number of technicians trained is not exact. There are not so many technicians in the institutions and municipalities of the country. The target figure (2500) remains, but actions will target a wider audience, including community members, academics, decision-makers at the local level, etc. An increase in target female participation (50% instead of 35%).

Indicator 3.3: Indicator 10: The number of agreements is adjusted from 6 to 6, since there are not so many institutions in the country that generate and manage climate information.

Regarding the indicators, it should be mentioned that there are no indicators in the project to measure the strengthening of the institutions (MiAmbiente, ICF, Municipalities, for example). Many indicators, which are intended to reflect changes in practices, are more related to increases and / or stabilization in the production or performance of activities.

The lack of coordination and a shared vision between the public and private sector actors would also have an impact on how to complement the aspects to be developed around environmental protection. These ensure a framework of environmental and ecosystem services in the environment and have the goal of obtaining economic activities that can be maintained in the medium and long term.

It is the criterion of the Evaluator that these adjustments, and the content of the logical framework, are appropriate in the context in which it was structured at the time of the MTR. There is a different scenario, caused by the presence of COVID-19, in addition to the fact that the country suffered the attacks of hurricanes IOTA and ETA. In this direction, the actions contained in the logical framework

¹⁰Minutes of the Project Board of March 4, 2019.

¹¹Minutes of the Project Board, extraordinary session of January 30, 2020.

continue to be viable and pertinent, especially with regard to developing and implementing adaptation practices to climate change that reduce the vulnerability of communities. The Project provides support to the communities and organizations through financial and technical support for the implementation of adaptation measures, which would generate a greater impact on the communities considering the current conditions.

4.2. Progress in Achieving Outcomes

At the beginning of the project some decisions were made by the Board (approved by the Donor, as reported in the PRPs). Some indicators were adjusted, for example: going from the protection of 8000 ha to 1500 restoring ha at the end of the project. This decision was important: it went a step beyond the “traditional” reforestation, to a restoration process that includes a set of measures to recover the degraded ecosystem of the CFC. Likewise, other indicators were adjusted, with a pertinent technical support, (see table 5 matrix of progress).

The other important decision that was made was to establish a "Letter of Agreement" with the NOCCSD, as established by PRODOC, in an instance to be strengthened by the actions of the project. According to the criterion of the evaluator, this decision was not fitting. What corresponded was an accompaniment process for the strengthening of capacities of the NOCCSD, due to the recent formation of the organization. This has implied delays in some activities and the opportunity to strengthen the capacities of the NOCCSD.

Under Component 2, it is also reported that the 14 municipalities and agroforestry cooperatives will receive micro donations. On this decision, no technical support was found to support it. It is important to note that little clarity is perceived regarding subsidies, micro-capital, and micro-donations; so, it is difficult to elucidate whether some resources are donations or link micro-capital to the implementation of adaptation measures.

From the point of view of progress in the results, and of expected products of the project, the existence of mid-term goals makes it possible to establish that the project is in line with its objectives and products. In spite of the situations faced, it should be noted that the co-executors, ICF, and UNAH continued at a slower pace, but did not paralyze the proposed activities.

At the time of the ETM, there is a series of activities carried out that, although some have not reached the goal proposed at mid-term, show a good degree of progress. For example: Municipal Forest Protection Management Plans were prepared for the municipalities (14 in total). Also, part of the plans is restoration of areas in micro-basins degraded by forest fires and pests, and water supply sources (850 has). These activities are within the Framework of the Agreement with the ICF.

Likewise, capacity-building actions are carried out with local and institutional actors, including the municipalities. These actions involve forest volunteers for the issue of fires conducting campaigns against forest fires, monitoring forest pests and restoration, supporting the Francisco Morazán Regional Office, providing more response capacity with technical and logistical resources (vehicle, fuel, repair and purchase of equipment, among others). It is worth mentioning that the "Letter of Agreement" with the ICF was extended, through an Addendum until June 30, 2022 (the previous date was April 1, 2022).

This is since some activities are in the process of being concluded. Also, with the UNAH, given the level of commitment and performance shown by both co-executors, it is possible that, with the Management Unit established, and agility in the administrative processes, the rhythm shown at the beginning will be resumed.

In this area, the ETM identifies 3 key products to focus actions:

A. The consolidation of a management platform for the Central forest Corridor.

It is essential to establish its institutionalization so that it can truly be an authority with the allocation of resources, with the representativeness of the key sectors and the participation of the communities.

B. Proposal and Financing Strategy for CC Adaptation Measures in the CFC Prepared and Validated.

To guarantee the adequate implementation of adaptation measures, it is necessary to have a financing strategy that defines the mechanisms, instruments, and eligibility, administrative, technical, and opportunity criteria, as well as others, in order to access financial resources. This process will allow to deepen the mechanisms of similar programs implemented in Honduras, in particular it is suggested to review the Small Grants Program of the UNDP and GEF.

C. CC Adaptation Measures and Technologies Implemented to optimize the Use of water and forest resources

Promoting implementation in conjunction with municipalities and local organizations, through the granting of micro-capitals, thus reinforcing the link with the communities and strengthening capacities in practice. This way of implementing the measures must be supported by the technical and financial support of the project.

The evaluation recognizes the actions to strengthen technical capacities based on the execution of two diplomas carried out with the UNAH, officials of institutions and technicians of the municipalities, having acquired and reinforced knowledge on issues related to Climate Change and its adaptation proposals, Integral Management of Natural Resources (MIRN), Disaster Risk Reduction (RDD). This should be replicated in the assistance processes carried out in the communities. Said knowledge is also highly valued by the interviewees from the institutions, municipalities, and people from the communities in the intervention area.

Result 1: “The CFC platform has been strengthened to implement adaptation processes, based on ecosystems through territorial planning.”

This result proposes the consolidation of a management platform for the Central forest Corridor that allows the management of the territory, in a coordinated way, to achieve common objectives that ensure livelihoods and the continuity of the provision of ecosystem goods and services with the following products.

1.1. Coordination and decision-making spaces strengthened for the sustainable management of the CFC's natural resources, including measures for the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples.

Through this action, it is expected to consolidate a governance mechanism of the CFC. It would be a management model territory with a focus on adaptation to climate change, which guarantees the provision of ecosystem goods and services, operating as a management and coordination mechanism between municipalities, central government institutions, and other actors in the territory.

During the first Adaptation Fund project: "Facing climate risks in water resources in Honduras", the CFC Platform, operated through ad hoc meetings; for its formalization, legal support and regulation are required.

The progress reported in the framework of this activity basically refers to meetings, according to interviews and documentary analysis. Coordination meetings with different actors are reported. With the emergence of the pandemic, these meetings were made virtual. The political and technical platform of the CFC was also reactivated. Therefore, it can be affirmed that the formation of the worktables, meetings, and other activities has been fulfilled. However, these do not present the necessary political impact at the CFC level due to the lack of a concrete proposal or strategy that defines the roadmap to get closer to the goal, along with integrating a gender strategy or plan. The results associated with this activity would have the possibility of being achieved within the project execution period if, and only if, the project's efforts are focused on defining a specific work plan for these issues. All interested parties must participate and search for institutional and political commitment (beyond consulting, which provides the options of legal status, which adapts to the figure of the CFC). The project will support the institutionalization of a legal entity, for example, the Authority of the CFC.¹²

1.2. Regulations related to the management of natural resources applied in the CFC.

Through the CFC Platform, the project has trained municipal technical officials on legal procedures for the management of natural resources and sustainable practices. A workshop was held for municipal technicians to reflect on what regulatory mechanisms are needed to improve the management of natural resources. A draft is available for the Complaints, Claims and Conflict Management Mechanism (MQRMC). In this product, it is important to bring the Environmental Prosecutor's Office and other entities with competence in the subject to the territory, as well as to carry out dissemination and awareness actions for the prevention of bad practices. The project has resources for dissemination actions through the communication strategy, which is not yet in the implementation stage.

1.3. Municipal Plans for Adaptation to CC Prepared and Validated

The 14 MFPP of the municipalities which make up the CFC have been updated. As reported in the briefings, the proposed goal was 5 plans but 7 were made, exceeding the goal. Although the indicator measures the numerical scope, it is necessary to operationalize, or at least establish some pilots, that allow the usefulness of these instruments.

¹² PRODOC, p.15

1.4. The operational proposal for a financing scheme for CC adaptation measures in the CFC is prepared and validated.

Progress in this activity reports that a consultancy was published (TOR), which will determine the mechanisms and financial architecture, in terms of

adaptation measures: however, it could not be specified, because the signature of MiAmbiente was not given at the time (early 2021). This activity also establishes the possibility that the project can support the attainment of legal status to groups or associations of producers, so that they can access financing both from the project and from other entities such as FIRSA. In this direction and in line with what product 2.3 proposes, it is recommended to (in order to develop and implement climate change adaptation practices, which reduce the vulnerability of communities, support be granted to communities through the financial and technical support of the Project, for which more than just a consultancy is suggested), have a strategy that includes many aspects. These aspects should be based on the revision of standards, guides, manuals and planning, monitoring and evaluation tools that allow deepening the mechanisms of similar programs, implemented in Honduras, in particular in the Small Grants Program of the GEF/UNDP.

To consider the use of Local Organizations (LO), which comply with legal, administrative, and technical requirements, to administer the non-reimbursable funds.

To define guidelines for micro-capitals and their operating mechanisms and procedures for proper administration and management instruments, among others.

Result 2: “Design and implementation of measures and technologies, for adaptation to climate change, based on ecosystems and increasing the resilience of the community and their livelihoods in the CFC, promoting gender equality and the active participation of young people.”

To seek the implementation of the defined actions in the municipal planning processes developed within the framework of result 1. The implementation of these measures implies the participation of those responsible: The Forest Conservation Institute (ICF), the Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), and the municipalities, through letters of agreement and non-reimbursable funds.

In this component, adjustments were made in some indicators: the goal for the indicator was changed from 8,000 protected hectares to 1,500 renewed hectares, since the approved indicator measures “# of affected pine forests and restored mixed forests....” The technical activities of restoration, with respect to that of protection, differ in costs. To date, restoration actions have been carried out in prioritized areas affected by pests and forest fires in a total of 1,320 ha, surpassing the established goals. Of these, 64.70 ha have been restored via plantations and 1,221.90 ha by evaluation and management of natural regeneration. A study of the vulnerability index to Climate Change was carried out, with a high degree of progress. The relevant recommendations are now addressed.

2.1. Pine forest areas affected by pests and fires in the CFC, restored to safeguard ecosystem goods and services and the livelihoods of communities.

The goal for this indicator was changed from "8,000 hectares protected" to "1,500 hectares restored", since the approved indicator measures "number of hectares of pine forests affected and mixed forests

restored...." The technical activities of restoration, with respect to that of protection, differ in costs. In addition, forest protection activities are included in production.

To date, restoration actions have been carried out in prioritized areas affected by pests and forest fires in a total of 1,320 ha¹³, surpassing the established goals. Of these, 64.70 ha have been restored via plantations and 1,221.90 ha by evaluation and management of natural regeneration. A study of the Vulnerability Index to Climate Change was carried out, with an execution of 90%.¹⁴ These activities are the ones with the highest level of progress. The project is analyzing 2 indexes, one for water resources and the other for forest resources, at the municipal level. The results of the indices will be included in the municipal plans, particularly in the Municipal Forest Protection Plans. The index considers 2019 as reference scenarios, and climate change for 2040 and 2050. These activities show a good level of achievement and progress with respect to the vulnerability index.

2.2. Strategic areas of forest restored by natural regeneration through effective protection mechanisms against fires, pests and land use change.

Twelve MFPPs were reviewed and updated in the same number of municipalities. Forest protection coordination activities were carried out. Eleven technicians were trained in matters of evaluation and selection of sites to restore, management and protection of micro-basins, etc. They were evaluated with positive results in established natural regeneration of 250 ha. Municipal Forest Protection Plans: still, within the activities implicit in the MFPP, there are activities programmed for the remaining months of 2021, such as planning a fire campaign, monitoring forest pests, and restoration. This activity was accomplished however, the challenge for the project remains: to implement municipal forest protection plans, otherwise, only a series of technical documents will remain.

2.3. CC adaptation measures and technologies implemented to optimize the use of water and forest resources.

A series of activities are reported, linked to the scope of this result: The CFC water demand study, updating of water demand database, diagnosis of water ecology, with advances in the biological, microbiological, and chemical aspects. However, it is important to check that there is a greater connection between the activities and the product to be achieved. In line with activity 1.4, to implement initiatives based on adaptive measures to climate change. It is advisable to start from a strategy that contains elements incorporating improvement of livelihoods, reduction of risks and vulnerability to climate change, strengthening of the role of women in the productive cycles, strengthening of the local capacities for the implementation of actions for the management of the territory and the conservation of biodiversity. In addition to those proposed by the PRODOC, consider the production of native plants in forest nurseries, which allows the recovery and maintenance of the genetic material of the region, and with it, recover ancestral knowledge in Lenca territory, for example: on the production techniques of these plants. The native forest plants also contribute to increasing the resilience capacity and maintaining the biological diversity of the area and to ensuring the environmental sustainability of the activities. This is set from the fact that the beneficiaries identify the benefits that the correct use of their natural resources entails (soil, water and forest), and therefore

¹³Information provided by the ICF, updated to August.

¹⁴ Information provided in the first quarter 2021 report.

there is greater availability to implement measures and activities that ensure the permanence of these resources over time.

Result 3: Generation, systematization and use of knowledge and information on climate change, which contributes to research, capacity building, monitoring, and informed decision-making.

3.1. Applied research carried out on the links between climate change, pests, fires and adaptation measures at the CFC.

Five studies on the impact of the weevil plague and its effects were started (the studies began in 2019 but were postponed due to the pandemic). Subsequently, they were resumed as of the first quarter of 2021. These studies were carried out within the framework of the master's degree in Botany at the National Autonomous University of Honduras and with the support of the AdaptarC and MiAmbiente project.

The evaluability study on the interactions between plants and floral visitors continues in forests affected by the weevil plague. Likewise, an analysis of landscape connectivity and natural regeneration is being carried out in 2 pine forests affected by the weevil. In this output, advances are also reported in the hydro-ecological model: study of water demand, water ecology (with an advance level of 60%), vulnerability index to climate change at the municipal level (90% complete), strengthening of technical and community capacities in ACC (100%).

3.2. National Observatory of Climate Change and Sustainable Development (NOCCSD) strengthened for the management of information and knowledge on adaptation to climate change.

As established in the PRODOC: the project would strengthen the NOCCSD, with the objective of consolidating it as a national platform to manage knowledge on climate change. It would support even with the obtaining of legal personality, for its operation and would carry out an evaluation, which would determine its capacities or needs for the administration and management of funds. In this direction, the institutional linkage of the NOCCSD, with the National Environmental Information System (SINIA) and with CEAOSS would also be strengthened. There is no progress on this product. It should be noted that the NOCCSD became a co-executor of some actions of the Project¹⁵, within the framework of the Letter of Agreement signed with UNDP.

The established activities are support for obtaining legal personality, necessary training in finance and knowledge management, support with qualified human resources, acquiring the equipment and software necessary for optimal operation, development of an NOCCSD Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy, linked to the project's communications strategy. There is no progress on this product. From the documentary analysis and the interviews carried out. It is evident that there were no reports of the activities agreed with the NOCCSD.

Due to the activities to be carried out, the Letter of Agreement allowed the NOCCSD to rent a vehicle for its management. The purchase of a vehicle was requested. Because the authorization was out of the reach of the Project authorities, it was sent to the donor. The process took a long time to produce a response, on the other hand, progress reports were not recorded in the other activities agreed in the

¹⁵ These actions include (paragraphs 64-66, PRODOC).

"Letter of Agreement". No cross notes are reported between the Project, UNDP or MiAmbiente, with the NOCCSD, regarding this situation.

According to the "Agreement" in the JP dated March 25, 2021, a commission is established between UNDP and MiAmbiente to address this matter. As of the date of the MTE, there was no knowledge of the results of the proceedings. It is the criterion of the Evaluator, that defining this situation has taken a long time. The non-reporting of activities and the fragility of the NOCCSD structure show the limited capacity to carry out the established commitments. This does not imply that the NOCCSD cannot continue to be a beneficiary of actions to strengthen it.

3.3. A monitoring system against pests and forest fires is operating with community participation schemes and articulated to an early warning system in the CFC.

The number of focal agreements is reduced from 10 to 6 since there are not so many institutions in the country that generate and manage climate information.

Coordination actions are reported with the National Plan for the establishment of EWAS, as well as with other instances, and to be linked with research activities in line with activity 3.1.

3.4. Knowledge and experiences of the Project systematized and communicated

The systematization of experiences is suggested, particularly, the implementation of adaptation measures and lessons learned from the implementation of best practices, as well as the strategy and results of the implementation of the micro-capital.

Remaining Barriers to Achieving Project Objectives

Financing Mechanisms:

The other challenge that the project will have to overcome is that the financing mechanisms that are developed must be practical and easy to implement, without difficulties derived from excess bureaucracy. For example, the processes under the FIRSA modality were reported by the informants, as very complicated to process and with a duration for approval of close to 2 years. Some key stakeholders reported that, even having obtained the loan and met all the requirements, they have not been able to obtain the resources to make the investments in their fields.

Social and Political

Until now, there is a lack of coordination and greater integrity among the actors. On the other hand, the political situation in the country (soon to elections in November 2021) makes it difficult to project beyond a period of government.

Institutional and Governance

Emphasis should be placed on accentuating collaboration with the municipalities, both in training and in strengthening their control activities in the territories. It is necessary to strengthen the work with them, which means that, once the project is withdrawn; It will be the entities that can continue, at least, the activities to control the use of fire or enforce the plans made by the intervention of the project.

Table 5. Results Achievement Progress Matrix (results achieved compared to project end goals.)

Project Strategy	Indicator	Initial Reference Level	Level in the 1st PIR (self-reported)	Mid-Term Goal	Goal at the End of the Project	Midterm Evaluation Level	Assessment of Achievements	Rating Rationale
Project Objective The main objective of the Project is "to increase the climate resilience of the most vulnerable communities located in the Central forest Corridor (CFC)", increasing the adaptation capacity of their municipalities with emphasis on ensuring livelihoods and the continuity of the provision of goods and ecosystem services for the city of Tegucigalpa and its surroundings.	Number of CFC communities, which reduce their vulnerability and increase their capacity to adapt to climate change	A vulnerability index was generated for 23 communities located in 3 municipalities of the CFC. A vulnerability scale of 1-5 (very little, little, medium, high and very high) showed that the municipalities present a medium to high vulnerability level.		At the end of Year 3 of the project, the vulnerability index improved from medium-high to medium-low in at least half of the CFC municipalities.	At the end of the project, the vulnerability index improves from medium-low for all CFC municipalities.		MS	The vulnerability index is ongoing and will be shared with the municipalities. The project is analyzing 2 indexes, one for water resources and the other for forest resources, at the municipal level. The results of the indices will be included in the municipal plans, particularly in the Municipal Forest Protection Plans. The Index considers 2019 as reference scenarios for climate change for 2040 and 2050. Progress of the study by 90% is reported. Not so the reduction of vulnerability in the participating communities. It was proposed to measure it at the beginning of the project (2019), as an evaluation of the environment before the intervention of the project, and then measure it at the end of the project (2022), evaluating the potential impact of the activities that were developed both in the CFC and in the different social structures that it encompasses.

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	Number of municipalities that integrate climate change adaptation measures into their municipal development plans, municipal budget, and income from payments for ecosystem services	Three municipalities began to incorporate adaptation measures in their municipal budgets since 2013 (Tatumbula, Ojojona, Cedros). Tatumbula, initiated the implementation of a Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme, through the revision of the water tariff to internalize costs of protection and maintenance of water catchment and sources.		At the end of Year 3, at least 5 CFC municipalities incorporate climate change adaptation plans into their municipal budgets.	At the end of the project, at least 10 municipalities incorporate climate change adaptation plans in their municipal budgets.		MS	During the reporting period: Municipal budget to develop firewall rounds schemes 50/50, (Lepaterique, RNYB Protection). Municipal budget for reforestation 50/50 schemes (Ojojona 50 ha CFC, 150). Other municipalities include measures in their budget in reaction to forest degradation and water shortages due to drought.
Product 1: The CFC Platform has been strengthened to implement measures and processes of adaptation, based on ecosystems through municipal and territorial planning.	1.1: Authority and Platform of the CFC: formalized, operational, and with capacities to manage climate risks. (Coordination and decision-making spaces strengthened for the sustainable management of natural resources of the CFC, including measures for the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples).	The CFC Platform currently functions as an informal mechanism, with ad hoc meetings, and without the support of laws, legislation and regulations.	N/A	At the end of Year 2 of the project, the procedures, standards, and Action Plan of the CFC Platform are ready.	At the end of the project, the CFC Authority is established by law or equivalent, with institutional coordination mechanisms, and defined functions and trained personnel.		MI	Coordination actions are reported, allowing the reactivation of the political and technical platform. The TOR have been prepared and presented to the consultancy for the preparation of the document for the confirmation and operation of the CFC platform. Experience exchange tour on gender issues and women's entrepreneurship of the CFC. Capacity-building processes continue with the formation of 2 courses on ecosystem-based adaptation, aimed at municipal technicians and young people, in coordination with the UNAH partner. Training workshops on early warning systems for weevils were held for municipal technicians.

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	1.2: # of municipal regulations or ordinances of the established and operational mechanisms. (Regulations related to the management of natural resources applied in the CFC.)	There are currently no mechanisms at the municipal level to report and communicate on identified malpractices on forest use, land use change, etc. The processes of applying for permission for the use of wood and small-scale forestry are bureaucratic and managed by the ICF, without a clear role for the municipalities.		At the end of Year 2, at least 1 regulatory mechanism is operational in each municipality: Community reporting mechanism, municipal ordinance on land use planning, and forest use by private forest owners and functions delegated to the MEU.	At the end of the project, at least 4 regulatory mechanisms are operational in each municipality: Community reporting mechanism, municipal ordinance on land management and use of the forest by private forest owners and functions delegated to the MEU.		MS	A draft is available for the Complaints, Claims and Conflict Management Mechanism (MQRMC). Consulting is in process for the preparation of the economic study of environmental goods and services, where the second product on risk analysis was presented. Updating and implementation of forest protection plans was carried out; as well as the prioritization of 1,500 ha for restoration. A workshop was developed to study the impact of the drought in the CFC.
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	<p>1.3.: # of municipal plans revised or developed that integrate climate risk considerations. (Municipal plans for adaptation to climate change, prepared and validated.).</p>	<p>Municipal Plans for Adaptation to Climate Change were prepared in 5 municipalities of the CFC; Forest Protection Plans were drawn up in all municipalities, but they need to be reviewed and updated, according to the impact of the beetle plague, to better respond to its effects and prepare for future risks. In the other municipalities, climate change has not been integrated into municipal planning. Plans for the micro-watersheds were established in 25 of the 50 existing in the CFC.</p>		<p>At the end of Year 3, the 5 Municipal Adaptation Plans and the 14 Forest Protection Plans were updated.</p>	<p>At the end of the Project, municipal adaptation plans and micro-watershed plans are available to all CFC municipalities.</p>		S	<p>In order to promote the sustainability of the inclusion of the issue of climate change, it was approved to carry out the Municipal Development Plans (MDP) and include the ECP as a cross-cutting issue instead of developing additional municipal adaptation plans.</p> <p>The 14 MFPP of the municipalities which make up the CFC have been updated.</p> <p>As reported in the briefings, the proposed goal was 5 plans but 7 were made, exceeding the goal.</p> <p>This result also establishes activities with WMO specialists, development of a mission for the installation of the software, implementation of the connection of telemetric stations to the MCH, to establish and strengthen hydro-meteorological information.</p> <p>Also in this result, progress is reported in the elaboration of the Gender Diagnosis.</p>
	<p>1.4: # of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes. (Operational proposal of a financing scheme for cc adaptation measures in the CFC, developed and validated).</p>	<p>A scheme developed, so far, focused on the Tatumbula water tariff. An attempt was made to establish inter-municipal schemes for the provision of water services for Tegucigalpa, but there was a lack of coordination and political will.</p>		<p>Municipal PES schemes (revised water rates) are replicated in at least 3 municipalities at the end of Year 3.</p>	<p>Municipal PES schemes (revised water rates) are replicated in at least 5 municipalities at the end of the Project.</p> <p>A proposal designed for an inter-municipal PES pilot is developed.</p>		MI	<p>The actions that are reported are: The actions reported are: REPWSS, the Environmental Management Directorate of MiAmbiente, and AMITIGRA, the regulatory body for water and sanitation services.</p> <p>There is a draft economic study and environmental services, with a focus on water resources.</p> <p>There is a draft letter, with NASAS, for the implementation of pilots in compensation for ecosystem services.</p>

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<p>Product 2: Adaptation measures and technologies are designed and implemented based on ecosystems that increase community resilience and their livelihoods in the CFC, promoting gender equality and the active participation of young people.</p>	<p>2.1. # of hectares of pine trees and affected forests that were restored. (Areas of pine forest affected by pests and fires in the CFC, restored to safeguard ecosystem goods and services and the livelihoods of communities.)</p>		<p>0 ha restored. The National Restoration Plan was approved in May 2016 and there are currently preparations underway to implement it</p>	<p>At the end of Year 3: 1,000 ha restored.</p>	<p>At the end of the project: 8,000 ha were protected; 1,500 ha were restored.¹⁶</p>		<p>S</p>	<p>The goal for this indicator was changed from 8,000 ha protected, to 1,500 ha renewed; since the approved indicator measures “# of affected pine forests and restored mixed forests...”. The technical activities of restoration, with respect to that of protection, differ in costs.</p> <p>To date, restoration actions have been carried out in prioritized areas affected by pests and forest fires in a total of 1,320¹⁷ ha, surpassing the established goals, being 122190 ha, via plantations and 1,221.90 ha by evaluation and management of natural regeneration.</p> <p>A study of the Vulnerability Index to Climate Change was carried out, with an execution of 90%¹⁸.</p>
	<p>2.2. Level (%) of implementation of the measures proposed in the Municipal Forest Protection Plans in the 14 CFC municipalities. (levels: (levels: 0% zero; <20% low; 20<50% medium; 50 <80% high; >80 very high). (Strategic areas of forests restored by natural regeneration, through effective protection mechanisms against fires, pests and changes in land use.)</p>		<p>Zero and/or low (depending on the municipality)</p>	<p>At the end of Year 3, at least 20 <50% median level in all CFC municipalities.</p>	<p>At the end of the Project: high level of implementation in all municipalities.</p>		<p>MS</p>	<p>Twelve MFPPs were reviewed and updated in the same number of municipalities. Forest protection coordination activities were carried out. 11 technicians were trained in the evaluation and selection of sites to be restored, management, and protection of micro-basins, etc. They were evaluated with positive results in established natural regeneration, 250 ha.</p>

¹⁶ This target was adjusted from 8,000 ha protected to 1,500 ha renewed.

¹⁷ Information provided by the ICF, updated to August.

¹⁸ Information provided in the first quarter 2021 report.

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	2.3. # of families (including families with women as heads of household) with better access to water service. CC Adaptation Measures and Technologies Implemented to Optimize the Use of Water and Forest Resources		8,000 families in the CFC had their access to water improved through pilot measures financed by the previous Adaptation Fund project.	At the end of Year 3, another 6,000 families will benefit from better access to water (at least 30% of families with women as heads of households).	At the end of the project, 12,000 families improve their access to water (at least 30% of families with women as heads of households).		MI	Activities and progress are reported, linked to the scope of this result, in currently conducting a census of surface and groundwater sources with CFCs. Four zones have been identified in which actions to improve and access water will be carried out for the communities of the CFC municipalities, and the rate review will be implemented in coordination with the REPWSS, for the PSA proposal.
Product 3: National Platform for Information, Knowledge Management and Climate Monitoring strengthened, with the CFC as a reference area to contribute to research and capacity building.	3.1. # of studies carried out related to adaptation to climate change (weevil infestation, forest restoration, etc.). (Applied research carried out on the links between climate change, pests, fires and forest adaptation measures, etc.).		None		At least 5 relevant studies.		MS	Five studies on the impact of the weevil plague and its effects were started (the studies began in 2019 but were postponed due to the pandemic). The evaluability study on the interactions between plants and floral visitors continues in forests affected by the weevil plague. Likewise, an analysis of landscape connectivity and natural regeneration is being carried out in 2 pine forests affected by the weevil. In this output, advances are also reported in the hydro-ecological model: study of water demand, water ecology (with an advance level of 60%), vulnerability index to climate change at the municipal level (90% complete), strengthening of technical and community capacities in ACC (100%).

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	<p>3.2. # of technicians trained in climate change adaptation planning (indicator disaggregated by sex). (NOCCSD strengthened for the management of information and knowledge on adaptation to climate change.).</p>		<p>2,000 trained technicians¹⁹ (20% women). This indicator was adjusted to 50% women.</p>	<p>By the end of year 2, at least 1,000 trained technicians (35% female)</p>	<p>At the end of the project, at least 2,500 technicians trained (at least 35% women).</p>		<p>MS</p>	<p>The project has been based on national events to provide training in CCA (II National Biodiversity Congress, National Blue Economy Forum, Climate, Workshop on Wetland Policies), reaching a total of 289 institutional technicians (124 men and 165 women). Likewise, through the National Directorate of Climate Change, training on climate change and EbA was carried out for an estimated 214 people (139 women and 75 men). In the Diploma in Adaptation to CC based on ecosystems with an emphasis on water resources, by the UNAH (aimed at officials, municipal, and students) there was an enrollment of 70 people, 64 of which completed the diploma, and two additional courses once the diploma was completed. According to available information, 217 technicians have been trained – it was not located how many women and how many men. In activities with communities, 140 people (59 men and 81 women) were trained in adaptation to climate change.</p>
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¹⁹ Adjusted indicator. The final goal remains, but the activities will be carried out to a wider audience (community members, academics, local level officials).

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	<p>3.3. # of institutions that officially share information with the NOCCSD. A monitoring system against pests and forest fires is operating with community participation schemes and articulated to an early warning system in the CFC.</p>		Currently only MiAmbiente has a signed agreement.	At the end of year 3, at least 6 institutions share information based on signed agreements.	At the end of the project, at least 10 ²⁰ institutions share information based on Agreements.		MI	<p>This indicator changed from 10 to 6 at the end of the project. Until now, only the following have been prioritized: Civil Aeronautics-Meteorological Service - UNAH-IHCIT-CEAOSS-COPECO</p> <p>MiAmbiente, General Directorate of Water Resources, NASAS, -ENEE. The strengthening and implementation of the MCH platform was coordinated with the World Meteorological Organization in different institutions. It was done in coordination with PECOCO.</p> <p>Incorporation to the SIGMOF Platform: 311 has approximately natural regeneration.</p>
	<p>3.4. EWS number, focused on the affection by working weevil. (Knowledge and experiences of the Project, systematized and communicated.</p>		None	At the end of year 3, at least 8 EWS are operational in selected CFC municipalities.	At the end of the Project, all CFC municipalities have operational EWS.		MI	<p>Coordinating actions with the National Plan are reported for the establishment of EWAS.</p> <p>The hiring of a specialist, who will standardize the data collection from CFC meteorological stations, is in process. EWS implementation in weevil is supported at the national level.</p>
	<p>3.5. Lessons learned and good practices generated by the project are systematized and communicated.</p>	N/A	None		At least 20 (2 of them related to gender) were communicated and systematized.		MS	<p>Some lessons learned are reported in PPR 2</p>

²⁰ Indicator adjusted to 6 agreements, at the end of the project.

4.3. Project Execution and Adaptive Management

The PRODOC establishes that the national executor of the project will be MiAmbiente, while the Responsible Parties would be ICF, which would provide technical assistance and training for the implementation of best restoration practices in areas affected by the pine beetle, as well as the UNAH, which would provide support for the elaboration of the baseline and municipal vulnerability index. It also indicates that the Municipal Mayor's Office of the Central District will provide support with the components, indicators and activities associated with the design and implementation.

The ETM did not find elements to support the establishment of an "Agreement" with the Central Municipality. According to the information gathered, there was a lack of interest on the part of this party to establish the agreements. Yes, it was agreed at the Project Board meeting on January 30, 2020, to sign "Agreements with five municipalities", considering the national emergency decree PCM 002-2020. From the documentary analysis and interviews, it appears that "agreements" will be signed with each of the municipalities.

This decision would imply transferring funds through agreements between the UNDP and the municipal governments, which represents a significant additional burden to the timing and the situation of delay in which the Project finds itself. In this case, the option of establishing these agreements, with a current responsible party or with AMOHN, has also been expressed with the purpose of following up to with mayors through this mechanism. This alternative is important to consider given the situation of the Project, as well as the prompt presidential elections in the country.

For reasons not yet well established, the NOCCSD also appears, which would carry out actions around its strengthening and the elaboration of the communication strategy. In this context, it became a Responsible Party.

According to the documentary analysis and opinions expressed during the interviews, the performance of the ICF and UNAH parties has been good. Progress in their respective activities was evidenced in the reports, as well as presence in field activities (to the extent that the COVID-19 Pandemic allowed it and by keeping biosafety standards). The direct effect of this performance is represented by the progress that the Project reports, in the scope towards the objective.

Also, the situation with the NOCCSD, as previously stated, is recommended that it be defined as soon as possible.

On the other hand, the Board of Directors of the Project (BDP) was formed, the composition of which is set out above. It meets annually to discuss implementation issues, project management, as well as to approve the project's annual operating plans and budgets.

UNDP acts as a guarantor at three levels: supervision, surveillance and quality assurance, involving personnel from the country office and regional and headquarters levels. For the purposes of the Project, efforts have been focused on the procurement and monitoring of the project at the central level with MiAmbiente on the technical and administrative aspects of the project. This, while receiving the support of its RTA, located in the UNDP office in Panama, and its personnel from the UNDP office in Honduras, oriented on FA policies and its reporting system, and making available its list of international experts, who could advise the project if required.

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is located in the Project Coordination Office (PCO) of MiAmbiente. At the time of the MTE, it has an interim coordinator (who functions as a watershed management specialist), due to the fact that the contract was not renewed with the previous coordinator Staff is limited. It has an administrative assistant, supported by a gender specialist, which is shared with other projects. It does not have an M&E manager. It does not have an M&E manager. Some specific activities have been supported by MiAmbiente staff. At the time of the MTE, the Project coordinator was already hired. Efforts are made to hire the specialist in safeguards and field technicians. This situation has been particularly serious for the good progress of the Project, causing serious delays in the processes, in the acquisition of goods and services, and in the field monitoring of the established activities.

On the other hand, at the level of the Presidency of the Republic, the Presidential Office of Green Economy (OPEV, in Spanish) was created, by Executive Decree Number PCM-065-2019, published in the official gazette, *La Gaceta*, on January 8, 2020, in which it is stated that the Project Coordination Office (PCO) of MiAmbiente, becomes an integral part of the OPEV. This implied that the Projects that were implemented by UNDP also became part of this restructuring (it is important to indicate that MiAmbiente is the GEF focal point and the Convention on Biological Diversity).

This decision, according to the informants and internal correspondence notes of the Project, substantially delayed the pace and agility of the project so far, causing serious delays and even uncertainty about its continuity. During this time, according to what was stated, the UNDP promoted meetings to accelerate the pace of execution of the agreements and activities, trying to maintain a coordinated dynamic between MiAmbiente and UNDP, and give them a closer follow-up on operational issues. However, it does not seem that it was enough, due to the exposed situation. It was not until January of the current year that the Decree mentioned above was repealed:

Article No. 2 of Executive Decree PCM126-2020 dated December 28, 2020, indicates the repeal of Articles 10, 13 and 14 of Executive Decree Number PCM-065-2019, published in the official gazette *La Gaceta*: "on the 8th of January 2020, Issue No. *La Gaceta*" dated January 8, 2020, Issue No. 35,143 ". "It is worth mentioning that, in the indicated articles of Executive Decree PCM-065-2019, the Project Coordinating Office (PCO) was suppressed, and the National Directorate of Climate Change to the Presidential Office of Green Economy (OPEV), however, Executive Decree Number PCM-126-2020, indicates that the Project Coordinating Office and the National Directorate of Climate Change will continue to be part of the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (MiAmbiente) ". Although in practice it was not executed as the Decree in question affected the performance of the project.

Situations like this, and the change in Authorities have also had a significant impact on the execution rate, both technically and financially. At the time of the MTE, MiAmbiente has had three ministers. The third took office, in July 2021. In this sense, according to interviews and the criteria of the Evaluator, political will of the current Authorities is observed, so that the Project can resume the appropriate course. This will is translated into actions such as: the preparation of an "Acceleration Plan" which, in the opinion of the Evaluator, is a "short-term procurement plan". However, it represents a useful and urgent action in the condition of the Project.

In terms of compliance with disbursement schedules and other administrative aspects, the informants have pointed out the existence of some gaps in decision-making, as a result of the different situations that have arisen with the change of authorities, in order to resume the rhythm of the Project.

The financial and administrative efficiency of the management procedures and project operations implemented by UNDP allows for more objective evaluations among other things. This is because the corporate procedures for the purchase of inputs and services have been thought from the principle of optimization, that is, to achieve the same goals at the lowest cost. In this regard, the informants have not objected.

Adaptive Management

The documentary review and interviews indicate that the project had the ability to identify risks and changing situations, but the change in personnel, coordinator, and not having a Management Unit established, has prevented follow-up actions and take corrective decisions. The main impact has been at the level of planning and adaptive management, since despite the risks and complicated situations on the execution of the project, they have been identified. The corresponding corrective actions could not be carried out.

Work Planning

The project executes its activities through the preparation of annual operating plans (AOPs) and annual budgets. The first comment to be made is that the AOPs consist mainly of a budget with cost lines for each activity proposed by the Management Unit, but these AOPs do not respond to a strategic analysis document of the project, where the priorities and the reasons why those activities are carried out and not others.

Another aspect to mention is that adjustments were made to the results framework, but a document could not be found that analyzes the project in its entirety and that proposed or supported those changes in its logic and design. This document should have been made during the Inception Workshop, but this was only a socialization event of the project according to the revised documentation.

At the Project Board level, it should be mentioned that the meetings have had a strategic deliberative nature, but their decisions do not have a monitoring system although responsibilities, deadlines, and results are defined. There is a gap in reporting the progress of the recommended activities, so it is not known what happened to these decisions.

The formation of a Technical Committee is also suggested, which provides advice and technical inputs related to the execution of the Project (for further reference on page 65 of the PRODOC, the terms of reference of this Advisory Committee are established).

Financing and Co-Financing

The financial and administrative efficiency of the management procedures and project operations implemented by UNDP allows for more objective evaluations among other things. This because the corporate procedures for the purchase of inputs and services are thought from the principle of optimization, that is, to achieve the same goals at the lowest cost. In this regard, the informants have not objected.



Graph 1: total execution of expenses per year and pending execution

- ✓ The total budget assigned to execute the program is USD 4,036,590.00, agreed for 5 years.
- ✓ From March 2019 to July 2020, expenses total USD 1,257,680.34 for the 4 components/activities.
- ✓ The execution of expenditures by year has been as follows: 2019: USD 521,273.29, representing 13% of total funds. 2020: USD 355,071.23, representing 9%. The decline could be due to the global pandemic by COVID-19, and mobility restrictions and other actions, which entailed. So far in 2021: until July of this year, the budget execution is USD 381,335.82, 10% of the total funds. In this period, a resumption of operations is observed, despite the sanitary limitations decreed. These amounts correspond to 31% of the funds assigned. USD 2,778,909.66 remains pending execution, representing 69%.

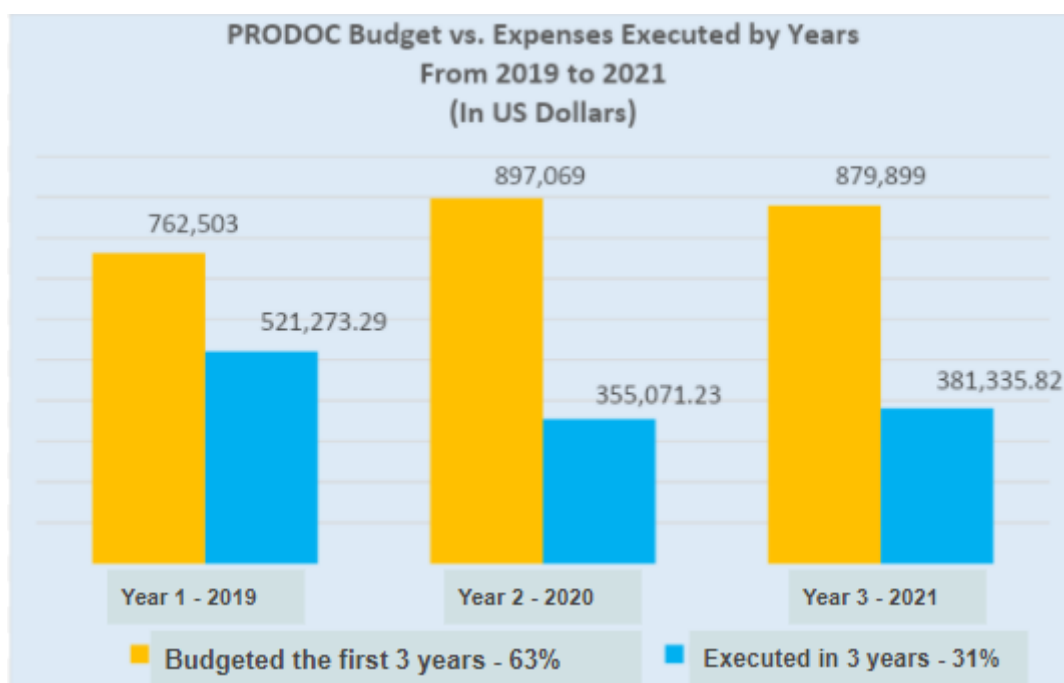


Figure 2. PRODOC Budget Vs. Expenses Executed from 2019 to 2021

- ✓ According to the original PRODOC budget, during the first 3 years, more than half of the total resources had to be executed among the four components, that is, 63%. However, the execution of the total project is 31%, until July 2021.
- ✓ 2019 showed good dynamics, executing 68% of the funds. Not so in 2020, which contracted to 39%. It reaches 43% until July 2021.
- ✓ Of the 5 years agreed for the program, half of that time has been covered.
- ✓ Considering this, it is evident that the total execution until July 2021, is well below schedule. Recovery measures must be implemented in order to cover the pending stages according to the schedule.

Presenting the total component execution from 2019 to July 2021, we find the following:

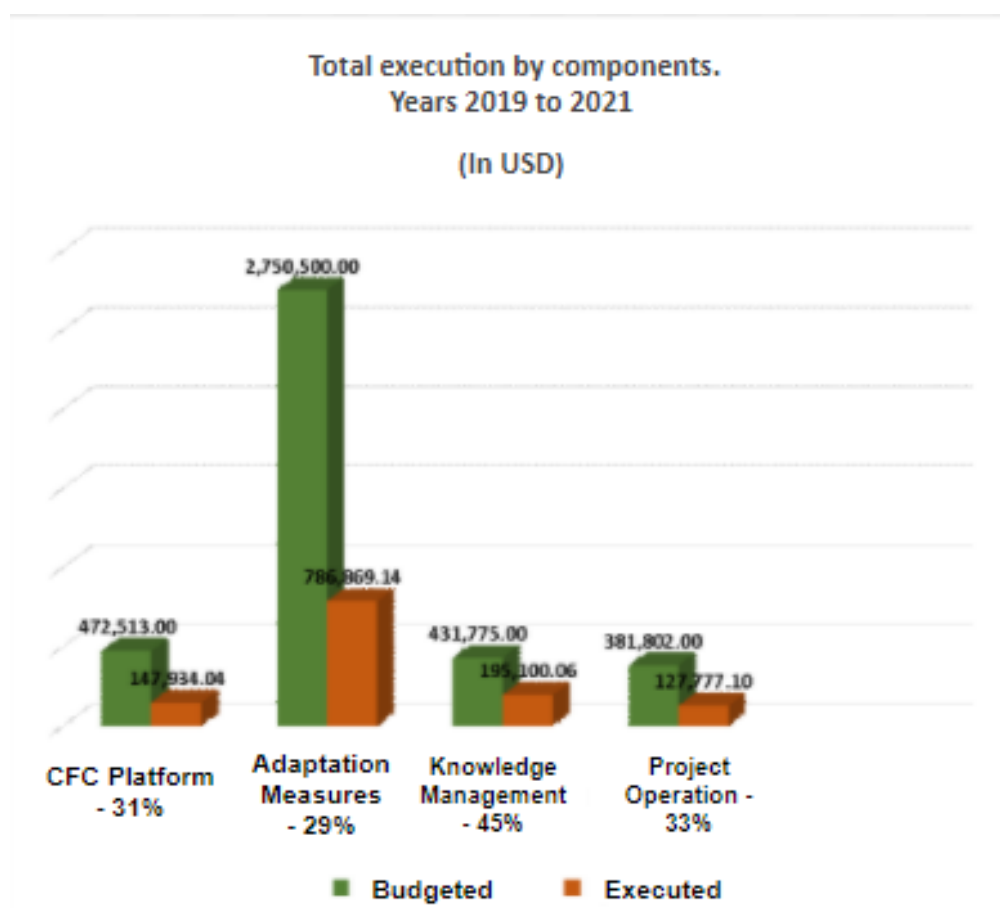


Figure 3. Total execution by components. Years 2019 to 2021

- ✓ **Component 1. To strengthen the CFC platform:** of the budget of USD 472,513.00, they have executed 31% for USD 147,934.04.
- ✓ **Component 2. Ecosystem-based adaptation measures:** it has the largest allocation. USD 2,750,500.00, of which USD 786,869.14 has been executed, that is, 29%. It is the component with the highest allocation however, it shows the least execution.
- ✓ **Component 3. Knowledge Management:** with an allocation of USD 431,775.00, it shows the highest execution for USD 195,100.06 which equates to 45%.
- ✓ **Component 4. Project operation:** USD 381,802.00 is earmarked for this concept. 33% has been used, a total of USD 127,777.10.

The following charts represent component run by year, from 2019 to July 2021.



Figure 4. Implementation by component per year. From 2019 to 2021-Component 1 CFC Platform.

Component 1 - To strengthen the CFC platform: during the first two years. The execution was slow: 2019% in 20 and 2020% in 2020. However, in this last year it exceeded the budget to 102%.

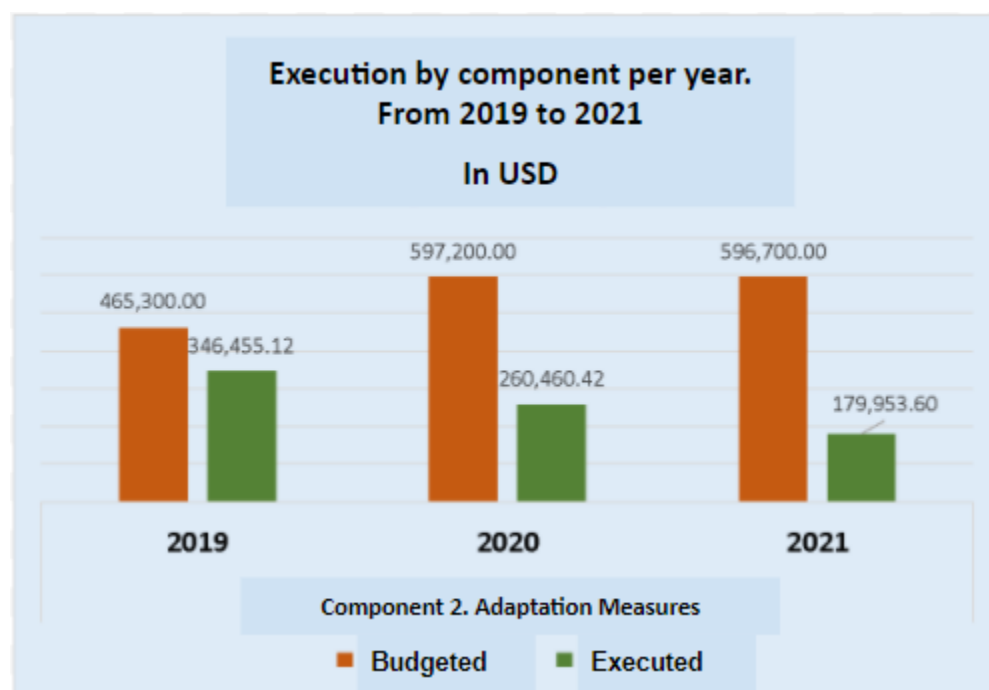


Figure 5. Execution by component per year. From 2019 to 2021-Component 2. Adaptation Measures

Component 2. Adaptation measures: this component is the one with the highest allocation. In 2019, 74% of what was assigned for that year was carried out; however, in the following two years it was significantly reduced

by 44% during 2020, and by 30% so far in 2021. The pending activities to be executed should be adjusted and given priority attention due to the recovery of post-pandemic activities, so that at the end of the year, a better performance in this component is reflected.



Figure 6. Execution by components for years from 2019 to 2021. Component 3. Knowledge Management

Component 3. Knowledge Management: in 2019, execution exceeded the designated amount up to 116%; then it was affected in 2020 to only 33% of the budget. In 2021 it reflects a slight recovery, with 44% of the resources used until July.



Figure 7. Execution by components for years from 2019 to 2021 Component 4. Project Operation

Component 4. Project Operation: in the administration and operation of the project, 47% and 46% were executed in 2019 and 2020, respectively. In 2021, as the post-pandemic restricted activities recovered, 73% of the allocation was executed.

When analyzing the execution of the total of the funds allocated, USD 4,036,590.00, a moderate to low execution is observed since the amounts are well below the estimated. This situation is more noticeable when verifying the assignments of the four components separately, with slight exceptions, as presented in the previous graphs. Given that more than half of the project time has been covered and despite the effects caused by the pandemic, there is time to recover the halted stages to achieve the proposed objectives.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems

PRODOC establishes a series of milestones for carrying out M&E activities, which should be implemented throughout the life of the project and are shown in table 6.

The project document stipulated that there would be a Project Board of Directors, which would meet annually, to analyze the progress of the project and make strategic decisions regarding its direction. This board had 4 meetings (2019, 2020 (2), 2021). Indeed, the provisions of this line have been complied with.

It also includes the preparation of quarterly progress reports, as well as the annual PCRs, an Inception Report to explain the meaning, milestones and responsibilities of the project to the key stakeholders. In addition, visits to the project sites should be considered in the annual schedule. The visits would be made by the project implementing unit, UNDP staff, and other partners deemed relevant.

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Regarding the M&E manager, he was not hired, nor was he a communications and gender specialist. The project uses the person in charge of gender from the PCO, who must also attend to other projects of varying complexity, so there is no substantive progress, for example, in the implementation of a project gender strategy.

As will be seen later, the quarterly and annual reporting system was complied with, but it admits improvements to show the progress of activities and products in relation to the project objectives. Regarding the field visits, these were made by the project coordinator, no UNDP participation is reported (considering the issue of the COVID-19 pandemic, these visits preceded the emergency that arose).

The change of coordinators and the absence of the M&E specialist impacted both the vision and the orientation of the project, as well as the implementation of a coherent and systematic reporting system.

Therefore, from the documentation analyzed, and the interviews, it can be concluded that there is no systematic and planned M&E system of the project's progress, at least from the formal point of view. At this stage of the Project, it is required to complement the format for quarterly reports so that the information can be processed systematically and that they show the state of progress towards results, rather than activities. Also, it is required to develop other monitoring and evaluation tools if they are considered necessary.

Table 6. Report of Monitoring/Evaluation Actions

Monitoring Activity and evaluation	Main Responsibility	Time frame	Activity Report
Inception Workshop	UNDP Country Office	Within two months of signing the project document	March 4, 2019.
Boot Report	Project Manager	Within two weeks of the Inception Workshop	Delivered in September 2019.
Normal UNDP monitoring and reporting requirements outlined in UNDP Program and Operations Policies and Procedures	UNDP Country Office		Quarterly and Annually (ongoing as stipulated)
Project Board Meetings	Project Coordinator	Quarter 2021	March 4, 2019 August 6, 2019 (extraordinary) January 30, 2020 March 25, 2021
Quarterly reports	Project Coordinator	April 15 July 15 October 15 December 20 May 14	1st. Report submitted on April 23, 2019 2nd. Report delivered on July 22, 2019 3rd Report, submitted on November 12, 2019 4th Report (annual report) delivered on January 30, 2020 5th. report submitted on May 19, 2020 6th. Quarterly Report, January to March 2021.
Monitoring of indicators in project results framework	UNDP Program Specialist	Annually before Project Board	First monitoring and update of goals in Project Board, January 30, 2020, should be held at the 2021 mid-term meeting.

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Project implementation report to the donor (Adaptation Fund)	Project Coordinator, UNDP Country Office	Annually	PPR delivered to the donor in March - April, 2020 and 2021
National implementation modality audit according to UNDP audit policies	UNDP Country Office	Annually or other frequency as per UNDP audit policies	2 audits have been carried out. 2019 and 2020-
Lessons learned and knowledge generation	Project Coordinator	Annually	They were presented at PPR2. They will be updated in the midterm board meeting.
Monitoring of environmental and social risks and corresponding management plans as appropriate	Project Coordinator UNDP Country Office	Every 6 months	In coordination.
Attention to environmental and social complaints	Project Coordinator UNDP Country Office	Every 6 months	Mechanism under development. Presentation in mid-term board meeting, 2021.
Monitoring activities for the implementation of the Stakeholder Participation Plan	Expert on indigenous peoples	Every 6 months	In Process
Project Board Meetings	Project Board UNDP Country Office, Project Coordinator	Every 6 months	First Meeting held on March 04, 2019. Extraordinary meeting scheduled for August 06, 2019. Second meeting on January 30, 2020. Third meeting on March 20, 2021.
Field activity monitoring missions	UNDP Program Specialist	Annually	Performed in 2020, 2021 (virtual)
Field activity monitoring missions	Project coordinator and monitoring specialist, PCO coordination	Quarterly	In process.

Stakeholder Involvement

The participation of the actors involved has been an important part in the activities and/or calls made by the project, having carried out coordination/meetings between institutions (ICF, UNAH, other Municipalities), organizations, municipalities, volunteers, women's groups, among others.

With regard to MiAmbiente, at the time of the ETM, it was active in supporting the project, its highest authorities have visited the sites where the project is being executed on several occasions, with the aim of supporting and verifying the progress made.

With regard to alliances and working groups, it should be mentioned that the project has managed meeting and collaboration spaces with different actors.

Gender Focus

It is expected that the Gender Diagnosis and Action Plan will allow the AdaptarC + Project to adopt and promote initiatives that favor the incorporation of both men and women in the various environmental processes that take place within the Central forest Corridor, especially in the actions that are developed directly by the ADAPTARC+ Project, its partners, and the municipalities. Additionally, it is expected to have a positive impact, specifically in

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the Municipal Offices for Women (OMM in Spanish), through the strengthening of capacities and local and community governance with a gender perspective. In line with this activity, a Gender Diagnosis was prepared for the formulation of the Gender Plan, which will make the inclusion of women possible, developing mechanisms and methodologies that guarantee their full participation in the different areas of the Project. The formulation process according to the TOR was carried out under the guidelines established in the strategic gender documents created by the Project: "Reducing Emissions due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)", in the Framework of the School for Women's Equality and Empowerment.

Information

In terms of information from the Project and its partners, they are carried out and comply with the information requirements of the FA. Due to the situation that the execution of the project has gone through, the handling of information must be improved. Lessons learned have been shared in the report to the Donor, but it is still necessary to document, in a more systematized process, the lessons derived from the implementation of the Project.

In the activities that the project contemplates, it is expected that (based on the knowledge generated, information management on the environment, the impacts of climate change, in specific sectors of national and regional development such as agriculture, forestry, water, etc.) a proportionate response is ensured in the event of situations generated by the phenomenon of climate change. Therefore, all the services provided by the project are valued in the national responses.

Communication

At the internal level of the Project, the informants expressed that it is necessary to improve the communication channels. They also expressed that given the situation of the project, especially with regard to personnel, there are not so many actions to communicate.

In the interviews with local actors, they indicated what they consider is necessary: dissemination, awareness, and cooperation, to publicize the activities of the Project. The Consultant was able to verify that the AdaptarC project is associated with the sub-project, which is especially carried out by the ICF within the framework of the agreement with AdaptarC. In this scenario, the need to have a "Communication Strategy" becomes evident in order to promote the key actors (community leaders and communities) to get involved in the Project activities and achieve the objectives of the same. Another important axis to consider in the strategy is advocacy (coordination and technical assistance to municipalities), strengthening the capacities of municipal authorities for the incorporation of adaptation measures as part of municipal planning.

Coordination

The evaluator, through the interviews, was able to detect challenges in coordinating the project with actors and other institutions, such as ICF, municipalities, UNAH, among others. In the country, there is the practice of socializing topics and activities that institutions carry out but, that does not mean coordinating or jointly planning the necessary actions to enhance the efforts that each institution carries out. In addition, these socializations do not show joint work plans with common deadlines, goals and objectives, and responsibilities. In repeated reports, meetings with different bodies are mentioned, without following up on the results.

Regarding coordination with the private sector, this is apparently more complex due to the lack of a practice of establishing public-private cooperation alliances and the identification of common objectives to be achieved, regardless of the differences and interests that may exist. The evaluator detected only the participation of a private company in the reforestation actions. In addition, the project has not had a visible working relationship with the private sector. Therefore, it has the challenge of striving to dialogue and reach agreements with the rest of the actors.

Social and Environmental Standards

Risks

The PRODOC identified a series of risks with its mitigation measures, which were classified in category B as moderate (11 risks). Indeed, the risks continue to be valid in the review of the risk matrix by the Project Board. The risk: "lack of consultation processes, typical for the Lenca people", went from low to medium. Regarding political risk, this definitely occurred, and the mitigation measure was not enough to counteract the delays and situations that arose.

During the implementation of the Project, it is recommended that the Management Unit adopt a facilitator role and promote coordinated work between the Central Government institutions, with the municipalities and other institutions, regardless of their political status or party line. This would allow the attribution of achievements to obtain political revenues to be diminished but, it is not a guarantee that this condition can

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be achieved. Therefore, the actions are uncertain, since there is also no “impartial” coordinating body that facilitates the execution process.

Table 7. Risk Table and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Level	Mitigation Strategy
Limited coordination between the different municipalities of the CFC and lack of political will for their coordination.	Medium	The project will work to strengthen ties between the different municipalities of the CFC. The strength of the CFC platform will be the basis to ensure that the political will that exists today is maintained to promote this initiative, and that through training and strengthening actions, coordination between the entities is increased.
Threats affect the capacity of the CFC to provide ecosystem services (fires, new pest outbreaks, illegal logging, water stress, activities in general to change land use, etc.).	High	The project will have three main measures to avoid this risk. On the one hand, research and monitoring will facilitate a better understanding of the causes of the impacts of these threats and, therefore, an improvement in the action plans to adapt them. On the other hand, community early warning and care systems will allow the prompt effective and active response. In addition, the project will work on strengthening compliance with sanctions and regulations, at the community level, that allow the population to report on illegal actions in the area of intervention, (e.g., Illegal logging, burning, aggressive resination techniques, change of land use in general, etc.).
The involvement of women and young people in decision-making is zero or very low	Medium	It is necessary to make a diagnosis, prior to the intervention of the project measures, on the role of women and young people in these communities. This in order to design those measures that are gender sensitive, making sure that the burden is not negatively affecting women's work and/or their income generation. And that, on the contrary, the adaptation measures promoted by the project contribute to gender equity in the communities. The project will ensure participatory instruments that enhance not only the (passive) participation of women and young people, but also enhance their opinion (through full and effective participation), being able to address their concerns and needs.
Lack of proper consultation processes for the Lenca people	Low	The project will ensure that the mechanisms established at the national level will be used for Free and Informed Prior Consultation, according to international regulations.
Difficulty in designing and installing payments for environmental service	High	In Honduras, there is a long tradition of projects, which, in their interventions, have established payments for environmental service. However, these interventions in most of their cases have not been sustainable over time. The strength of the CFC platform, where 13 municipalities have dialogues around the Central District, is one of the mechanisms for mitigating this risk which the project will make use of. The project will ensure synergies with other financial mechanism processes, such as the REDO+ project.
Problems of legal security of land ownership in the CFC.	High	Land use rights are also potentially contentious issues. The project will work on a preliminary diagnosis of each municipality on land tenure. In some cases, the conflicts for the legal security of the land exceed the possibilities of the government.
Changes in government personnel	Low	The project, through its component 3, will work on knowledge management and systematization, ensuring the historical memory of the project in the short and long term, so that the new government personnel can continue with the established goals. Although it is true that there are changes in government personnel, in general, these changes are rotational and the trained human resource continues to work on climate change, which benefits the country. Therefore, there is no global loss of the human resource formed.
Corruption and lack of transparency, both on the part of the Project and in the management of funds of micro capital by the communities	Low	The project will be executed through the MiAmbiente Project Coordination Office, which at the end of 2015, favorably passed an audit for the management of funds. In the case of funds from micro capitals to communities: through the project, training will be provided for the management and transparency of the funds, as well as the accountability measures necessary so that there is no room for the inappropriate use of resources. In addition, UNDP as guarantor of the project, will

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		assign a Program Officer to help supervise and monitor the project objectively and independently, and will carry out periodic audits.
Citizen insecurity in the intervention area	Low	Although Honduras has very high insecurity rates, in rural areas these rates are relatively lower. Given that the project has its area of intervention in rural communities, it is not expected that there will be high risks of insecurity.

4.4. Sustainability

The project document indicates that the main way to ensure the sustainability of the Project actions will be the strengthening of the CFC Platform, especially the consolidation of their legal status.

Another mechanism to achieve sustainability will be the establishment of compensation processes for the protection of the forest resource and the inclusion of business plans in adaptation measures.

An exit strategy from the project, which establishes how the transfer of the actions will be carried out, has not been chartered due to the intervention of the Project.

Financial risks to sustainability

Once the financial contribution of the Adaptation Fund has been finalized, the continuation with the support to the processes undertaken by the Project depends to a large extent on the availability of state financing (which according to the informants is very limited), especially to start up activities such as the operation of the legal entity of the CFC. No actions were identified by MiAmbiente, the municipalities, or other institutions regarding the management of new proposals to access new funds.

At the community level, sustainability is more likely due to the actions carried out by the project through strengthening the structures of community organizations and the creation of legally constituted structures, which allow producers to market their products by accessing both national and international markets directly.

The granting of Non-Reimbursable Funds through micro-capitals that the Project will implement is an important resource to generate sustainability. Another issue to consider is the global crisis caused by COVID-19 and how it has, and is, affecting ongoing actions.

Socio-economic risks to sustainability

(Level of appropriation by the groups involved):

It is expected that the actors participating in the Project activities increase their capacities through different actions such as training, both at the community level and at the partner institutions. This aspect is contemplated in the intervention strategy from the PRODOC. The processes since its implementation have involved the local population, as the main actor, not only as beneficiaries, but as partners. The activities respond to the needs identified from the design, where they have expressed interest in participating and in giving continuity to the activities carried out, so they are more likely to be relevant and last over time.

Sustainability risks related to the institutional framework and governance

(Political support and institutional management capacity to give continuity to the actions implemented to the Project)

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The Project has implemented some strategies with a view to the sustainability of the actions: strengthening the capacity of national and local actors, promoting the institutionalization of progress (including through normative instruments), linking to ongoing platforms and processes so that the responsible institutions/organizations can subsequently give continuity to the actions; ensuring that the actions respond to demand and are useful for institutions/organizations, among others.

Environmental risks to sustainability

Currently as part of Public Policies in Honduras, guidelines are promoted to combat the effects of climate change and adaptation strategies based on Ecosystems (EbA) and in the community under the focus of good practices. In that direction, the intervention of the Project is expected to contribute to strengthening the conditions to reduce these environmental risks, both due to human intervention and due to the effects of climate. On the other hand, climate information that will be available from the Project's intervention will be another substantive input.

Soil, water, forest, and economic conditions have been improved to lower pressure for the inhabitants. Social capital will have been strengthened through training, protection areas will have been increased, and it is expected to have human resources such as environmental volunteers, as well as financial mechanisms for conservation.

Another issue to consider is the global crisis, caused by COVID-19 and how it has affected, and is affecting, ongoing actions.

In general terms, it is somewhat probable that the results that the project can generate will be sustainable in the medium and long term without additional resources, technical assistance, and initiative to consolidate what has been achieved. The knowledge and experiences acquired by the beneficiaries have created a starting point, but a formal and constant accompaniment is required by the different qualified central and municipal level institutions.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusions

1. The AdaptarC Project is relevant in terms of its focused working areas (expressed in the outputs) in the PRODOC, given the national/regional context, which prevailed at the start of the project (2018-2019). Although it was designed in another context, it is still relevant, especially because of the issue of vulnerability. The execution modality used is based on coordinated inter-institutional work and participatory activities, to promote the sustainability of what has been achieved. The strengthening of capacities (institutional and of the communities) and the generation of information is another contributing element.
2. The Project has generated guiding instruments to implement the actions that have been carried out. For the municipalities (14 in total) Municipal Forest Protection Management Plans were generated, as well as plans for restoration of areas degraded by forest fires and pests. All these activities are within the framework of the Agreement with the ICF. However, there are activities that require a greater degree of consolidation for their effectiveness.
3. The evaluation recognizes the actions to strengthen technical capacities, based on the execution of two diploma-based courses and other research and information generation activities carried out within the framework of the "agreement" with the UNAH. Officials of the institutions and the technicians of the municipalities have acquired and strengthened their knowledge on issues related to adaptation to climate change and potential adaptation measures, Integral Management of Natural Resources (IMNR), and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which should be replicated in the assistance processes carried out in the communities. This knowledge is also highly valued by interviewees from institutions, municipalities, and civil society organizations (with a high participation of young people).
4. Whereas, the execution of the Project has been seriously affected, among other aspects, by the change of senior authorities within MiAmbiente and the discontinuation of contracts of project coordinator and some technical staff in the Management Unit, hence compromising the performance of the Project, which to date has almost fourteen months of delay and a budget execution in nearly three years of 31%, (March 2019 to July 2021).
5. From the interviews carried out and the analysis and interpretation of information, it is concluded that: the delay in the effective management of the processes for the acquisition of goods and services, the learning curve of the personnel involved, the lack of knowledge of some administrative procedures has caused delays in the execution of the actions of the different Annual Workplans (AWPs). As well as the activities contemplated in the framework of the "agreements with the responsible parties". Parallel to this situation, weak leadership and communication was evidenced between the technical-administrative Management Unit and the Ministerial Office. This perception is shared by different actors.
6. Procedures and institutional arrangements: The Ministry of Environment has a substantial track record as an Associate in the execution (Implementing Partner) of GEF projects. However, in the case of the AdaptarC project, the lack of effective communication and knowledge of the institutional and especially administrative procedures within the Ministerial Office (new authorities) and Management Unit (partially, due to new personnel) caused considerable delays in its execution. This was mainly due to the various institutional changes. This situation was

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confounded by the appearance of the COVID-19 Pandemic which limited the mobilization and execution of activities particularly in the field. If one compares the initial execution in 2019, it shows a good pace and financial execution of: USD 521,273.29 representing a 13% of total project funds. While in 2020 the financial execution was of USD 355,071.23, representing 9% of project funds. In 2021 until July of this year, the budget execution is USD 381,335.82, about 10% of the total project funds. As of July 2021, a recovery of operations is observed despite the sanitary limitations are still in effect as indicated by government authorities.

7. The solid implementation of a project with high contextual demands, such as AdaptarC, requires having a professional team, not only with technical skills, but also very good management skills, articulation with political and territorial actors, as well as of conceptualization and systematization. This team must be structured from the beginning, with clear thematic and strategic responsibilities to be able to consistently implement the intervention. The foregoing does not imply that the current team does not have those skills; however, it is desirable to incorporate all the specialists indicated in the PRODOC (gender, communication, monitoring, and evaluation), to ensure a better delivery and quality of the expected products.
8. The Monitoring System presents challenges in terms of improving current planning and monitoring instruments, such as: annual reports, standard progress reports, periodic evaluation of the Theory of Change, among others. Reporting based on activities does not allow to visualize all the positive effects generated by the Project. It is not the ideal mechanism to perform based on results or effects. It is convenient to strengthen the follow-up and monitoring system, to ensure that it complies with the requirements and standards of MiAmbiente, the UNDP Country Office and the Adaptation Fund.
9. In regard to the legal figure to be formalized for the structure of the CFC, this activity is still very incipient. Considering the time remaining for the project, establishing the figure will not be enough if it does not become operational.
10. To develop and implement adaptation practices to climate change that reduce the vulnerability of communities, component 2 of the Project, provides support to communities through financial and technical support. In terms of the granting of "micro capitals" a strategy was not found to guide its implementation beyond developing business plans (the project has in its budget, 650,000 dollars in low value grants, according to the multiannual work plan, august 2019).
11. Regarding a Communication Strategy, the Project does not have this tool which is required to inform, sensitize and promote citizen participation through the use of alternative social communication, with local and national media. According to interviews, the communication actions would be delivered to the MiAmbiente Communication Unit, for greater coordination and integration, also with other NIM projects. However, the project needs to have a clear communication strategy that ensures knowledge dissemination and transfer.
12. There was no evidence or information obtained on the development of an exit strategy at the end of the project intervention, with commitments acquired and resources assigned by all parties. This lack would put much of what is achieved at risk since it is not enough to only have had a joint work experience.

5.2. Recommendations

Actions to continue or to reinforce the initial benefits of the project

1. The first recommendation is: streamline the management mechanisms for the good performance of the Project. For such purposes, the rhythm of execution of the agreements and other actions will have to be analyzed. It will be useful to maintain a coordinated dynamic between MiAmbiente and UNDP and to give them a closer follow-up on operational execution issues. Anticipating that the electoral process is approaching and that it is a complex issue, it would be advisable to establish a process of “junction”.²¹
2. The continuation of ICF is suggested, beyond the "Established Amendment", especially to consolidate the activity: It is possibly the result, with a greater degree of difficulty, due to the timeline, which coincides with the general elections (November 2021) and the change of government. This added to the completion by the ICF, of its participation in the project (June 2022). This is a challenge, pending to be met. Likewise, continuity with the consolidation of the CFC platform is required.
3. It is recommended to assess that the UNAH, can assume the execution of product 3.4, referring to the elaboration: "Communication Strategy". These considerations are made under the criteria of quality, sustainability and impartiality, both for information management and accessibility. Also, it is important to consider the establishment of strategic alliances within the strategy, that includes the Environmental Prosecutor's Offices and other entities with competence to the subject in the territory. As well as the realization of dissemination and awareness actions for the prevention of bad practices.
4. Include the resources (i.e., specialist) and time necessary to design and implement a monitoring plan, based on quality indicators, which provides timely and useful information, complementing if necessary, the available instruments.
5. About the legal structure of the CFC, it is suggested to consider the functioning of a governance figure, such as the “Basin Councils”, as coordination instances at the basin level, protected by the General Water Law, approved in Honduras, in 2009. This would allow the opportunity to have economic resources from the State.
6. For the implementation of the “micro-capitals”, prepare a “strategy” involving the guidelines and their operating mechanisms, the procedures for proper administration and the management instruments. In this direction, it is important that the formats of the proposals (technical and financial, and the guidelines for financial and administrative management), the evaluation matrixes, and the formats, to be used during the implementation and closing phase are incorporated.

²¹The objective of the junction is to achieve a harmonious transition between the Administration that ends its term, and the new ruler and his work team, in order to avoid fractionations in the management processes, which have an impact on the development of the project.

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7. It can be said that the creation of working groups, meetings and other activities has been fulfilled, but these do not represent the necessary political impact at the CFC level due to the specific lack of a strategy that defines the roadmap to get closer to the goal, along with the integration of a gender plan. The results associated with this activity would have the possibility of being achieved within the project execution period only if efforts are focused on defining a specific work plan for these issues, in which the interested parties participate.

8. Promote the return to the National and Regional counterparts of the substantive progress generated by the project under mechanisms that are not exclusively activity reports to the donor. Given the capacities of UNDP, dialogues or similar instances could be promoted at the national level, which would also serve to identify areas and specific sectors of real application of the mechanisms, and strategies developed by AdaptarC. From a knowledge management point of view, it would be desirable to go beyond this in order to ensure better complementarity and synergies, for example, with other projects, even at the regional level.

9. It is recommended to have a desirable exit or transfer strategy for the actions of the project prepared in advance.

10. Allocate resources to strengthen the administrative and financial capacity of the implementing unit. This facilitates efficient management, not only for the preparation of reports on time and content, but also to streamline purchasing processes, avoiding delays that put the achievement of results at risk.

11. It is recommended giving priority to resolving the situation with the NOCCSD and analyzing some alternatives that could contribute to its strengthening from the AdaptarC project.

12. The formation of a Technical Committee is also suggested, which provides advice and technical inputs related to the execution of the Project (for further reference on page 12 of the PRODOC, the terms of reference of this Advisory Committee are established).

13. Given the circumstances of the pandemic, it is important that the provision of basic computer equipment be valued, especially to partner organizations, to maintain communication and strengthen capacities in this regard. As well as supplies to continue with the strict and complete biosecurity protocol necessary, which allows continuity to the execution of the Project.

ANNEXES

6.1. Terms of Reference Mid-Term Evaluation

Name of the Consultancy: Hiring of an international expert for the Mid-Term Evaluation of Ecosystem-Based Adaptation at Communities of the Central Forest Corridor in Tegucigalpa (PIM 5839)

Note: For the purposes of these Terms of Reference, when referring to "team", it applies to this consultancy designed for the hiring of an independent international consultant and leader of the MTR.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Honduras Country Office of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is responsible for managing the mid-term review (MTR), the UNDP-FA handled the regular or medium-sized project named "Adaptation Based on Ecosystems in the Central forest Corridor of Tegucigalpa", (PIM 5839), implemented by the UNDP in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, under the national implementation modality. The project began in December 2018 and is currently in its third year of execution. In these ToR, the expectations for the current MTR are set. The MTR process should follow the guidelines set out in the Guide to the Conduct of the Mid-Term Review in UNDP-Supported and GEF-Funded Projects http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/guidance/GEF/midterm/Guidance_Midterm%20Review%20EN_2014.pdf .)

2. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

The Republic of Honduras has a territorial extension of 112,492 km², being the second country in the Central American region with the largest geographical area. In 2013, a population of 8,721,014 inhabitants was estimated (52% women), noting that more than half of this population (53.3%) lives

in rural areas. Throughout the national territory, there are 7 indigenous peoples and 2 Afro-Honduran peoples, which together represent approximately 7% of the national population. The country has experienced relative economic growth in recent years, but continues to present significant development challenges, with high levels of poverty, unemployment, and social and economic inequality for Latin American standards. It is estimated that more than 60% of households are in a situation of poverty, where rural areas are the most affected.

Historically, Honduras has been experiencing the effects of climate variability, particularly the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon, which have a significant impact on both the distribution of rainfall and the national economy. The country has an area of 5.4 million ha of natural forests, being a country with a forestry vocation. The pine and mixed pine forest cover is approximately 2.2 million hectares, which represents 41% of the forest nationwide. Pine forests are ecosystems of great environmental, economic, and social importance that can be managed as productive forests and are vital for the supply of water and the protection of biodiversity.

The main objective of the Project is "to increase the climate resilience of the most vulnerable communities located in the Central forest Corridor (CFC)", increasing the adaptation capacity of their municipalities

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with emphasis on ensuring livelihoods and the continuity of the provision of goods and ecosystem services for the city of Tegucigalpa and its surroundings. To achieve this objective, the Project will focus on three components that are closely related. (1) Strengthening local and community governance under climate change (CC) and climate variability scenarios; (2) Adaptation, ecosystem-based measures, and technologies for building resilience in the Central forest Corridor; and (3) Strengthening of knowledge management systems, information, and monitoring of adaptive capacity. The expected results for each component are as follows:

Result 1: The CFC platform has been strengthened to implement adaptation processes, based on ecosystems through territorial planning.

- 1.1 Coordination and decision-making spaces strengthened for the sustainable management of the CFC's natural resources, including measures for the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples.
- 1.2 Regulations related to the management of natural resources applied in the CFC.
- 1.3 Municipal plans for adaptation to CC have been prepared and Validated
- 1.4 Operational proposal for a financing scheme for CC adaptation measures in the CFC has been prepared and validated.

Result 2: Adaptation measures and technologies are designed and implemented based on ecosystems that increase community resilience and their livelihoods in the CFC, promoting gender equality and the active participation of young people.

- 2.1 Pine forest areas affected by pests and fires in the CFC: restored to safeguard ecosystem goods and services and the livelihoods of communities.
- 2.2 Strategic areas of forest restored by natural regeneration through effective protection mechanisms against fires, pests, and land use change.
- 2.3 CC adaptation measures and technologies implemented to optimize the use of water and forest resources.

Result 3: Generation, systematization and use of knowledge and information on climate change, which contributes to research, capacity building, monitoring, and informed decision-making.

- 3.1 Applied research carried out on the links between climate change, pests, fires and, adaptation measures at the CFC
- 3.2 National Observatory of Climate Change for Sustainable Development (NOCCSD) strengthened for the management of information and knowledge on adaptation to climate change

3.3 A monitoring system against pests and forest fires is operating with community participation schemes and articulated to an early warning system in the CFC

3.4. Knowledge and experiences of the Project systematized and communicated

The project began in December 2018 with a duration of 5 years and a total investment of \$ 4,036,590.00 USD, provided by the Adaptation Fund (AF).

The project is implemented in accordance with UNDP's national implementation modality (NIM), according to the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of Honduras on 17 January 1995, and the country program. The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines (MiAmbiente+). The Project is in the Project Coordination Office (PCO) of the Secretary for Natural Resources and Human Environment (MiAmbiente+).

As set out in Financial Regulation 17.01 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP, an implementing partner may enter into agreements with other organizations or entities, known as responsible parties, that may provide goods and services to the project, carry out project activities, and produce project products. The responsible parties are directly accountable to the implementing partner.

The following organizations will act as responsible parties to this project:

- Institute of Forest Conservation: national institution responsible for promoting forest development and preserving wildlife, will provide technical assistance and training in the implementation of best practices restoration of areas affected by pine weevil.
- Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH): will provide support for the preparation of baseline studies and municipal vulnerability indices.
- Municipal Mayor's Office of the Central forest Corridor will provide support to comply with the components, indicators, and activities associated with the design and implementation of adaptation measures based on ecosystems; also facilitating work with local communities.

3. MTR OBJECTIVE

The MTR will evaluate the progress made in achieving the objectives and results of the project contained in the Project Document, analyzing the first signs of success or failure to identify any changes that are necessary to resume the course of the project and achieve the desired results. The MTR will also review the project strategy and its risks to sustainability.

4. MTR APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

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The data provided by the MTR shall be based on credible, reliable, and useful information. The MTR consultant/team²² will examine all relevant sources of information, including documents developed during the preparation phase (e.g., PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Environmental and Social Protection Policy, Project Document, project reports such as the Annual Review/PPR, project budget reviews, lessons learned reports, national legal and strategy documents, and any other materials the team deems useful for this objective data review). The MTR team will analyze the Monitoring Tool of the FA area of action at the beginning of the project, sent to this body with the approval of the CEO and the Mid-Cycle Monitoring Tool, which must be completed before the MTR field mission begins.

The MTR team is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach²³ that ensures a close relationship with the Project Team, its government counterparts (the person or entity designated as the responsible or authority designated by the FA, the UNDP Country Office(s), the UNDP Regional Technical Advisers (RTA), and other key stakeholders.

Stakeholder involvement is vital to the success of the MTR²⁴. Such involvement should include interviews with those agents who have responsibilities in the project, implementing agencies, senior officials, and the task force/their supervisors, leading experts and consultants in the area covered by the project, the Project Board, stakeholders, academic representatives, local governments, CSOs, etc., (UNDP, Secretary of State in the Dispatches of Natural Resources and Ambient (MiAmbiente+), FUNDAUNAH, Institute of Forest Conservation, Project Coordinating Office). Additionally, the MTR must be adjusted to the context due to COVID-19, so the process should be developed mainly through virtual sessions with a minimum of physical presence and field visits, including the project sites in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. These field visits must include a health protocol to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The final report of the MTR should contain a full description of the approach followed and the reasons for its adoption, explicitly indicating the assumptions used and the challenges, strengths, and weaknesses of the methods and approach followed for the review.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the novel coronavirus spread rapidly to all regions of the world. The Honduran government has implemented some restrictions on travel to the country depending on the region and country from which you arrive from. These restrictions should be considered when implementing the MTR.

Because the context can change at any time, the MTR team must develop a methodology that takes the completion of the MTR totally, or partially, virtually, and remotely, including the use of remote interview

²² An independent international consultant and leader of the MTE applies to this case.

²³ For ideas on innovative and participatory monitoring and evaluation strategies and techniques, see UNDP Discussion Paper: Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results, Nov 05, 2013.

²⁴ For more information on stakeholder involvement in the Monitoring and Evaluation process, see *UNDP Handbook*, on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Development Results, Chapter 3.

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methods and extended document reviews, data analysis, surveys, and evaluation questionnaires. This should be detailed in the Initial MTR Report and agreed with the Commissioning Unit.

If all or part of the midterm review is to be conducted virtually, the availability, ability, or willingness of interested parties to be interviewed remotely should be considered. In addition, internet/computer accessibility can be an issue as many government and national counterparts may be working from home. These limitations should be reflected in the MTR final report.

If it is not possible to collect data or conduct a field mission, remote interviews can be conducted by phone or online (Skype, Zoom, etc.) International consultants can work remotely with the support of national evaluators in the field if it is safe for them to operate and travel. No UNDP stakeholder, consultant, or staff should be compromised, and security is the key priority.

A short validation mission can be considered if it is confirmed to be safe for staff, consultants, stakeholders and if such a mission is possible within the MTR program.

5. DETAILED SCOPE OF THE MTR

The MTR team will evaluate the following four categories of project progress. For broader descriptions, see the Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects.

I. Project Strategy

Project design:

- Analyze the problem addressed by the project and the hypotheses applied. Examine the effect of any incorrect hypothesis or changes in context on the achievement of project outcomes contained in the Project Document.
- Analyze the relevance of the project strategy and determine if it offers the most effective way to achieve the desired/sought results. Were lessons learned in other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
- Analyze how the country's priorities are included in the project. Check the national ownership of the project. Was the project concept aligned with the development priorities of the national sector and the plans for the country (or of the participating countries in the case of multi-country projects?)
- Analyze decision-making processes. Was the perspective of those who would be affected by project-related decisions, who could influence its results, and who could provide information or other resources, considered during the project design processes?
- Analyze the extent to which relevant gender issues were touched on in the project design. For further details of the guidelines followed, see Guide to conducting the Mid-Term Review in UNDP-Supported and GEF-Funded Projects or Were relevant gender issues raised (e.g., impact of the project on gender equality in the country, participation of women's groups, the involvement of women in project activities) in the project document?
- If there are important areas that require attention, recommend aspects for improvement.

Results Framework/Logical Framework:

- Undertake a critical analysis of the indicators and goals of the project logical framework, evaluate the extent to which the mid- and end-term goals of the project meet the "SMART" criteria (short for Specific, Quantifiable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound) and suggest specific modifications/revisions of these goals and indicators to the extent necessary.
- Are the objectives and results of the project or its components clear, practical, and feasible to carry out during the time stipulated for its execution?
- Analyze whether progress so far has generated beneficial development effects or could catalyze them in the future (e.g., in terms of income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improvements in governance, etc.) so that they should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis.
- Ensure effective follow-up to the broader development and gender aspects of the project. Develop and recommend SMART “development” indicators, which should include gender-disaggregated indicators and others that capture development benefits.

II. Progress in Achieving Objectives

Analysis of Progress in Achieving Results:

- Review the indicators in the logical framework and compare them with the progress made in achieving the goals set for the end of the project through the Results Progress Matrix and in accordance with the Guide for the Conduct of the Mid-Term Review in UNDP-Supported and GEF-Funded Projects; reflect progress by following the "traffic light" color system based on the level of progress achieved; assign an assessment of the progress made to each result; make recommendations from areas marked "Not on track" (red).

Table. Results achievement progress matrix (results achieved compared to project end goals.)

Strategy of the Project	Indicator	Level baseline initial	Level in 1st PIR (self-reported)	Goal to mid-term	Goal to end of the project	Level and Mid-term evaluation	Rating of the achievements	Justification of the valuation
Objective:	Indicator (if applicable):							
Result 1:	Indicator 1:							
	Indicator 2:							
Result 2:	Indicator 3:							
	Indicator 4:							
	Etc.							
Etc.								

Code for the evaluation of indicators

Green = Achieved.	Yellow = on track to be achieved.	Red = Not on track to be achieved.
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In addition to the analysis of progress in achieving results:

- Compare and analyze the FA Monitoring Tool at the baseline level with the one completed immediately before the Midterm Examination.
- Identify the remaining barriers to achieving the objectives of the project in the remainder of its completion.
- After examining the aspects of the project that have been successful, identify formulas so that the project can expand the benefits achieved.

III. Project Execution and Adaptive Management

Management Mechanisms:

- Review the overall effectiveness of project management as described in the Project. Have changes been made and are they effective? Are the responsibilities and hierarchies clear? Is decision-making transparent and carried out in a timely manner? Recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of the execution of the executing agency/implementing partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of support provided by the FA Partner Agency (UNDP) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Does the executing agency/implementing partner and/or UNDP and other partners have the capacity to deliver benefits or engage women? If so, how?
- What is the gender balance of the project staff? What measures have been taken to ensure gender balance among project staff?
- What is the gender balance of the Project Board? What measures have been taken to ensure gender balance in the Project Board?

Work planning:

- Analyze any delays in the implementation and implementation of the project, identify their causes and examine if they have already been resolved.
- Are work planning processes results-based? If not, can they
- suggest ways to reorient work planning to focus on results?
- Examine the use of the project results framework/logical framework as a management tool and review any changes since the start of the project.
- Review and analyze any impact and challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Financing and Co-financing:

- Review the financial management of the project, with special reference to the profitability of the interventions.
- Analyze changes in funding allocations because of budget revisions and determine whether such revisions have been appropriate and relevant.
- Does the project have adequate financial controls, including appropriate information and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and that facilitate an adequate flow of funds in an appropriate time and timeframe?
- Based on the information contained in the co-financing monitoring table to be filled in, provide comments on the co-financing. Is co-financing used strategically to help project objectives? Does the Project Team meet regularly with all co-financing partners to align financial priorities and annual work plans?

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Sources of Co-financing	Name of the Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount of Co-financing Confirmed to the FA (US\$)	Amount Real approved in the MTR (US\$)	Approximate % of expected amount
		TOTAL			

Monitoring and evaluation systems at the project level:

- Analyze the tracking tools currently used. Do they offer the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Are they aligned with or incorporated into national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they profitable? Are additional tools required? How can they be made more participatory and inclusive?
- Analyze the financial management of the budget for the monitoring and evaluation of the project. Are sufficient resources allocated for monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources used effectively?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were incorporated into monitoring systems. See Annex 9 of the Guide to Conducting Mid-Term Reviews of FA-Funded and UNDP-Supported Projects for further guidance.

Stakeholder involvement:

- Project management: Has the project developed and forged the right partnerships, both with direct stakeholders and with other tangential actors?
- Participation and processes promoted from the country: Do local and national governments support the objectives of the project? Do they still have an active role in the decision-making of the project that contributes to its efficient and effective execution?
- Participation and public awareness: To what extent has public involvement and awareness contributed to the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the project?
- How does the project involve women and girls? Is the project likely to have the same positive and/or negative effects on women and men, girls, and boys? Identify, if possible, legal, cultural, or religious limitations on women's participation in the project. What can the project do to improve its gender benefits?

Social and environmental standards (safeguards)

- Validate the risks identified in the most recent SESP of the project and the ratings of those risks; are revisions needed?
- Summarize and evaluate reviews made since the approval/approval of the Executive Director (if applicable) for:

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- The categorization of risks of the general safeguards of the project.
 - The types of risks identified (in the SESP).
 - Individual risk ratings (in the SESP).
- Describe and evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the project's social and environmental management measures, as described in the SESP presented in the endorsement/CEO approval (and prepared during implementation, if applicable), including any revisions of those measures. These management measures may include environmental and social management plans (ESMPs) or other management plans, although they may also include aspects of a project's design; see Question 6 of the SESP template for a summary of the management measures identified.

The project should be evaluated based on the version of the UNDP safeguards policy that was in place at the time of the project's approval.

Information:

- Analyze the mechanisms employed by project management to report changes in adaptive management and communicate them to the Project Board.
- Assess the extent to which the Project Team and its partners carry out and comply with all FA reporting requirements (e.g., what steps have been taken to address PIRs with low valuations, where applicable)?
- Assess how lessons learned from the management process have been documented and shared with key partners and how they have been internalized by them.

Communication and knowledge management:

- Examine the internal communication of the project with stakeholders: Is there regular and effective communication? Are there important stakeholders left out of communication channels? Are there feedback mechanisms when the communication is received? Does communication with stakeholders contribute to greater awareness of project results and activities, and to a greater commitment to the long-term sustainability of project results?
- Examine external project communication: Have adequate communication channels been established? – or are being established – to express the progress of the project and the desired public impact (e.g., a web presence)? Did the project carry out appropriate communication and public awareness campaigns?
- For informational purposes, write a half-page paragraph summing the progress of the project towards results in terms of its contribution to the generation of benefits related to sustainable development and the global environment.
- List the knowledge activities/products developed (based on the knowledge management approach approved in the endorsement/CEO approval).

IV. Sustainability

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- Validate whether the risks identified in the Project Document, the PPR and the ATLAS Risk Management Module are the most important and whether the risk assessments applied are adequate and up to date. Otherwise, explain why.
- Also, evaluate the following risks to sustainability:

Financial risks to sustainability:

- What is the likelihood that the availability of financial resources will be reduced or ceased once the FA aid ends (considering that potential resources may come from Terms of Reference for the mid-term evaluation project, such as public and private sectors, income-generating activities and other resources that will be adequate to sustain the results of the project)?
- Are there any social or political risks that could jeopardize the sustainability of the project results? What is the risk that the level of ownership and involvement of stakeholders (including governments and other stakeholders) is insufficient to sustain the results/benefits of the project? Are the various key stakeholders aware that it is in their interest that the benefits of the project continue to flow? Do the public and/or stakeholders have a sufficient level of awareness to support the long-term goals of the project? Does the Project Team document lessons learned on an ongoing basis? Are they shared/transferred to the right agents who are in a position to apply them and potentially reproduce and/or expand them in the future?

Sustainability risks related to the institutional framework and governance:

- Do legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes present risks that could jeopardize the continuity of project benefits? In assessing this parameter, it is also necessary to consider whether the systems/mechanisms required for accountability, transparency and know-how are in place.

Environmental risks to sustainability:

- Are there any environmental risks that could jeopardize the continuity of the project results?

Conclusions and Recommendations

The MTR team will include a section in the report where the conclusions obtained from all the data collected and tests carried out are collected.

Recommendations should be succinct suggestions for critical interventions that should be specific, quantifiable, achievable, and relevant. A table of recommendations should be included in the executive report. For more information on the table of recommendations, see the Guide to conducting the Mid-Term Review in UNDP-Supported and AF-Funded Projects.

The recommendations of the MTR consultant/team should be limited to a maximum of 15.

The MTR team will include their assessments of project results and brief descriptions of associated achievements in a Summary Table of Assessments and Achievements in the Executive Summary of the

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MTR report. See Annex E for the rating scales. It is not necessary to assess the Project Strategy or a general assessment of it.

Table. Summary of MTR Assessments and Achievements (Project Name)

Parameter	MTR Rating	Achievement Description
Strategy of the Project	N/A	
Progress in Achieving Objectives	Rating of the extent to which the objective has been achieved Assessment of achievement: (Rate according to 6 pt. scale)	
	Rating of the Extent to which objective 1 has been achieved (Rate according to 6 pt. scale)	
	Assessment of the degree of achievement of result 2: (Rate according to 6 pt. scale)	
	Rating of the Extent to which objective 3 has been achieved (Rate according to 6 pt. scale.)	
	Etc.	
Project Implementation and Adaptive Management	(rate according to scale 6 pt.)	
Sustainability	(rate according to scale 4 pt.)	

6. EXECUTION SCHEDULE

The total duration of the MTR will be 31 working days, approximately for 7 weeks, and will not exceed 3 months from the time of hiring the consultant or consultants. The provisional schedule of the MTR is as follows:

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF DAYS WORK	DATE OF ACTIVITY CONCLUSION
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Review of documents and preparation of the report	5 days	(12/07/2021date)
initial MTR (the initial MTR report must be delivered no later than 2 weeks before the MTR mission)		
MTR Mission: stakeholder meetings, interviews, field visits	15 days	26 July – 6 August)
Presentation of initial findings - last day	1 day	(6 August)
MTR mission		
Preparation of the draft report (must be submitted within 3 weeks of the MTR mission)	5 days	(25 August)
Finalization of the MTR report	5 days	(8 September)
/ Incorporation of an audit trail based on comments on the draft report (must be delivered within one week of receiving UNDP comments on the draft)		

The Initiation Report should present options for conducting field visits.

7. MID-TERM REVIEW PRODUCTS

1	Report of MTR Initiation	The MTR team clarifies the objectives and methods of the Midterm Review	At least 2 weeks before the start of the mission	the MTR team presents it to the Awarding Unit and the Project Management
2	Presentation	Initial Conclusions	End of mission of the MTR	The MTR team presents them to the Project Management and the Awarding Unit
3	Draft MTR Final Report	Full report (use the guidelines on their content set out in Annex B) with Annexes	Before 3 weeks after the mission of the	Sent to The Adjudicator Unit, examined by the RTA, Project Coordination Unit, FA OFP
4	Final Report*	Revised report with audit test detailing how all comments received have been addressed (or not) in the MTR final report	Before 1 week after receiving UNDP comments on the draft	Sent to The Adjudicator Unit, (in Spanish and English)

8. MTR MECHANISMS

The main responsibility in the management of this MTR corresponds to the Contracting Unit. The Adjudicator Unit for the MTR of this project is the UNDP office in Honduras.

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The Contracting Unit will hire the consultant and ensure the timely payment of subsistence allowances and travel expenses within the corresponding country. The Project Team will be responsible for communicating with the MTR team to provide them with all relevant documents, arranging interviews with stakeholders and arranging field visits.

9. TEAM COMPOSITION

For the MTR it is required to hire an independent consultant – a leading MTR person with international experience in similar projects, preferably in the region, and exposure to GEF/FA projects and evaluations). The consultant may not have participated in the preparation, formulation and/or execution of the project (including the drafting of the Project Document) and should not have a conflict of interest with the activities related to the project.

The person will be responsible for the results generated by the MTR process (this includes the general design of the MTR, definition of the methodological and driving process and drafting of the final report of the MTR, etc.), considering the inclusion of the gender perspective throughout the MTR process.

The selection of consultants will be aimed at maximizing the overall qualities of the "team" in the following areas:

Education

Professional with a minimum university degree in management or environmental sciences, biology, economics, development, environmental economics, geography, natural resource management or related careers.

Desirable, Master's Degree in climate change and/or adaptation, or other closely related field.

Experience

- Experience with results-based management evaluation methodologies
- Experience in the application of SMART indicators and the reconstruction or validation of initial scenarios
- Competence in adaptive management applied to climate change and/or adaptation
- Experience of working with the GEF/FA or with evaluations carried out with this body
- Experience working on chemical and waste issues in Latin America, Central America and/or Honduras
- Professional experience in the relevant technical areas
- Demonstrated knowledge of gender and climate change and/or adaptation issues; experience in gender-sensitive assessment and analysis
- Excellent communication skills
- Demonstrable analytical skills
- The experience of evaluation/review of projects within the United Nations System is valued
- and will be considered an advantage

Language

Prerequisite: excellent English writing skills.

10. ETHICS

The MTR team will maintain the highest ethical standards and must sign a code of conduct when accepting the assignment. This MTR will be carried out in accordance with the principles described in the "Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation" of the UNEG. The MTR team should safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees, and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing data collection and reporting. The MTR team must also ensure the security of the information collected before and after the MTR and the protocols to ensure the anonymity and confidentiality of the sources of information when expected. The information, knowledge, and data collected in the MTR process should also be used solely for the MTR and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and its partners.

11. PAYMENT METHODS AND SPECIFICATIONS

- Payment of 20% after the satisfactory delivery of the final initial MTR Report and its respective approval (supervisory committee).
- Payment of 40% after the satisfactory delivery of the draft MTR report and its respective approval (supervisory committee).
- Payment of 40% upon satisfactory delivery of the MTR final report and its approval (supervisory committee) and RTA (by signatures on the MTR Report Authorization Form).

Criteria for issuing the final payment of 40%:

- The MTR final report includes all the requirements described in the terms of reference of this MTR and is in accordance with the MTR guidance.
- The MTR final report is clearly written, logically organized and specific to this project (i.e., the text has not been cut and pasted from other MTR reports), in Spanish and English.
- The Audit Trail includes responses and justification for each comment listed.

In accordance with UNDP financial regulations, where the Executing Unit and/or consultant determines that a deliverable or service cannot be satisfactorily completed due to the impact of COVID-19 and limitations to the MTR, that deliverable or service will not be paid.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation and its implications, a partial payment may be considered if the consultant invested time in the deliverable but was unable to complete it due to circumstances beyond their control.

Note: It is absolutely the responsibility of the subscriber to pay any form of taxes, especially relayed to income from UNDP. UNDP will not withhold payments for Income Tax purposes; however, the hired consultant must present a receipt with CAI number.

12. APPLICATION PROCESS

Recommended presentation of the proposal:

- Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability through the template provided by UNDP.
- CV and Personal History Form P11.
- Brief description of the approach of the work/technical proposal of why the applicant believes they are the most suitable person for the project, and a proposed methodology on how he plans to approach and complete the work (maximum 1 page)
- Financial proposal indicating the total and inclusive price of the contract and all related costs (plane ticket, per diem or subsistence allowance, etc.), supported by a detailed breakdown of expenses, using the template attached to the model Letter of Confirmation of Interest. If an applicant is hired by an organization/company/institution and plans to have his or her employer charge a management fee for his or her assignment to UNDP as a Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the applicant must indicate this at this time and ensure that these costs are properly included in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

All application materials should be forwarded to the address: United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Building, Colonia San Carlos, Avenida República de México 2816, Tegucigalpa, MDC, Honduras, in a sealed envelope indicating the following reference: "Ecosystem-Based Adaptation at Communities of the Central Forest Corridor in Tegucigalpa (PIM 5839)" or by email to the following address EXCLUSIVELY: adquisicionespnudhn@undp.org before Monday, June 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the process.

Criteria for the evaluation of the proposal: Only those applications that meet all the requirements will be evaluated. Bids will be evaluated in accordance with the Combined Scoring method, according to which academic training and experience in similar projects will weigh 70%, while the economic proposal will represent 30% of the valuation. The applicant who receives the Highest Combined Score and accepts the UNDP General Terms and Conditions will be the one who receives the contract.

Due to the high volume of applications, only qualified individuals will be contacted in the process.

UNDP is committed to achieving work diversity within its office in terms of gender, nationality, and culture.

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Evaluation Criteria		Top score
Curricular Evaluation (max. 50 points)		
a	Professional with a minimum university degree in management or environmental sciences, biology, economics, development, environmental economics, geography, natural resource management or related careers.	Complies / Does Not Comply
b	Excellent skills in writing in English (presenting in technical offer at least 2 references of the documents of your preparation in English)	Complies / Does Not Comply
c	Desirable, Master's Degree in Climate Change or other closely related field	3
d	Experience with results-based management evaluation methodologies;	5
	From 5 years to 7 years	3
	More than 7 years	5
e	Experience in the application of SMART indicators and the reconstruction or validation of initial scenarios.	5
	Two experiences	3
	More than 2 experiences	5
f	Competence in adaptive management applied in climate change and/or adaptation	5
	From 3 years to 5 years	3
	More than 5 years	5
g	Experience working with the GEF/FA or with evaluations carried out with these bodies	7
	From 3 to 5 experiences	5
	More than 5 experiences	7
h	Professional experience in the relevant technical areas;	7
	From 6 – 8 years old	4
	More than 8 years	7
i	Previous work experience in climate change and adaptation in Latin America, and/or Central America and/or Honduras (each experience will be counted only once.)	5
	At least 1 of them	2
	Meets 2 - 3 of them	5
j	Demonstrated knowledge of gender and climate change and/or adaptation issues; experience in gender-sensitive assessment and analysis.	5
	From 1 to 2 experiences	3

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	More than 2 experiences	5
k	Excellent communication and analytical skills;	5
	From 2 to 3 technical documents and/or publications related to the themes of climate change management, adaptation, sustainable development	3
	More than 3 technical documents and/or publications related to the themes of climate change management, adaptation, sustainable development	5
l	Experience of project evaluation/review within the United Nations System	3
Sub-Total Curricular Evaluation (Max.50 points)		50.00
Technical Proposal Evaluation (max. 20 points)		
Evaluation Criteria		Top score
m	Degree to which the proposal responds to the Consulting Terms of Reference	8.00
	Excellent 8 / Good 6 / Regular 4 / Poor 0	
n	Quality of the methodology in terms of detail of this	8.00
	Excellent 8 / Good 6 / Regular 4 / Poor 0	
o	Includes a work schedule of the activities indicated in the TDR and in the Methodological Proposal, according to the term of the consultancy.	4.00
	Excellent 4 / Good 3 / Regular 2 / Poor 0	
Sub-Total Evaluation Technical Proposal (Max. 20 points)		20.00
Sub-Total Curricular Evaluation + Technical Proposal (Max. 30 points)		70.00
p	Financial proposal	30.00
q	Total	100.00

MTR ToR for FA-Financed Projects during COVID - Project

6.2: List of Documents Reviewed by the MTR.

1. PRODOC
2. UNDP Initiation Plan.
3. PPR
4. Results of the UNDP Environmental and Social Diagnosis (SESP)
5. Project Initiation Report
6. Project Implementation Reports (PIRs)
7. Quarterly progress reports and work plans.
8. Audit reports.
9. Tracking Tools.
10. monitoring reports prepared by the project.
11. Financial and management guidelines.
12. Project operational guidelines, manuals, and systems
13. Minutes of project board meetings.
14. Maps of the sites where the project operates.

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6.3. MTR Evaluation Matrix.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	QUESTIONS	CONTENT	SOURCES	METHODOLOGY
Project strategy:				
Project Design:	<p>Was the concept of the project aligned with the development priorities of the national sector and the country's plans and commitments?</p> <p>Were lessons learned in other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?</p> <p>Is the project internally coherent in its design?</p> <p>Are there logical links between the expected results and the project design? (in terms of components, choice of partners, structure, implementation mechanisms, scope, budget, use of resources, others).</p> <p>Is the time remaining on the project sufficient to achieve the proposed results?</p> <p>Are the areas of intervention of the project adequate to achieve the results?</p> <p>Are gender issues incorporated into the project design?</p> <p>Have sustainability strategies been integrated into the project design?</p>	<p>Existence of a relationship between the objectives of the project and the objective of Ecosystem-based Adaptation and the respective national policies and strategies.</p> <p>The actions of the project are linked to the objectives of the AF. Appreciation of key stakeholders, regarding the level of adequacy of the design and implementation of the project to national realities and existing capacities.</p> <p>Coherence between the needs expressed by national stakeholders and the AF-UNDP approach.</p> <p>Level of involvement of government officials and other partners in the project design process.</p>	<p>Project Documents. Guide to conducting the Mid-Term Review in UNDP-Supported and GEF-Funded Projects.</p> <p>Country Document.</p> <p>Other.</p> <p>Data collected in the evaluation process.</p>	<p>Project WEBSITE and WEB AF site</p> <p>Interviews.</p> <p>Documentary analysis.</p>
Results Framework/Logical Framework:	<p>Are the objectives and results of the project or its components clear, practical, and feasible to carry out, during the time stipulated for its execution?</p>	<p>Is the project being effective in achieving the expected results?</p>	<p>Project documents. Progress report, quarterly and annual.</p> <p>Other.</p>	<p>Interviews with stakeholders.</p> <p>Analysis of the result framework/logical framework.</p> <p>Document analysis.</p>
Project execution and adaptive management				

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Management Mechanisms:	<p>Is adaptive management used to ensure efficient use of resources?</p> <p>Are the logical framework, work plans, or any changes made to them used as management tools?</p> <p>Are financial and accounting systems adequate for project management and for producing accurate, on-time financial information?</p> <p>Have the progress reports been adequate? Do they respond to reporting requirements?</p> <p>Has the execution of the project been, as originally proposed (planned vs. real)?</p> <p>Have financial resources been used efficiently?</p> <p>How has the results-based management approach been used during the implementation of the project?</p>	<p>Quality of execution of the executing agency of the implementing partners.</p> <p>Quality of the support provided by the donor agency.</p> <p>Gender equity.</p> <p>Exit strategy.</p>	<p>Project documents</p> <p>Progress reports, quarterly and annual</p> <p>Project team, UNDP, MIAMBIENTE, key actors.</p>	<p>Document analysis.</p> <p>Interviews</p>
Work planning:	<p>Are work planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to reorient work planning to focus on results?</p>	<p>Use of management tool</p> <p>Existing work plans</p> <p>Quality of financial reports and progress reports</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p>Interviews with counterparts</p>	<p>Document Analysis</p> <p>Interviews</p>
Financing and Co-financing:	<p>Does the project have adequate financial controls, including appropriate information and planning, that allow management/coordination to make informed decisions?</p> <p>Is co-financing used strategically to help project objectives?</p>	<p>Availability and quality of financial reports.</p> <p>Timeliness and adequacy of the reports delivered</p> <p>Appropriate use of resources.</p> <p>Results-based management.</p>	<p>Project documents</p>	<p>Document Analysis</p> <p>Interviews</p>
Monitoring and evaluation systems at the project level:	<p>Do you offer the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are additional tools required? How can they be made more participatory and inclusive?</p> <p>Are sufficient resources allocated for monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources used effectively?</p>	<p>Monitoring quality</p> <p>Quality of the information systems established.</p>	<p>Project documents</p>	<p>Document analysis</p>

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Social and environmental standards (safeguards)	Are revisions needed?	Review of the SESP	Project document SESP Document	Document analysis
Information:	What measures have been taken to address PIRs with low valuations?	Review of mechanisms during the adaptive management process	Analysis of RIP documents Report Analysis Interview	Document analysis Interviews
Communication and knowledge management:	Is there regular and effective communication? Are there important stakeholders left out of communication channels? Are there feedback mechanisms when the communication is received? Have adequate communication channels been established?	Analysis of communication mechanisms, instruments, and strategies.	Outreach tools	Document analysis Interviews with different actors.
Sustainability:				
Financial risks to sustainability	What is the likelihood that the availability of financial resources will be reduced or ceased once the FA aid ends (considering that potential resources may come from)? Income-generating activities and other resources that will be adequate to sustain the results of the project)? Are there any social or political risks that could jeopardize the sustainability of the project's results? Are the various key stakeholders aware that it is in their interest that the benefits of the project continue to flow?	Level and source of future financial support, which should be provided to relevant activities and sectors after the completion of the project. Partner Commitment	Supporting documents of agreements. Key partners and stakeholders of the project.	Document analysis Data analysis Interviews with partners
Institutional and governmental risks	Do legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes present risks that could jeopardize the continuity of project benefits?	The extent to which project activities and results have been taken over by counterparts and beneficiaries.	Project team, UNDP, and key stakeholders.	Document analysis. Interviews.

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6.4. List of people interviewed

DATE	HOUR	INTERVIEW	CONTACT/PLATFORM
16/8/21	6:00 p.m.	Alexis Irías -Natural Resources Specialist, Sustainable Development and Resilience Unit, UDSR, UNDP. Subject to rescheduling	alexis.iras@undp.org ; alexis.iras@gmail.com Teams
20/8/21	9:00 a.m.	Germán Flores-Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Project Coordinating Office, MiAmbiente; Former Technical Coordinator Project Coordinating Office, MiAmbiente.	germanflores.hn@gmail.com Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Eduardo Ordóñez-Advisor of the Ministerial Office MiAmbiente	ingordonezlagos@gmail.com Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	Tania Peña-Coordinator of the ADAPTARC+ UNDP-FUNDAUNAH Component; Coordinator master's degree in Water Resources with Orientation in Hydrogeology, UNAH-Faculty of Sciences, National Autonomous University of Honduras, UNAH.	tania.pena@unah.edu.hn Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	Kelly Almendares-Technical Specialist Component ADAPTARC+ UNDP-UNAH; Water Resources Unit Honduran Institute of Earth Sciences (IHCIT), Faculty of Sciences, UNAH.	kelly.almendares@unah.edu.hn Teams
	3:00 p.m.	Julio Castillo-Coordinator Office Project Coordinator MiAmbiente	juliocastrillo85@yahoo.com Teams
23/8/21	8:00 a.m.	José Armando García Andino- Municipal Mayor Ojojona	+504 9769-8479 - WhatsApp
	8:30 a.m.	Belkis López- Vicealcaldesa Municipio de Cedros.	belkisl.yv@gmail.com Zoom
	9:30 a.m.	Óscar Omar Sánchez.- Alcalde Municipio de Lepaterique..	munilepateriquefmhn@gmail.com
	11:00 a.m.	Zulema Cruz -Lenca Organization Municipality of Santa Ana	+504 8879-7697- WhatsApp
	2:00 p.m.	Dilcia López Lenca Women's Group, Ojojona Artesanal	baciliagonzalez23@gmail.com Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	Tatiana González- Lenca Women's Group, Ojojona Artesanal	baciliagonzalez23@gmail.com Zoom
	3:00 p.m.	Sandra Salazar- Group of women of peri-urban agriculture, Union and Effort	+504 9898-9983 - WhatsApp

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24/8/21	8:00 a.m.	Joselina Matamoros -Specialist in Research and Postgraduate Management, Honduran Institute of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Sciences/ UNAH; Coordinator of Diplomas and Courses, Component ADAPTARC+ UNDP-FUNDAUNAH	eva.matamoros@unah.edu.hn Zoom
	9:00 a.m.	Fernando Cruz- Cofradía community resource guard	+504 9667-9818 WhatsApp
	10:00 a.m.	Elda Aracely Valeriano- Secretary of the Administrative Board of Water and Sanitation, JAAS, San Francisco de Soroguara community.	+504 9783-2020 WhatsApp
	11:00 a.m.	Reina Margarita Ramos Maldonado- Coordinator of the Municipal Women's Office (WMO), Cantarranas Municipality	reina856@yahoo.com Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	Amílcar Rivera- Volunteer Panteras La TIGRA	+504 3369-0319 - WhatsApp
	4:30 p.m.	Sci. Rosa Elena Mondragón -Program Manager Ciudad Mujer Tegucigalpa	rmondragon@ciudadmujer.gob.hn Zoom
25/8/21	8:00 a.m.	Víctor García-President of the Association of Water Boards of Amaratéca-Las Moras Amaratéca.	+504 9464-0504 Phone call/ wsp
	9:00 a.m.	Claudia Ortiz -Regional Technical Advisor, Adaptation to cc, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. Monserat Xilot	Claudia.ortiz@undp.org
	11:00 a.m.	Remberto González.-Coordinator of the Environmental Unit (UMA) Ojojona	betoqonz17@gmail.com +504 9857-5430 - Zoom
	1:30 p.m.	Eng. Gustavo Ochoa- JAAS Municipality of Santa Lucia.	+504 9473-0710 - WhatsApp
	2:00 p.m.	Edwin Josué García Sánchez- Coordinador Unidad Medio Ambiental (UMA) villa san Francisco	edwinjosuesancheschimbo12@gmail.com Zoom
	3:00 p.m.	Marco Espinoza -Jefe Regional ICF Francisco Morazán	+504 9930 2302
26/8/21	8:00 a.m.	Lizeth Bendeck -President of the Board of Directors of the National Observatory on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, ONCCDS (Partner with Letter Agreement UNDP-ONCCDS). Iván Antonio Cruz Quezada - ONCCDS Administrator	l.bendeck.comrural@gmail.com Zoom icruz8202@gmail.com Zoom
	10:00 a.m.	Karen Yadibel Reyes Ponce - Beneficiary Course ACCBE- Municipalities 2021/UNAH	kadibel@gmail.com Zoom

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	10:20 a.m.	Rosemary Bendeck M.- Beneficiary Diploma Adaptation to Climate Change based on Ecosystems (CCBE / Central Region / 2020	rosebendeck1@hotmail.com Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	Carlos Espinal- Coordinator Component ADAPTARC+ Letter Agreement UNDP-Institute of Forest Conservation, ICF	cespinalpnlt@gmail.com
27/8/21	10:00 a.m.	Mr. Arles Álvarez-Interim Coordinator of the ADAPTARC+ Project; Specialist in Management and Management of Water Resources. Vicente Aguilar Ch. General Coordinator AdapatarC	arlesalvarez47@hotmail.com Teams
30/8/21	10:00 a.m.	Joana Troyano- Program Associate, Nature, Climate and Energy, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	joana.troyano@undp.org Teams, Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Sergio Palacios-National Director of Climate Change	Cambioclimatico.hon@gmail.com Spala98303351@gmail.com
	1:30 p.m.	Eduardo Ordóñez-Advisor of the Ministerial Office MiAmbiente	ingordonezlagos@gmail.com Zoom
1/9/21	11:00 a.m.	Rose Diegues- UNDP Deputy Resident Representative	rose.diegues@undp.org Teams
	11:00 a.m.	Astrid Mejía- Program Specialist and Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Resilience Unit, UDSR, UNDP	astrid.mejia@undp.org Teams
	1:00 p.m.	Carlos Pineda- Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Subject to rescheduling if considered	carlos.pinedaf@hotmail.com Zoom

6.5. UNEG Code of Conduct for MTR Evaluators/Consultants

MTR Consultant Agreement Form

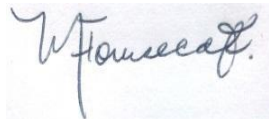
Agreement to abide by the UN System Code of Conduct for Evaluators:

Name of the Consultant: MARIETTA FONSECA

I affirm that I have received and understood and that I will abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluators of the

United Nations.

Signed in Panama August 2021.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Fonseca', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

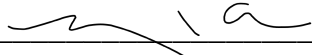
Annex 6.7: Evaluation report authorization form

(to be completed by CO and UNDP GEF Technical Adviser based in the region and included in the final document)

Evaluation Report Reviewed and Cleared by


UNDP County Office

Name: Astrid Mejia

Signature:  Date: December 29, 2021

UNDP GEF RTA

Name: Montserrat Xilotl Soberon

Signature:  Date: December 29, 2021