FACT SHEET OF PHASE III LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Phase III General Objective: Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in and between targeted[1] coastal marine protected areas (CMPAs) of the Mesoamerican Reef System (MAR).

This objective will be measured through the three objective indicators (O.1, O.2 and O.3). The proposed project should contribute to at least the mandatory objective indicators[2] and at least two additional indicators. The description of the objective and result indicators are presented below:

REFERENCE SHEET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
MANDATORY OBJECTIVE INDICATOR FOR PROJECTS UNDER FUNDING LINE 1 (CONSERVATION)
Name of indicator: O.1. Area in hectares with better conservation
Indicator reporting frequency: Annual
DESCRIPTION
Precise definition: ***Area:*** Refers to the surface (measured in hectares) where project activities contribute directly to the conservation of the coastal-marine natural resources of the MAR. ***Conservation:*** Refers to the protection, management, and/or restoration of coastal-marine ecosystems and natural resources, with the goal of ensuring their permanence and the environmental services they provide for future generations (Glowka *et al*., 1996). ***Better conservation:*** It consists of the application of measures, as well as their effect, to strengthen the protection, management and/or restoration of ecosystems and natural resources. These measures will result in improvements, stability if there was previously a decline, avoided measurable degradation, or a slower rate of decline in ecosystems and/or natural resources over time (Glowka *et al*., 1996). **At the impact level, the indicators that show an improved conservation include, among others:** ● Reduced rate of loss or degradation of ecosystems such as wetlands, seagrasses, coral reefs, and mangroves, ● Increased resource abundance (e.g., fish, mangroves, and seagrasses), ● Increased coral cover, seagrasses, or mangroves, ● Reduced prevalence or impact of diseases in specific populations, ● Reduced frequency and/or extent of fires in mangroves, ● Increased size and/or distribution of the population(s) of target species in a CMPA, ● Increased species diversity, and ● Reduced fragmentation of ecosystems and habitat types. **Examples of measures that could result in better conservation:** ● Introduction, standardization, or strengthening of biodiversity monitoring programs and use of such data in decision-making, ● Biological assessments with proven methods (e.g., coral health status, determination of fish stocks) and use of such data in decision-making,

[1] Targeted through calls for proposals.

[2] Depending on the funding line to which the contribution is intended to be made.

- Harmonization or strengthening of control, surveillance, or supervision programs (e.g., introduction of remote monitoring),
- Measures for restoration or rehabilitation of mangrove, coral reef, and seagrass ecosystems,
- Conservation of ecological connectivity (including protection of migration routes and feeding grounds, among others),
- Introduction or strengthening of monitoring and protection of fish spawning aggregation zones,
- Establishment and maintenance of Fish Replenishment Zones, and
- Implementation of best conservation practices (e.g., best forestry and fisheries management practices, best ecosystem restoration practices, among others),

If the better conservation measures implemented in the area also result in a surface with more sustainable use, the corresponding hectares can also be reported for indicator O.2: Area of relevant ecosystems with more sustainable use. Examples of measures that directly and measurably apply to both indicators are:

- Establishment and maintenance of Fish Replenishment Zones (no-take).

If you identify a measure that directly contributes to several indicators, it will be necessary to specify it in the Project Development Table.

Unit of measure: Number of hectares

Type of data: Real numbers with two decimal places of significance

Disaggregated by: Ecosystems and resources (coral reefs, seagrasses, mangrove forests, and fisheries)

Base Value and Target Value

Baseline Value	Target Value by 2026
0 ha	100,000 ha

REFERENCE SHEET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

MANDATORY OBJECTIVE INDICATOR FOR PROJECTS UNDER FUNDING LINE 2 ("SUSTAINABLE USE")

Name of indicator: O.2. Area of relevant ecosystems with more sustainable use

Indicator reporting frequency: Annual

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

Area: Refers to the surface (measured in hectares) where project activities result in a more direct sustainable use of coastal-marine natural resources.

The *relevant ecosystems* of the MAR are: coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrasses, and marine areas relevant to fisheries.

Sustainable use: Refers to responsible practices of using natural resources in ways that provide social, cultural, and economic benefits today, while maintaining their potential for future generations. These practices will result in improvements; stability, if there was previously a decline; measurable degradation avoided; or a slower rate of decline in ecosystems and/or natural resources over time (Brundtland, 1987).

Examples of measures that could result in a more sustainable use:

- Introduction of new sustainable fishing practices (e.g., promote compliance with closed fishing seasons and no-take zones, use of sustainable fishing gear, valuation technology for fishing efforts, among others),
- Establishment and maintenance of Fish Replenishment Zones,
- Adaptation measures for populations vulnerable to climate change (e.g., generation of economic alternatives to the use of natural resources that are affected by climate change, rehabilitation, and/or conservation of coastal-marine ecosystems that provide protection to the local population from extreme weather events, sustainable planning and management of coastal-marine resources, coastal-marine spatial planning, development of weather and oceanographic monitoring and warning systems for the population, integrated watershed and coastal zone management, and land-use planning in hazard prone areas).
- Introduction of low-impact tourism practices in CMPAs,
- Income generation as an alternative to replace the unsustainable use of coastal-marine natural resources (e.g., generation of alternative income for artisanal fishermen),
- Market activities or productive initiatives –that generate a revenue– based on the sustainable use of natural resources, and
- Implementation or improvement of natural resource use plans with the local population (e.g., sustainable fishery plans, agroforestry, beekeeping).

If the sustainable natural resource use measures implemented in the area also result in a surface with better conservation, the corresponding hectares can also be reported for indicator O.1: Area in hectares with better conservation. Examples of measures that directly and measurably apply to both indicators are:

- Establishment and maintenance of Fish Replenishment Zones (no-take).

If you identify a measure that directly contributes to several indicators, it will be necessary to specify it in the Project Development Table.

Unit of measure: Number of hectares

Type of data: Real numbers with two decimal places of significance

Disaggregated by: Ecosystems and resources (coral reefs, seagrasses, mangrove forests, and fisheries)

Base Value and Target Value

Baseline Value	Target Value by 2026
0 ha	20,000 ha

REFERENCE SHEET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

OBJECTIVE INDICATOR

Name of indicator: O.3. Number of initiatives that support the adaptation of populations vulnerable to climate change

Indicator reporting frequency: Annual

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

***Population*:** Total number of people in a given geographical area (e.g., village) who share natural, cultural, and social conditions.

Vulnerability to climate change: The vulnerability of a human population can be recognized according to three factors: 1) ***Exposure***, which refers to the degree of climate stress, represented by the change

or variability of weather conditions (magnitude and frequency of extreme events to which a population is exposed), 2) ***sensitivity***, represented by the extent to which a population is affected and altered (e.g., regarding its livelihood, loss of infrastructure, access to natural resources, health) by an internal or external disturbance, and 3) ***adaptive capacity***, which refers to the ability of the population to cope with the effects of climate change, and involves the capacity to modify their characteristics or behaviors to better cope with or anticipate change-driven factors (IPCC, 2014).

Examples of measures supporting climate change adaptation:

- Generation of economic alternatives to the use of natural resources that are affected by climate change (e.g., fisheries),
- Rehabilitation and/or conservation of coastal-marine natural resources (mangroves, coral reefs) that provide protection from extreme weather events (such as hurricanes or floods) to the local population,
- Planning and sustainable management of coastal-marine resources,
- Coastal-marine spatial planning,
- Development of weather and oceanographic monitoring and warning systems for the population,
- Integrated watershed and coastal zone management, and
- Land-use planning in risk areas.

Unit of measure: Number of initiatives implemented

Type of data: Real whole numbers

Disaggregated by: Ecosystems and resources (coral reefs, seagrasses, mangrove forests, and fisheries)

Base Value and Target Value

Baseline Value	Target Value by 2026
0	15

REFERENCE SHEET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RESULT INDICATOR

Name of Indicator: R1.1. Number of CMPAs implementing best conservation practices

Indicator reporting frequency: Annual

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

***Best conservation practices*:** New actions or modified and adaptive management actions of ecosystems and their natural resources, so as to maintain or increase their viability over time and their regenerative or replenishment capacity, with the goal of ensuring their permanence and that of the environmental services they provide (IUCN, UNEP & WWF, 1991). Best practices will bring positive changes involving conservation, maintenance, restoration, and/or rehabilitation, promoting the improvement of the ecological and social environment (Russo, 2002).

Examples of best conservation practices:

- Environmental and natural resource monitoring,
- Control and surveillance,
- Ecosystem rehabilitation, and
- Conservation of ecological connectivity,

Unit of measure: Number of CMPAs implementing at least one best conservation practice

Type of data: Real whole numbers

Disaggregated by: CMPA and type of best practices implemented

Base Value and Target Value

Baseline Value	Target Value by 2026
0	18

REFERENCE SHEET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RESULT INDICATOR

Name of indicator: R1.2. Number of people involved in the management of CMPAs with enhanced capabilities

Indicator reporting frequency: Annual

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

***People involved in the management*:** This group includes the staff of CMPAs, as well as the local population, who participate in management through advisory committees, local executive councils, boards of directors of co-management organizations, among others.

Enhanced capacities: Advancing, growing, honing skills of an individual, entity, or institution, to perform a given task (Completa, 2016).

Capacity enhancement of CMPA managers and co-managers, as well as the local population involved in the management of the CMPA, will contribute to the sustainable operation and maintenance of the investments made.

Indications of enhanced CMPA institutional capacities include:

- Improved processes for collecting, reporting, and using biodiversity data, information, or analysis for decision-making,
- Improved administrative or organizational capacity of the manager/co-manager of a CMPA,
- Better access to equipment or data,
- Implementation of sustainable funding mechanisms,
- Active participation of local communities in the management actions of the CMPA,
- Incorporation of adaptive management practices that respond to new knowledge and data,
- Strengthening of management strategies and effective administration of funds,
- Compliance with management plans,
- Increased management effectiveness,
- Improved response capacity to environmental and social risks,
- Decreased environmental crimes and reduced conflicts in the use of natural resources in the CMPA, and
- Strengthening of partnerships among CMPAs.

Human capacity enhancement can be achieved through the following activities (among others):

- Capacity building/training of people involved in the management of a CMPA,
- Formalization of processes,
- Encouragement of CMPA staff and the local population to get involved,
- Exchange of experiences with other CMPAs,
- New or strengthened collaboration with national and international research centers and universities, and
- Optimization of administrative processes.

Unit of measure: Number of people

Type of data: Real whole numbers

Disaggregated by: CMPA staff, categories in target group, group affiliation, and gender.

Base Value and Target Value

Baseline Value	Target Value by 2026
0	400

REFERENCE SHEET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

MANDATORY RESULT INDICATOR FOR ALL PROJECTS

Name of indicator: R1.3. Number of selected CMPAs with at least 75% of management effectiveness

Indicator reporting frequency: Before and after project implementation

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

Management effectiveness: A value obtained from a management effectiveness evaluation of a protected area. It is a formal measure of the extent to which the stated goals and objectives of a CMPA are being achieved. Each CMPA is assigned specific objectives and protection measures upon its creation. These evaluations usually assess suitability, capacity, and particular competence within three main domains: biophysical, socioeconomic, and governance (Précoma-de la Mora *et al*., 2021). There are different methodologies applied in the management effectiveness evaluation.

It is recommended to use one of the following methodologies:

1. Mexico (federal PNAs): Permanent System for the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Federal Protected Natural Areas (i-effectiveness) (2019).

2. Belize: National Protected Area System Management Effectiveness Evaluation (NPAS-MEE) Assessment Tool (2019).

3. Guatemala: SIGAP's Management Monitoring System for Protected Areas (MMS-SIGAP-2011).

4. Honduras: Manual for the Application of Management and Co-management Effectiveness Monitoring (2013)

Or apply the methodology used by MAR Fund: Manual for Rapid Management Effectiveness Assessment of Mesoamerican Protected Areas (2005)[3].

If the CMPA does not have a management effectiveness evaluation, one must be conducted to obtain the baseline value. At the end of the project, the CMPA will carry out another evaluation and the value obtained will be compared with the baseline value.

Activities and processes that are funded through Phase III should contribute positively to the CMPA's effective management score.

Eligible activity:

- Management effectiveness evaluation before and after project implementation, with the goal of achieving at least 75% effectiveness in the second measurement.

[3] https://marfund.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Medicion-Final-Efectividad-Manejo-SAM-Fase-II-2019.pdf

Unit of measure: Number of CMPAs with at least 75% of management effectiveness

Type of data: Real whole numbers and percentage

Disaggregated by: Country

Base Value and Target Value

Baseline Value	Target Value by 2026
3	13

Of the 14 prioritized CMPAs, 3 currently meet the indicator and are the baseline. They include the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve (Belize), Cerro San Gil Springs Reserve (Guatemala), and Archipelago Cayos Cochinos Marine Natural Monument (Honduras). The target value by 2026 includes the 3 baseline CMPAs.

REFERENCE SHEET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RESULT INDICATOR

Name of indicator: R2.1. Number of natural resource use plans developed with the local population under implementation

Indicator reporting frequency: Annual

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

Natural resources: These are all the goods provided by nature and used by people for direct consumption or trade in some production process (UN, 1997). For Phase III, it refers to coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrasses, and fisheries.

Natural resource use plan: A document that establishes the procedures for managing and administering the sustainable use of resources. These specific resource use plans may be part of the approved management/master plans of CMPAs (Fallding, 2000).

Examples of usage plans include:

- Fishery resource use plan,
- Mangrove forest use plan,
- Coral reef tourism use plan,
- Beach use plan,
- Tourism incentive plan,
- Abiotic resources, soil, and water use plan,
- Code of good diving practices,
- Sustainable infrastructure development plan, and
- Municipal development plans.

Local population: Refers to the local population that depends on the use of natural resources of the selected CMPAs and their surroundings, and who directly benefits from the ecosystem services they provide (Kessler, 2004). They can participate in the management of CMPAs through advisory committees, local executive councils, boards of directors of co-managing organizations, among others.

Examples of local populations include:

- Artisanal fishermen and organized groups that collect resources (e.g., crabs, conchs, lobsters),
- Tourism service providers and tourists,
- Shareholders of common lands (*ejidos*, in Spanish), members of cooperatives,
- Citizenship within the CMPAs and their areas of influence,

- Farmers and cattle breeders,
- Members of surveillance committees,
- Staff of diving centers and hotels,
- Members of community development organizations,
- Members of women's and indigenous peoples' organizations,
- Water transportation operators,
- Members of other government agencies with responsibilities within the CMPA,
- Members of governing councils, and
- Members of Water boards.

Unit of measure: Number of natural resource use plans approved and under implementation

Type of data: Real whole numbers

Disaggregated by: Natural resource, CMPA, and country

Base Value and Target Value

Baseline Value	Target Value by 2026
0	10

REFERENCE SHEET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RESULT INDICATOR

Name of indicator: R2.2. Number of people directly supported by the project who benefit from the sustainable use of natural resources

Indicator reporting frequency: Annual

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

People supported: Refers to the beneficiaries (managers and co-managers of eligible CMPAs) and the project's target group. The target group includes the local population that depends on the use of natural resources in and around the selected CMPAs, and who directly benefit from the ecosystem services they provide (e.g., fishermen, people who depend on tourism, etc.) (Kessler, 2004). It also includes people directly involved in the management of the natural resources, such as CMPA staff, through advisory committees, local executive councils, boards of directors of co-managing organizations, among others.

The indicator includes all these people who directly and measurably benefit from the project measures, for example, through:

- Capacity building / training,
- The natural resources and ecosystem services on which people are economically dependent,
- Equipment provided to support the work of CMPA staff,
- Small infrastructure useful for developing activities of the CMPA or local communities (e.g., palm huts, docks),
- Development of studies, plans, strategies, or measures for the sustainable use of resources on which local communities depend economically and as a source of livelihood,
- Income generation strategies as an alternative to the unsustainable use of natural resources.,
- Market activities based on the sustainable use of natural resources,
- Promotion of goods and services that are sustainably produced within the CMPA,
- Citizen science initiatives, and
- Participation in decision-making for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources through participatory processes, public consultations, among others.

Each person should be counted only once, even if they are participating in several of the project's measures.

Unit of measure: Number of people

Type of data: Real whole numbers

Disaggregated by: Gender, CMPA, and country

Base Value and Target Value

Baseline Value	Target Value by 2026
0	3,000

REFERENCE SHEET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RESULT INDICATOR

Name of indicator: R3.2. Number of joint initiatives between CMPAs implemented within the framework of the project

Indicator reporting frequency: Annual

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

Joint initiatives: Are defined as collaborations between two or more CMPAs of the MAR that coordinate specific actions to strengthen the protection, conservation, and rehabilitation of natural resources of CMPAs (Di Franco *et al.,* 2020).

Examples of joint potential initiatives between CMPAs:

- Development of standardized monitoring protocols for several CMPAs,
- Joint plans for sustainable use of natural resources with a landscape approach,
- Joint establishment of zones and joint measures for the recovery of natural resources (e.g., no-take zones, fish replenishment zones, establishment of coral nurseries, queen conch, and other benthic species),
- Joint biosafety initiatives, control and prevention of invasive species,
- Establishment of intergovernmental coordination and cooperation mechanisms for the management and planning of the CMPA network,
- Establishment and operation of Regional Topic-based Networks among collaborators and decision-makers that generate strategic partnerships regarding conservation and environmental governance,
- Harmonization of control and surveillance practices of CMPAs that share common borders, and
- Initiatives to promote connectivity between CMPAs.

CMPA: In order to be considered a joint initiative under the framework of Phase III, at least two of the CMPAs within an initiative must be CMPAs of the MAR.

Unit of measure: Number of initiatives implemented

Type of data: Real whole numbers

Disaggregated by: CMPAs and country

Base Value and Target Value

Baseline Value	Target Value by 2026
0	10

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