

Applicant: **Coeck, Maureen**
Organisation: **TNC**
Funding Sought: **£598,996.00**

DIR29S2\1009

Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

The project will aid in halting the loss of megadiversity in the montane, pine-oak, and broadleaf forests of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú Biocultural Corridor caused by forest fires, inappropriate agricultural practices, and illegal logging. Using an integrated landscape management approach we will strengthen the management capacities of state institutions, local governments, and indigenous communities; generating knowledge on local biodiversity; improving inter-institutional coordination and capacity for adaptive fire management; and strengthening indigenous cooperatives that provide improved livelihoods for rural poverty reduction.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Maureen
Surname Coeck
Organisation TNC
Tel (Other) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Name Jorge
Surname Cardona
Organisation TNC
Tel [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Maureen
Surname	Coeck
Organisation	TNC
Tel (Other)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Jorge
Surname	Cardona
Organisation	TNC
Tel	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	General
Name	TNC
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR28S1\1123

DIR29S1\1042

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

Intensive land-use systems (agric., plantations and urban)

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land/water protection (area/resource/habitat)

Conservation Action 2

Education & awareness (incl. training)

Conservation Action 3

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

Threat 1

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 2

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 3

Natural system modifications (fires, dams)

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The project will aid in halting the loss of megadiversity in the montane, pine-oak, and broadleaf forests of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú Biocultural Corridor caused by forest fires, inappropriate agricultural

practices, and illegal logging. Using an integrated landscape management approach we will strengthen the management capacities of state institutions, local governments, and indigenous communities; generating knowledge on local biodiversity; improving inter-institutional coordination and capacity for adaptive fire management; and strengthening indigenous cooperatives that provide improved livelihoods for rural poverty reduction.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Guatemala	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 June 2023	31 May 2026	3 years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
Amount:	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████

Q9. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %	████
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Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

The project includes a minimum match amount of GBP ██████████. This match will be provided through

private funds (from organizations devoted to native forest restoration, local communities' livelihoods improvement and climate change mitigation and adaptation) secured by the project partners TNC and Vivamos Mejor Association (VMA). Matching funds will support landscape conservation and restoration activities, Integrated Fire Management actions, land use planning and stakeholder engagement.

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£) [REDACTED]

Q10c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how will you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No unconfirmed matched funding.

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. What is the need, challenge or opportunity?

For example, what are the drivers of biodiversity loss that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? Please cite any evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).

The Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor is a continuous strip of forest extending along the Guatemalan volcanic chain. It is the ancestral home of several Mayan peoples (Tz'utuhiles, Kaqchiqueles and K'ichee's) who base their livelihoods on goods and services the forest provides while maintaining a deep spiritual connection to it through more than 25 ceremonial sites located within the corridor. In addition to its ecological and cultural importance, the area is heavily impacted by poverty and lack of government capacity, creating a clear poverty reduction need. The project will take place in the department of Sololá, which has the second highest percentage of poverty (80.9%) and extreme poverty (40%) in the country, and a Human Development Index of 0.455. The Central Government and Sololá State Government have limited capacity for public investment and delivery of basic public services, disproportionately affecting Indigenous and rural populations, this project's primary beneficiaries. The project operates in an area of high importance for biodiversity. The corridor's core zone is 63,000ha of forests, classified in 3 ecoregions: montane/cloud forests, pine-oak forests, and broadleaf rainforests. The cloud forests are an important source of Guatemala's freshwater and home to more than 150 listed endemic and endangered species, including birds such as the horned guan, the blue-rumped tanager and the resplendent quetzal; endemic salamanders of the genus *Oedipina*; and mammals such as the margay and the spider monkey.

Despite their recognized value to conservation, livelihoods, climate change mitigation, and cultural identity, the corridor's forests are being lost at alarming rates (more than 300ha affected in the last 5 years). According to situation analysis by TNC and VMA, the primary threats to the corridor's ecosystems include forest fires caused by poor agricultural and apicultural practices and aggravated by prolonged dry seasons linked to climate change, landslides (due to lack of forest cover), land use change for agricultural purposes, and unsustainable extraction of firewood by rural communities. These are exacerbated by the government's inability to provide the socio-economic conditions and technical assistance to promote conservation, access to ecologically sustainable livelihood opportunities, and the participatory governance that ensures buy-in from relevant stakeholders.

Despite strong (inter)national demand for products grown in the region, including coffee, avocados, and honey, local producers lack the skills, knowledge, infrastructure, and networks to access these markets. Without resources to access to these markets, communities exploit local natural resources to ease their food, energy, and water insecurity through unsustainable forest use and extractive practices that are harmful to biodiversity. As reported by VMA, producers are increasingly organised and interested in gaining the skills and knowledge necessary to develop sustainable, nature-positive livelihoods. It is vitally important to support local communities in preserving natural resources they depend on for their well-being and cultural identity, while providing economic alternatives and improving livelihoods. This proposal seeks to provide these conditions in a sustainable, long-term, and scalable way that will serve as a model for the Central and Western Highlands of Guatemala and other low-income geographies, which share similar geographic, biological, and social conditions.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

At the national level, the project will contribute to:

- 1) Guatemala's Law of Protected Areas, by strengthening the network of local protected areas by supporting the development of participatory management plans and improving their governance structures;
- 2) The National Policy on Biological Diversity, which establishes guidelines for the sustainable use, conservation and knowledge of biological diversity, by protecting local endemic and endangered species (article 21.1) through implementing this biocultural corridor, and by promoting the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and their ecosystem services (article 21.2) through the sustainable usage of trees for shade grown coffee and firewood.
- 3) The National Biodiversity Strategy and its action plan; by creating 1 new and strengthening 4 already established protected areas which will improve conservation of more than 150 endemic and endangered species (including the horned guan, the blue-rumped tanager and the resplendent quetzal; endemic salamanders of the genus *Oedipina*; and endangered mammals such as the margay and the spider monkey).
- 4) The National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy, through restoring 75ha of degraded forests in key areas for biological connectivity;
- 5) the National Fire Management Strategy by strengthening inter-institutional coordination and local capacities for adaptive fire management;

- 6) the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PANCC) through improving resilience by restoring forest cover and strengthening protected areas management, and the Nationally Determined Contributions through the implementation of Natural Climate Solutions' Carbon Sequestration in Cattle Ranching Best Practices in the Buffer Zone of Maya Biosphere Reserve for Climate Change adaptation and mitigation;
- 7) the Plan Katún Nuestra Guatemala 2032 by improving and increasing the productions of local value chains and the income they generate;
- 8) The national policy on Indigenous Peoples and Interculturality (2018-2030) by strengthening indigenous governance structures and valuing their millenary culture; and
- 9) The National Policy for the Promotion and Integral Development of Women and the Equal Opportunities Plan through the empowerment of women in decision-making processes, participation and the strengthening of their livelihoods and the equitable distribution of benefits.

At the international level, the project's actions will contribute to:

- 1) The national goals and commitments acquired by the country for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) goals (Aichi Targets) 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19 through biodiversity conservation awareness, reducing pressures on biodiversity and natural ecosystems, promoting sustainable production, safeguarding natural ecosystems in the biocultural corridor, restoring degraded ecosystems, improving knowledge and sharing existing knowledge, including traditional practices.
- 2) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by emissions through avoiding deforestation and absorbing CO₂ in protected areas and restored forests.
- 3) Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 13, 15 and 17 by reducing poverty of local rural communities, increasing income to reduce food insecurity, improving health by reducing smoke inhalation during cooking through wood-saving stoves, promoting gender equity and providing better access for women participation, and mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon emissions, protecting terrestrial biodiversity and strengthening local governance structures.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- how you have reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective, and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods)
- what will be the **main activities** and where will these take place.
- how you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

The project focuses on four strategic outputs to improve local livelihoods and forest conservation. Information on specific activities is detailed in the logical framework.

Output 1: Improved Governance

We will strengthen the roundtable for the Multiple Use Reserve of the Watershed of Lake Atitlán (RUMCLA) established by the 'Joint Administration and Shared Management of the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas and Natural Areas of Importance for the Conservation of Biological Diversity' to strengthen the governance model of the biocultural corridor. RUMCLA is constituted by local organisations who are best

positioned to provide institutional support for the project and able to mobilise government resources to continue the project's actions after its end.

We will work with RUMCLA to leverage its decision-making power and build members' collective and individual capacities through workshops and trainings. The project will support RUMCLA with land use planning, GIS, biological monitoring, Integrated Fire Management, forest restoration and adoption of best practices on sustainable management of forest resources.

The project will support municipal gender equality teams to increase capacity to integrate gender considerations into municipal planning processes and increase women's participation in socio-economic-environmental processes.

Ecological monitoring will be conducted by protected area administrators, forest rangers, and communities, supported by VMA and TNC's technical staff. Monitoring tools include the habitat quality indicator and surveys on biodiversity sightings by communities. Land use cover monitoring will be conducted through GIS analyses and satellite imagery, using mapping software. The activities are endorsed by the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP).

Output 2: Reduce Wildfires occurrence and impacts

Integrated Fire Management (IFM) addresses challenges posed by damaging and beneficial fires by evaluating and balancing relative risks and ecological benefits posed by fires. An IFM strategy will be developed collaboratively with RUMCLA, integrating TNC's global experience to strengthen local capacities. Methods include setting blacklines and fire breakers by planting native trees.

Due to limited public capacity for investment and delivery of public services, the project will train and equip 3 firefighter brigades, generating synergies with the National Forestry Institute (INAB) and US Forest Service.

Public awareness campaigns through radio and leaflets in local languages, and training for farmers will raise awareness of preventing forest fires.

Output 3: Restore Biological Connectivity and Integrity

Restoring ecosystem connectivity improves genetic exchange between patches, improves forest cover, combats forest fires, and enables provision of ecosystem services for local communities.

10 forest restoration demonstration sites will be established, supported by the Center for Education for Rural Development and Climate Change Adaptation (CEDRACC), which seeks to disseminate best practices and knowledge across Guatemala to achieve sustainable rural development. These sites will expand knowledge amongst approximately 3,000 smallholders by utilising a farmer-to-farmer approach, which has proven an effective knowledge transfer technique based on TNC's experience in Western Highland demonstration sites.

The sustainability of the 75ha restored forests will be secured by inscribing them in the National Forest Incentive Program (run by INAB), which will cover the costs of silviculture maintenance for the next 6 years, leveraging approximately £147,000 (at US\$400 per hectare per year), disbursed directly to property owners who reforest their plots.

Output 4: Improved household economy and sustainable livelihoods.

Guatemala imports honey and its by-products to meet demand, presenting an opportunity for local communities to diversify their income. Currently, apiculture in the biocultural corridor is dispersed and unsustainable, however, local beekeepers are increasingly organising to improve market access, approaching VMA for equipment and training support to reduce fire risks, and better manage production.

Firewood is an important bioenergy source. According to official data, over 90% of rural indigenous families in the Guatemalan highlands use locally-sourced firewood for cooking, heavily impacting deforestation. The project will provide 300 families with wood-saving stoves, requiring 50% less wood.

Coffee is Guatemala's most significant export commodity: the biocultural corridor is one of the most productive areas of high-quality coffee. Building capacity of farmers to cultivate shade-grown coffee benefits conservation through improved connectivity, forest cover, and biodiversity, while increasing income by selling the product in a premium market that values the sustainable practices. The project will convert 15ha of unsustainable coffee production by renewing plantations with more resilient varieties and more diverse shade using native tree species.

40 beekeepers, 300 families, and an association of small coffee growers will benefit from capacity building,

selecting those with the most unsustainable practices, living closest to the core zone of the biocultural corridor, and showing community leadership.

Q14. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit, and the post-project value to the country.

Output 1: Workshops for RUMCLA members on improved governance, land use and management planning, GIS, biological monitoring, and their link to poverty alleviation. Developing protected area masterplans will provide new land use planning skills, including Conservation by Design methodology, to local stakeholders. Working with municipalities' gender equality teams to increase capacity in integrating gender considerations into municipal planning processes.

This will equip communities with the legal tools to exercise their rights and strengthen the governance of the corridor, while ensuring ability to mobilise government resources after the project ends. By communicating to wider audiences, we strive to disseminate new ways of managing natural resources long-term. With increased capacity in municipal gender equality teams, women will have better support to participate in management of the biocultural corridor

Output 2: Training of fire fighters, local communities/authorities and RUMCLA members on Integrated Fire Management strategy (ecosystems dependent and sensitive to fires, types of fire-inducing fuels, safety practices, firefighting tools and methods, first aid), and provision of USFS-certified equipment to 3 new forest fire brigades. Training of local farmers on low fire-risk agricultural and apicultural practices.

Output 3: Training of landowners on land degradation causes and corrective and restorative actions. 10 demonstration sites, equipped with teaching materials, where volunteer farmers will be trained to disseminate knowledge and skills on biodiversity conservation, combatting forest fires, and agricultural and forest product management to approximately 3,000 local smallholders. These activities will enable communities and landowners to maintain restored areas and leverage additional support through established systems in the long run.

Output 4: Workshops for local beekeepers and coffee cooperatives (with specific trainings for women) on sustainable production, commercialisation and branding of their products. Establishing 40 productive facilities for beekeeping. 300 families will acquire knowledge on how to build and use a wood-saving stove, and the associated benefits.

Q15. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans. Please summarise how your project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality.

Guatemala demonstrates stark gender inequalities, with pronounced gender disparities in labour force participation including in agriculture. 51% of women, compared with 14% of men over the age of 15 report not having income of their own. Persistent gender role expectations produce pronounced gender specialisation in activities, with women and girls disproportionately engaged in caring and household responsibilities (gathering fuelwood and water, cooking, cleaning), as well as in agricultural processing (for example in local coffee cooperatives, female participation rate is 15%) and sales, often roles which do not afford direct personal income. Men tend to specialise in paid labour in production.

The project will seek to reduce local gender inequalities by:

- Collaborating with municipal gender equality teams to increase their capacity to integrate gender considerations into municipal planning processes and increase women's participation in socio-economic-environmental processes.
- We expect trainings for RUMCLA roundtable members to have a female-male ratio of approximately 63:37, supporting female participation in governance structures.
- Specific trainings will be organised for female coffee producers to increase their sustainable production and strengthening their role in cooperatives. General trainings for coffee growers and beekeepers will target respectively at least 50% and 25% participation by women.
- The wood-saving stoves will primarily benefit 300 women, improving their health and wellbeing, reducing time burdens by reducing time spent gathering fuelwood and increasing fuel efficiency. The time saved may be utilised for other economic or social activities, including training to develop new skills (as provided by the project), leisure and wellbeing.
- Foster women's empowerment by working with female leaders to deliver specific training on, women's rights, citizen participation, household hygiene, physical, emotional and reproductive health.
- The project's qualitative and quantitative monitoring and evaluation systems will collect and disaggregate beneficiaries' data by gender and ethnicity and use appreciative inquiry techniques to foster participant evaluation and oversight.

Q16. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who your stakeholders are, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?

To enhance understanding of the interlinkages between biodiversity and livelihoods, all training and communication materials will include contextual information on local socio-economic-environmental conditions, threats, conservation, and recovery actions, linking biodiversity, identity, and wellbeing. Social media platforms will be utilized to disseminate information by creating social media groups and reinforce messaging. All materials and communications will be developed in the local languages Tz'utuhil, Kaqchiquel and K'chee.

Priority stakeholders for these awareness raising activities and materials will be: local farmers and landowners, municipal authorities of San José Chacayá, Santa Clara la Laguna, San Pedro La Laguna, Panajachel, Zunil, CSOs such as CARE, agricultural cooperatives such as Manos Unidas and Mujeres Kakchiqueles, Jpovenes Mayas, Rupalaj Kristalin, and members of the RUMCLA roundtable such as INAB, CONAP, MAGA and MARN.

Radio broadcasts (developed jointly with local stations) and podcasts will be a specific means to spread awareness for behavioural changes since this is still the most widely used media in the area. These broadcasts (radio spots, interviews, opinion programs by experts and local leaders) will cover biodiversity conservation, climate change, social participation, and information on the biological corridor, including project progress towards our outcome. Printed materials will be developed for people for whom this format is more suitable.

Communication approaches will differentiate by audience, securing the understanding of the issues by the audience, whether they are literate, their technical background, extensive or limited formal education, etc. There will be an online, open-access repository of information related to the project in which all the written documents (methodologies, guidelines, reports, technical documents, papers, etc.) will be stored and accessible to the project's beneficiaries.

We will organise an evaluation of the total audience reached and survey the communities on comprehension of information shared as well as to gather feedback from local communities on the messages shared.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended) and the potential to scale the approach.

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

In the short term, the project will:

Output 1:

Improve intersectoral coordination for the integrated management of the 63,000ha of forests that make up the core zone of the biocultural corridor by strengthening the RUMCLA roundtable, signing a cross-sector agreement, and updating of the corridor's master plan. This will benefit local government agencies such as INAB, CONAP, and MARN, as well as municipalities and civil society organisations, strengthening capacity to deliver positive outcomes for poverty and biodiversity.

Output 2:

Reduce the number of forest fires by at least 25% and halt the rates of loss of key biodiversity areas prioritized by the project due to fire by training and equipping indigenous communities and fire brigades, as well as developing an Integrated Fire Management Strategy and constructing 25km of blacklines and firebreaks. This will mainly benefit local indigenous communities as it will conserve and protect their land and increase their income.

Output 3:

Structural restoration of 75ha of degraded lands serving as demonstration sites for surrounding beneficiaries and producers to expand the knowledge on restoration, sustainable management of resource by local communities, and improve connectivity, enhancing biodiversity and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Output 4:

390 families will acquire the capacity to develop sustainable livelihoods through beekeeping and sustainable coffee production, in addition to achieving economic and health benefits for 300 families by installing wood-saving stoves, also reducing pressure on biodiversity.

In the medium-term

Output 3:

2 years after the project end, the functional restoration of 75ha of degraded land will result in the improved connectivity of the forests in the biocultural corridor. This will positively impact the wildlife of the corridor, including many endemic and endangered species, which will be captured through early monitoring.

Output 4:

The project will improve the income derived from sustainable livelihoods of 390 people (at least 50% women and indigenous youth) by a minimum of 10% annually. The project's support will allow the formalization and scaling up of community enterprises based on sustainable livelihoods, contributing to reduce rural poverty in the long term.

In the long-term

The participatory governance model will increase cross-sectoral interest and long-term investments for the sustainable management of the biocultural corridor, helping to effectively conserve local biodiversity, enhance the cultural heritage of the area's indigenous communities, reduce poverty rates, and increase climate resilience. This model can be extended to the entire Guatemalan volcanic chain, which would be an important contribution to the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Initiative. As a country transitioning to

upper middle-income status, Guatemala is experiencing significant pressures on its biodiversity and environment. The lessons learned as Guatemala transitions will be applicable to other middle-income countries as they seek to deliver sustainable, nature-positive development, and demonstrate sustainable pathways for low-income countries as they transition into middle-income status. TNC's global reach and partnership approach means we are able to advance this knowledge, evidence, and impact to other partners, communities, regions and countries, including least-developed and low-income countries. This Darwin project will add new tools to the global toolbox for sustainable, nature-positive development.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

This project is built on the following pathway to change:

IF we 1) develop the conditions for inclusive landscape governance (strengthening the current RUMCLA roundtable) by training key stakeholders for their effective participation in decision-making processes, signing a cross-sector agreement for integrated landscape management, and developing management plans and a monitoring system; 2) improve local capacities for integrated fire management (planning, training and equipping brigades, implementation of better agricultural practices and implementation of fire prevention measures in the field); 3) implement landscape restoration activities in key areas for biological connectivity (restoration with native forest species); and 4) strengthen sustainable livelihoods (support for beekeepers, coffee growers and reduction of firewood consumption in households), THEN there will be greater coordination, interest, and multi-sectoral investment for the sustainable management of the biocultural corridor, the rates of loss of key ecosystems and biodiversity will be halted, biological connectivity (structural and functional) will be restored, poverty rates will be reduced, and the climate resilience of the indigenous communities of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor will be increased. Through replication of policy and with long-term investment in place, this project has the potential to have an impact on Guatemala and the larger region.

Q19. Exit Strategy

How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding?

How could post-project scaling of the approach (if proven) be delivered: through new finance or through uptake by stakeholders or other mechanisms? Are there any barriers to scaling and how will these be addressed?

How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits?


A key element for the project to continue delivering benefits post-funding is the strengthening of the RUMCLA roundtable which will assume the responsibility of advising on the implementation of the conservation, restoration, and human development actions of the project. Strengthening local capacity for sustainable livelihood options, sustainable resource management, and gender inclusivity will also be part of the exit strategy, equipping local communities to exercise their rights, ensure the proper governance of the biocultural corridor and mobilise additional resources.


Capacity building for local stakeholders including local institution officials, community members, smallholder farmers, beekeeping and coffee producers through knowledge transfer, equipping and strengthening conservation infrastructure (such as tree nurseries to improve their effectiveness, income

and therefore their livelihoods) will contribute to stabilising the local economy and reducing the loss of forests by both illegal cutting and forest fires in the core zone of the biocultural corridor. The establishment of the demonstration sites and the example set by local families in wood-saving practices will allow for continued development by producers and local communities, leading to best practices and lessons learned that can be used in the biocultural corridor and beyond. Previous experience by TNC has indicated that once benefits are clear to other stakeholders, they often invest their own resources to switch to more sustainable practices.


The long-term commitment of the project partners to the corridor and ongoing interaction and complementarity with other projects in the area will help to consolidate the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity and allow the continuation of the project’s accomplishments.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

 [TNC - DIR29S21009 - References Maps](#)

 12/12/2022

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 pdf 1.39 MB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the [Risk Assessment template](#) provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
<p>Fiduciary</p> <p>If the implementing teams don't understand the guidance for expenses or do not report them according to the guidelines, there is a risk of misusing the financial resources undermining the project's transparency.</p>	Minor	Rare	Minor	Constant monitoring with TNC and partners. The project leader, with support of the grant specialist, is in charge of ensuring the understanding and implementation of correct financial reporting. The project leader will receive support from TNC finance and grants department to ensure compliance with any applicable requirement.	Minor

Safeguarding

Disregarding or disrespecting Maya indigenous culture by not regarding customs and ancestral practices may offend partners, stakeholders and therefore halting or comprising cooperation, affecting the execution of the project activities.

Moderate

Unlikely

Moderate

TNC's has mandatory guidelines and methodologies on the empowerment of marginalised groups and respecting human rights, which secure proper behaviour regarding respect and tolerance towards indigenous peoples in all our work. Furthermore, TNC partners are contractually obligated to observe these guidelines and will receive proper training and guidance if necessary.

Minor

Delivery Chain

If one of the project partners suffers changes to staff capacity, affecting its delivering capacity, there is a risk of not performing all the activities as planned.

Minor

Unlikely

Minor

TNC is willing to sharing experiences, good practices, and helping partners to quickly increase their capacities in case it is needed. Also, TNC, as a large organization, is prepared to intervene and ensure that activities not covered by partners will still get executed and covered by TNC.

Minor

Risk 4

Contextual. General elections will be held in June 2023 in Guatemala to elect the president and Congress. During such period, civil servants and government departments availability might be low, impacting their participation in training events.

Minor

Unlikely

Minor

The project will consult our relevant government contacts to understand if and how the elections process might impact their availability and make the necessary adjustments. Since the project works mainly with civil servants, any possible changes in government aren't expected to have impact but will be monitored closely.

Minor

Risk 5

Operational. TNC might face a challenge securing the partner’s and stakeholders required capacity and expertise for the project. This can jeopardize project implementation both in quality and in timely execution.

Minor

Rare

Minor

The partner VMA already has allocated the necessary capabilities and capacity to support the project activities and has relevant experience with implementing large projects. TNC and VMA have extensive experience working with the stakeholders and will ensure the right people are included in the project.

Minor

Risk 6

Reputational. If a staff member engages in questionable activities or behaves in a questionable manner, there is a risk of their actions presenting TNC or its partners as unreliable, unethical, or unprofessional which would mean undermining TNC’s, partner’s and Defra’s reputation.

Insignificant

Rare

Minor

TNC has a strict code of conduct that applies to everyone working for the organization. Training regarding the code of conduct must be completed during the first two weeks working at TNC. Staff must retake the course every year. The code is also promoted among its project’s partners.

Minor

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q21. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance](#)).

The project's contribution to conservation and human development will be traceable through the outcome and output indicators and means of verification. Progress will be assessed at the intermediate level according to the achievement of milestones and at the final level through biannual checks of the logical framework and timetable.

Biodiversity monitoring will be delivered yearly by protected area administrators, forest rangers and communities, with the support by VMA and TNC's technical staff and tools such as the habitat quality indicator and surveys on biodiversity sightings by communities.

Yearly land use cover monitoring will be done through GIS analyses and satellite imagery showing the dynamic of forest cover. VMA and TNC will use mapping software to perform these analyses, which will be endorsed by the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP).

The project's contribution to effective management within protected areas will be measured through the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tool by CONAP where scores will show the positive impact attributed to the project.

We will use metrics and survey questions that replicate national survey data to track any improvements in income, productivity, livelihood sources, savings, and perceived wellbeing among project beneficiaries.

Results: the project lead will maintain monthly meetings with project staff to obtain information regarding the projects performance overall. Particular attention will be given to those activities that might prevent the project from delivering the proposed milestones.

Activities: Project staff will regularly review whether activities are performed following the pre-defined workplan. The project staff will also document issues that may arise during a certain period, the measures taken, and any adjustment made to the workplan.

Compliance: the project lead will maintain constant communication with partner VMA, local stakeholders and the relevant government officers to monitor compliance to ensure that the project fulfils Darwin Initiative requirements and project staff follow TNC's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Code of Conduct.

Context: the project staff will be instructed to report any potential risk or issue as well as document them in the DI Risk Framework file. This document will be available online and reviewed every week by the project lead in order to implement any risk mitigation action required.

Financial: TNC's grants team will keep track of every expenditure according to our SOPs and DI guidelines, providing information and guidance to the project partner VMA as needed.

As transversal elements of our monitoring and evaluation systems, TNC will collect data and disaggregate all beneficiaries by gender and ethnicity. TNC will also integrate qualitative and quantitative data collection

methodologies.

The project will set an advisory committee made up by a representative of the RUMCLA roundtable, the VMA Director, TNC's project lead, a representative of the communities and a representative of the beekeeping and coffee growers cooperatives. This advisory committee will meet quarterly to discuss the project progress and address potential issues.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	██████████
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	█
Number of days planned for M&E	78

Section 10 - Logical Framework





Q23. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

The **logframe template** (N.B. there is a different template for Stage 1 and Stage 2) needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF within your Flexi-Grant application – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible.**

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [TNC - DIR29S21009 - Logical Framework](#)
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 pdf 184.28 KB

Impact:

Poverty and social inequality rates in rural and indigenous communities in the western highlands of Guatemala are reduced through the sustainable use and conservation of local biodiversity.

Outcome:

By 2026, the integrated landscape management of 63,000 ha of forests in the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor will be improved, effectively protecting biodiversity, restoring biological connectivity, and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

By 2026, local governments, institutions and indigenous communities have enhanced capacities for the inclusive governance and sustainable management of 63,000ha in the core zone the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.

Output 2:

By mid-2026, the number of wildfires is reduced by 25 % and the rate of loss of key ecosystems due to wildfires is halted in the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.

Output 3:

By 2026, 75ha of forests in key biological connectivity areas of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor are restored and serve as demonstration sites.

Output 4:

By mid-2026, 390 indigenous families will improve their household economy, with a minimum 15% increase of their annual income derived from sustainable livelihoods and savings from reduced fuelwood consumption.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Output 1: By 2026, local governments, institutions and indigenous communities have enhanced capacities for the inclusive governance and sustainable management of 63,000ha in the core zone the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.

1.1.1 Identification, mapping, and engagement of key stakeholders in the biocultural corridor for their inclusion in the reform and strengthening of the RUMCLA roundtable for the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.

1.1.2 Signing of the cross-sector agreement that strengthens and reforms the RUMCLA roundtable and includes the official list of the members with their main governance roles.

1.2.1 Training of RUMCLA roundtable members and other local stakeholders through 4 workshops on role definition, knowledge and perception, governance of the territory, and the legal framework of the biological corridor and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.

1.3.1 Training of at least 40 civil servants of municipal gender equality units in building gender considerations into municipality planning processes and increasing women's participation in socio-environment processes.

1.4.1 Secondary information gathering through bibliographic review of biological monitoring antecedents in the biocultural corridor and supervised classification of satellite images to map more precisely the ecosystems of the biocultural corridor.

- 1.4.2 Determine variables for monitoring through satellite images and field visits (including bird species, tree cover, etc). Set baseline values for the ecological monitoring system.
- 1.4.3 Training of RUMCLA roundtable members and other local stakeholders and experts through 2 workshops on the selection of variables to be monitored and the design and operationalisation of the ecological monitoring system.
- 1.4.4 Monitor ecological variables twice a year during the project and summarizing results in an annual ecological monitoring report.
- 1.5.1 Two workshops with the RUMCLA roundtable members for the evaluation of the expired biocultural corridor management plan.
- 1.5.2 Carry out an analysis of geospatial information such as forest cover, human population distribution, forest fires, etc, and literature to update the ecological, social, economic, and cultural information of the biocultural corridor in the management plan.
- 1.5.3 Two workshops with RUMCLA roundtable members and additional experts from local government, community leaders, and other CSOs, to update the biocultural corridor management plan: objectives, mission, vision, conservation targets, threats, opportunities, conservation elements and strategies.
- 1.5.4 After the workshops, additional 1-on-1 consultations with key experts to collect feedback on drafts of the management plan. Finalise management plan endorsed by local governments, institutions, and leaders of indigenous communities
- 1.6.1 Data gathering through bibliographic review of global and local biodiversity and climate databases and systems to build modeling of their current and future ecological niche, considering the impacts of climate change.
- 1.6.2 Workshop with bird and botany experts to validate the report describing the bioclimatic corridors in the biocultural corridor for endemic, threatened or emblematic bird and/or tree species.
- 1.7.1 Meetings with local communities and municipalities to inform them of plans to designate a new protected area and get their commitment, agreement, and collaboration
- 1.7.2 Formalization of the agreement for the voluntary declaration of a new protected area in the core zone of the biocultural corridor, categorised as 'regional municipal park' and filing of its registration in the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP)
- 1.7.3 Field delimitation of the new protected area, collection of biophysical and socioeconomic information and preparation of a technical study to be submitted to CONAP for its approval.
- 1.7.4 Elaboration of the management plan for the new regional municipal park (including geographic, social, economic, and environmental information) through 4 workshops with the municipalities and the representatives of local communities and local CSOs.
- 1.7.5 Update of management plans (including geographic, social, economic, and environmental information) for 4 existing protected areas (endorsed by local governments, institutions, and leaders of indigenous communities) through 4 workshops (1 per protected area) with the municipalities, local communities, and local CSOs.
- Output 2: By mid-2026, the number of wildfires is reduced by 25 % and the rate of loss of key ecosystems due to wildfires is halted in the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.
- 2.1.1 Map existing geographic information systems and databases (such as forest cover images and data repositories systems) for monitoring forest fires, including heat spots and landscape scars due to fires. Evaluate and analyse the history of forest fires as well as their characteristics and patterns as recorded in these databases and systems.
- 2.1.2 Hold two meetings with the Department of Forest Fires of the National Institute of Forests (INAB), local landowners, local communities, and municipalities to identify the drivers, instigators, and sites and fronts of forest fires in the biological corridor as a basis for developing solutions, resources and actions in the Integrated Fire Management Strategy.
- 2.1.3 Develop an Integrated Fire Management strategy in the biocultural corridor, based on the above-mentioned analyses and consultations and aligned with the needs and concerns of the members of the RUMCLA roundtable and other stakeholders (INAB, municipalities, forest firefighters, etc.) to secure its implementation.
- 2.1.4 Validate and socialize the Integrated Fire Management strategy with key actors (members of the

RUMCLA roundtable, INAB, municipal governments, forest firefighters) through a workshop, resulting in the publication of the final IFM strategy document (both online and distributed to partners in printing).

2.1.5 After the next dry (forest fire) season (mid-2025), set up an implementation report detailing the success of the IFM strategy by analysing satellite images, maps, above identified databases and systems, as well as field visits and surveys of local communities.

2.2.1 Five training workshops for 50 community members and RUMCLA roundtable members in the 'basic techniques for forest fire control' course and on best agricultural and apicultural practices for the reduction of forest fires in the biocultural corridor, including the certification of forest fire fighters in the biocultural corridor and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.

2.3.1 Equip 3 new forest fire brigades (cotton suit, leather boots and gloves, goggles, helmet, backpacks, weather kit, monofilter, fire bat, drip burner, Mcleod Pulaski tools, flashlights, radios, fire rakes, scrapers, fire swatters, brush hooks, drones, etc.) and set up guidelines and trainings for the maintenance and proper use of the equipment

2.4.1 Construction, georeferencing, and maintenance of 25 km of firebreak rounds and gaps, black lines for the control of forest fires in coordination with local governments.

Output 3: By 2026, 75ha of forests in key biological connectivity areas of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor are restored and serve as demonstration sites

3.1.1 Organise two workshops for landowners with degraded areas susceptible to forest restoration within the framework of the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy of Guatemala, to explain the importance of restoring degraded areas, raise awareness on the processes that lead to land degradation and actions to avoid further degradation.

3.1.2 Preparation of a report on the identification of at least 75ha of degraded areas through field inspections and aerial images with potential for reforestation with forest species that are native, key, endemic and/or in danger of extinction.

3.1.3 Signing of individual and collective agreements on forest restoration commitments with landowners.

3.2.1 Creation of 10 restoration demonstration sites out of the best examples of restored areas within the 75ha reforested area through signing and demarcation, and the training of the owners for leading field visits and sharing lessons learned, supported by the Center for Education for Rural Development and Climate Change Adaptation (CEDRACC).

3.2.2 Organise, prepare basic information (handouts, brochures), and report on min. 6 visits to the demonstration sites with 120 direct beneficiaries of the project, to expose them to the practices and techniques on how and why to restore degraded areas, so they can then expand knowledge amongst approx. 3,000 local smallholder farmers, by utilising the farmer-to-farmer approach

3.3.1 Inscription of restored lands in the Guatemala Forest Incentive Program run by INAB to secure funds from the government for the landowners for the maintenance of the trees for the next 6 years.

3.4.1 Collection of seeds of native, key, endemic and endangered forest species in local certified seed producer forests to secure seed quality.

3.4.2 Production of forest plants with emphasis on native, key, endemic, and endangered species in the CEDRACC nursery of VMA.

3.4.3 Planting of over 82,000 trees (of which at least 30,000 are endangered and endemic tree species) with local community members, schools, and VMA staff by Q2 of year 2024 in the degraded areas identified.

3.4.4 Development of biological connectivity restoration report based on satellite images and mapping which will include an inventory of native forest plants used and the progress of the restoration actions carried out in this project.

Output 4: By mid-2026, 390 indigenous families will improve their household economy, with a minimum 15% increase of their annual income derived from sustainable livelihoods and savings from reduced fuelwood consumption.

4.1.1 Detailed assessment of current beekeeping practices in the biocultural corridor (based on the previous engagement with local producers and situation analysis conducted by VMA). Resulting in a diagnostic baseline on apiaries performance and the identification and selection of at least 40 beekeepers

out of the larger group in the biocultural corridor area (prioritising those that have small, unsustainable practices, are located closest to the core zone and show leadership in their communities).

4.1.2 Four training workshops of at least 40 beekeepers (at least 25% women) in sustainable production topics such as hive health, diseases and treatments, floral resources in the forests, honey, propolis, royal jelly and wax production, and marketing practices such as packing, advertisement, branding, etc., and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.

4.1.3 Purchase and delivery of equipment and tools (wooden beehives, smokers, thermometers, hive tools, mating hives, storage tanks, extractors, filters, etc.) to at least 40 beekeepers to support their sustainable beekeeping production processes.

4.1.4 Monitoring apiaries performance through field inspections and surveys, evaluating productivity and income generated compared to diagnostic baseline.

4.2.1 Two workshops with leaders of the coffee growers' cooperatives to present and discuss workplan details regarding renewal of the coffee plots and best sustainable agricultural practices.

4.2.2 Three workshops for female coffee growers to discuss and analyse, supported by data from surveys and field inspections, the effectiveness of their production practices and management of coffee seedling nurseries, building their capacity to sustainably increased production, and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.

4.2.3 Four training workshops on sustainable production processes in organic coffee farming including topics of natural fertilizers, biological control of pests and diseases and organic certification.

4.2.4 Signing of at least two conservation agreements for best agricultural practices with at least 50 coffee growers (min 50% women) in the biocultural corridor.

4.2.5 Purchase and delivery of tools, supplies, materials, and each producer's coffee seedlings for the improvement of coffee seedling nurseries for the renewal of plantations.

4.2.6 By June 2025 start monitoring assessments of the harvesting of coffee plantations in the renovated coffee plots and the preparation of corresponding reports, including a comparison of economic benefits compared with the scenario without project.

4.3.1 Identification and prioritization of 300 beneficiary families out of 3,000 families in the biocultural corridor (selecting those that currently have traditional unsustainable cooking practices, live closest to the core zone and show leadership in their communities) for the construction of 300 improved wood-saving stoves. Hold baseline survey on consumption of wood per household.

4.3.2 Purchase and deliver of materials and guide in the construction of wood-saving stoves for at least 300 families

4.3.3 Through household surveys, monitor firewood consumption by the improved wood-saving stoves and associated social, economic, environmental, and health benefits and compare it the baseline survey to assess the impact on the forests, household economics and health. Develop report measuring savings in purchase of firewood, time spent in firewood collection, and the decrease of respiratory diseases among families benefitted with the project.

4.3.4 Conduct site visits to demonstration sites and locations where key sustainable activities have been developed (such as wood saving stoves and beekeeping facilities in operation) to spread the knowledge and trigger the interest of additional stakeholders in the biocultural corridor to incorporate these practices.

Cross-cutting activities

Project management

- Hold meetings every month (during the first year), and every 3 months (on years 2 and 3), among TNC and VMA project leaders, to share advances of the project, challenges, priorities and next steps.
- Hold quarterly meetings with project Advisory Committee
- Develop trainings for staff involved in the project regarding TNCs Code of conduct, Standard Operating Procedures, among other Standards that project staff need to comply with, including safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults.

Communications:

- Utilise social media platforms to disseminate information and reinforce messaging by creating social media groups
 - Develop radio broadcasts jointly with local stations to spread awareness for behavioural changes in the biocultural corridor, including the importance of preventing forest fires, reducing deforestation, and sustainable productive practices.
 - Develop printed materials on the importance of integrated landscape management for biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate change projects
 - Development of an online repository of information related to the project in which all the written documents such as methodologies, guidelines, reports, technical documents, papers, etc. will be stored and accessible to the project’s beneficiaries
 - Evaluate total audience reached and survey targeted communities to assess comprehension of information shared
- Reporting
- Develop quarterly technical and financial reports, to be reviewed during Project Management meetings and shared with other stakeholders.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q24. Budget


Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that all Darwin Main should be using the over £100,000 template. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.


- [Budget form for projects over £100k](#)


Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.


N.B.: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload the Lead Partner’s accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

 [TNC - DIR29S21009 - Budget](#)

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Q25. Funding

Q25a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

- Development of existing work

Please provide details:

The project area has received biodiversity and climate financing since the 1990s, however, this has been insufficient for such a large area with complex socio-environmental challenges, including population density, (extreme) poverty, and high vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. The Parks in Peril project (collaboration between TNC, USAID and local NGOs; 2000–2005) established a local system of protected areas consisting of 9 municipal parks and 21 private nature reserves, along with other public protected areas. The projects 'Climate Nature and Communities in Guatemala' (USAID, Rainforest Alliance, CONAP, MARN and TNC; 2013-2023) and 'Resilient Central America' (US DOS, TNC; 2012- 2019) set the foundations from which biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement efforts should continue building.

The Productive Landscapes Resilient to Climate Change and Strengthened Socioeconomic Networks in Guatemala project (Adaptation Fund, UNDP, MARN) increased the adaptation capacity of producers in Sololá to climatic events and climate variability and created socioeconomic network that allowed its sustainability.

Although significant progress has been made in the project area, there remains great need to continue improving local livelihoods to reduce the threats to natural forests, protect biodiversity, and alleviate poverty in the biocultural corridor.

Q25b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

On-going projects in the highlands of Guatemala are:

-Volcanoes Project (implemented by CONAP ICC, 2018 - 2025), aims to strengthen protected areas located on of local volcanoes. Although the project area is different, the project focuses on similar stakeholders, such as municipal communities, and we will therefore coordinate through the RUMCLA roundtable on methodologies and exchange lessons learned, such as establishing protected areas, ecosystem restoration and livelihoods approaches.

-The Promoting sustainable and resilient territories in landscapes of the central volcanic chain project (MARN/UNDP 2019-2025) aims to incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management in productive landscapes in the central volcanic chain, contributing to the well-being of local communities and the generation of multiple global environmental benefits. Articulation will be made among projects regarding biodiversity conservation in productive landscapes.

-The 'Resilient Highlands Project' (implemented by Conservation Trust (FCA), 2019 - 2026) and the 'Entrepreneurs in the Highlands' Project (implemented by Helvetas Association, 2022 - 2024) both seek to strengthen the resilience of communities to the adverse effects of climate change and improve entrepreneurship and economic empowerment among smallholder farmers. Although these projects target different communities than ours, the RUMCLA roundtable will explore synergies, coordination and opportunities for expansion in the highlands.

Q26. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

The capital item (vehicle) will be the property of local partner VMA during and after the project.

Q27. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

Economy and efficiency will be secured through the TNC-VMA partnership: building on both partners' extensive experience in the area and local communities' trust, implementation will start soon after signing the grant agreement, ensuring time is well spent on proposed outputs and outcome and economic resources are not misspent establishing local presence. Project staff will be 90% Guatemalan nationals, securing comparatively low salaries, and reducing travel costs. An Indirect Cost recovery rate of 16% to enable effective management of the project and deliver maximum impact is competitive with other local NGOs. Partners have strong Standard Operating Procedures to manage large, long-term projects and ensure transparency and efficiency in acquisition.

Effectiveness will be promoted by addressing the main drivers of deforestation in Guatemala's Highlands, which are directly linked to poverty and lack of opportunities for local communities, simultaneously obtaining wins for nature and people, Darwin's main priorities. Beneficiaries identified the need for project activities and directly requested support from VMA. By helping improve local livelihoods, strengthening capacities and sharing successful experiences, the project will ensure long-term sustainability. Farmer-to-farmer approaches allow scale-up of knowledge sharing and replication in other geographies.

Equity is embedded in project activities. The project will be developed in Sololá, where poverty and extreme poverty rates are significantly above national rates. Population targeted will be 100% rural indigenous people, who are disproportionately affected by poverty and lack of opportunities. Project activities will benefit girls and women, mainly through installation of fuel saving stoves and capacity building, contributing to gender equity.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q28. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
---	---------

We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
---	---------

We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with all partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement and strengthen your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. If any of the responses are “no”, please indicate how it is being addressed.

TNC will provide training to all project staff (TNC and VMA) regarding its code of conduct and safeguarding policies at the beginning of the project, for each new staff member that joins afterwards and again 24 months after the project start. TNC will also ensure they all receive an electronic copy of all relevant Standard Operating Procedures and above-mentioned documents. The training will also highlight the availability of an electronic mechanism to denounce any potential incidents in order for TNC to investigate and take any other action needed.

Q29. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance.

TNC has a strict code of conduct that applies to each member of the organisation. Such code is also promoted among its project’s partners. Furthermore, TNC’s Human Rights Guide for Working with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities provides tools, resources and guidance in support of TNC’s work. The guide applies to all scales of work and strategic approaches. It is informed by nine Principles and Safeguards (e.g., Free Choice and Self-Determination, Prior Engagement and Collaborative Relationships, Informed Decision-Making, Right to Withhold Consent) that are drawn from TNC’s commitments to international human rights law and standards. TNC has also developed an operational toolkit for working with indigenous peoples and local communities. It is aligned with international standards and internal TNC resources and guidance. The toolkit consists of a flowchart. The steps of the flow chart include conducting a free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) process as well as establishing a grievance mechanism and ensuring accountability. The organisation will also collaborate closely with the government and will seek advice in all stages of the project to ensure that it is aligned not only to the country’s priorities but also to the applicable laws and regulations.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q30. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office


will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.


No


Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.


Yes, advice attached

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

 [TNC - DIR29S21009 - Embassy contact](#)

 12/12/2022

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 pdf 1.63 MB

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q31. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Jorge Cardona	Project Leader	10	Checked
José Alejandro Sosa	Conservation & Climate Change Coordinator + Project coordinator (support project lead), TNC	30	Checked
José David Díaz	Watershed Conservation Manager, TNC	15	Checked
César Caté	Watershed Conservation Specialist, TNC	30	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Erik Chavajay	Local specialist community organizer, VMA	100	Checked
William Menchú	Integrated Fire Management Technician, VMA	50	Checked
Elmer Puac	Ecological Restoration Technician, VMA	50	Checked
To be hired	Nursery specialist in native species, VMA	88	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked


Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [TNC - DIR29S21009 - CVs](#)

 12/12/2022

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 pdf 532.34 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes


Section 15 - Project Partners

Q32. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner - i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name:	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Website address:	https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/latin-america/guatemala/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	<p>TNC has been working in Guatemala for over 30 years, on conservation, sustainable protection and water management projects. It holds strong relationships with the national, regional and local governments, other NGOs and SCOs and is well recognized by local partners.</p> <p>TNC's project roles and responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead the overall management (technical and financial) of the project,• Deliver technical and financial reports.• Institutional relations at the national level (with national government institutions, the British Embassy and the Darwin Initiative).• Provide global knowledge and experience in Integrated Fire Management, strategic planning at landscape, improved management of protected areas, science methodologies and MEL, nature-based solutions, territorial governance and conservation led by local communities and indigenous peoples.• Provide its experience with bilateral and multilateral organizations such as USAID, GEF, PNUD, etc to explore concurrent efforts or resources to be incorporated in the project, especially when it ends
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	
Represented on the Project Board	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Do you have partners involved in the Project?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
1. Partner Name:	Vivamos Mejor Association (VMA)
Website address:	n/a

VMA is a local organization with over 30 years experience in the area of interest of the project. VMAs Project roles and responsibilities include:

-In charge of relations with local governments, institutions and communities.

-Implementation of field actions for the conservation of forest remnants, landscape restoration (including the cultivation of native forest species plants in its nursery) and the strengthening of sustainable livelihoods of local communities.

-Furthermore, VMA will provide its longstanding experience in land use planning, multi-actor analysis and decision-making processes, community-based conservation, improving livelihoods knowledge and its legitimacy with local Maya communities (including staff belonging to the local indigenous groups) to secure the best implementation of the deliverables. Its social infrastructure and facilities such as tree nurseries and education centers, will enable the efficient delivery of trees, training programs, management plans, forest restoration and livelihood activities.

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

No Response

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board

Yes

No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

No

3. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00





Represented on the Project Board Yes No





Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes No

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

 [TNC - DIR29S21009 - Letters of support](#)
 12/12/2022
 11:05:30
 pdf 2.67 MB

 [TNC - DIR29S21009 - Cover letter](#)
 12/12/2022
 11:04:07
 pdf 200.96 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q33. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DAREX004	Alphonse Mallya	Partnering for a biodiverse, prosperous and resilient Tarangire Ecosystem landscape
29-029	Ilman Muhammad	Nature Climate Solutions to protect mangrove biodiversity and improve livelihoods
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government

Agencies.

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

The Nature Conservancy

I apply for a grant of




I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.





(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)





- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked





Name	Juan Carlos Godoy Herrera
Position in the organisation	TNC Guatemala Programme Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 TNC - DIR29S21009 - Certification  12/12/2022  11:18:54  pdf 15.28 KB
Date	09 December 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [TNC - DIR29S21009 - Audited Financial Statements FY21](#)
 12/12/2022
 11:19:13
 pdf 568.92 KB

 [TNC - DIR29S21009 - Audited Financial Statements FY20](#)
 12/12/2022
 11:19:08
 pdf 2.27 MB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 [TNC - DIR29S21009 - Safeguarding Policy](#)
 12/12/2022
 11:19:22
 pdf 5.36 MB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application <ul style="list-style-type: none">• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• my budget (which meets the requirements above)	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• my completed implementation timetable as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 31, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 32, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked

I have included a copy of the Lead Partner’s safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 28.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Output 1	By 2026, local governments, institutions and indigenous communities have enhanced capacities for the inclusive governance and sustainable management of 63,000ha in the core zone the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.														
1.1.1	Identification, mapping, and engagement of key stakeholders in the biocultural corridor for their inclusion in the reform and strengthening of the RUMCLA roundtable for the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.	10													
1.1.2	Signing of the cross-sector agreement that strengthens and reforms the RUMCLA roundtable and includes the official list of the members with their main governance roles.	9													
1.2.1	Training of RUMCLA roundtable members and other local stakeholders through 4 workshops on role definition, knowledge and perception, governance of the territory, and the legal framework of the biological corridor and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.	6													
1.3.1	Training of at least 40 civil servants of municipal gender equality units in building gender considerations into municipality planning processes and increasing women's participation in socio-environment processes.	6													
1.4.1	Secondary information gathering through bibliographic review of biological monitoring	6													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	antecedents in the biocultural corridor and supervised classification of satellite images to map more precisely the ecosystems of the biocultural corridor.														
1.4.2	Determine variables for monitoring through satellite images and field visits (including bird species, tree cover, etc). Set baseline values for the ecological monitoring system.	9													
1.4.3	Training of RUMCLA roundtable members and other local stakeholders and experts through 2 workshops on the selection of variables to be monitored and the design and operationalisation of the ecological monitoring system.	12													
1.4.4	Monitor ecological variables twice a year during the project and summarizing results in an annual ecological monitoring report.	15													
1.5.1	Two workshops with the RUMCLA roundtable members for the evaluation of the expired biocultural corridor management plan.	9													
1.5.2	Carry out an analysis of geospatial information such as forest cover, human population distribution, forest fires, etc, and literature to update the ecological, social, economic, and cultural information of the biocultural corridor in the management plan	12													
1.5.3	Two workshops with RUMCLA roundtable members and additional experts from local government, community leaders, and other CSOs, to update the biocultural corridor management plan: objectives, mission, vision,	12													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	conservation targets, threats, opportunities, conservation elements and strategies.														
1.5.4	After the workshops, additional 1-on-1 consultations with key experts to collect feedback on drafts of the management plan. Finalise management plan endorsed by local governments, institutions, and leaders of indigenous communities	6													
1.6.1	Data gathering through bibliographic review of global and local biodiversity and climate databases and systems to build modeling of their current and future ecological niche, considering the impacts of climate change.	9													
1.6.2	Workshop with bird and botany experts to validate the report describing the bioclimatic corridors in the biocultural corridor for endemic, threatened or emblematic bird and/or tree species.	9													
1.7.1	Meetings with local communities and municipalities to inform them of plans to designate a new protected area and get their commitment, agreement, and collaboration	9													
1.7.2	Formalization of the agreement for the voluntary declaration of a new protected area in the core zone of the biocultural corridor, categorised as 'regional municipal park' and filing of its registration in the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP)	9													
1.7.3	Field delimitation of the new protected area, collection of biophysical and socioeconomic	9													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	information and preparation of a technical study to be submitted to CONAP for its approval.														
1.7.4	Elaboration of the management plan for the new regional municipal park (including geographic, social, economic, and environmental information) through 4 workshops with the municipalities and the representatives of local communities and local CSOs.	9													
1.7.5	Update of management plans (including geographic, social, economic, and environmental information) for 4 existing protected areas (endorsed by local governments, institutions, and leaders of indigenous communities) through 4 workshops (1 per protected area) with the municipalities, local communities, and local CSOs.	9													
Output 2	By mid-2026, the number of wildfires is reduced by 25 % and the rate of loss of key ecosystems due to wildfires is halted in the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.														
2.1.1	Map existing geographic information systems and databases (such as forest cover images and data repositories systems) for monitoring forest fires, including heat spots and landscape scars due to fires. Evaluate and analyse the history of forest fires as well as their characteristics and patterns as recorded in these databases and systems.	9													
2.1.2	Hold two meetings with the Department of Forest Fires of the National Institute of Forests	9													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	(INAB), local landowners, local communities, and municipalities to identify the drivers, instigators, and sites and fronts of forest fires in the biological corridor as a basis for developing solutions, resources and actions in the Integrated Fire Management Strategy.														
2.1.3	Develop an Integrated Fire Management strategy in the biocultural corridor, based on the above-mentioned analyses and consultations and aligned with the needs and concerns of the members of the RUMCLA roundtable and other stakeholders (INAB, municipalities, forest firefighters, etc.) to secure its implementation.	12													
2.1.4	Validate and socialize the Integrated Fire Management strategy with key actors (members of the RUMCLA roundtable, INAB, municipal governments, forest firefighters) through a workshop, resulting in the publication of the final IFM strategy document (both online and distributed to partners in printing).	6													
2.1.5	After the next dry (forest fire) season (mid-2025), set up an implementation report detailing the success of the IFM strategy by analysing satellite images, maps, above identified databases and systems, as well as field visits and surveys of local communities.	6													
2.2.1	Five training workshops for 50 community members and RUMCLA roundtable members in the 'basic techniques for forest fire control' course and on best agricultural and apicultural practices for the reduction of forest fires in the biocultural corridor, including the certification of	12													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	forest fire fighters in the biocultural corridor and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.														
2.3.1	Equip 3 new forest fire brigades (cotton suit, leather boots and gloves, goggles, helmet, backpacks, weather kit, monofilter, fire bat, drip burner, Mcleod Pulaski tools, flashlights, radios, fire rakes, scrapers, fire swatters, brush hooks, drones, etc.) and set up guidelines and trainings for the maintenance and proper use of the equipment	9													
2.4.1	Construction, georeferencing, and maintenance of 25 km of firebreak rounds and gaps, black lines for the control of forest fires in coordination with local governments.	12													
Output 3	By 2026, 75ha of forests in key biological connectivity areas of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor are restored and serve as demonstration sites														
3.1.1	Organise two workshops for landowners with degraded areas susceptible to forest restoration within the framework of the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy of Guatemala, to explain the importance of restoring degraded areas, raise awareness on the processes that lead to land degradation and actions to avoid further degradation.	12													
3.1.2	Preparation of a report on the identification of at least 75ha of degraded areas through field inspections and aerial images with potential for	9													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	reforestation with forest species that are native, key, endemic and/or in danger of extinction.														
3.1.3	Signing of individual and collective agreements on forest restoration commitments with landowners.	9													
3.2.1	Creation of 10 restoration demonstration sites out of the best examples of restored areas within the 75ha reforested area through signing and demarcation, and the training of the owners for leading field visits and sharing lessons learned, supported by the Center for Education for Rural Development and Climate Change Adaptation (CEDRACC).	9													
3.2.2	Organise, prepare basic information (handouts, brochures), and report on min. 6 visits to the demonstration sites with 120 direct beneficiaries of the project, to expose them to the practices and techniques on how and why to restore degraded areas, so they can then expand knowledge amongst approx. 3,000 local smallholder farmers, by utilising the farmer-to-farmer approach	6													
3.3.1	Inscription of restored lands in the Guatemala Forest Incentive Program run by INAB to secure funds from the government for the landowners for the maintenance of the trees for the next 6 years.	3													
3.4.1	Collection of seeds of native, key, endemic and endangered forest species in local certified seed producer forests to secure seed quality.	9													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
3.4.2	Production of forest plants with emphasis on native, key, endemic, and endangered species in the CEDRACC nursery of VMA.	9													
3.4.3	Planting of over 82,000 trees (of which at least 30,000 are endangered and endemic tree species) with local community members, schools, and VMA staff by Q2 of year 2024 in the degraded areas identified.	9													
3.4.4	Development of biological connectivity restoration report based on satellite images and mapping which will include an inventory of native forest plants used and the progress of the restoration actions carried out in this project.	3													
Output 4	By mid-2026, 390 indigenous families will improve their household economy, with a minimum 15% increase of their annual income derived from sustainable livelihoods and savings from reduced fuelwood consumption.														
4.1.1	Detailed assessment of current beekeeping practices in the biocultural corridor (based on the previous engagement with local producers and situation analysis conducted by VMA). Resulting in a diagnostic baseline on apiaries performance and the identification and selection of at least 40 beekeepers out of the larger group in the biocultural corridor area (prioritising those that have small, unsustainable practices, are located closest to the core zone and show leadership in their communities).	6													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
4.1.2	Four training workshops of at least 40 beekeepers (at least 25% women) in sustainable production topics such as hive health, diseases and treatments, floral resources in the forests, honey, propolis, royal jelly and wax production, and marketing practices such as packing, advertisement, branding, etc., and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.	9													
4.1.3	Purchase and delivery of equipment and tools (wooden beehives, smokers, thermometers, hive tools, mating hives, storage tanks, extractors, filters, etc.) to at least 40 beekeepers to support their sustainable beekeeping production processes.	9													
4.1.4	Monitoring apiaries performance through field inspections and surveys, evaluating productivity and income generated compared to diagnostic baseline.	18													
4.2.1	Two workshops with leaders of the coffee growers' cooperatives to present and discuss workplan details regarding renewal of the coffee plots and best sustainable agricultural practices.	9													
4.2.2	Three workshops for female coffee growers to discuss and analyse, supported by data from surveys and field inspections, the effectiveness of their production practices and management of coffee seedling nurseries, building their capacity to sustainably increased production, and evaluation of participant comprehension	9													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	through surveys before and after the workshops.														
4.2.3	Four training workshops on sustainable production processes in organic coffee farming including topics of natural fertilizers, biological control of pests and diseases and organic certification.	9													
4.2.4	Signing of at least two conservation agreements for best agricultural practices with at least 50 coffee growers (min 50% women) in the biocultural corridor.	12													
4.2.5	Purchase and delivery of tools, supplies, materials, and each producer's coffee seedlings for the improvement of coffee seedling nurseries for the renewal of plantations.	6													
4.2.6	By June 2025 start monitoring assessments of the harvesting of coffee plantations in the renovated coffee plots and the preparation of corresponding reports, including a comparison of economic benefits compared with the scenario without project.	12													
4.3.1	Identification and prioritization of 300 beneficiary families out of 3,000 families in the biocultural corridor (selecting those that currently have traditional unsustainable cooking practices, live closest to the core zone and show leadership in their communities) for the construction of 300 improved wood-saving stoves. Hold baseline survey on consumption of wood per household.	9													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
4.3.2	Purchase and deliver of materials and guide in the construction of wood-saving stoves for at least 300 families	6													
4.3.3	Through household surveys, monitor firewood consumption by the improved wood-saving stoves and associated social, economic, environmental, and health benefits and compare it the baseline survey to assess the impact on the forests, household economics and health. Develop report measuring savings in purchase of firewood, time spent in firewood collection, and the decrease of respiratory diseases among families benefitted with the project.	21													
	Conduct site visits to demonstration sites and locations where key sustainable activities have been developed (such as wood saving stoves and beekeeping facilities in operation) to spread the knowledge and trigger the interest of additional stakeholders in the biocultural corridor to incorporate these practices.	6													
X.	Cross-cutting activities														
	Project Management														
	Hold meetings every month (during the first year), and every 3 months (on years 2 and 3), among TNC and VMA project leaders, to share advances of the project, challenges, priorities and next steps.	19													
	Hold quarterly meetings with project Advisory Committee														

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	Develop trainings for staff involved in the project regarding TNCs Code of conduct, Standard Operating Procedures, among other Standards that project staff need to comply with.	6													
	Communications														
	Utilise social media platforms to disseminate information and reinforce messaging by creating social media groups	27													
	Develop radio broadcasts jointly with local stations to spread awareness for behavioural changes in the biocultural corridor, including the importance of preventing forest fires, reducing deforestation, and sustainable productive practices.	24													
	Develop printed materials on the importance of integrated landscape management for biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate change projects	6													
	Development of an online repository of information related to the project in which all the written documents such as methodologies, guidelines, reports, technical documents, papers, etc. will be stored and accessible to the project's beneficiaries	6													
	Evaluate total audience reached and survey targeted communities to assess comprehension of information shared	9													
	Reporting														

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor

		No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	Develop quarterly technical and financial reports, to be reviewed during Project Management meetings and shared with other stakeholders.	12													

Project Title: Improving integrated landscape management on the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyu biocultural corridor.

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Poverty and social inequality rates in rural and indigenous communities in the western highlands of Guatemala are reduced through the sustainable use and conservation of local biodiversity.</p>			
<p>Outcome: By 2026, the integrated landscape management of 63,000 ha of forests in the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor will be improved, effectively protecting biodiversity, restoring biological connectivity, and promoting sustainable livelihoods.</p>	<p>0.1 By the first quarter of 2025, a cross-sector agreement for the sustainable management of 63,000ha of forests in the core zone of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú is signed by local governments, institutions, and indigenous communities' representatives.</p>	<p>0.1.1 Report of the agreements generated for the sustainable management of the biocultural corridor including list of participating members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is sufficient political stability to implement the project. - Newly elected local authorities support the project activities. - Community remains consistently engaged. - There is sufficient trust and engagement between local government, indigenous peoples, and local communities to collaborate on the agreement and subsequent management activities. - There is sufficient legitimacy of local
	<p>0.2 By mid-2026, at least 3 local governments have included conservation-restoration actions in their annual operational plans and increased funding for their implementation with an integrated landscape management approach.</p>	<p>0.2.1 Annual operating plans of the selected local governments describing the conservation-restoration activities to be developed and detailing the increase in funding for their implementation.</p>	
	<p>0.3 By mid-2026, wildfire occurrence is reduced by at least 25% and the rate of loss of key biodiversity areas (12,550ha of high biodiversity ecosystems in the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor core zone) due to wildfires is halted.</p>	<p>0.3.1 Report with comparative analysis of changes in the occurrence of forest fires and the rate of loss of key ecosystems due to this factor, covering a period of 10 years before the start of the project until mid-2026 (report developed through the ecological monitoring system of Vivamos Mejor Association).</p>	
	<p>0.4 By the fourth quarter of 2025, 75ha of degraded lands in key biological connectivity areas of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor have been</p>	<p>0.4.1 Report of the increase in the presence of native, endemic, and endangered forest species in key areas</p>	

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	<p>restored (replanted) using native, endemic, and endangered forest species and are being used as a demonstration site for local smallholder farmers.</p>	<p>for biological connectivity of the Zunil-Atitlán- Balam-Juyú biocultural corridor (based on data developed by Vivamos Mejor permanent ecological monitoring system); including maps of restored areas and modeling of bioclimatic corridors</p> <p>04.2 Record of visits by local smallholder farmers to demonstration site</p>	<p>stakeholder representatives to adequately represent their communities and to be a channel for bringing the agreements reached to fruition for each stakeholder.</p>
	<p>0.5 By the first quarter of 2026, annual incomes of at least 390 indigenous people (at least 50% women and youth) will be increased by at least 15%, through sustainable livelihoods, plus reported savings equivalent to 30% of total annual income due to reduced fuelwood consumption, contributing to reduced rural poverty, social inequality, and ecosystem degradation.</p>	<p>0.5.1. Report with survey results (before and after project implementation) describing changes in income derived from sustainable livelihoods of at least 390 direct project beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>0.5.2 Survey before and after stoves are built comparing wood consumption reduction, economic savings, and other co-benefits derived from stove building</p> <p>0.5.3 Report with survey results (before and after project implementation) describing changes in of social, economic, environmental, and health benefits generated from the use of improved wood-saving stoves.</p>	<p>- Seasonal or climate-related droughts or weather patterns will not be severe enough to prevent local communities from engaging in this project.</p> <p>- Measures to manage the Covid-19 pandemic will not impair the ability to execute the project activities by the communities and consortium partners.</p>

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<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. By 2026, local governments, institutions and indigenous communities have enhanced capacities for the inclusive governance and sustainable management of 63,000ha in the core zone the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.</p>	<p>1.1 By mid-2024, the roundtable for the Multiple Use Reserve of the Watershed of Lake Atitlán¹ (RUMCLA roundtable) with representation and effective participation of marginalized social groups such as indigenous women and youth, is strengthened and fully operational to generate agreements for the integrated and sustainable management of the Zunil, Atitlán, Balam-Juyú biocultural corridor.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Agreement to reform the RUMCLA roundtable for the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor signed by local governments, institutions, and indigenous communities' representatives.</p> <p>1.1.2 List of all official members of the RUMCLA roundtable detailing the participation of marginalized social groups (indigenous women and youth).</p> <p>1.1.3 Minutes of RUMCLA roundtable meetings</p>	<p>- Local governments, institutions, private nature reserves and CSOs are aware of their capacity needs, are interested in strengthening their capacity and continue to manifest interest and actively participate in the generation of agreements and planning instruments for the integrated management of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.</p> <p>- There is sufficient legitimacy of local stakeholder representatives to adequately represent</p>
	<p>1.2 By mid-2024, RUMCLA roundtable members are trained on their rights and obligations (for example as part of the National Policy of Citizen Participation in Processes of Development), governance and decision making, interinstitutional negotiations and consensus reaching, collaboration between multicultural groups, and the benefits and importance of inclusive decision making to poverty alleviation.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Survey results detailing changes in knowledge and perception of stakeholders on the importance of integrated landscape management, governance and inclusive decision making for biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation according to the needs of each stakeholder.</p>	

¹ One of the regional roundtables established by Guatemala's 'Joint Administration and Shared Management of the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas and Natural Areas of Importance for the Conservation of Biological Diversity' policy

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	<p>1.3 By the fourth quarter of 2024, municipal gender equality units are strengthened and have increased capacity to support local gender equality initiatives, by increasing their capacity in building gender considerations into municipality planning processes and increasing women's participation in socio-environment processes.</p>	<p>1.3.1 Attendance list of training courses for the municipal gender equality units. Surveys before and after training demonstrating the change in knowledge and perception of participants</p> <p>1.3.2 Number of women participating in active management of the biocultural corridor, through RUMCLA roundtable compositions and surveys</p>	<p>their communities and to be a channel for bringing the agreements reached to fruition for each stakeholder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RUMCLA roundtable is perceived to be a legitimate body and constituents actively and equitably participate in RUMCLA processes
	<p>1.4 By the fourth quarter of 2024, a permanent ecological monitoring system will be fully functional and generating and sharing data to key stakeholders for the adaptative management of 63,000ha of forest of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor core zone.</p>	<p>1.4.1 Permanent ecological monitoring system installed in the offices of Vivamos Mejor Association (with technical and technological capabilities for long term ecological monitoring of the area).</p> <p>1.4.2 Report with two-year ecological monitoring data (2024 and 2025), including changes in forest cover, incidence of forest fires (number of events and number of affected hectares), and ecological dynamics data, sensitive to the impacts of climate change, using indicator species of birds and trees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a common understanding of the basic problems that are present within the biocultural corridor by local authorities and they are willing to address them. - Local communities and stakeholders perceive protected areas and management plans as legitimate and effective mechanism, and accept their implementation and functioning.
	<p>1.5 By mid-2025, the management plan for the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor will be developed jointly with local governments and indigenous communities.</p>	<p>1.5.1 Updated management plan for the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor (endorsed by local governments, institutions, and leaders of indigenous communities).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data literacy is sufficient to utilise data from the ecological monitoring system to improve adaptive
	<p>1.6 By the fourth quarter of 2025, there is scientifically based information that will allow the planning of bioclimatic corridors for the effective conservation of 25 endemic, threatened or iconic bird and/or tree</p>	<p>1.6.1 Report on the current and future ecological niche (modelling) of 25 species of birds and/or trees including planning of bioclimatic corridors for</p>	

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	<p>species through the modeling of their current and future ecological niche, considering the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>their conservation, using global databases of biodiversity (Ebird, Inaturalist, Global Biodiversity Information facility) and local information from permanent biodiversity monitoring system established by the project.</p>	<p>management of the biocultural corridor.</p>
	<p>1.7 By the end of the project, at least 4,000 hectares of key biodiversity areas of the biocultural corridor (cloud forest, pine-oak and/or seasonally dry forest ecosystems) are protected through new or updated legal schemes (declaration of 1 new protected area and updating of 4 management plans for existing protected areas: (i) Ikitiw Regional Municipal Park, ii) Rey Tepepul Regional Municipal Park, iii) Chuiaxamoló Regional Municipal Park and iv) Xiquichoy Regional Municipal Park).</p>	<p>1.7.1 Agreement on the declaration of 1 new protected area (1 new Regional Municipal Park included in the National Protected Areas System – SIGAP)</p> <p>1.7.2 Management plan developed for the new protected area (endorsed by local governments, institutions, and leaders of indigenous communities).</p> <p>1.7.3 Updated management plans for 4 existing protected areas (endorsed by local governments, institutions, and leaders of indigenous communities).</p> <p>1.7.4 GIS shapefile with polygons of at least 4,000ha protected through new or updated legal schemes.</p>	
<p>2. By mid-2026, the number of wildfires is reduced by 25 % and the rate of loss of key ecosystems due to wildfires is halted in the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.</p>	<p>2.1 By the end of 2024, an Integrated Fire Management Strategy for the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor is developed and jointly implemented with local governments and indigenous communities.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Published final document of the Integrated Fire Management Strategy for the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor endorsed by members of the participatory governance platform</p> <p>2.1.2 Report on outcomes of the joint implementation of the Integrated Fire Management strategy by local governments and indigenous communities.</p>	<p>- Climatic parameters remain in average ranges (10-year average). There are no extreme drought seasons outside normal parameters.</p> <p>- There is sufficient openness and interest from stakeholder organisations to</p>

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	<p>2.2 By mid-2025, 140 people from indigenous communities will be trained in forest and urban-forest interface fire prevention and response (including better agricultural and apicultural practices to reduce wildfires).</p>	<p>2.2.1 Attendance certificates of training courses on forest and urban-forest interface fire prevention and response. Surveys before and after training demonstrating the change in knowledge and perception of participants.</p>	<p>participate in a coordinated way, both from local and central government and from communities.</p> <p>- There is sufficient institutional stability for development and long-term implementation of the Integrated Fire Management Strategy</p>
	<p>2.3 By mid-2025, 3 new forest fire brigades, including 30 brigade members, will be formally trained, and fully equipped to effectively prevent and combat forest fires.</p>	<p>2.3.1 Graduation certificates of formal training courses on wildfires prevention and control (certified by the National Forestry Institute and supported by TNC Global Fire Management Team and the US Forest Service) for 30 forest fires brigade members.</p> <p>2.3.2 Signed lists of delivered forest fire prevention and control certified equipment</p>	
	<p>2.4 By beginning of 2026, 25 km of blacklines and firebreaks will be constructed and/or maintained to prevent forest fires in fire sensitive or fire independent ecosystems (cloud Forest, tropical broadleaf forests).</p>	<p>2.4.1 Map and GIS shapefiles of implemented blacklines and firebreaks.</p>	
<p>3. By 2026, 75ha of forests in key biological connectivity areas of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor are restored and serve as demonstration sites.</p>	<p>3.1 By the beginning of 2025, 75ha of key degraded biological connectivity areas are identified, and conservation agreements are signed with owners of the areas to be restored.</p>	<p>3.1.1. Document with results of analysis of degraded areas to be restored with a biological connectivity approach (based on data collected by Vivamos Mejor Ecological Monitoring system).</p> <p>3.1.2. Individual and collective agreements signed between the owners of the areas to be restored (75ha), Vivamos Mejor Association, and The Nature Conservancy.</p>	<p>- Landowners of key degraded biodiversity connectivity areas are willing to implement forest restoration activities on their lands.</p> <p>- Restored areas are sufficiently maintained and protected from future land use change</p>

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	<p>3.2 By mid-2025, 10 demonstration sites have been established within the biocultural corridor, expanding knowledge amongst approximately 3,000 smallholder farmers of local communities by utilising the farmer-to-farmer approach</p>	<p>3.2.1 Attendance list of training courses for demonstration site landowners on farmer-to-farmer approach. Surveys before and after training demonstrating the change in knowledge and perception of participants.</p> <p>3.2.2 Print outs of educational handouts and brochures</p> <p>3.2.3 Record of visits to demonstration sites by local communities and other stakeholders within the biocultural corridor.</p>	<p>- There are no severe climatic or weather events impacting on the integrity and extent of protected areas, or land owners' commitment to maintain restored land</p> <p>- There is sufficient interest among local farmers and others to attend training and visit demonstration sites.</p>
	<p>3.3 By 2nd quarter of 2025 the 75 ha of forested areas will be inscribed in the Forest Incentive Program of Guatemala, which will oversee monitoring tree survival rates (which should be between 60 and 75%) and cover the maintenance costs.</p>	<p>3.3.1 Yearly reports from Forests Incentive Program on the progress of the reforestation of the 75 ha.</p> <p>3.3.2 Biological connectivity areas restoration report including maps and photographs (before and after) of restored areas (using a standardized photographic monitoring protocol developed by TNC), with records of the survival rate</p>	
	<p>3.4 By the fourth quarter of 2025, 75ha of degraded lands located in key areas for biological connectivity in the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor are restored using native species (planting over 82,000 trees, of which at least 30,000 or 36.5% are endangered and endemic tree species).</p>	<p>3.4.1. Biological connectivity areas restoration report including maps and photographs (before and after) of restored areas (using a standardized photographic monitoring protocol developed by TNC), with records of the survival rate.</p> <p>3.4.2 Inventory of native forest plants (82,000 plants) used for restoring</p>	

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		75ha of degraded biological connectivity areas; including at least 30,000 plants of endemic and endangered tree species (listed on the IUCN-Red List, CONAP- LEA list and other relevant scientific literature related to endangered species).	
<p>4. By mid-2026, 390 indigenous families will improve their household economy, with a minimum 15% increase of their annual income derived from sustainable livelihoods and savings from reduced fuelwood consumption.</p>	<p>4.1 By the last quarter of 2025, 40 beekeepers (at least 25% women) will be fully equipped and trained in sustainable production and joint marketing practices and will increase their annual honey production by at least 30%, generating a minimum 5% annual income increase for their households.</p>	<p>4.1.1 Training course attendance certificates issued by Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Food (MAGA) and signed lists for the delivery of apiculture materials and equipment.</p> <p>4.1.2 Surveys before and after training demonstrating the change in knowledge on better practices for beekeeping and joint marketing.</p> <p>4.1.3 Survey results by project staff before and after the project implementation detailing changes in income generation due to improved beekeeping practices and joint marketing.</p>	<p>- According to planning processes and development actions carried out by Vivamos Mejor in the last 30 years, stakeholders have expressed their interest in producing coffee and beekeeping, which has been documented in several planning documents and assessments. Based on this, it is expected that farmers and beekeepers maintain interest in project activities, complete training, use new equipment, and implement better production practices.</p> <p>- Market conditions remain favourable for beekeeping and coffee production to be</p>
	<p>4.2 By the first quarter of 2026, 50 coffee growers (at least 50% women) will improve their productive units through the implementation of better agricultural practices (organic coffee production) and the renovation of 15 hectares of mixed shade coffee agroforestry systems (using more productive and resilient coffee plants and enriching the coffee shade with native forest species) generating a minimum 10% annual income increase (when the new coffee plants stabilise production in the 4th year after planting).</p>	<p>4.2.1 Surveys before and after training demonstrating a change in knowledge on better agricultural practices for organic coffee production (data disaggregated by gender).</p> <p>4.2.2 Conservation agreements signed with 50 coffee growers implementing better agricultural practices on their plots.</p>	

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		<p>4.2.3 Map and GIS shape of 15ha of renewed coffee agroforestry systems.</p> <p>4.2.4 Comparative report of projected economic benefits derived from the implementation of better agricultural practices and the renewal of 15ha of coffee agroforestry systems (including before and after photographs of renewed plots).</p>	<p>profitable and a desirable livelihood for local people.</p> <p>- The families benefiting from the wood-saving stoves use them and reduce their firewood consumption (as seen in other cases in the same region as the project is planning to target).</p>
	<p>4.3 By the first quarter of 2026, the firewood consumption of 300 families is reduced by 50% through the construction of wood-saving stoves, generating an annual economic saving of \$500 per family (savings equivalent to 30% of total annual income) and reducing ecosystem degradation.</p>	<p>4.3.1 Survey before and after stoves are built comparing wood consumption reduction, economic savings, and other co-benefits derived from stove building</p> <p>4.3.2 Report of social, economic, environmental and health benefits generated from the use of improved wood-saving stoves, based on survey results developed before and after the project implementation.</p>	
<p>Activities</p> <p>Output 1: By 2026, local governments, institutions and indigenous communities have enhanced capacities for the inclusive governance and sustainable management of 63,000ha in the core zone the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.</p> <p>1.1.1 Identification, mapping, and engagement of key stakeholders in the biocultural corridor for their inclusion in the reform and strengthening of the RUMCLA roundtable for the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.</p> <p>1.1.2 Signing of the cross-sector agreement that strengthens and reforms the RUMCLA roundtable and includes the official list of the members with their main governance roles.</p> <p>1.2.1 Training of RUMCLA roundtable members and other local stakeholders through 4 workshops on role definition, knowledge and perception, governance of the territory, and the legal framework of the biological corridor and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.</p>			

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- 1.3.1 Training of at least 40 civil servants of municipal gender equality units in building gender considerations into municipality planning processes and increasing women's participation in socio-environment processes.
- 1.4.1 Secondary information gathering through bibliographic review of biological monitoring antecedents in the biocultural corridor and supervised classification of satellite images to map more precisely the ecosystems of the biocultural corridor.
- 1.4.2 Determine variables for monitoring through satellite images and field visits (including bird species, tree cover, etc). Set baseline values for the ecological monitoring system.
- 1.4.3 Training of RUMCLA roundtable members and other local stakeholders and experts through 2 workshops on the selection of variables to be monitored and the design and operationalisation of the ecological monitoring system.
- 1.4.4 Monitor ecological variables twice a year during the project and summarizing results in an annual ecological monitoring report.
- 1.5.1 Two workshops with the RUMCLA roundtable members for the evaluation of the expired biocultural corridor management plan.
- 1.5.2 Carry out an analysis of geospatial information such as forest cover, human population distribution, forest fires, etc, and literature to update the ecological, social, economic, and cultural information of the biocultural corridor in the management plan.
- 1.5.3 Two workshops with RUMCLA roundtable members and additional experts from local government, community leaders, and other CSOs, to update the biocultural corridor management plan: objectives, mission, vision, conservation targets, threats, opportunities, conservation elements and strategies.
- 1.5.4 After the workshops, additional 1-on-1 consultations with key experts to collect feedback on drafts of the management plan. Finalise management plan endorsed by local governments, institutions, and leaders of indigenous communities
- 1.6.1 Data gathering through bibliographic review of global and local biodiversity and climate databases and systems to build modeling of their current and future ecological niche, considering the impacts of climate change.
- 1.6.2 Workshop with bird and botany experts to validate the report describing the bioclimatic corridors in the biocultural corridor for endemic, threatened or emblematic bird and/or tree species.
- 1.7.1 Meetings with local communities and municipalities to inform them of plans to designate a new protected area and get their commitment, agreement, and collaboration
- 1.7.2 Formalization of the agreement for the voluntary declaration of a new protected area in the core zone of the biocultural corridor, categorised as 'regional municipal park' and filing of its registration in the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP)
- 1.7.3 Field delimitation of the new protected area, collection of biophysical and socioeconomic information and preparation of a technical study to be submitted to CONAP for its approval.
- 1.7.4 Elaboration of the management plan for the new regional municipal park (including geographic, social, economic, and environmental information) through 4 workshops with the municipalities and the representatives of local communities and local CSOs.

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1.7.5 Update of management plans (including geographic, social, economic, and environmental information) for 4 existing protected areas (endorsed by local governments, institutions, and leaders of indigenous communities) through 4 workshops (1 per protected area) with the municipalities, local communities, and local CSOs.

Output 2: By mid-2026, the number of wildfires is reduced by 25 % and the rate of loss of key ecosystems due to wildfires is halted in the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor.

2.1.1 Map existing geographic information systems and databases (such as forest cover images and data repositories systems) for monitoring forest fires, including heat spots and landscape scars due to fires. Evaluate and analyse the history of forest fires as well as their characteristics and patterns as recorded in these databases and systems.

2.1.2 Hold two meetings with the Department of Forest Fires of the National Institute of Forests (INAB), local landowners, local communities, and municipalities to identify the drivers, instigators, and sites and fronts of forest fires in the biological corridor as a basis for developing solutions, resources and actions in the Integrated Fire Management Strategy.

2.1.3 Develop an Integrated Fire Management strategy in the biocultural corridor, based on the above-mentioned analyses and consultations and aligned with the needs and concerns of the members of the RUMCLA roundtable and other stakeholders (INAB, municipalities, forest firefighters, etc.) to secure its implementation.

2.1.4 Validate and socialize the Integrated Fire Management strategy with key actors (members of the RUMCLA roundtable, INAB, municipal governments, forest firefighters) through a workshop, resulting in the publication of the final IFM strategy document (both online and distributed to partners in printing).

2.1.5 After the next dry (forest fire) season (mid-2025), set up an implementation report detailing the success of the IFM strategy by analysing satellite images, maps, above identified databases and systems, as well as field visits and surveys of local communities.

2.2.1 Five training workshops for 50 community members and RUMCLA roundtable members in the 'basic techniques for forest fire control' course and on best agricultural and apicultural practices for the reduction of forest fires in the biocultural corridor, including the certification of forest fire fighters in the biocultural corridor and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.

2.3.1 Equip 3 new forest fire brigades (cotton suit, leather boots and gloves, goggles, helmet, backpacks, weather kit, monofilter, fire bat, drip burner, Mcleod Pulaski tools, flashlights, radios, fire rakes, scrapers, fire swatters, brush hooks, drones, etc.) and set up guidelines and trainings for the maintenance and proper use of the equipment

2.4.1 Construction, georeferencing, and maintenance of 25 km of firebreak rounds and gaps, black lines for the control of forest fires in coordination with local governments.

Output 3: By 2026, 75ha of forests in key biological connectivity areas of the Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú biocultural corridor are restored and serve as demonstration sites

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3.1.1 Organise two workshops for landowners with degraded areas susceptible to forest restoration within the framework of the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy of Guatemala, to explain the importance of restoring degraded areas, raise awareness on the processes that lead to land degradation and actions to avoid further degradation.

3.1.2 Preparation of a report on the identification of at least 75ha of degraded areas through field inspections and aerial images with potential for reforestation with forest species that are native, key, endemic and/or in danger of extinction.

3.1.3 Signing of individual and collective agreements on forest restoration commitments with landowners.

3.2.1 Creation of 10 restoration demonstration sites out of the best examples of restored areas within the 75ha reforested area through signing and demarcation, and the training of the owners for leading field visits and sharing lessons learned, supported by the Center for Education for Rural Development and Climate Change Adaptation (CEDRACC).

3.2.2 Organise, prepare basic information (handouts, brochures), and report on min. 6 visits to the demonstration sites with 120 direct beneficiaries of the project, to expose them to the practices and techniques on how and why to restore degraded areas, so they can then expand knowledge amongst approx. 3,000 local smallholder farmers, by utilising the farmer-to-farmer approach

3.3.1 Inscription of restored lands in the Guatemala Forest Incentive Program run by INAB to secure funds from the government for the landowners for the maintenance of the trees for the next 6 years.

3.4.1 Collection of seeds of native, key, endemic and endangered forest species in local certified seed producer forests to secure seed quality.

3.4.2 Production of forest plants with emphasis on native, key, endemic, and endangered species in the CEDRACC nursery of VMA.

3.4.3 Planting of over 82,000 trees (of which at least 30,000 are endangered and endemic tree species) with local community members, schools, and VMA staff by Q2 of year 2024 in the degraded areas identified.

3.4.4 Development of biological connectivity restoration report based on satellite images and mapping which will include an inventory of native forest plants used and the progress of the restoration actions carried out in this project.

Output 4: By mid-2026, 390 indigenous families will improve their household economy, with a minimum 15% increase of their annual income derived from sustainable livelihoods and savings from reduced fuelwood consumption.

4.1.1 Detailed assessment of current beekeeping practices in the biocultural corridor (based on the previous engagement with local producers and situation analysis conducted by VMA). Resulting in a diagnostic baseline on apiaries performance and the identification and selection of at least 40 beekeepers out of the larger group in the biocultural corridor area (prioritising those that have small, unsustainable practices, are located closest to the core zone and show leadership in their communities).

4.1.2 Four training workshops of at least 40 beekeepers (at least 25% women) in sustainable production topics such as hive health, diseases and treatments, floral resources in the forests, honey, propolis, royal jelly and wax production, and marketing practices such as packing, advertisement, branding, etc., and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.

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- 4.1.3 Purchase and delivery of equipment and tools (wooden beehives, smokers, thermometers, hive tools, mating hives, storage tanks, extractors, filters, etc.) to at least 40 beekeepers to support their sustainable beekeeping production processes.
- 4.1.4 Monitoring apiaries performance through field inspections and surveys, evaluating productivity and income generated compared to diagnostic baseline.
- 4.2.1 Two workshops with leaders of the coffee growers' cooperatives to present and discuss workplan details regarding renewal of the coffee plots and best sustainable agricultural practices.
- 4.2.2 Three workshops for female coffee growers to discuss and analyse, supported by data from surveys and field inspections, the effectiveness of their production practices and management of coffee seedling nurseries, building their capacity to sustainably increased production, and evaluation of participant comprehension through surveys before and after the workshops.
- 4.2.3 Four training workshops on sustainable production processes in organic coffee farming including topics of natural fertilizers, biological control of pests and diseases and organic certification.
- 4.2.4 Signing of at least two conservation agreements for best agricultural practices with at least 50 coffee growers (min 50% women) in the biocultural corridor.
- 4.2.5 Purchase and delivery of tools, supplies, materials, and each producer's coffee seedlings for the improvement of coffee seedling nurseries for the renewal of plantations.
- 4.2.6 By June 2025 start monitoring assessments of the harvesting of coffee plantations in the renovated coffee plots and the preparation of corresponding reports, including a comparison of economic benefits compared with the scenario without project.
- 4.3.1 Identification and prioritization of 300 beneficiary families out of 3,000 families in the biocultural corridor (selecting those that currently have traditional unsustainable cooking practices, live closest to the core zone and show leadership in their communities) for the construction of 300 improved wood-saving stoves. Hold baseline survey on consumption of wood per household.
- 4.3.2 Purchase and deliver of materials and guide in the construction of wood-saving stoves for at least 300 families
- 4.3.3 Through household surveys, monitor firewood consumption by the improved wood-saving stoves and associated social, economic, environmental, and health benefits and compare it the baseline survey to assess the impact on the forests, household economics and health. Develop report measuring savings in purchase of firewood, time spent in firewood collection, and the decrease of respiratory diseases among families benefitted with the project.
- 4.3.4 Conduct site visits to demonstration sites and locations where key sustainable activities have been developed (such as wood saving stoves and beekeeping facilities in operation) to spread the knowledge and trigger the interest of additional stakeholders in the biocultural corridor to incorporate these practices.

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Cross-cutting activities

Project management

- Hold meetings every month (during the first year), and every 3 months (on years 2 and 3), among TNC and VMA project leaders, to share advances of the project, challenges, priorities and next steps.
- Hold quarterly meetings with project Advisory Committee
- Develop trainings for staff involved in the project regarding TNCs Code of conduct, Standard Operating Procedures, among other Standards that project staff need to comply with, including safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults.

Communications:

- Utilise social media platforms to disseminate information and reinforce messaging by creating social media groups
- Develop radio broadcasts jointly with local stations to spread awareness for behavioural changes in the biocultural corridor, including the importance of preventing forest fires, reducing deforestation, and sustainable productive practices.
- Develop printed materials on the importance of integrated landscape management for biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate change projects
- Development of an online repository of information related to the project in which all the written documents such as methodologies, guidelines, reports, technical documents, papers, etc. will be stored and accessible to the project's beneficiaries
- Evaluate total audience reached and survey targeted communities to assess comprehension of information shared

Reporting

- Develop quarterly technical and financial reports, to be reviewed during Project Management meetings and shared with other stakeholders.