

Funding Proposal

REDD-plus results based payments

Version 1.0

Accredited entities are expected to develop a funding proposal in close consultation with the relevant national designated authority and REDD-plus entity/focal point, in response to the request for proposals for the Pilot Programme for REDD-plus results-based payments (Decision B.18/07). The funding proposal should follow the terms of reference of that Board decision and will be assessed per Stage 2 (sections 2 – 5) of the scorecard annexed to the same Board decision.

Programme Title:	<u>Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016</u>
Country:	Argentina
Results period in this proposal:	2014 – 2016
National Designated Authority:	Under-Secretariat of International Financial Relations for Development, Secretariat of Strategic Affairs of the President of Argentina's Office
REDD-plus entity/focal point	Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible)
Accredited Entity:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Date of first submission/ version number:	<u>[2020-05-04] [V.001]</u>
Date of current submission/ version number	<u>[2020-10-07] [V.008]</u>



**GREEN
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Please submit the completed form to fundingproposal@gcfund.org
Please use the following naming convention in the subject line and file name:
“*[Country] REDD-plusRBP FP-[Accredited entity]-yyyymmdd*”

A. Proposed and projected REDD-plus results

Please provide the following information:

Total volume of REDD-plus results achieved in the results period as reported in the country's BUR technical annex (tCO₂e):

Indicate the total volume of achieved results during the results period (31 December 2013 to 31 December 2018) that includes the results offered to the pilot programme.

The total volume of REDD+ results achieved by Argentina and reported in the [REDD+ Technical Annex](#) to the [Third Biennial Update Report](#) (BUR) for the 2014-2016 period was 165,172,705 tCO₂e (Table 1).

These results stem from the gross emission reduction (ER) of CO₂ based on avoided deforestation in the following forest regions: *Parque Chaqueño*, Tucuman-Bolivian Rainforest (a.k.a. Argentine *Yungas*), Misiones Rainforest (a.k.a. *Paranaense* Rainforest) and Argentine *Espinal*.

Table 1. REDD+ Results for 2014, 2015 and 2016 (tCO₂e)

Period	Gross CO ₂ Emissions from deforestation	REDD+ Results (2014-2016)
2014	56,732,802	44,409,046
2015	42,135,510	59,006,338
2016	39,384,527	61,757,321
Emission Reduction Total		165,172,705

Source: REDD+ Technical Annex, Third Biennial Update Report, 2019.

A= Achieved volume of REDD-plus results offered to the pilot programme in this proposal (tCO₂e):

Indicate the volume of achieved results starting at the earliest 31 December 2013 that will be considered for the pilot programme.

As indicated above, in the period 2014-2016, Argentina achieved the reduction of 165 million tonnes of CO₂e. The country did not request any payments from any other entity or private market scheme for these results.

After having received the iTAP assessment report and as a consequence of the communication received from the GCF Secretariat on the special circumstances linked to the ending phase of the financial envelop of the GCF REDD+ RBP Pilot Programme which cause the funding availability for Argentina to be limited to \$82,000,000, in this final submission prior to GCF B.27 Argentina is offering to the GCF RBP pilot programme the ER volume equivalent to such budget (including the 2.5% for non-carbon benefit). The volume of ER offered to the GCF is therefore **18,731,707 tCO₂e** (after a score of 41/48 in the iTAP assessment).

On top of this volume, Argentina sets aside as an interim mechanism to manage the risk of reversal **7,492,683 tCO₂e** (40% of the offered volume, as described in Annex 5) from the remaining ER achieved in the period 2014-2016.

The country confirms it will not offer the same volume of ER results offered to the GCF (including the volume set aside to mitigate the risk of reversals) to other schemes or mechanisms. The country will use REDD+ results attained

	<p>across Argentine territory, including those obtained from project implementation, the total volume of ERs offered to the GCF RBP Pilot Programme and the volume set aside as a mechanism to manage the risk of reversal, to meet its NDC within the context of UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>For records and reference, the volume of ER offered by Argentina prior to the receipt of the communication of the GCF RBP Pilot Programme funding limitation was 24,049,500 tCO₂e.</p>												
<p>B= Expected volume of REDD-plus results to be achieved in the following years of the eligibility period (tCO₂e):</p>	<p><i>Indicate the results that are expected to be achieved in each of the subsequent years of the eligibility period (until 31 December 2018) that may be offered to the GCF for payments. Explain how the indicative volume of results is a significant volume for each subsequent year for the remainder of the eligibility period</i></p> <p>Table 2 shows the calculated volume of REDD+ results totaling 109,458,580 tCO₂e for the years 2017 and 2018, based on avoided deforestation in the following forest regions: <i>Parque Chaqueño</i>, Tucuman-Bolivian Rainforest (<i>Yungas</i>), Misiones Rainforest (<i>Paranaense</i> Rainforest) and Argentine <i>Espinal</i>.</p> <p><i>Table 2. Expected volume of REDD+ results for the period 2017-2018 (tCO₂e)*</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Gross CO₂ Emissions from Deforestation</th> <th>REDD+ Results (2017-2018)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>45,538,402</td> <td>55,603,446</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>47,286,714</td> <td>53,855,134</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Emission Reduction Total</td> <td>109,458,580</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>*These are preliminary estimates, the official volume of gross emissions from deforestation for this period (2017-2018) will be reported in the BUR 4. Source: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, MAyDS (National Directorate of Climate Change, based on information generated by the National Forest Monitoring System of the National Directorate of Forests, MAyDS).</i></p> <p>The increase in emissions due to the loss of native forests in 2017 and 2018 (which is anyway within the FREL and represent REDD+ results) is mainly attributable to the impact of forest fires in the Argentine <i>Espinal</i> region, in particular in the provinces of La Pampa and San Luis. In these specific provinces the above mentioned fires were the cause of the 95% and 63% of the forest loss, respectively¹. As it will be further indicated in section C.2.2 enhanced response to forest fire is one of the components of this proposal. In addition, the fluctuation in the annual forest loss was also influenced by the reduction of the export taxes on grains (especially soybeans) which generated greater allotments of areas for the related land use change (mainly in conservation category III - “green” –of the Forest Law). As a response the government is fostering the precautionary mechanisms of the Forest Law and its purpose of curbing the causes of greater harm to native forests. This project will support these efforts,</p>	Period	Gross CO ₂ Emissions from Deforestation	REDD+ Results (2017-2018)	2017	45,538,402	55,603,446	2018	47,286,714	53,855,134	Emission Reduction Total		109,458,580
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¹ Forest Monitoring Report, 2018, MAyDS (<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/bosques/umsef>)

	<p>strengthening land and forest governance and therefore contributing to preventing potential openings towards soybean illegal expansion (see Sec. C.2.1).</p>
<p>A+B =Total volume expected to be submitted to the pilot programme (tCO₂e):</p>	<p><i>Indicate the total volume, including the results achieved and offered to the pilot and the expected results to be achieved. The total expected volume could result from the submission of more than one funding proposal.</i></p> <p>In the same context indicated in point A of this section, the total ERs available for the GCF RBP Pilot Programme is: 26,224,390 tonnes of CO₂e (from its 2014-2016 results) of which 18,731,707 tonnes of CO₂e offered to the GCF RBP Pilot Programme for payments (and which translate to \$82,000,000, considering the 2.5% for non-carbon benefit and a score of 41/48 in the iTAP assessment) and 7,492,683 tonnes of CO₂e set aside as a interim measure to mitigate the risk of reversals.</p> <p>As indicated in point A, the country confirms it will not offer the same volume of ER results offered to the GCF (including the volume set aside to mitigate the risk of reversals) to other schemes or mechanisms. The country will use REDD+ results attained across Argentine territory, including those obtained from project implementation, the total volume of ERs offered to the GCF RBP Pilot Programme and the volume set aside as a mechanism to manage the risk of reversal, to meet its NDC within the context of UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.</p>

B. Carbon elements

B.1. Forest Reference Emission Level / Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL)

Please provide link to the FREL/FRL submission:

Submission: https://redd.unfccc.int/files/2019_submission_frel_argentina.pdf

Modified version: https://redd.unfccc.int/files/2019_nref_argentina_resubmission_oct_final.pdf

Please provide link to the UNFCCC Technical Assessment Report: <https://unfccc.int/documents/201984>

B.1.1. UNFCCC Technical Assessment and Analysis process

(i) Consistency of the FREL/FRL: *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the consistency of the FREL/FRL with the GHG Inventory, including the definition of forest used. If the report identifies inconsistencies, explain these inconsistencies between the GHG inventory and FREL/FRL, and describe how they will be resolved in the next GHG inventory or FREL/FRL.*

On 8 January 2019, Argentina voluntarily submitted its subnational Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL), with a value of 101,141,848 tCO₂e, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)².

The FREL was prepared following the guidelines of UNFCCC decisions, particularly Decision 12/CP.17.

On 9 October 2019, as a result of the recommendations received during the UNFCCC technical assessment, Argentina submitted the revised [version](#) of its FREL, which included the level of uncertainty associated with

² <https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=arg>

the information used for its construction, and considered the recommendations received during the technical assessment. These changes provided greater clarity and transparency to the information, without altering the approach or the originally submitted FREL value.

The [FREL Technical Assessment Report](#) (TAR), published on 25 November 2019, states that the information used by Argentina to construct the FREL is complete, transparent, and in accordance with the guidelines included in the Annex to Decision 12/CP.17.

With regard to consistency of this information with the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (INGEI, in its Spanish acronym), FREL was constructed based on the 2006 Guidelines of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories. Baseline information was used from the most recent INGEI of 2016, historical series 1990-2016, submitted in the [Third Biennial Update Report](#) (BUR 3), published in December 2019, and in the [National Inventory Report](#) published in March 2020.

Compatibility was assessed regarding the [Second BUR](#) submitted to UNFCCC, and recalculations for the BUR 3, 1990/2014 series were evaluated; and, in the case of source categories: 3B2bi – Forest conversion into agricultural land and 3B3b – Forest conversion into grasslands, net cumulative emissions in the period 1990-2014 totaled 2040.58 MtCO₂e (Second BUR) and 2129.53 MtCO₂e (Third BUR), which entails a difference of 4.36 %. FREL and INGEI use the same definitions and assumptions for activity data (AD) and emission factors (EF).

Forest Definition:

Argentina has constantly monitored the loss of native forests considering the types of land cover that the country adopted based on FAO's proposed classification -through Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) (FAO, 2000)-, adapted according to national circumstances:

- **Forest land (FL):** Land constituting a natural ecosystem with a canopy cover of native tree species of more than or equal to 20%, with trees reaching a minimum height of 7 meters (m).
- **Other wooded land (OWL):** Land constituting a natural ecosystem with a canopy cover of native species trees ranging from 5 to 20%, with trees capable of reaching a minimum height of 7 meters; or with a canopy cover of native species trees that is higher or equal to 20%, with trees under 7 meters high; or with a 20% native species shrub cover, with shrubs reaching a minimum height of 0.5 m. Included herein are palm groves, gallery forests and reedbeds.
- **Other land (OL):** lands not classified as FL or OWL constitute the class Other Land (OL). It includes pastures, croplands, hydrophilic herbaceous vegetation, planted forests, inland water bodies, salt flats, areas without vegetation, urban areas and infrastructure.

FL and OWL represent native forests and these two categories constitute the forest definition used in the INGEI, BUR, FREL, REDD+ Technical Annex and other official reports related to deforestation at the national level.

During the technical assessment process, it was noted that the forest definition included in the FRA 2015 country report³, also includes planted forests. Argentina clarified that, although planted forests are reported to the FRA under the "forest" category so as to ensure consistency with the international definition of forests established by the FRA, GHG emissions from the transformation of planted forests into another use were not considered in the FREL, which only takes into consideration native forests. Furthermore, the FREL uses the same categories and sub-categories that the INGEI considers for land use, being consistent in all FL and OWL data that change into other use (croplands, pastures). It should also be mentioned that the information reported by the National Forest Monitoring System (Argentina's NFMS) does not differentiate the final land use.

Gases and carbon pools included

Dead organic matter and soil carbon pools were not included in the FREL because this information is not available in Argentina's First National Native Forest Inventory (PINBN, in its Spanish acronym).

³ FRA 2015 – Country Report, Argentina (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-az153s.pdf>)

Although during the technical assessment it was noted that Argentina included estimates associated with soil organic carbon pool in its INGEI, the country clarified that this pool was not included in FREL because the INGEI does not have disaggregated information for native forests (FL and OWL). Information available on variations in soil organic carbon is reported broadly aggregated, in a separate category [INGEI 3B7 – variations of soil organic matter] - and does not cover the entire territorial area. Although carbon loss due to land use change is included, it is not feasible to separate these soil carbon variations for cropland and pastures. Since Argentina estimates emissions using IPCC Tier 1, Native Forest areas that remain as such, have no associated variation in carbon stock.

With regard to non-CO₂ gases, emissions from fires are reported in the INGEI, in the assumption that all deforestation takes place through controlled burning. Although this is normal practice, there is no registry to be able to adjust that assumption. Therefore, non-CO₂ gases emissions were not included in FREL.

It was noted that addressing non-CO₂ gases is an area for future technical improvement so as to be consistent with INGEI considering, moreover, that fires are one of the main drivers of deforestation in the country, and that their inclusion could lead to an overestimation of the FREL.

More details regarding the consistency between the main elements addressed in the FREL, BURs and the REDD+ Technical Annex (TA) are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Comparison on how the main elements are addressed in FREL, Biennial Update Reports and the REDD+ Technical Annex

Element	Description	FREL	BUR 2	BUR 3	REDD+ TA
AD	FL - OL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	OWL - OL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	FL- FL	No	Yes	Yes	No
	OWL - OWL	No	Yes	Yes	No
	OL - FL	No	No	No	No
	OL OWL	No	No	No	No
EF	Above-ground biomass	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Below-ground biomass	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Litter	No	No	No	No
	Soil organic carbon	No	Yes, reported in an aggregate manner for all land use categories	Yes, reported in an aggregate manner for all land use categories	No
	Deadwood	No	No	No	No
Definition of Forest	FL and OWL according to the FRA	<i>Idem</i>	<i>Idem</i>	<i>Idem</i>	<i>Idem</i>
Scope		<i>Parque Chaqueño, Tucuman-Bolivian Rainforest, Misiones Rainforest and Argentine Espinal.</i>	<i>Parque Chaqueño, Tucuman-Bolivian Rainforest, Misiones Rainforest and Argentine Espinal.</i>	<i>Parque Chaqueño, Tucuman-Bolivian Rainforest, Misiones Rainforest and Argentine Espinal.</i>	<i>Parque Chaqueño, Tucuman-Bolivian Rainforest, Misiones Rainforest and Argentine Espinal.</i>
Assessed Period		2002-2013	1990-2014	1990-2016	2014-2016

Source: Table prepared by FAO and MAyDS with the purpose of inclusion in this proposal

Foreseen Improvements

Development of the Second National Native Forest Inventory (INBN2, in its Spanish acronym) is underway and will provide updated values of above and below-ground biomass pools which are expected to be included

in future INGEI reports. INBN2 results will be available for all forest regions by the end of 2020. Furthermore, with a view to obtaining more robust information on carbon pools not currently included in the INGEI, the country is carrying out specific studies to quantify their significance in terms of carbon content and is looking into the feasibility of including them in the design of the National Native Forest Inventory in the future.

With regard to the **forest definition**, the country has a future operational definition spelt out in Resolution No. 230/2012⁴ of the Federal Environment Council (COFEMA⁵ – *please refer to section C.2 context for further information on COFEMA*) that describes the minimum threshold for defining a native forest (spanning at least 0.5 hectares, minimum height of 3 meters, and 20% minimum canopy cover). This new definition entails a significant future challenge for Argentina’s NFMS, since the established thresholds for each category do not fully match the definitions being used so far by the country’s NFMS. In this regard, the aim is to adapt the definition set forth in Resolution No. 230/2012, both for satellite monitoring and for INBN2, among other reports, without this leading to a loss of currently available information on FL, OWL and OL. Therefore, this adjustment would entail changes in the forest reference surface area and, thus, a recalculation of GHG emissions and of FREL. Once Argentina’s NFMS fully adopts this new definition, such information will be included in the FREL update.

So far, Argentina’s NFMS has adjusted this definition in the Argentine *Monte* and Andean-Patagonian Forest (APF) regions. Information was published in the last INDEC annual statistics report for 2018.⁶ Argentina is currently working at the adjustment of forest coverages according to this forest definition also on the remaining forest regions across the country. At this purpose, the Government – through the technical staff of the National Directorate of Forests’s in charge of forest monitoring, are making best use of results of specific monitoring exercises developed with the support of the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme , based on field information and the INBN2 results.

(ii.a) Data source of the FREL/FRL: *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the data used for to the construction of the FREL/FRL, specifying whether the FREL/FRL is based on historical data and is equal to or below the average annual historical emissions during the reference period.*

The FREL was built based on the historical average of gross CO₂ emissions⁷ from deforestation, defined as the shift from a forest (FL and OWL) to a non-forest (OL), for the historical period 2002-2013. AD used for its preparation are for the deforested area, by year and type of cover, taken from official data reported by the National Directorate of Forests (DNB) – Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)-, and analyzed by the National Directorate of Climate Change (DNCC) based on a model prepared by DNB. This model uses adjustment coefficients according to the dates of the satellite images used for each period.

The difference between forest classes (FL and OWL) was drawn by using a native forest map depicted on the basis of the PINBN and its 2006 update. These inputs allowed a visual identification and digitization of native forest cover loss, at an approximate scale of 1: 50,000, using the bands for near infrared, mid-infrared and visible red of the Landsat series, with a minimum mapping unit of 4 to 10 hectares⁸. This led to obtaining digital coverage in Shapefile, allowing area and cartography calculations for each time span (Figure 1). Conversion from FL and OWL to OL (deforestation) was estimated for the following periods: 2002-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2011 and 2011-2013. Information was identified at the provincial level and grouped for this report by forest region.

⁴ Available at: <http://cofema.ambiente.gob.ar/?aplicacion=normativa&IdNorma=1355&IdSeccion=32>

⁵ Federal Environment Council (COFEMA): created in 1990, is a forum for agreeing on environmental policies, and comprises representatives from the national government, the provinces and the Buenos Aires City Government. It coordinates participatory assemblies at the different levels of the government’s administrative decentralization. The main agreements reached therein can be [publicly accessed](#). COFEMA has a Native Forest Committee and a Climate Change Committee.

⁶ Available at: https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/anuario_estadistico_2018.pdf

⁷ Gross emissions do not include sequestration from final use of land.

⁸ The minimum mapping unit used for monitoring the loss of native forests in the period 1998-2006 was 10 hectares. For subsequent years, information was obtained in greater detail, with a minimum mapping unit of approximately 4 ha.

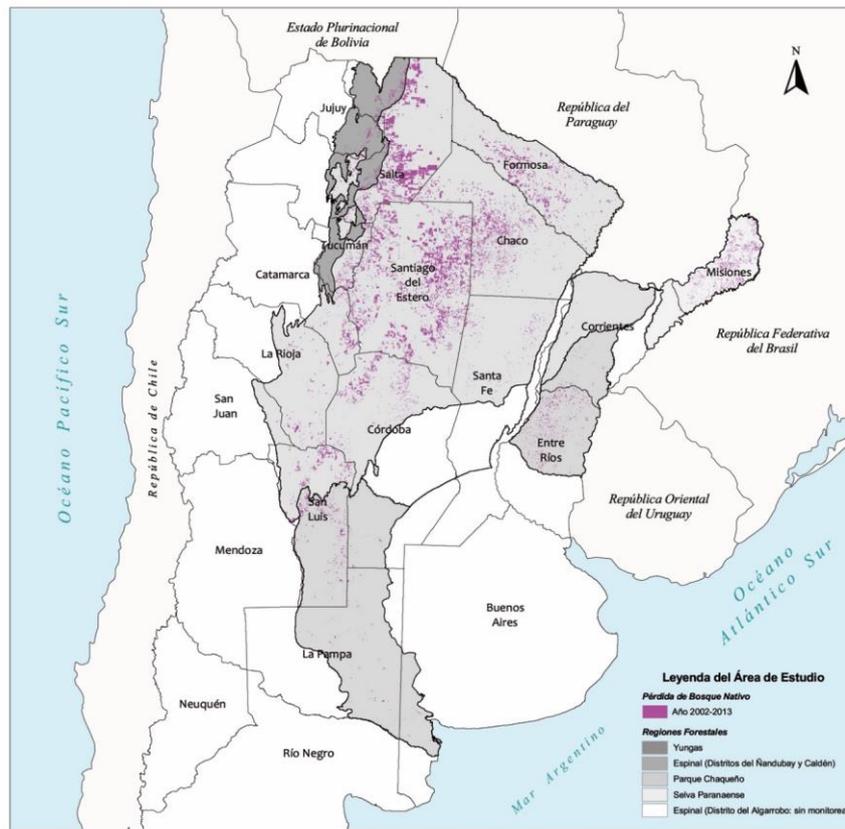


Figure 1. Deforestation Map for the Reference Period 2002-2013
Source: National Directorate of Forests (DNB - MAdS).

EF (Table 4) were estimated based on the carbon contents of above-ground and below-ground biomass, by forest region and forest class (FL and OWL). Carbon contents were estimated using field data surveyed by PINBN. Databases on diameter, height and species collected by PINBN were used to estimate the average total volume of timber with bark, using equations of specific volumes for certain species or groups of species for each forest region, in line with available information. The total timber with bark volume was then converted to above-ground biomass (expressed in tonnes of dry matter) by multiplying the total volume of the Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) times the average wood density of that PSU, and this information was converted into carbon, in tonnes of carbon per hectare (t/Ha.), using default values provided by the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, for each of the forest regions.

Table 4. Emission factors by forest region, by forest class, in biomass and carbon.

Forest Region	Forest Class	Above-Ground Biomass	Below-Ground Biomass	Total Biomass	Above-Ground Carbon	Below-Ground Carbon	Total Carbon
		(t/Ha.)	(t/ Ha.)	(t/ Ha.)	(t/ Ha.)	(t/ Ha.)	(t/ Ha.)
Parque Chaqueño	FL	129.03	36.13	165.16	61.93	17.34	79.28
	OWL	65.84	21.07	86.92	31.61	10.11	41.72
Misiones Rainforest	FL	259.34	62.24	321.58	121.89	29.25	151.14
	OWL	47.58	15.23	62.81	22.36	7.16	29.52
Tucuman Bolivian Rainforest	FL	205.74	49.38	255.12	96.70	23.21	119.91
	OWL	72.07	23.06	95.13	33.87	10.84	44.71
Argentine Espinal	FL	110.47	25.41	135.88	53.03	12.20	65.22
	OWL	80.00	25.60	105.60	38.40	12.29	50.69

Source: National Directorate of Climate Change provided by the National Directorate of Forests (DNB - MAdS).

<p>(ii.b) If a country is considered HFLD: <i>Please provide the basis/justification for this classification.</i></p> <p>N/A, Argentina is not an HFLD country.</p>
<p>(ii.c) FREL/FRL adjustments for a HFLD country: <i>If adjustments made, please provide information that the adjustment does not exceed 0.1% of the carbon stock over the eligibility period in the relevant area and/or exceed 10% of the FREL/FRL to reflect quantified, documented changes in circumstances during the reference period that likely underestimate future rates of deforestation or forest degradation during the eligibility period</i></p> <p>N/A, Argentina is not an HFLD country.</p>
<p>(iii) FREL/FRL in accordance with 12/CP.17: <i>Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the quantified estimate of the FREL/FRL. Include whether the FREL/FRL was constructed in accordance with the guidelines in Decision 12/CP.17; specifically on the modalities for FREL/FRL and whether the raised issues were material or not material to the quantified estimate of the FEEL/FRL.</i></p> <p>The TAR indicates that Argentina fulfilled Decision 12/CP.17 Guidelines, by using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for constructing FREL, as mentioned in paragraph 15 of the TAR. Data and information used for constructing FREL is transparent, complete and in agreement with the guidelines of the Annex to Decision 12/CP.17, as mentioned in paragraphs 38 and 40. Furthermore, the TAR acknowledges that FREL was constructed at the sub-national level, applying a stepwise approach as an interim measure, pursuant to Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(b) and Decision 12/CP.17. In fulfillment of Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, information has been included on the most significant activities, most important forest regions and most significant carbon pools.</p> <p>Nonetheless, a few areas for improvement were pointed out, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include other activities included in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, that could entail a significant contribution to emission levels, emission reduction from forest degradation in particular; • Include deadwood and soil carbon pools, or more information to justify omission thereof, in the assumption that they are not significant; • Increase the number of field sampling units in those forest regions whose surface area and level of activity require it so, to reduce errors in surveyed information (particularly in <i>Parque Chaqueño</i> region); • Use field data to estimate EF from OWL; • Use densities by species instead of weighted average density, to provide more accurate biomass values; • Enhance the scope of FREL to all of the country's forest regions, provided enhanced information is available. <p>Most significant activities:</p> <p>Regarding the four forest regions included in the FREL, <i>Parque Chaqueño</i>, <i>Misiones</i> Rainforest, Tucuman Bolivian Rainforest and Argentine <i>Espinal</i> (<i>Caldén</i> and <i>Nandubay</i> districts), they represent the majority of the Argentine territory covered by native forests in the country⁹. These four regions also represent the area where the greatest historical forest cover loss occurs and therefore where most of national initiatives for the management and conservation of native forest are focused.</p> <p>Argentina's NFMS focused on these regions at the beginning due to the different social demands and to have information to attend environmental consequences of deforestation. By having strengthened Argentina's NFMS, there is currently new information on the Andean-Patagonian Forest and Argentine <i>Monte</i> forest regions, and work is ongoing to improve information for the Parana Delta and Islands forest region. Annual average value of native forest loss (obtained from data corresponding to 2001 to 2014 period) is 4,764 ha¹⁰, which represents 2.6%¹¹ of native forest loss in the four regions included in the FREL. Native forest loss in 2018 in Argentine <i>Monte</i> region represented 1.6% of total deforestation in the country, and native forest loss in Andean Patagonian Forest region represented 0.1% of the total.</p>

⁹ <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/tierra/bosques-suelos/primer-inventario-nacional-bosques-nativos>

¹⁰ https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/monitoreo_de_la_superficie_de_bosque_nativo_bap_2_de_octubre_2019.pdf

¹¹ https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/monitoreo_de_la_superficie_de_bosque_nativo_de_la_argentina_2018_01.rar

On the other hand, the remaining forest suffers degradation processes due to livestock use (grazing and over grazing within the forest), agriculture (use of agrochemicals), unsustainable extraction of timber and non-timber products, pollution and invasion of exotic species. Forest degradation, it is a gradual process that alters its ability to provide goods and services. Despite its relevance, Argentina does not have an established definition that allows monitoring change in state of forests, since it is difficult to select criteria, quantify and locate it spatially in technical and scientific terms, therefore there is no information from the NFMS and for this reason it has not been considered in the FREL. The monitoring of degradation processes is expected to begin within the framework of the strengthening of the NFMS, which will take place through the implementation of this proposal.

In the future, although a time target as not been established yet, this progress will allow a nation-wide FREL.

Most significant pools

Based on the information obtained from the PINBN, the FREL includes carbon pools of above-ground biomass and below-ground biomass (estimated from the fraction of above-ground biomass). Regarding the inclusion of other carbon pools (dead organic matter and soil carbon), there is no information available in the PINBN and there are no empirical or scientific data regarding their behavior against deforestation events. In the case of organic soil carbon, Argentina has a very low surface area of organic soils and they are located in the province of Tierra del Fuego and the South Atlantic Islands. This province is located outside the area covered by the FREL. In the case of mineral soils, the INGEI does not have disaggregated information for native forests (for more information see section 6.2 of the FREL, p. 17). On the other hand, the order of magnitude of the litter pool with respect to the above-ground and below-ground biomass is from 1.82% to 4.12%, depending on the forest region (using the IPCC 2006 default values for litter). The dead wood pool does not have default IPCC 2006 values to evaluate.

To quantify the relevance of carbon pools not included in the FREL, progress is being made with the development of specific studies that will also allow the feasibility of incorporating them into the design of the National Native Forests Inventory of in the future, which involves the collection of field data.

Also, underway, is the development of INBN2, based on which updated information will be available on the status of forests in Argentina and their carbon contents. With regard to the number of sample plots, the basic INBN2 design consists of a 10 by 10-km square grid, in which each intersection point placed on a forest to be covered by the inventory (including FL and OWL) is surveyed (systematic sampling), totaling approximately 5,000 sampling units, which remain fixed for remeasurement purposes. This includes an increase in the number of sample plots to be installed in each forest region (Table 5).

Table 5. Sample plots to be installed by the INBN2

Forest Region	Parque Chaqueño	Misiones Rainforest	Tucuman Bolivian Rainforest	Andean-Patagonian Forest	Argentine Espinal	Parana Delta & Islands	Argentine Monte
Plots to be installed	3,015	167	350	244	264	15	103

Source: National Directorate of Forests (DNB - MAyDS).

Furthermore, field information surveyed by INBN2 will lead to improving forest digital coverage. Data from surveyed plots will supplement the work that is being carried out to adjust current digital forest coverage to the definition spelt out in COFEMA Resolution No. 230/2012.

(iv) FREL/FRL transparency: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the transparency of the FREL/FRL and whether significant issues were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues that were not material to the transparency of the FREL/FRL raised in TA Report that couldn't be resolved due to time and data restrictions.

The TAR mentions that Argentina submitted a transparent FREL, indicating that the modified FREL version increased the transparency of the originally submitted FREL and allowed the assessment team to better understand the methodology used for its construction.

In the original submission of its FREL, Argentina included a set of annexes containing information used for

its construction, which also allows the reconstruction of FREL, namely:

- Reports on deforestation, by province, for the periods 1998–2002, 2002–2004, 2002–2006, 2006–2011, 2011–2013, 2013–2014, 2014–2015 and 2016 (Annex I);
- Digital deforestation coverage for the periods included in the FREL (1998–2006 and 2006–2017) (Annex II);
- Tables on deforestation by forest class, province, forest region and period (Annex III);
- Set of implementation manuals for the PINBN (Annex V);
- Databases for estimating volume and biomass at tree level, PSU and forest region, by forest class (Annex VII).

In the modified version of FREL, information was included on the uncertainty of data used for constructing FREL (Annex VII), and also a description of the methodology used for its calculation (Annex VIII). Furthermore, links were provided to the Argentina’s NFMS¹² and INGEI¹³ websites, together with contact information (cambioclimatico@ambiente.gob.ar) to request any further clarification.

On the other hand, Argentina’s NFMS has a [web portal](#), which is being constantly improved to facilitate access to all information on the status of native forests and changes related thereto.

(v) FREL/FRL completeness: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the understanding of the FREL/FRL and whether significant issues were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues that were not material to the completeness of the FREL/FRL raised in TA Report that couldn’t be resolved due to time and data restrictions. Include information that allows for the reconstruction of the FREL/FRL.

The TAR states that Argentina submitted a comprehensive FREL. No significant areas of improvement have been identified regarding completeness of the information.

(vi) FREL/FRL consistency: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the consistency of the methodology used over the time series used for the construction of the FREL/FRL, and whether significant issues were raised in the report and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan to address and overcome issues that were not material to the consistency of the FREL/FRL raised in TA Report that couldn’t be resolved due to time and data restrictions.

The FREL was calculated based on the historical average of gross emissions of the period 2002-2013. This period reflects country’s deforestation dynamic, since the difference in emissions between the years prior to the enactment of the Forest Law (2007) and the effects of its implementation after it. This reference period is also in compliance with GCF requirements to access to RBP.

The TAR mentioned that Argentina submitted a consistent FREL, although the report includes a few areas of improvement with regard to the following:

AD: The technical assessment process identified OWL-related activity data as an area for improvement.

- Better data are expected from information generated by the INBN2 to adjust OWL coverage and reduce uncertainty.

EF: With respect to estimating EF for OWL, the TAR identified that the use of field data will improve accuracy of estimates compared to the use of bibliographic information. In this regard, based on information surveyed by the INBN2, Argentina will have new field data for this kind of forest by the end of 2020 and will thus improve its future estimations.

The INBN2 is now at the stage of sample plot installation, data processing, results generation and preparation of the technical contents of regional reports for their publication. So far, 94% of the sampling units have been installed for the land inventory stage. The remaining activities comprise cleaning and processing of information, in parallel with the preparation of regional reports to present preliminary inventory outcomes

¹² Argentina’s National Forest Monitoring System: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/tierra/bosques-suelos/manejo-sustentable-bosques/sistema-nacional-monitoreo-bosques-nativos>

¹³ Argentina’s Greenhouse Gas Inventory: <https://inventariogei.ambiente.gob.ar/>

(drafts are already available for Andean-Patagonian Forest and *Misiones* Rainforest regions). Addressing INBN2 data currently entails a considerable technical effort bearing in mind the scale of work, besides the outlining and application of stringent protocols which lead to obtaining new reliable estimators and updated EF.

(vii) FREL/FRL accuracy: *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the accuracy of the FREL/FRL and whether significant issues were raised and resolved. This should include information on whether the data and methodologies used neither over- nor underestimate emissions and/or removals during the reference period. If applicable, provide a plan to address and overcome issues raised in TA Report that were not material to the accuracy of the FREL/FRL and that couldn't be resolved due to time and data restrictions.*

The TAR mentions that Argentina submitted an accurate FREL, although the report does mention a few areas to be improved in the future for obtaining EF:

- The use of specific wood density for each species to calculate volume, which would increase estimates accuracy. The country argued that average wood density values were used for each PSU, instead of specific densities for each species, to ensure consistency with the INGEI.
- The number of PSUs installed by the PINBN is low, so an increase in the number of sample plots would improve information accuracy, particularly in those forest regions with more GHG emissions from deforestation, such as, *Parque Chaqueño* region.

Argentina has addressed the latter by improving the design of the INBN2 –underway and expected to be published by the end of 2020- based on the experience gained from the PINBN, and the information available in provincial and regional forest inventories. The basic design of the new inventory has a 10 by 10-km square grid, in which each intersection point placed on a forest to be covered by the inventory is surveyed (systematic sampling), totaling approximately 5,000 sampling units, which remain fixed for remeasurement purposes. Dasometric, site (landscape type, altitude, slope, exposure, salinity, other living types), and human activity variables (forest fires, cattle, erosion, deforestation) envisaged in the PINBN are being collected; and other variables have been included, such as forest biological diversity, conservation status, non-timber forest products and biomass¹⁴. Once the field data has been collected, the information will be processed to estimate biomass and carbon content.

(viii) Sources of emissions: *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to whether all activities listed in paragraph 70 of UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16 ('REDD-plus activities') that are a significant source of emissions were included. If they were not, justify whether activities that are significant sources of emissions were not included due to lack of data and/or whether the omission overestimates emissions or underestimate removals. Provide also a plan to include all data on all REDD-plus activities that are significant sources of emissions in future FREL/FRL submissions.*

The TAR stated that other activities could also be a significant source of emissions, besides deforestation, particularly emissions from forest degradation. The country recognizes the importance of this source of emissions and provided more information on the efforts it is making to address this issue.

A series of Projects on Scientific and Technological Research in Sustainable Management of Native Forests¹⁵ are being implemented with a view to obtaining better information on sustainable forest management and its impact on degradation. Specifically, one of the three topics covered by these projects is focused on forest resources monitoring, which aims to developing new automatized methodologies for native forests monitoring, including land use change and degradation processes, using geometric multisensor technologies at the provincial, regional and national level.

Tests are being carried out at a regional scale in the Andean-Patagonian Forest region, by analyzing time series, with the purpose of identifying gradual changes in forest cover losses and gains. These tests are in line with the incorporation of new forest regions and the possibility of monitoring degradation in those areas in which these processes could be more relevant, as well as assessing methodologies for their application to

¹⁴ More information can be found in the INBN2 Field Manual, available at

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/tierra/bosques-suelos/segundo-inventario-nacional-bosques-nativos>

¹⁵ Information available at: <http://www.agencia.mincyt.gob.ar/frontend/agencia/convocatoria/323> // Source: (AGN, 2017, p. 10).

other forest regions.

On the other hand, the assessment team identified that a proxy to evaluate the significance of degradation processes in Argentina's forests could be the conversion from FL to OWL.

(ix) Significant pools: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the inclusion of the most significant pools. If applicable, justify whether significant pools were not included due to lack of data and/or the omission does not overestimate emissions or underestimate removals. In addition, provide a plan to include all significant pools in future FREL/FRL submissions.

As stated in paragraph 40 of the TAR, it is recognized that Argentina included the most significant carbon pools.

FREL includes above-ground biomass and below-ground biomass pools. Litter, deadwood and soil organic carbon pools have not been included due to a lack of robust information for estimate purposes. During the technical assessment process, Argentina provided additional information to justify the non-inclusion of the above.

With regard to soil organic carbon, the country has very few organic soils and these are located in the province of Tierra del Fuego (TdF) and in the South Atlantic Islands. TdF is not included in the area covered by FREL. In the case of mineral soils, it was noted that Argentina reports consistently on its land, using the IPCC Tier 1 methodology (Surface area for each land use category, with no explicit spatial information regarding land use conversion). It is reported in an aggregate manner and does not cover the whole of the country's area (176 MHa out of which 49.2 MHa are Native Forest as at 2002). Although carbon loss for land use change is calculated, it is not feasible to separate soil carbon variations from cropland and pasture areas. Since Argentina estimates emissions using IPCC Tier 1, Native Forest areas that remain as such have no associated carbon variation.

For litter, with regard to above-ground biomass and below-ground biomass, the ratio is 1.82% to 4.12% according to the forest region (using 2006 IPCC default values for litter). Furthermore, it was stated that the deadwood pool does not have IPCC 2006 default values to be used for assessment purposes.

Within the foreseen improvement plan, it was noted that at present the INBN2 is in the process of gathering information. During this process, information will be collected systematically and in pilot studies on other pools (dead organic matter and soil carbon); once information collection has been completed, it can be analyzed to be included in FREL's future update. The country has not yet defined a specific date for updating its FREL, however it is planning on continuous improvements on the NFMS (also within this FP); it will also update the calculation methodologies of the INGEI and then update the FREL.

(x) Emissions from gases: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the inclusion of all gases that are significant sources of emissions. If not all of the gases were included, justify whether gases that are significant sources of emissions were not included due to lack of data and/or whether the omission overestimates emissions or underestimates removals. Provide also a plan to include all significant pools in future FREL/FRL submissions.

The TAR states that addressing non-CO₂ gases is an area for future improvement to keep it consistent with INGEI considering, moreover, that fires are one of the main drivers of deforestation in the country and their inclusion thereof could lead to overestimating FREL.

FREL includes gross CO₂ emissions from deforestation. Non-CO₂ gases emissions from fires are not included because available information in the country is not sufficiently robust to estimate only emissions from deforestation. Furthermore, it was clarified that emissions from fires are reported in INGEI, and included in BUR 2 and BUR 3, in the assumption that all deforestation comes from controlled burning. Although this is a common practice, there are no records to be able to adjust this assumption. Therefore, non-CO₂ gases emissions were not included in FREL.

(xi) IPCC guidance for FREL/FRL: Please indicate if the whether the construction of the FREL/FRL (data, methodologies and estimates) was guided by 2003 GPGs or 2006 GLs.

The construction of FREL was done on the basis of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for national GHG inventories,

consistent with the 2016 INGEI submitted in BUR 3.

(xii) Issues related to applying IPCC guidance: *Please mention any significant issues related to the application of IPCC GLs/GPGs as raised in the TA report. Include any significant issues that are material to the alignment with the methodologies of the IPCC GLs/GPGs that were raised in the TA report and whether significant issues were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan to address and overcome issues raised in TA Report that were not material to the application of IPCC guidance and that couldn't be resolved due to time and data restrictions.*

During the technical assessment process no need for improvement was found with regard to the application of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

B.1.2. Additional criteria related to FREL/FRL

(xiii) Reference period for the FREL/FRL: *Please indicate the reference period (number of years) applied for the construction of the FREL/FRL.*

The reference period used for constructing FREL is 2002 to 2013. During the technical assessment process, it was explained that this period was selected because it is the one that best reflects of the deforestation dynamics in Argentina; in this period the change in GHG emissions before and after enactment of Law No. 26331 of 2007 (Law on Minimum environmental protection standards for native forests (Forest Law) and the effect of its enforcement can be observed (*further details on this Law are included in sections C1 and C2 of this FP, and in the ESA and ESMF documents*). Moreover, information for the selected period is complete and consistent in its historical series.

This reference period meets the requirements of the GCF to access results-based payments. Since the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ was adopted in 2013, ER as from the year 2014 can be offered as results achieved.

(xiv) If previous reference level submitted: *Please indicate whether a previous reference level applying to the same area was submitted. If so, describe the difference between the emissions and removals used for the previous one and the current one. Describe any adjustments made to the current FREL/FRL compared to the previous one, if applicable.*

N/A - Argentina has not presented any previous FREL.

(xv) Uncertainties: *Please indicate whether the country has provided information on aggregated uncertainties of the emissions or removals estimate, taking into account national capabilities and circumstances, and if so, indicate the percentage of aggregate uncertainties and provide information on assumptions and sources. If applicable, indicate the process implemented to minimize systematic and random errors.*

The uncertainty analysis was carried out using the methodology established in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for national GHG inventories, determining uncertainty associated with each AD and EF, or the parameter for each emission category, using the linear propagation of error methodology to combine individual uncertainties for each emission source.

In most cases, this uncertainty was determined at a 95% confidence interval (CI), applying default values established by IPCC. When local information was available, the uncertainty assessment was based on local data, also considering a 95% CI. Quantification of uncertainty was disaggregated by emission source as much as possible, and consistent with INGEI's uncertainty estimation.

Uncertainty of AD was estimated on the basis of the accuracy analysis outcomes for forest cover and changes in Argentina's NFMS, and these are the values that are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Global accuracy and error values in the four analyzed forest regions

Forest Region	Global Accuracy (%)	Global error (%)	Assessed samples
Argentine Espinal	69.7	30.3	2,031
Parque Chaqueño	70.8	29.2	5,053
Misiones Rainforest	75.1	24.9	1,226
Tucuman Bolivian Rainforest	77.6	22.4	1,272

Source: Study conducted by Universidad Nacional de Luján, with the support of Argentina's UN-REDD National Programme, for the National Directorate of Forests (DNB - MAyDS).

Uncertainty of EF reflects the sampling error for each of the forest regions. Based on information available from the PINBN, a relative sampling error was estimated for the Total Volume of Timber per hectare (m³/ha) for FL, by forest region. Results are shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Relative sampling error for Gross Volume per hectare, for FL.

Forest Region	Sampling error (%) for Total Timber Volume (m ³ /ha) at 85% CI	Sampling error (%) for Total Timber Volume (m ³ /ha) at 95% CI	Sampling error (%) for above-ground carbon contents (t/ha) at 95% CI	Sampling error (%) for below-ground carbon contents (t/ha) at 95% CI
<i>Parque Chaqueño</i>	11 %	15%	29%	29%
Misiones Forest	5 %	7%	26 %	35%
Tucuman-Bolivian Rainforest	14.6 %	20%	32%	40%
Argentine Espinal	15.5 %	21%	33%	62%

Source: National Directorate of Forests (DNB - MAyDS), and prepared by the authors based on data from the First INBN

EFs associated with carbon contents mainly come from 2006 IPCC default values, except for the above-ground biomass volume per hectare, for the different forest regions. The associated uncertainty in this case is related to the sampling error according to the PINBN, at a CI of 95%.

Uncertainty of carbon contents by mass in above-ground biomass per hectare, for each forest region, was obtained through the linear propagation of errors or uncertainty for the above-ground biomass volume, combined with density and carbon contents uncertainty, both based on IPCC 2006 default values.

Likewise, uncertainty as to the carbon content by mass in below-ground biomass per hectare, for each forest region, was obtained by propagation of the above-ground biomass error, combined with uncertainty for the above-ground biomass/below-ground biomass ratio, based on IPCC 2006 default values.

The disaggregation level of the uncertainty estimation corresponds to the disaggregation level used in the INGEI.

Total resulting uncertainty of the gross emissions presented in FREL is 2%.

(xvi) Please indicate whether different FREL/FRLs have been used for different funding sources or other purposes, and if so, list and describe them.

As already mentioned, so far Argentina has constructed one FREL, delivered to UNFCCC. The FREL has not been used for requesting or accessing any other source of funding, or for any other purpose. With the results achieved in 2014-2016, Argentina does not intend to apply to any other source of funding, only to the GCF Pilot Programme for REDD+ Results-based Payments (this Proposal).

B.2. REDD-plus Results reporting

Please provide link to the BUR technical annex containing REDD+ results: _

BUR: <https://unfccc.int/documents/201965>

Link to Technical Annex REDD+ results:

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Anexo%20T%C3%A9cnico%20REDD%20%20de%20la%20Rep%C3%BAblica%20Argentina.pdf>

Please provide link to the UNFCCC Technical Analysis Report:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/tatr1_2020_ARG.pdf

B.2.1. UNFCCC Technical Analysis

(i) Consistency of results with FREL/FRL: *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Analysis Report in relation to the consistency of the reported results in the technical annex to the BUR with the FREL/FRL (including the inclusion of same pools, activities and gases).*

Emission reduction results from avoided deforestation, in tCO₂e, for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016, were calculated with the same methodology used for constructing FREL. These results were reported in the [REDD+ Technical Annex](#) (TA). The overall description of the methodology used to obtain AD and EF can be found in Section B.1 of this proposal. Table 8 shows annual emissions during the period covered by FREL

and ER reported in the REDD+ TA.

Table 8. Annual emissions in the period covered by FREL and emission reduction reported in the REDD+ TA.

Year	Annual Deforestation	Gross CO ₂ emissions from deforestation	FREL (2002-2013)	REDD+ Results (2014-2016)
	ha	tCO ₂ e	tCO ₂ e	tCO ₂ e
2002	394,374	109,012,933	-	-
2003	394,374	109,012,933	-	-
2004	394,374	109,012,933	-	-
2005	394,374	109,012,933	-	-
2006	440,103	121,593,649	-	-
2007	485,833	134,174,366	-	-
2008	402,679	110,749,457	-	-
2009	283,253	76,121,950	-	-
2010	271,780	73,636,360	-	-
2011	244,589	65,891,348	-	-
2012	362,580	98,848,841	-	-
2013	352,426	96,634,472	-	-
2014	218,764	56,732,802	101,141,848	44,409,046
2015	162,562	42,135,510	101,141,848	59,006,338
2016	155,847	39,384,527	101,141,848	61,757,321
EMISSION REDUCTION TOTAL (2014-2016)				165,172,705

Source: REDD+ Technical Annex, Third Biennial Update Report, 2019.

ER was calculated using the following formula:

$$Emission\ Reduction = \sum_t (E_{FREL} - E_t)$$

¡Error! No se encuentra el origen de la referencia. shows gross annual emissions from deforestation, the historical average, FREL, and ER results in tCO₂e.

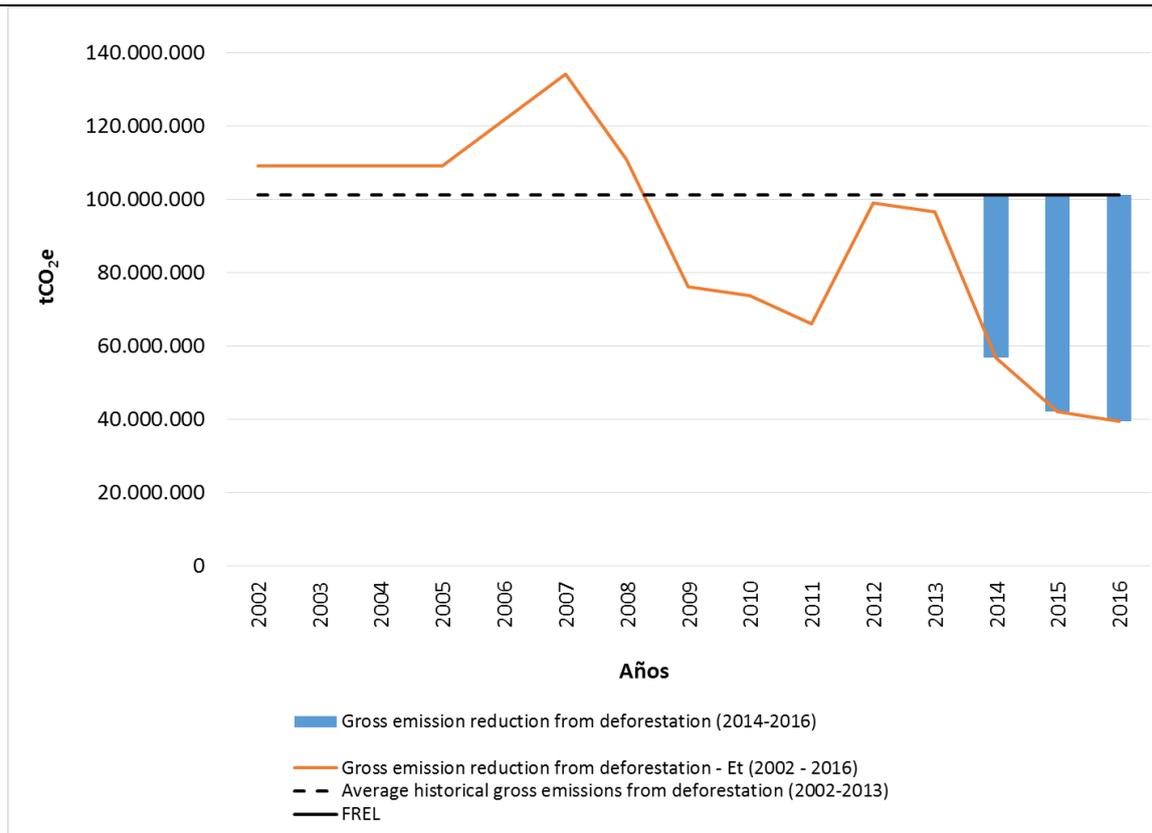


Figure 2. Gross annual emissions from deforestation, the historical average, FREL, and emission reduction results in tCO₂e

Source: National Directorate of Climate Change (DNCC), based on information provided by the National Directorate of Forest (DNB - MAyDS).

The data and information provided in the REDD+ TA are in overall accordance with the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 14/CP.19. As a result of the technical assessment process LULUCF experts noted that Argentina ensured overall consistency between its FREL and its estimation of the results of the implementation of the activity reducing emissions from deforestation in 2014–2016 by:

- Using consistent methodologies and data to generate AD on gross deforestation based on data from Argentina’s NFMS. The same approach was used for assessing deforestation areas for each year in the reference and the results periods, which was based on the same minimum mapping unit of 4–10 ha;
- Using consistent methodologies and data to generate EFs, in particular the same above- and below-ground biomass pools, volumetric equations, biomass expansion factors, wood densities and carbon fractions, the same stratification of the four native forest regions for FL, and, for OWL, the same EFs derived from bibliographical review and expert knowledge for each of the forest regions;
- Including the same two carbon pools, namely above- and below-ground biomass, with the explanation that there is not sufficiently robust information for estimating the soil organic carbon, deadwood and litter pools;
- Including the same gases: CO₂ only;
- Covering the same subnational forest area: the four native forest regions of *Parque Chaqueño*, *Misiones Rainforest (Paranaense Rainforest)*, *Tucuman Bolivian Rainforest (Argentine Yungas)* and *Argentine Espinal (Caldenal and Ñandubay Districts)*;
- Assuming that all carbon from both biomass pools is lost after the deforestation event, as detected by visual interpretation owing to the lack of spatially explicit information on carbon content in the final land use, and that the forest types in each forest region are homogeneous for deriving EFs for FL and OWL. The FREL and the estimated results for REDD+ consider only native forests, the conversion of native forest to forest plantation is considered to be deforestation;
- Using the same forest definition as that was used in constructing its FREL.

(ii) Transparency of the data: *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in*

the Technical Analysis Report in relation to the transparency of the data and information provided in the technical annex (i.e. whether information has been provided to provide an understanding of how UNFCCC guidance on results reporting has been addressed). Include information on significant issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report and whether these were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report, that were not material to the transparency of the data on results and that could not be resolved due to time and data restrictions.

The LULUCF experts concluded that the data and information provided by Argentina is transparent to the extent possible.

The LULUCF experts also noted that Argentina could enhance transparency of the data and information used for estimating results by making available all the shared information either on the NFMS website¹⁶ or other official websites, as appropriate. The LULUCF experts also noted that Argentina recognize the need to improve the data source archive system so as to better reflect its continuous improvement and update in a consistent manner with the national reports, in order to enhance the transparency and accuracy of the AD used for estimating emission reductions for future submissions. Argentina clarified that the monitoring of deforestation in the forest regions included in the FREL involves an ongoing review of the forest maps and results as part of a continuous improvement process. The maps are continuously reviewed and revised as more updated information becomes available. On the basis of this updated information the respective reports are also updated and used for the national GHG inventory. The LULUCF experts also noted that Argentina may wish to consider providing online access to the final digital deforestation coverage maps in order to allow estimation of the REDD+ results for the chosen results period. Argentina clarified that all the information used for the construction of the FREL and the REDD+ technical annex (including images and annual maps) is publicly available under request¹⁷ enabling relevant stakeholders to reconstruct annual increments of forest carbon stock¹⁸. Moreover, Argentina clarified that the country is making significant efforts to simplify the access to data.

Given these considerations, LULUCF experts stated that data and information provided in the technical annex are considered to be transparent to the extent possible.

(iii) Completeness of the data: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Analysis Report in relation to the completeness of the data and information provided in the technical annex (i.e. whether information has been provided that allows for the reconstruction of the results). Include information on significant issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report and whether these were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report, that were not material to the completeness of the data on results and that could not be resolved due to time and data restrictions.

The LULUCF experts concluded that the data and information provided by Argentina is complete to the extent possible.

During the technical assessment process Argentina provided additional information on its forest definition, EFs applied and a list of documents and databases used for constructing the assessed FREL and estimating the results, including weblinks to where the data and information can be found (see table 9 of the technical annex). The additional information includes:

- reports on deforestation and monitoring of deforestation by province and forest region for 2002–2004, 2002–2006, 2006–2011 and 2011–2013 used for constructing the FREL, and 2014, 2015 and 2016 for estimating the results (see available links in footnotes 16 and 18);
- data and information on the digital coverage of deforestation for the FREL reference periods 1998–2006 and 2006–2014 and for the results period 2015–2016 and the respective catalogues of these imagery data sets, including access to the map portal of Argentina’s NFMS for the visualization of deforestation in the provinces and forest regions between 1998 and 2017 (see available links in

¹⁶ <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/manejo-sustentable-de-bosques/sistema-nacional-de-monitoreo-de-bosques-nativos>.

¹⁷ Data is available under request, as framed in the law N° 25831 on the Free Access Regime to Public Environmental Information by contacting the National Directorate on Climate Change: cambioclimatico@ambiente.gob.ar or can be requested on-line: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/transparencia/pedirinformacion>.

¹⁸ See <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/tierra/bosques-suelos/manejo-sustentable-bosques/umsef> and <http://snmb.ambiente.gob.ar>.

footnotes 16 and 18);

- tables containing deforestation estimates by province and forest region for 1998–2006 and 2006–2017; the Excel worksheets used for annualizing AD and estimating gross emissions from deforestation and the associated uncertainties of the FREL at the forest region level for 2002–2013; and a worksheet used for estimating emission reductions and the associated uncertainty of the results (Data is available under request, see footnote 17).
- a methodological report on the accuracy assessment of the deforestation maps from Argentina’s NFMS, including the error matrices and estimates of uncertainty by forest region for both the FREL and the results (Data is available under request, see footnote 17).

The LULUCF experts concluded that Argentina provided the necessary information to allow for the reconstruction of the results of the implementation of the activity reducing emissions from deforestation. The data and information provided in the technical annex are considered to be transparent, consistent, complete and accurate to the extent possible.

(iv) Consistency of the data: *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Analysis Report in relation to the consistency of the data and information provided in the technical annex (i.e. data and methodologies were applied consistently over the results time series). Include information on significant issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report and whether these were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report, that were not material to the consistency of the data on results and that could not be resolved due to time and data restrictions.*

The LULUCF experts concluded that the data and information provided by Argentina is overall consistent.

Argentina provided data and information on all the required elements in accordance with the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 14/CP.19.

The AD used for estimating the results were based on the same four forest regions and the two forest classes (FL and OWL) reported for the assessed FREL. Deforestation estimates were obtained using the same methodology applied for constructing the FREL; that is, through visual interpretation of Landsat satellite imagery of forest lost between two different time periods.

The LULUCF experts noted that when estimating results Argentina applied the same EFs as those used for constructing the FREL for each of the four forest regions considered. According to the technical annex, the EFs used for constructing the FREL and for estimating reductions in emissions due to deforestation were estimated on the basis of the carbon content in the above- and below-ground biomass by forest region and forest class (FL and OWL). For the FL class the carbon content values were estimated using field information obtained from 343 sampling units of the PINBN (1998–2006), whereas for the OWL class they were obtained from a bibliographical review and consultation with experts. During the TA, Argentina explained that the INBN¹⁹ will provide updated information on biomass values and this would enable it to update the EFs for FL and estimate the specific EFs for OWL.

Overall, the LULUCF experts conclude that Argentina has maintained consistency in the data and information (i.e. AD and EFs) used as the basis for constructing its FREL and in estimating the results presented in the technical annex. The LULUCF experts found that the data and information provided in the technical annex are consistent with the guidelines referred to in decision 14/CP.19, paragraph 9.

(v) Accuracy of the data: *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Analysis Report in relation to the accuracy of the data and information provided in the technical annex (i.e. whether it neither over- nor under-estimates emissions and/or removals). Include information on significant issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report and whether these were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report, that were not material to the accuracy of the data on results and that could not be resolved due to time and data restrictions.*

The LULUCF experts concluded that the data and information provided by Argentina is accurate to the extent possible.

The LULUCF experts commend Argentina for its significant long-term efforts to build up a robust NFMS and

¹⁹ Information on the second national inventory of native forests is available on the web portal of the National Directorate of Forests at <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/tierra/bosques-suelos/segundo-inventario-nacional-bosques-nativos>.

National GHG Inventory System that are capable of providing transparent and accurate estimates of emissions from deforestation and estimates that are consistent over time, in accordance with decision 11/CP.19.

Argentina provided information related to the uncertainties associated with the estimates of gross emissions from deforestation at the forest region level for 2002–2013 for the FREL, and a worksheet²⁰ used for calculating the associated uncertainty of the estimated emission reductions for 2014–2016. The Party also provided a methodological report on the accuracy assessment of the deforestation maps from the NFMS, including the error matrices and estimates of uncertainty by forest region for both the FREL and the results. Argentina mentioned in the technical annex that the good practice guidelines for estimating area and assessing accuracy of land-use changes by Olofsson et al. (2014) were used to guide the sampling and response design for evaluating the accuracy of forest maps and the land-use changes in the four forest regions. For estimating the total uncertainty of emissions from gross deforestation, Argentina applied equations from the 2006 IPCC Guidelines (section 3.2.3.1, equations 3.1 and 3.2 of approach 1 for propagation of errors).

Estimations of EF uncertainty for all four forest regions were made separately for above- and below-ground biomass per ha, and included the error in the parameters used, such as volume estimation (for above-ground biomass), root-to-shoot ratio (for below-ground biomass), and default values for wood density and carbon content from the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. The EF uncertainty for the forest class FL is associated with the sampling error from the PINBN and calculated at a 95 per cent confidence interval. For the forest class OWL, the EFs applied are assumed to have the same error as those for FL in each forest region, as there is insufficient information for each of the parameters considered. The total uncertainty, based on the combined EF (for above- and below-ground biomass) and AD (annual estimates of deforested areas by forest region and forest class), is estimated to be approximately 3 per cent.

The LULUCF experts concluded that results are accurate to the extent possible and uncertainties have been reduced, based on the assumptions used. Argentina provided detailed information on how gross deforestation areas were identified, which facilitated estimation of the results achieved.

Nevertheless, the experts identified the following areas for future improvement:

- Using available species- specific wood densities for deriving the biomass values used to obtain the EF to increase the accuracy of estimates.
- Establishing additional sampling units in the forest regions of concern to enhance the accuracy of estimates.

This issue is currently addressed with the INBN2 as mentioned above. The updated data and information derived from the INBN2 will enhance the accuracy of the estimations for the REDD+ reporting.

(vi) Indicate the number of years that took place between the last year of the FREL/FRL period, and the year corresponding to the results being proposed for payments:

FREL covers years 2002 through to 2013 and the results obtained are for the period immediately following FREL, that is to say, the 2014-2016 period.

B.2.2. Additional criteria related to the achieved results

(vii) *Uncertainties: Explain whether the country has provided information on aggregate uncertainties of the results, taking into account national capabilities and circumstances. Include the percentage of aggregate uncertainties and provide information on assumptions and sources. If applicable, indicate the process implemented to minimize systematic and random errors.*

The LULUCF experts noted that, according to the information provided by Argentina (as mentioned in section B.1.2 (xv)), the uncertainty propagated for each forest region is the combined sum of errors of AD and EFs for each individual deforested area in each forest class (FL or OWL) of each forest region on an annual basis, whereas it should be the combined error of the entire deforested area of each forest region and based on the annual AD and EFs for the respective forest classes (FL or OWL). The LULUCF experts noted that the

²⁰ Data is available upon request, as framed in the law N° 25831 on the Free Access Regime to Public Environmental Information by contacting the National Directorate on Climate Change: cambioclimatico@ambiente.gob.ar or can be requested on-line: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/transparencia/pedirinformacion>.

Party's calculation could result in a low overall uncertainty, and this is reflected in the uncertainty estimates of 2 per cent for the FREL and 3 per cent for the emission reductions during the results period. During the TA,

Argentina clarified that, in order to maintain consistency, the level of disaggregation applied for the uncertainty calculation corresponds to the level of disaggregation used for calculating the uncertainty in the national GHG inventory. In addition, Argentina shared with the experts a complementary analysis of the difference in uncertainty estimates due to the level of disaggregation or stratification of the parameters applied. In this analysis, the level of disaggregation was forest region and forest class (FL and OWL) and the minimum unit applied in the uncertainty calculation was the total area deforested in each stratum per year. In the case of the FREL (for 2002–2013), the estimated uncertainty was 8 per cent and for the results period (2014–2016) the uncertainty was 15 per cent.

Nevertheless, the LULUCF experts commend Argentina for providing detailed information on uncertainty and accuracy assessment and for the ongoing efforts to enhance the accuracy of the estimates from gross deforestation, noting this as an area for technical improvement for future submissions. Given the assumptions and approach used, the LULUCF experts conclude that the results are accurate to the extent possible.

(viii) Preventing double payments:

- *Provide information on payments that have been, or are expected to be received from other sources of funding for results recognized by the country for the same area for the same period, for which the country is applying for payments from the GCF.*
- *Include relevant information regarding the payments paid or expected to be paid, including the year(s), results volume in tCO₂e, quantities for which payments were received/are expected to be received, and entity/entities paying for the results as well as any type of agreement involved.*
- *Provide sufficient assurances that the results that have been paid, or are expected to be paid for by other sources (or are under any type of analogous agreement) been excluded from the volume offered to the GCF.*
- *Provide a description of measures to ensure that the results paid by the GCF will not be transferred, offered for future payment or otherwise used (for example for offsets) and information on how the results proposed for payment by the GCF will be treated or used.*

Argentina has reported the amount of ERs obtained during the 2014-2016 period in the REDD+ Technical Annex submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019. For these results, nor for any other result periods, Argentina did not request results-based payments from any other fund/entity.

To ensure that the results paid by the GCF will not be transferred, offered for future payment or otherwise used, avoiding future potential double payments, MAYDS, as REDD+ focal point and responsible entity, set up a [REDD+ registry](#) where payments to be received from GCF will be recorded.

The registry will clearly indicate that the entity paying for these results is GCF; it will also clearly indicate that the paid volume will not be available for other proposals, either under the GCF framework or other mechanisms. Argentina does not intend to offer to any other scheme, markets or source of funding the same ER volume the GCF Pilot Programme will pay in the framework of this RBP proposal. The quantity for which payments will be received will also be available through the [UNFCCC Lima Info Hub](#). It is understood and confirmed that the country will consider these REDD+ results to achieve the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments.

On the basis of the information collected in the registry, it is confirmed that no ER certified or verified exist for the period 2014-2016 and geographical area included in the FREL or in this RBP Proposal. The registry will be updated every six months (see sub-section “(ix) Tracking emissions reductions” for further details).

- *Provide information on how different financing contributed to the achieved results.*

The **Forest Law**²¹ (described in more details in section C1, and in section C.2.1. General description: of this proposal; in the ESA and in the ESMF) and its regulations are the guiding framework for REDD+ in the country. The **implementation of the Forest Law and the budget invested in the National Fund for the Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests** (FNECBN, in its Spanish acronym) by the national government every year (aimed to the strengthening of national and provincial enforcement authorities and to the development of conservation and management plans) **have significantly influenced the results in ERs achieved in 2014-2016** based on avoided deforestation. In addition to the Forest Law, the forest loss decline (and related ER results) derives from several concurrent variables, such as other complementary regulations (regulatory decrees, provincial laws and COFEMA²² resolutions), price of crops and livestock products, land value, social mobilization, among others.

Thanks to the implementation of the Forest Law and the mentioned concurrent variables and efforts mentioned, **Argentina reduced the annual deforestation area** from 485,000 ha in 2007 to less than 156,000 ha in 2016 (see Table 8 in section B.2.1). The decline in the rate of native forest loss started in 2008, which coincides with the enactment of Forest Law in late 2007, and continued until 2014, although later it stabilized at close to 0.50% per annum²³. This proves an effective implementation of the regulatory instrument that, together with other variables, reduced the deforestation rate (information also available in the ESA annex of this proposal).

The total surface of native forest under conservation category (as declared by each jurisdiction in the Territorial Planning of Native Forests (OTBN in its Spanish acronym – specific information on the OTBN is reported in section C.2.1. General description: of this proposal), is 53,589,728 ha (as of 2018). The related “forest plans” (preparation of plans and implementation of related specific interventions) received a total of ARS 1,371,597,990 (186,321,574 USD) between 2010 and 2017.

During and beyond the period of ER results Argentina – with support from various partners as detailed below – implemented projects and programmes through which it strengthened forest governance, increased participatory processes, promoted a full and participatory REDD+ process, positioning REDD+ in the national political agenda and achieving completion of all the Warsaw framework, and fostered process of deforestation reduction across the territory. Such projects and programmes are the Forests and Community Project (loan IBRD 8393, joint World Bank/FAO/UNDP Programme), the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) (donation IBRD TF019086-P120414), the UN-REDD National Programme (FAO, UNDP, UNEP; ID 00092753), and the Project to “Support Implementation of the National Native Forest Protection Programme” (UNDP 12/013, financed through the National Budget). A short summary of the key processes / projects mentioned above is reported herewith for ease of reference:

- [“Support to the Implementation of the National Native Forest Protection Programme”](#): strengthen the capabilities of the National Forest Law Enforcement Authority (the MAYDS) so it can fulfill the missions and duties commissioned by the Forest Law. In the specific through this project, UNDP supports MAYDS in managing and transferring Forest Law funds. Project duration: October 2012 to June 2020, with an extension requested to December 2020. It is worth to mentioning though that considering these funds originate from the Forest Law and are assigned every year, even if the collaboration with UNDP (to support MAYDS with the management) would not be extended, MAYDS will take responsibility for the management of the funds and their execution
- The [Forests and Community Project](#) (IBRD 8493): seeks to improve the quality of life of the indigenous peoples and local communities that live in native forests, particularly in the provinces of

²¹ The Forest Law mandates that each jurisdiction/province of Argentina must carry out its Territorial Planning of Native Forests (OTBN), using a participatory process, according to three conservation value categories: I (Red), forests with very high conservation value that should not be transformed in perpetuity, only Conservation Plan are allowed; II (Yellow), forests of medium conservation value that may be degraded but if restored may have a high conservation value, only their sustainable use, tourism, gathering and scientific research are permitted by Management or Conservation Plans; and III (Green), forests of low conservation value that may be partially or totally transformed but only after an environmental impact assessment and with a Land Use Change Plan approval.

²² Further description of COFEMA in section C.2 – context.

²³ See figure 20 of [Forest Law Implementation Status Report, 2010-2018](#), p. 39.

Salta, Santiago del Estero, Chaco, Jujuy and Misiones. It has generated significant inputs at MAyDS and sub-national agencies, given its considerable budget and elements related to the synergy and complementariness with the Forest Law. The project started in 2015 with a duration until november 2020. The preparation of the RBP proposal builds, among other things, on the participatory experience and mechanisms established through the Forests and Community Project, with a vision of continuing and strengthening the results achieved so far with the local communities. The RBP proposal plans to make best use of the channels of participation boosted by the Forests and community Project (and mentioned in details in the ESA) during the PIC preparation and implementation. The Forests and community Project grievance redress mechanism is also being considered as a base for the RBP ones – so to allow actors at local level to continue with a mechanism and protocol they are already familiar with. The formulation and future implementation of the RBP Project, mainly regarding component A, is based on the experience and lessons learned of Forests and Community Project, and aims at expanding its achievements and scope (see more details in section C.2.2, output A.2).

- The [Argentina UN-REDD National Programme](#) (NP)²⁴ started in April 2015 and closed in December 2019, with an allocation of 3.8 million USD. The specific objective of the NP – as per its project document - was to “Contribute to the readiness phase of the four REDD+ pillars in Argentina” in a participatory manner, mainstreaming gender, in line with UN-REDD operational guidelines. The NP supported the country moving forward and [completing all the elements of the Warsaw Framework](#) with a high level of participation of national, provincial and local stakeholders. These efforts enabled Argentina to publish the [National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change \(PANByCC\)](#), which is the country’s national REDD+ strategy, based on the Forest Law; strengthen Argentina’s [NFMS](#); develop and submit to the UNFCCC the [Forest Reference Emission Level](#) and the [REDD+ technical annex](#); as well as preparing and submitting the [First Summary of Information on Safeguards](#). At the end of the project implementation [Argentina was well positioned](#) to move into the third phase of REDD+.
- [Forest Carbon Partnership Facility \(FCPF\) in Argentina](#): The purpose of the FCPF Programme in Argentina was to support the development of REDD+ within the framework of the Forest Law, supplementing and strengthening the necessary aspects to implement the PANByCC, particularly focusing on the provinces of Misiones and Chaco²⁵. In January 2015, the World Bank approved USD 3.8 million in funding for Argentina’s FCPF Readiness Fund.

Further information on the period of results (2014-2016) is included in the Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) annex of this proposal.

(ix) Tracking emissions reductions: *Indicate whether the achieved results are included in a registry or similar system that tracks emissions reductions and corresponding payments, and ensures that there is no past or future double payment or use of such results, including information to identify the area where the results were achieved, the entity eligible to receive payment, year(s) generated, source(s) of payments received, and identifying code, where possible. Provide the link or information where to find the registry or similar system*

Argentina has reported the amount of ER achieved in the period 2014-2016 in the REDD+ TA submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019. Argentina did not request results-based payments to any entity, mechanism, scheme nor market, rather than through this proposal to the GCF REDD+ RBP pilot programme, excluding any double counting of reduced emission payments.

MAyDS, as REDD+ focal point and responsible entity, set up a [REDD+ registry](#)²⁶ where payments to be received from GCF will be recorded.

As reported in the "[Memoria del Registro de Proyectos REDD+](#)" (*Report on the REDD+ registry*) this registry reports on REDD+ projects²⁷, both within the UNFCCC framework and voluntary markets,

²⁴ For additional information visit: [Argentina UN-REDD Programme](#).

²⁵ MAyDS. [Emission Reduction Programme Idea Note \(ER-PIN\), Carbon Fund, FCPF](#). Date of submission: 15 September 2015

²⁶ <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/cambio-climatico/registro-redd>

which meet the following requirements:

- That span over the period 2014-2016, both within the mechanisms established by the UNFCCC and in the voluntary markets;
- That exist in the country, and are located within the area covered by the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL)²⁸;
- That are registered in the databases and detailed reports, within the REDD+ project search procedure;
- That have verified or certified emission reductions (ERs), as appropriate, due to the implementation of REDD+ activities (Decision 1 / CP.16, paragraph 70)²⁹, defined according to the national scope (which does not include forest plantations).

On the basis of the information collected in the registry through the consultation of the databases detailed in the "Memoria del Registro de Proyectos REDD+", it is confirmed that no ER certified or verified exist for the period 2014-2016 and geographical area included in the FREL or in this RBP Proposal.

Once the funds for this RBP proposal will be approved by the GCF Board, Argentina will update the registry by recording and indicating with transparency the volume of ER offered to and paid by the GCF, corresponding to the period 2014-2016 and following details in section C.2.4. In such updated version of the registry Argentina will also clearly indicate the volume set aside as an interim mechanism to manage risk of reversals (as per details in section C.2.4). After the approval of the payments and the update of the registry, MAyDS, as REDD+ focal point and responsible entity, will re-publish the updated version of the registry. The registry will clearly indicate that the entity paying for these results is GCF and that the indicated volume will not be available for other proposals under either the GCF framework or other mechanisms.

It is understood and confirmed that the country will consider these REDD+ results to achieve the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments. Argentina does not intend to offer the ER offered to the GCF Pilot Programme on Results-based Payments discussed in this proposal to any other scheme, markets or source of funding.

To avoid risk of future double counting and potential double payment, the registry will be updated every six months. The updates will serve to capture potential new projects that would need to be registered, to reflect the progress of the country in overall REDD+ implementation and potential improvements/way forward of the registry based on progress made in negotiations concerning Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and internal decisions in terms of ERs markets. Following a step-wise approach towards continuous enhancements, further discussions on the potential extension of the registry, potential adjustments, and requisitions can be undertaken at the moment of those updates.

As additional information on already existing systems to register relevant data, the government of Argentina has already in place an Integrated Forest Information System (SIIF, in its Spanish acronym) that is a digital platform to gather in a single site, all information generated on native forests. SIIF includes a series of modules, among which is the Register of National Plans, providing information on management and conservation plans, projects deriving from such plans, and other native forest interventions, framed within the Forest Law. The plan is to extend the scope of this platform to register all projects financed under this proposal, to ensure transparency and availability of information on the achieved results for REDD+.

C. Non-carbon elements

Please provide link to the summary on information on safeguards:

https://redd.unfccc.int/files/4849_2_primer_resumen_de_informacion_salvavidas_redd_2b_argentina.pdf

²⁷ The search in the databases, websites and reports is not limited to projects specifically labelled as "REDD+" but covers projects within the domain of native forests in all the national territory, which would entail activities referred to in the UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16, para 70 and which would be covered by the scope of the PANByCC.

²⁸ https://redd.unfccc.int/files/2019_nref_argentina_resubmission_oct_final.pdf

²⁹ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/docs/2010/cop16/spa/07a01s.pdf>

C.1. Cancun safeguards

C.1.1. Compliance with Cancun safeguards. *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information included in the “summary of information on safeguards” that allows understanding how each of the safeguards below was addressed and respected in the full period during which results were generated in a way that ensures transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness:*

All the Cancun safeguards have been addressed and respected in the period of results (and beyond). Additional relevant information, rather than the one already presented in the summary of information, is reported here. For more details please refer to the **ESA report** annexed to this Funding Proposal.

(i) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements.

Actions carried out during the period 2014-2016 and that led to ERs results and contributed to Argentina’s national REDD+ strategy (called the National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change, PANByCC by its acronym in Spanish) were implemented within the country’s federal jurisdiction, under the umbrella and in fulfillment of the Forest Law. This Law and its regulations are the guiding framework for REDD+ in the country and for all actions conducted to achieve the results presented in this Funding Proposal.

The PANByCC was elaborated in the framework of the National Climate Change Cabinet (GNCC, in its Spanish acronym). It was prepared and developed by the MAyDS, through the joint efforts of the National Directorate of Climate Change (DNCC, in its Spanish acronym) and of the National Directorate of Forests (DNB, in its Spanish acronym) and with the support of the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme. It was developed based on a participatory process from 2014 to 2019 and involved relevant stakeholders linked to native forest management within national and sub-national government, academia, the private sector, civil society organizations, small-scale farmers and indigenous peoples. The process was essential to consolidate, coordinate and update already ongoing activities to reduce deforestation, as well as identify new strategic structural and operational pillars. To prepare the PANByCC, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation were analyzed, as well as strategic guidelines to implement the Forest Law, and measures foreseen in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The PANByCC was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the [REDD+ Web Platform in January 2019](#). Below is a summary of the relevant regulatory framework (domestic law and international law), which supplemented actions carried out to achieve the 2014-2016 results:

Domestic Law

- National Constitution: Article 41 sets the legal base for the country’s environmental policy, enshrines the right to a healthy environment, and Article 124 recognizes the original ownership of the provinces over natural resources in their territories. Actions were carried out according to the provisions of this framework, and coordinated by COFEMA, MAyDS and provincial environment agencies, which is reflected in the preparation of the Territorial Planning of Native Forests (OTBN, in its Spanish acronym) in almost all the country’s jurisdictions, for the Results Period (this is further explained in Safeguard “D” ((iv) in this document);
- Law No. 25675/07, on Minimum protection standards for sustainable and adequate environmental management, preservation and protection of biological diversity and implementation of sustainable development (hereinafter “General Law on the Environment”) (O.G. of 28 November 2002). To this end, the Law establishes the basic principles of the national environmental policy;
- Law No. 26331/07, on Minimum environmental protection standards for native forests (Forest Law) (O.G. of 26 December 2007) – *for detailed information refer to Section C.2 - context*;
- Law No. 22351/80, on National Parks (O.G. of 12 December 1980); Executive Order No. 453/94 on Natural Reserves (O.G. 29 March 1994) and Executive Order No. 2148/90 on Strict Natural Reserves (O.G. of 18 October 1990), for protecting these natural reserves’ value.
- Law No. 26815, on Minimum Environmental Protection Standards for Forest and Rural Fires (O.G. of 16 January 2013): it establishes a national protection system to prevent and fight forest and rural fires at the national level, in coordination with the regional and provincial levels. REDD+ actions in the country also include specific activities to avoid this risk. All contributions and progress in this regard are analyzed under Safeguard “F” ((vi) in this document).
- Law No. 27520, on Minimum Standards for Global Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (O.G. of 20 December 2019). The Law establishes minimum standards for environmental protection to ensure appropriate actions, instruments and strategies for Climate change adaptation and mitigation in all the national territory according to Article 41 of the National Constitution. The Law has the

following objectives: i) to establish strategies, measures, policies and instruments related to impact studies, vulnerability and climate change adaptation activities that can guarantee human and ecosystem development; ii) to support and foster the development of mitigation and GHG reduction strategies in the country; iii) to reduce human and natural system vulnerability to climate change, protect them from adverse effects and make the most of benefits. (for further information: [Official Gazette of the Argentine Republic website](#) – Spanish only)

International Law

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992 (UNFCCC) (Law No. 24295, O.G of 11 January 1994) and the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, of 1997 (Law No. 25438, O.G of 19 July 2001): Argentina designed and implemented REDD+ actions in accordance with the reference framework agreed upon with UNFCCC, with special support from the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme;
- The Paris Agreement, 2015 (Law No. 27270, O.G. of 19 September 2016);
- Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992 (CBD) (Law No. 24375; O.G. 03 October 1994): actions carried out were targeted to obtaining benefits beyond carbon, as stated in Safeguard “E” ((v) in this document).
- American Convention on Human Rights, of 1969 (“Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica”) (Law No. 23054, O.G. of 27 March 1984);
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973 (Law No. 22344, O.G. of 01 October 1982);
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of 1966 (Law No. 23313; O.G. of 6 May 1986);
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, of 1966 (ICESCR) (Law No 23313, O.G. of 13 May 1986);
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (“Protocol of San Salvador”), of 1988 (Law No. 24658; O.G. of 17 July 1996);
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of 2015: relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for REDD+ are SDG (1) No Poverty; (2) Zero Hunger; (5) Gender Equality; (10) Reduced Inequalities; (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities; (12) Responsible Production and Consumption; (13) Climate Action; and (15) Life on land.

(ii) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty.

In Argentina, and pursuant to the National Interpretation of REDD+ Safeguards³⁰, the country’s regulatory and institutional framework promotes transparency and effectiveness in native forest governance when implementing PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives, which was appropriately applied during the Results Period, as indicated below.

Transparent forest governance

The country has a regulatory and institutional framework to promote the transparent governance of native forests (including all REDD+ actions), providing citizens with access to environmental information, which was in force and applied throughout the Results Period of this Proposal. Moreover, the country has ratified international conventions against corruption and has specific regulations on access to public information.

It is worth noting that the legal framework on transparency and access to information, which may be directly or indirectly linked to native forest management, is binding for public agencies and has its own institutions and mechanisms for enforcement purposes. These instruments are essential in implementing the Forest Law and all REDD+ initiatives and actions in the country. In this regard, the following institutions, which were fully operational during the Results Period, play a key role:

³⁰ In 2019, MAyDS, with the support of the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme prepared a document on “The National Interpretation of REDD+ Safeguards in Argentina” that consists of a technical, legal and institutional analysis on how to address and respect REDD+ safeguards in the country context, and in the implementation of REDD+ in Argentina. This document resulted from a long dialogue process with key stakeholders from Government, social and environmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and academia. Throughout the different stages, a national interpretation was defined for each of the REDD+ safeguards, the applicable regulatory and institutional framework, alignment of the safeguards with the PANByCC, and the social and environmental risks of the Plan’s actions. For more information, see Chapter 3 of the [First Summary of Information on REDD+ Safeguards, Argentina, Period 2014-2019](#).

- [MAyDS](#) and the [Federal Environment Council](#) (COFEMA, in its Spanish acronym) are the most experienced agencies in generating, systematizing and providing public environmental information;
- The [Office of the National Auditor-General](#) (AGN, in its Spanish acronym) is an oversight body of the National Public Sector, which issues publicly available reports on the Forest Law, including information on transparency and management of funds, access to information, and other matters as required by the Law in practice. In 2017, AGN issued its report for the period July 2013-December 2016, on the implementation of the Forest Law, indicating institutional and technical progress during the Results Period;
- The [Office of the Comptroller-General](#) (SIGEN, in its Spanish acronym) is an oversight body of the National Public Sector and is also responsible for auditing how the Forest Law is implemented. SIGEN [audits](#) provincial agencies and MAyDS to review the allocation of the financial resources provided for in said Law, and such audit reports are publicly available;
- The [Anti-corruption Office](#) of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights develops and coordinates anti-corruption programmes. The Office has a web site to report allegations [on line](#).

The Forest Law has provisions in the law and its regulations to promote the transparent management of forests and its related financial resources, which has improved over time, whilst the different participating agencies gain more experience. In this regard, and from 2013, SAyDS³¹ Resolution No. 826/14 established a new system of accountability for the different plans approved within the framework of the Forest Law, so as to help verify that the beneficiaries of the resources allocated by the FNECBN maintain or increase the environmental services provided by their native forests, and that they are thus entitled to compensation, which is awarded based on a works completion certificate.^{32 33}

Relevant regulatory framework

Domestic Law

- National Constitution: Article 41 establishes the authorities that must provide environmental information;
- Law No. 27275, on the Right to Access Public Information (O.G. of 29 September 2016), ensures the effective right to access public information and promotes citizen participation, as well as transparency in public administration;
- Law No. 25675, General Law on the Environment (O.G. of 28 November 2002), requires individuals and both public and private legal entities to provide environmental information on the activities they perform (Articles 16, 17 and 18);
- Law No. 26331, on Native Forests (the Forest Law) (O.G. of 26 December 2007), requires the Office of the AGN and the SIGEN to oversee and audit the FNECBN (Article 36);
- Law No. 25188, on Ethics in the Performance of Duties as Public Servants (O.G. of 26 October 1999), establishes the duties, prohibitions and incompatibilities when holding public office.

International law

- United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), 2004 (Law No. 26097; O.G. of 6 June 2006);
- Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC), 1996 (Law No. 24759; O.G. 13 January 1997);
- American Convention on Human Rights, 1969, and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966.

Effective forest governance

As already mentioned in section B.2.2 (viii) the Forest Law was able to reduce the annual deforestation area

³¹ Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development, currently (2020) Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development

³² The **works certificate** certifies, as an Affidavit, that the scheduled activities were conducted according to the Plan's objectives. A conceptual link shall be established between the activities carried out and their impact on the forest, so that the benefit for native forests is clear, thus justifying economic compensation.

³³ MAyDS. Law No. 26331 on Minimum environmental protection standards for native forests: Implementation Status Report 2010-2016, p. 25

from 485,000ha in 2007 to less than 156,000 ha in 2016 (see Table 8 in section B.2.1). The native forest area reported by the jurisdictions currently totals 53,589,728 ha, and these plans and projects received a compensation of ARS 1,371,597,990. Figure 3 indicates the number of Sustainable Management Plans (MP) and Conservation Plans³⁴ that were financed by Forest Law, per annum, as at 2017.

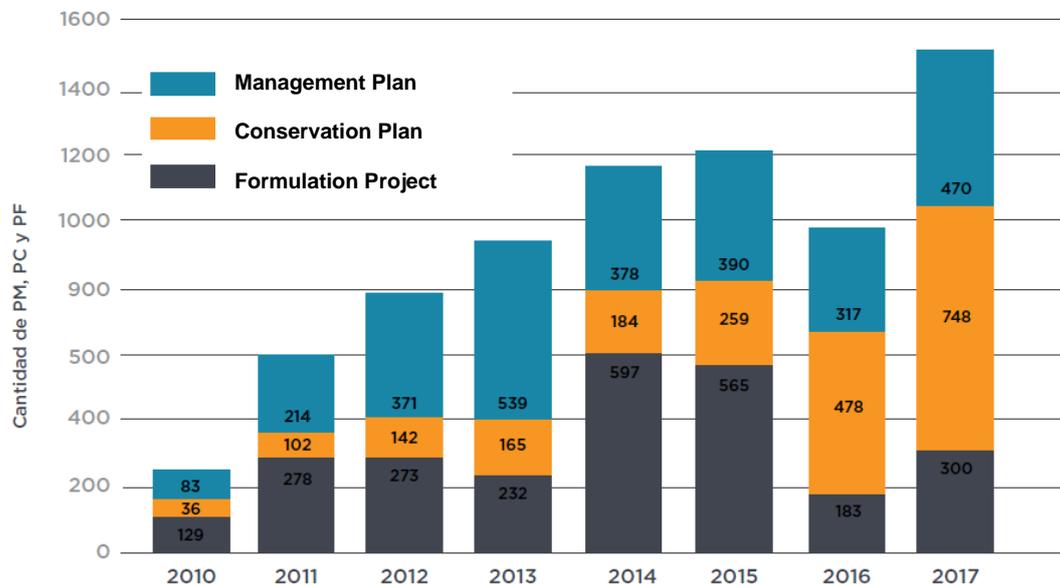


Figure 3. Sustainable Management Plans (MP), Conservation Plans (CP), Formulation Projects (FP) financed by Forest Law, per annum, as of 2017

Source: Information provided by the DNB in 2019

It must be noted that Forest Law, as well as General Law on the Environment, state minimum standards that ensure a “floor” for environmental protection that must be supplemented by the provinces, according to Article 124 of National Constitution, which states that the provinces hold the original ownership of natural resources in their territories. To reinforce the federal nature of the national policies on native forest protection and REDD+ actions, and promote the effectiveness of activities, Argentina has the following spaces for dialogue and public policies agreements:

- The [National Climate Change Cabinet](#) (GNCC, in its Spanish acronym) has been formalized through Law No. 27520 on Minimum Standards for Global Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (O.G of 20 December 2019). GNCC works in the endeavor of the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers and the Secretariat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation is the technical coordinator. The main function of the GNCC is to articulate with different government areas of the National Public Administration the implementation of the National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Action Plan, and of all the public policies related to established standards in the Law, such as foster the emission reduction strategies and reduce the human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change. The work of the Cabinet is based on the different government levels and has participatory bodies where the annual work plan is discussed and priorities are established. The Cabinet’s work (originally formed in 2016 through Decree 891/2016) also resulted in the preparation of inputs as a basis for the [First Review of Nationally Determined Contributions](#) submitted by the country in 2016 ([2016 Activity Report](#));
- [COFEMA](#), created in 1990, is a forum for agreeing on environmental policies, and comprises representatives from the national government, the provinces and the Buenos Aires City Government. It coordinates participatory assemblies at the different levels of the government’s

³⁴ **Sustainable Management Plans (MPs):** for forests of conservation interest: category II (yellow) or III (green). The goals and activities shall ensure that the forest is not replaced and that the interventions at least maintain the conservation attributes of the forest category. Should these attributes be affected, their recovery (either naturally or artificially) shall be technically assured;

Conservation Plans (CPs): for forests in any of the three conservation categories, provided the proposed goals and activities maintain and/or increase the conservation attributes;

Formulation Projects (FPs): seek to promote MPs or CPs by allocating funds for the planning process that will ultimately lead to a plan (MAYDS, 2017).

administrative decentralization. The main agreements reached therein can be [publicly accessed](#). COFEMA has a Native Forest Committee and a Climate Change Committee.

To strengthen forest governance, COFEMA implemented the National Native Forest Research and Development Programme (Res. 263/13) that is of federal environmental interest. In response, M_AyDS in alliance with National Agency for the Scientific and Technological Promotion, issued a National Call for Projects on Scientific and Technological Research in Sustainable Management of Native Forests in 2014 and, as a result, 16 research projects on the following topics were financed:

- Economic and social aspects of the use, transformation and marketing of native forest-derived resources;
- Land use planning and management of native forests;
- Monitoring of native forest resources.³⁵

Amongst other variables, the notable performance of the Forest Law contributed to ERs during the Results Period, in part as a result of the progressive strengthening of institutions such as M_AyDS, COFEMA and competent subnational agencies as well as the development of new tools and methodological guidelines to implement the different aspects of the Law. As noted in the 2017 Management Report of the Office of the AGN: “progress was made with the institutional organization compared to what was reported in AGN 38/2014 (the report audited the period 2007-2013). The internal structure of the DNB within the M_AyDS is appropriate for the foreseen functions to implement Forest Law. A specific office to oversee the provinces (Cooperation and Control Unit) was established” (AGN, 2017, p. 36)³⁶. The tools that supported this performance are listed below.

Mechanisms for addressing claims and complaints

To prevent conflicts and make it easier to address claims and complaints within the native forest policy - Forest Law (which serves as the framework for the PANByCC)-, the following citizen participation instruments have been operational since 2007:

- Mandatory participatory process for preparing OTBNs;
- Mandatory Public consultation for adopting Plans for Land Use Change (PCUS, in its Spanish acronym) in low conservation value forests (III – green), prior to the authorization of the Local Enforcement Authority (ALA in its Spanish Acronym) for the Forest Law;
- COFEMA, as a political-technical discussion forum at the federal level (and specifically, its Native Forest Committee), for general procedures to implement the Forest Law;
- [Buzón Verde](#) (Green Mailbox): M_AyDS has enabled this on-line public consultation mechanism that receives queries, complaints and allegations. This site lists the different communication channels and also includes the contact details of each directorate within the M_AyDS, in case of more specific queries.
- Front Desk of the M_AyDS: when a query is received at the front desk, a file is opened through the Electronic Document Management System (GDE, in its Spanish acronym) and it is redirected to the corresponding area.

The five-year study (2010-2014) carried out by the NGO *Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales* (FARN), called [“Indicadores de Acceso a la Información Pública Ambiental” \(2015\)](#) (Indicators on Access to Public Environmental Information), used a system of indicators to measure progress and/or setbacks in access to public environmental information, and states that “SAyDS (...) has shown a high response capacity throughout all these years”.

In 2014, the DNB of M_AyDS created the **DNB Social Participation Unit (APS-DNB)**³⁷ to support participatory methodologies, and to **address claims and complaints, as well as requests for information** (more information can be found in the ESA Annex).

³⁵ Information available at: <http://www.agencia.mincyt.gob.ar/frontend/agencia/convocatoria/323//> Source: (AGN, 2017, p. 10)

³⁶ AGN, 2017. Audit on implementation of Law 26331 on Minimum Environmental Protection Standards for Native Forests. Period July 2013-December 2016, p. 36.a

³⁷ The Unit was set up at DNB in 2012, based on the need to analyze participatory processes for outlining OTBNs. The Unit (APS) performs the following functions:

1. Analyzes participation processes in the provinces’ OTBNs.

Tools and initiatives that helped to implement the safeguard during the Results Period

The country has tools on access to information allowing society to see, *inter alia*, the results from implementation of the Forest Law and other actions regarding forest cover change. Below are a few of the most relevant:

- Argentina [National Forest Monitoring System \(Argentina's NFMS\)](#): provides updated information on native forest resources in the country since 1998, representing a key institutional tool for national decision making and to communicate to society the importance of native forests. The NFMS was operational already during the period of results (2014-2016), and aims at continuously strengthening its technical and institutional capacities. The NFMS serves also to generate and compile data needed to follow-up the implementation of the Forest Law. The NFMS is also key for the country to comply data reporting on international conventions to which Argentina is a Party, such as UNFCCC, including monitoring and reporting of REDD+ results.. Environmental policies are agreed upon by COFEMA, the Committee on Native Forests within COFEMA discusses and agrees on strategies and actions for forest resources. Within this context, the results of the Argentina's NFMS are made available to the provinces before they are published, so as to ensure the provinces' participation and include the technical information that the different local bodies provide.
- [Argentine Greenhouse Gas National Inventory System \(SNI-GEI-AR\)](#): a tool that serves to follow-up on compliance with the NDC and includes process documentation, calculation methodologies and emission estimates to ensure the consistency of the reports that are submitted to the UNFCCC.
- [Office of the AGN report on implementation of the Forest Law](#): The Office of the AGN regularly audits the implementation of the different provisions of the Forest Law. The audit [report](#) is publicly available and operates as a transparency mechanism that audits the management of the FNECBN, and also impartially assesses the efficiency of the overall implementation of the Law. The report for the period 2013-2015 was one of the fundamental sources used for analyzing the safeguards;
- [Forest Law Implementation Status Report \(MAyDS\)](#): as required by the National Congress, MAyDS must periodically reports on progress made in implementing the Forest Law across the country. The report is publicly available. The report covering the period 2010-2018 was also a key source for analyzing the safeguards.

As indicated in the ESA report (annexed to this document), it is also important to note the technical support, capacity-building and human resource strengthening carried out through some projects/ initiatives that helped to further fulfill this safeguard (see ESA Annex): [Forests and Community Project](#); [Argentina UN-REDD National Programme](#); and the [Forest Carbon Partnership Facility \(FCPF\) in Argentina](#).

(iii) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In the Results Period, REDD+ readiness actions and those leading to emissions reductions were carried out in a context of participation and respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and forest-dwelling and forest-dependent communities, according to national circumstances and the pertinent national and international regulatory framework, as stated below (and in the ESA Report, annexed to this document).

It should be noted that the Argentine legal framework does not have a definition of "local communities" in line with the scope used in the UNFCCC Cancun Agreements (COP 16), but has other notions related to "peasant communities," "Creole communities" and "family agriculture," among others. Therefore, and for the purpose of this report, all these different modalities of "communities" shall be jointly and indistinctly called local communities.

2. Provides technical assistance to local enforcement authorities on the participatory process, according to the Forest Law.
3. Outlines participatory methodologies, and acts as moderator at meetings for different DNB and SAyDS units.
4. Manages claims filed with the National Directorate of Forests by different stakeholders with regard to OTBNs.

With regard to the **legal framework for indigenous peoples' rights**, the Argentine Republic's National Constitution recognizes the ethnic and cultural pre-existence of indigenous peoples (Article 75, paragraph 17) and, along these same lines, Law No. 23302 on Indigenous Policy and Support to Aboriginal Communities (O.G. 8 November 1985) defines the indigenous peoples as "groups of families that recognize themselves as such because they are descendants of peoples that inhabited the national territory at the time of the conquest or colonization; and defines natives or indigenous ("indios" in the original text) as the members of said community" (Article 2). According to the 2004 Complementary Survey of the Indigenous Peoples³⁸, the Argentina accounts with 31 indigenous peoples' groups, often also referred to as Argentine Amerindians or Native Argentines. A more recent [2010 Census of Indigenous Peoples](#) identified a total of 955,032³⁹ persons, or 2.38% of the national population, which self-identified as descendant of or belonging to an indigenous people. Amongst these, 21.47% belong to the Mapuche, 13.3% to the Toba, 11.09% to the Guaraní, 7.05% to the Diaguita, 6.81% to the Kolla, 5.81% to the Quechua and 5.28% to the Wichí. These seven groups represent over 70% of Argentina's indigenous peoples. In terms of age, 47.2% of the indigenous peoples are young (450,604 people between 0 and 24 years old), 52.8% are adults (504,428 people of 25 years and above). The provinces with the highest proportion of indigenous peoples are Chubut (8.7%), Neuquén (8%), Jujuy (7.9%), Río Negro (7.2%), Salta (6.6%), Formosa (6.1%) and La Pampa (4.5%). These regions overlap with the highest poverty rates. Indigenous peoples are therefore among the population groups confronted with the greatest difficulties in accessing essential health services, housing, education, as well as resources, particularly land and job opportunities⁴⁰. According to a study by the Ministry of Health of Argentina, the average income of indigenous peoples' households is, on average, seven times lower than that of all the country's households⁴¹.

[National Law No. 26160](#) addresses the land survey of indigenous communities (Extensions 26554 / 26894 / 27400) and was passed at the end of 2006 for a four-year term, **to address the situation of territorial emergency of Indigenous Communities in the country, consistent with Article 75, paragraph 17, of the National Constitution**, and to partly fulfill Article 14, para. c, of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169. This is an emergency and public order law and its objectives are: to declare the territorial emergency of indigenous peoples' communities in the country; stay judgment enforcement, court or administrative proceedings aimed at eviction or vacation of the lands they live on; order a technical, legal and cadastral survey of the indigenous communities and, if necessary, of the currently, traditionally and publicly occupied lands.

Furthermore, there is a map with geo-referenced information on the location of indigenous communities which is [publicly available](#). This map was prepared and is permanently updated with information from the National Register of Indigenous Communities (Re.Na.C.I., in its Spanish acronym) and from the Programme for Territorial Survey of the Indigenous Communities (Re.Te.C.I., in its Spanish acronym). The latter is a Programme set up by INAI in compliance with Article 3 of Law No. 26160, and in force since 2007, with the participation of the CPI – Council of Indigenous Peoples- (made up of two representatives from every indigenous peoples' community, in each of the provinces) and approved by the National State in 2007. Re.Te.C.I. surveys the country's indigenous communities and, if necessary, their currently, traditionally and publicly occupied land. Implementation of this programme in Communities accrediting occupation, in line with the characteristics established by Law No. 26160, is a first step with regard to the Federal State's recognition of the indigenous peoples' currently, traditionally and publicly occupied land. The survey carried out by this programme is still in force and permanently updated, which is available at <http://datos.jus.gob.ar/dataset/listado-de-comunidades-indigenas>.

This survey is of utmost importance when considering any action concerning native forests, bearing in mind that **66% of the country's indigenous communities live in native forests**. Although land tenure is still not entirely clear and is precarious (based on the preliminary results of the 2018 National Census of Agriculture, it is estimated that **40% of native forest cover is in areas without clearly defined tenure**), forest dwellers can use them through a management plan approved by the ALA, respecting the general procedures of the

³⁸ Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INDEC). Encuesta Complementaria de Pueblos Indígenas 2004–2005. https://web.archive.org/web/20080611004448/http://www.indec.gov.ar/webcenso/ECPI/index_ecpi.asp

³⁹ INDEC. Censo Nacional de Población, Hogares y Viviendas 2010. <https://www.indec.gov.ar/indec/web/Nivel4-Tema-2-21-99>

⁴⁰ Cervera Novo, Juan Pablo (2010): "La cuestión indígena en la Argentina, un estudio de actualización". Estudios e investigaciones 25, pp. 111-139.

⁴¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya. A/HRC/21/47/Add.2. <http://acnudh.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Informe-del-Relator-sobre-derechos-de-pueblos-ind%C3%ADgenas-misi%C3%B3n-a-Argentina-2012.pdf>

Forest Law and OTBN.

On the other hand, and particularly concerning forests, the *Forest Law* (O.G. of 26 December 2017) includes several provisions to promote the participation and to safeguard the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and peasant communities. In this regard, within the framework of the participatory processes for outlining the first versions of the provincial OTBNs around 2012-2013, DNB's Social Participation Unit warned that the participation of indigenous peoples was one of the weaknesses of the process. Therefore, it included in the **Guidelines for OTBN Participatory Processes, a dialogue structure recommended for consultation with the Indigenous Peoples.**

Such guidelines, as well as guidelines strictly related to REDD+ mentioned in this FP or its annexes, were prepared in accordance with the ILO convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (Law No. 24071; O.G. of 07 April 1992), through which **government shall consult** the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures [...], **in good faith and in a form appropriate** to the circumstances, with the objective of **achieving agreement or consent** to the proposed measures. (further details on the ILO convention in the next sections and in ESMF Annex).

The country paid special attention to the engagement of indigenous peoples and to safeguards overall throughout the Results Period and overall REDD+ process. In 2015, a **Working Group on Safeguards** was set up, comprising different stakeholders that could contribute their knowledge and experiences to help the country address and respect the Cancun safeguards. In this regard, that same year, representatives of the Indigenous Peoples at the "Parliament of the Indigenous Peoples of the American Chaco and ZICOSUR (South American Center-West Integration Zone)" stated that: "we deem attractive the proposal of setting up thematic working groups since in that way we can generate specific participation forums, focusing on each of the different topics, to thus hold more in-depth discussions". In turn, this Parliament welcomed "the work undertaken in this first stage to extend the mapping of the communities living in Chaco and Formosa provinces" (Argentina UN-REDD NP, 2015, págs. 6-7). In response to the above suggestions of the Indigenous Peoples' Parliament, in 2016, MAyDS started working with the National Native Peoples Directorate, and other MAyDS technical units, NGOs, INAI, the Ombudsperson's Office – supported by the Argentina UN-REDD NP, to support dialogue and reflection on the participation of indigenous peoples within the REDD+ process, which resulted in the creation of the Working Group (WG) on Indigenous Peoples. The WG on Indigenous Peoples and WG on Safeguards worked actively to develop the Country Approach to Safeguards, promoting the engagement of indigenous peoples, and building capacities especially in the field of free prior and informed consultation for REDD+.

The **Multi-Sectoral Dialogue Meetings** held in 2017 and 2018 (see (iv) in this section, on Participation process for designing the PANByCC) focused their attention on the participation and engagement of representatives from the indigenous peoples and local communities. Particularly to ensure appropriate and active participation of the indigenous peoples at these meetings, coordination and planning meetings were held among the partners, facilitator team and indigenous peoples' institutions to agree on a roadmap, criteria and methodologies. Among other aspects, the indigenous peoples' institutions supported the preparation of the stakeholder mapping to guarantee appropriate representation.

Therefore, following the ILO 169 convention, of which Argentina is signatory, the PANByCC includes objectives that call for respecting the right to free prior and informed consultations of communities that are either forest-dependent and/or forest-dwellers. In this regard, one of PANByCC strategic structural pillars (EEE 2) refers to *Strengthening local communities*, and aims at improving the situation of local communities, building and strengthening capacities; likewise, another of its pillars, that of *Strengthening Governance*, promotes and reinforces participatory spaces (EEE 1, Action 1.7).

Institutional framework

In Argentina there is no single forum or organization representing all communities or indigenous peoples across the country, although there are several organizations with a national coverage, including the following:

- *Asociación Indígena de la República de la Argentina (AIRA)*. Founded in 1975, AIRA is a national non-profit organization that brings together indigenous peoples belonging to the various ethnic groups and communities of the different regions of the Argentine National Territory. Among other objectives, AIRA seeks to defend indigenous peoples' rights and develop indigenous communities in all their perspectives including the economic, social, health, language and legal ones.

- *Encuentro nacional de organizaciones territoriales de pueblos originarios* (ENOTPO in its Spanish acronym), a space grouping-up 45 indigenous peoples' territorial organizations created in 2009, to put forward proposals and coordinating indigenous territorial policies at the national level, with a view to advocating for indigenous peoples' national policies.
- The **Organization of Indigenous Nations and People (ONPIA)**, founded in 2003 is one of the first organizations to represent several communities. It aims to politically and technically strengthen indigenous peoples, communities and organizations in Argentina, according to their worldview (*cosmovision*), for the formulation, negotiation, execution and evaluation of development policies, programmes, projects, and the management of financing with the national and provincial states, governments, international cooperation and private companies. By the time of the results period for this proposal, ONPIA included 20 indigenous peoples' organizations from 15 provinces in Argentina (see ESA Annex for more information).
- *Consejo Nacional de la Mujer Indígena en Argentina (CONAMI)*, founded in 1996, CONAMI gathers organizations of indigenous women committed to defend the rights of indigenous peoples, affirming the identity and strengthening indigenous women. The organization has managed to establish a network of inter-institutional relations at various levels of the civil society as well as national and international organizations.

Indigenous peoples' organizations with a regional coverage amongst many, include the following:

- *Organización de Comunidades Aborígenes de Santa Fe (OCASTAFE)*. The Organization of Aboriginal Communities of Santa Fe comprises 46 Mocoví and Toba communities throughout the province. The organization is involved in the recognition of the rights to legitimate land ownership and bilingual education.
- *Consejo de Caciques de la Nación Mbya Guaraní*. The organization is active in the recognition of indigenous lands, territories and related natural resources.
- *Asamblea Pueblo Guaraní*. Founded in 1986, the Assembly strives for the inclusion and participation of the Guaraní community in all relevant spaces.
- *Confederación Mapuche de Neuquén*. The Neuquén Indigenous Confederation is the legal representation of the 38 Mapuche communities in the Province of Neuquén. The Confederation is independent from the Government and is representative of the Mapuches of the province. It participates in meetings and seeks solutions for the Mapuche communities.
- *Coordinadora de Organizaciones Kollas Autónomas de la Provincia de Salta -Qullamarka*. Founded in 2007, the Qullamarka is made up of 80 Kollas communities and its objective is to protect, conserve and sustainably use the Kolla territory, including its water, air, minerals and everything it contains.

The country has institutions made up -fully or partly- of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities, to facilitate their participation. The following are worth highlighting:

- [National Indigenous Affairs Institute](#) (INAI), created in 1985, INAI is the enforcement authority for Law No. 23302 on Indigenous Policy and Support to Indigenous Communities and is a key public institution related to indigenous and communities' rights in the country. INAI's staff includes representatives of indigenous peoples, together with those from different ministries and secretariats of the adhering provinces. INAI's overall objectives are related to tenure rights, education and health plans for the benefit of indigenous peoples (Article 6), and supports a number of activities particularly relevant for respecting indigenous peoples and communities' rights. It is also worth mentioning that INAI is also working with a gender approach. In this regard, in 2016, INAI implemented the project Awareness-raising and Promotion of Gender Issues in Indigenous Communities;
- **Indigenous Participation Council (IPC)**, created in 2004 in the remit of INAI, is a part of the Indigenous Participation System in force at the national level, and includes representatives of indigenous peoples by provinces, being the main authorized voice to communicate with the State on behalf of the indigenous peoples. IPC was created to address "the urgent need for participation of the indigenous peoples' representatives" (INAI Resolution 152/2004), especially "for indigenous peoples

consultation and participation in public policy matters in the field, particularly land surveying” (Sterpin, 2017). In 2005, assemblies by communities and by indigenous peoples were organized at the provincial level, from where Council members were elected. Furthermore, in 2006, a Coordination Group was set up with a few Council members, so as to meet more frequently and follow up on the matters addressed. To increase IPC representation and efficiency, in the Results Period, the number of IPC members was increased (from 80 to 129) and the Coordination Group (from 12 to 25), through INAI Resolution No. 737/2014. As from then, two full members are elected, who must split the tasks “so that all communities are visited and served” (Sterpin, 2017). The IPC must be convened when necessary to consult the indigenous peoples on the implementation of measures that may affect them directly or indirectly, although their opinions are not binding.

- [The National Auditor-General’s Report](#) (AGN, 2017) highlights that in the period 2010-2015 there “has been significant progress made” regarding the rights of indigenous peoples. Three programmes managed by INAI are worth pointing out:
 - Territorial Survey Programme (Re.Te.C.I.), which surveyed 702 communities;
 - The creation of the IPC, with broad representation and participation;
 - The Indigenous Remains Restitution Programme, that was able to restitute six remains, despite the difficulties in managing this issue (AGN, 2017, pág. 37).

Although there is no specific law on participation and free, prior and informed consultation, **the country has adequate tools and institutions** to facilitate the participatory process and meet the specific needs of the indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities in the participatory processes. The Forest Law, as well as relevant projects for forest governance and REDD+ mentioned in previous section, have shown the attention paid to specific safeguards concerning participation, engagement and consultation of the indigenous peoples. In this regard, Article 26 of the above Law states that before any authorization for “clearing native forests is granted, the ALA in each jurisdiction must ensure strict fulfillment of (...)” “recognize and respect the rights of the country’s original indigenous communities that traditionally occupied the land” (Article 19) and, moreover, ensure citizen participation as acknowledged by Article 21 of the General Law on the Environment (O.G. of 28 November 2011).

According to the different Forest Law regulations, as well as initiatives and actions in force during the Results Period, the ALA must facilitate effective participation of all stakeholders, holding specific meetings with / for the indigenous peoples, on the one hand, and with other social stakeholders, on the other hand. During the Results Period, there were also tools such as the [Protocol on the Free, Prior and Informed Consultation of Indigenous Peoples](#) of ENOTPO (AGN, 2017), outlined jointly with 45 territory-based organizations, supported by technicians and officials from the different ministries.

In 2015, ENOTPO presented⁴² the protocol to relevant stakeholders in native forests and REDD+, which was used as a basis for protocols followed by the National REDD+ process, through the Argentina UN-REDD NP and FCPF (FCPF Argentina, 2015, p. 35).

Other relevant tools are:

- **“Community and Bio-cultural Protocols”**: instruments of the CBD, 1992 (CBD) (Law No. 24375, O.G. of 3 October 1994) and the Nagoya Protocol recognized by the National Ombudsperson as suitable consultation mechanisms (Resolution of 12 May 2016, recognizing the first Protocol in Argentina “*kachi Yupi* – for the indigenous communities of the Salinas Grandes Basin and *Guayatayoq* Lake”).⁴³
- **Guidelines on the Process of Free, Prior and Informed Consultation of Indigenous Peoples**: the document compiles the experience gained by MAYDS and the Argentina UN-REDD NP, throughout the participatory process within the PANByCC, resulting in a manual spelling out the nature, characteristics and subjects of the rights of free, prior and informed consultation; the legal framework, stages and phases that a consultation process should have to be legally valid and provide

⁴² ENOTPO. 2015. [Presentación del Protocolo de Consulta Previa, Libre, e Informada de los Pueblos Originarios](#) (Power Point).

⁴³ [Resolución del Defensor del Pueblo de la Nación 25/16](#) (National Ombudsperson’s Office Resolution of 12 May 2016).

practical tools to the process. It will soon be made publicly available on Argentina's Country Approach to Safeguards website, in the section "[Herramientas para la implementación de las Salvaguardas en el terreno](#)" (Tools for implementing Safeguards in the field);

- Web dissemination platform of the [Argentina's NFMS](#) since, among the many layers of its geo-referenced information system, one of them allows the location of communities and indigenous peoples across the territory.
- [FAO Environmental and Social Management Guidelines \(2015\)](#) facilitate the early and systematic identification and assessment of environmental and social risks and the integration of the management of these risks into projects. The guidelines include a specific safeguard on indigenous peoples and cultural heritage with the related actions to be implemented, including the process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
- [FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples \(2010\)](#). The Policy has been formulated so as to ensure that FAO will make all due efforts to respect, include and promote indigenous issues in relevant work. In so doing, it joins the international community's increasing mobilization in favour of the rights and concerns of indigenous peoples.
- [FAO Manual for Project Practitioners on Free Prior and Informed Consent- An Indigenous Peoples Right and a Good Practice for Local Communities \(2016\)](#). The manual is deeply rooted in a human rights based approach and is designed to assist development organizations to respect the right to FPIC when developing and implementing projects affecting Indigenous Peoples.
- [GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy \(2018\)](#). This GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy recognises that indigenous peoples often have identities and aspirations that are distinct from mainstream groups in national societies and are disadvantaged by traditional models of mitigation, adaptation and development. The Policy seeks to assist the GCF in incorporating considerations related to indigenous peoples into its decision-making while working towards the goals of climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- [GCF Environmental and Social Policy \(2018\)](#). The Policy articulates how GCF integrates environmental and social considerations into its decision-making and operations to effectively manage environmental and social risks and impacts and improve outcomes. It includes a specific performance standard on indigenous peoples.

Legal framework

During the Results Period, the country had the following relevant regulatory framework in place regarding indigenous peoples' rights:

International law

- [ILO Convention 169 of 1989 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries. \(Law No. 24071; O.G. of 07 April 1992 and 2000\)](#): recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to "maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage" and "their traditional knowledge (...)". Importantly, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that "indigenous peoples have the right to participate in the adoption of decisions on matters that affect their rights" (Article 18) and ILO convention states that State Parties shall adopt special measures "to safeguard" their people, institutions, property, labour, "cultures and environment" (Article 4). Additionally (Article 6), in applying the provisions of this Convention, "(...) governments shall: 1.a) consult the peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, whenever consideration is being given to legislative or administrative measures which may affect them directly; 2. the **consultations** carried out in application of this Convention **shall be undertaken**, in good faith and in a form appropriate to the circumstances, **with the objective of achieving agreement or consent** to the proposed measures.
- Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992 (CBD) (Law No. 24375, O.G. of 03 October 1994): Argentina commits to respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the sustainable use of biological diversity;
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) 2007. Argentina voted in favour of the UNDRIP in 2007. The UNDRIP delineates and defines the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, including their property rights to cultural and ceremonial expression, identity, language,

employment, health, education, and other subjects. The objective of the declaration is to encourage countries to work alongside indigenous peoples to solve global issues, such as development, multicultural democracy and decentralization.

o 2030 Agenda of 2015: SDG 2 “Zero Hunger”, SDG 10 “Reduced Inequalities”, SDG 4 “Quality Education” and SDG 16 “Peace and Justice for All” are goals that are closely related to improving the conditions of the most vulnerable sectors, among which are the indigenous peoples.

Domestic law

o National Constitution, that recognizes the ethnic and cultural pre-existence of indigenous peoples (Article 75, paragraph 17);

o Law No. 23302 on Indigenous Policy and Support to Aboriginal Communities (O.G. of 08 November 1985): defines indigenous peoples as “groups of families that recognize themselves as such because they are descendants of peoples that inhabited the national territory at the time of the conquest or colonization; and defines natives or indigenous (“*indios*” in the original text of the Law) as the members of said community” (Article 2); the Law also creates the INAI (Article 5);

o Forest Law (O.G. of 26 December 2007): establishes that “any native forest clearing or sustainable management projects shall recognize and respect the rights of the indigenous communities that have traditionally occupied these lands” (Article 19);

o Executive Order No. 91/2009 regulating the implementation of the Forest Law (O.G. of 16 February 2009): defines “peasant communities” as “communities that have their own cultural identity, that are settled in a native forest or its surrounding area, that till the land, keep animals, and have a diversified production system for family consumption or subsistence trade”. Additionally, for purposes of the Forest Law, their legal status is similar to that of indigenous communities (Article 2.e);

o Law No. 27118 on Family Agriculture (O.G. of 28 January 2015): seeks to ensure preservation, development and dissemination of practices and technologies that are typical of family, peasant and indigenous agriculture to strengthen cultural identity, transfer of knowledge and restore good farming practices (Article 24).

o Law No. 26160 on Indigenous Communities (O.G. of 29 November 2006) (Extensions 26554 / 26894 / 27400): address the situation of territorial emergency of Indigenous Communities in the country, consistent with Article 75, paragraph 17, of the National Constitution, and to partly fulfill Article 14, para. c, of ILO Convention 169.

(iv) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of 1/CP.16.

In Argentina, in line with the country interpretation of safeguards, “*the implementation of the PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives shall promote a framework for the full and effective participation of key stakeholders, in particular of indigenous peoples and local communities, with a gender perspective*”. The General Law on the Environment establishes that “all persons concerned shall have the right to be consulted and express their opinion on administrative procedures involving overall preservation and protection of the environment, whether general or specific in nature” (Article 19).

As indicated in the Multi-stakeholder participation section of the ESA report (annexed to this document), during the Results Period (2014-2016), the country undertook noteworthy multi-stakeholder participation in forest policy, especially with regards to the enforcement of the Forest Law. Key participation processes can be highlighted for the following:

- i) The Forest Law;
- ii) The Forests and Community Project;
- iii) Definition of the Strategic Guidelines for the Forest Law implementation;
- iv) Design of the PANByCC.

Participation within the framework of the Forest Law

The Forest Law itself foresees a series of provisions, duties and mechanisms to promote multi-stakeholder participation throughout different key stages of implementation of its scheme. For instance, Article 6 states that the OTBN should be done in a participatory manner, and Article 19 establishes that “any clearing or sustainable management of native forests” must respect the rights of indigenous peoples. Furthermore, it states that public participation is mandatory and must be ensured by the provinces for the following: (a)

preparing and updating the OTBN (Article 6); (b) before authorizing forest clearing projects (Article 26), according to the provisions of Articles 16 to 21, Law No. 25675 (General Law on the Environment). Similarly, MAyDS developed the following tools for this purpose in 2014:

- [Guidelines on Analyzing Social Stakeholders for OTBN Participatory Processes;](#)
- [Guidelines on Disseminating OTBN Participatory Processes;](#)
- [Guidelines on Methodologies for OTBN Participatory Processes;](#)
- [Guidelines on Documenting OTBN Participatory Processes.](#)

In addition to these tools there is a specific [Protocol on Free, Prior and Informed Consultation](#) of ENOTPO, as indicated in the previous safeguard.

Participation in the Forests and Community Project

The [Forests and Community Project](#) was approved in November 2015 (end date foreseen for November 2020), and is being implemented with a focus on the provinces of Salta, Santiago del Estero, Chaco, Jujuy and Misiones. This has provided MAyDS and sub-national agencies with important inputs and capacities in participatory processes with forest-dependent communities, through “Integral community plans” (PIC in its Spanish acronym). Project activities began in 2016, in the provinces of Chaco, Salta and Santiago del Estero. A National Advisory Council (CCN), set up to ensure participation, and a Local Advisory Council (CCL) in each province covered by the intervention, are the most important participation mechanisms for the project since they are made up of local institutions dealing with forests, land and production, and by representatives of indigenous and local communities in the areas of intervention. The CCN is an inter-institutional working group to bring about synergies for the project’s implementation.

At these CCLs, the Project is accountable to local institutions for its progress, and applications are submitted by the communities that are interested in participating in the project to PICs. CCLs provide an initial territorial validation to the requesting community, certifying that it is peacefully occupied, from the institutional and organizational standpoints. Once participants support the proposal, technical assistance is granted for the formulation stage.

When preparing PICs, mechanisms are established in an agreement to promote -through community meetings- participatory processes, applying a gender approach, to achieve the intended territorial management model, and an investment plan is agreed upon with the community. PICs are the first public policy on Community Forest Management, framed within the Forest Law promoted by MAyDS. Since these are forest management plans, they must be submitted to the Law’s ALA for their approval. So far, the Forests and Community Project has a portfolio of 80 PICs, reaching out to over 2,500 families (60% of them are indigenous) and an area of 400,000 Ha.

Participation in defining Strategic Guidelines for the Forest Law implementation

The strategic technical guidelines for the implementation of the Forest Law were prepared and agreed upon by consensus, through a participatory process with government stakeholders, academia, scientific experts and civil society. The contents were discussed at six regional workshops held across the country in 2017. This process resulted in the definition of five strategic guidelines that are the target of the FNECBN and were adopted by COFEMA Resolution No. 360/2018:

- 1) Sustainable Forest Development;
 - 1.1 Sustainable Forest Management at Basin Level;
 - 1.2 Forest Management with Integrated Livestock;
- 2) Restoration of degraded forests;
- 3) Sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening of conservation areas;
- 4) Prevention of forest fires;
- 5) Urban – Forest interface.

Participation in designing the PANByCC

The PANByCC was designed following a broad participatory process undertaken by MAyDS, supported by the Argentina UN-REDD NP. Since 2012, Argentina also received funding from the FCPF. Both initiatives -headed by MAyDS, together with UN agencies and the World Bank -- particularly highlighted the importance of full and effective participation.

Participation and consultation became more focused specifically on building and consolidating the PANByCC in the years 2015 to 2018. The Plan was prepared within the framework of the National Climate Change Cabinet, which was formalized through the Law No. 27520 for Minimum Standards for Global

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation approved at the end of 2019 (and originally formed in 2016 through Decree 891/2016).

In order to ensure inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, Argentina consolidated a Stakeholder Participation Plan. This Plan was designed to promote “the creation of dialogue forums with the purpose of including the perception, interest and willingness of the different stakeholder groups linked to forests in the document”.

The Stakeholder Participation Plan gave rise to a platform coordinating aspects such as:

- Socialization and capacity strengthening sessions on forests and climate change: in 2016 and at the beginning of 2017, REDD+ workshops were held, attended by representatives of COFEMA, NGOs, government, the private sector and the academia;
- Regional and multi-sectoral dialogue workshops in the country’s six main forests regions;
- Setting up of five technical Working Groups addressing the following topics; i) environmental and social benefits and safeguards; ii) forest reference level and monitoring system; iii) REDD+ financial and funding structure; 4) drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; and v) indigenous peoples. 81 relevant stakeholders (57 women and 24 men) participated in the working groups. They came from government, the public sector, technical-academic sector, environmental NGOs and indigenous peoples’ groups (Argentina UN-REDD NP, 2016, p. 10);
- Agreements with local partners: to promote the organization and performance of participation forums, cooperation agreements were signed with local institutions that were experienced and knowledgeable in social and environmental aspects of the different forest regions.

It should be noted that, due to the high level of participation and how important this was for completing the PANByCC, in 2017 and 2018 Multi-sectoral Dialogue Meetings were held in six out of the country’s seven forest regions. Ten workshops were systematically held with a total number of 627 participants. To convene these meetings, a stakeholder mapping was carried out, including representatives of the different sectors linked to land use, forests and climate change. This exercise was done within the framework of the Argentina UN-REDD+ NP and validated by COFEMA provincial representatives. These meetings were intended to ensure effective engagement, and information was disaggregated on the participation of the indigenous peoples and small farmers.

GENDER APPROACH IN THE PANByCC

The Government of the Argentina has been working for quite some time on mainstreaming gender in different public policies. In this regard, the following institutional and regulatory frameworks are worth underscoring:

- Law No. 26485, on the Full Protection for Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women in their Interpersonal Relationships (O.G. 14 April 2009): its objectives are, *inter alia*, to ensure the rights recognized by international conventions ratified by the country in this field and to “eliminate discrimination between women and men in all walks of life”;
- Law No. 27118, on Family Agriculture (O.G. 28 January 2015): its objectives are, *inter alia*, to contribute to eliminating gender gaps and stereotypes, ensuring equal access of men and women to the rights and benefits enshrined in this law, tailoring actions and implementing specific policies for women; and, furthermore, to reinforce upward social mobility within family, peasant and indigenous agriculture, with special attention to women’s conditions and needs (Article 4.c);
- Law No. 27499, on Mandatory Training in Gender Issues for all National Officials working in the Three Branches of the State (O.G. 10 January 2019): it creates the National Ongoing Programme for Institutional Training in Gender and Violence against Women, with a view to “training and raising awareness” of all public officials at different State levels.

Echoing these efforts, MAyDS, with the support of the Argentina UN-REDD NP, developed a roadmap in 2015 to mainstream gender in the PANByCC⁴⁴ and organized the first workshop⁴⁵ on mainstreaming gender in forest and climate change policies for stakeholders in government and civil society. Over two days, the

⁴⁰ PN ONU-REDD. 2016. [Informe Anual Argentina](#), p. 4 (UN-REDD NP. 2016. Argentina annual report)

⁴¹ UN-REDD web site. [Argentina: taller de enfoque de género en políticas de bosques y cambio climático](#) (Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in forest and climate change policies - 29 September 2015)

main gender regulations within national and international frameworks were reviewed and their link to forest and climate change policies, power relations and the importance of women's empowerment as an initiative for their development were analyzed. It is worth underscoring that the country's efforts to "mainstream" the gender approach in REDD+ continued after the Results Period – especially in 2017 and 2018 - when the participatory process of the PANByCC was managed with a gender perspective, that fostered participation of women in the different sectors. Attendees were disaggregated by gender and sector, as indicated in Table 30. Finally, in 2019, MAyDS developed "Methodological Guidelines to Mainstream the Gender Perspective in Climate Change and Forest Management".

(v) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits.

As required by the country approach to safeguards, the PANByCC and any other REDD+ initiative in Argentina must be consistent with the Forest Law, incentivize the protection and conservation of native forests (or other natural ecosystems) and biodiversity, as well as enhance the environmental, social and economic benefits.

REDD+ actions, which are the purpose of this proposal, were implemented in accordance with the legal framework for native forests and biodiversity, with a view to bringing about diverse social and environmental benefits for the owners of native forest management plans, forest agencies and related natural ecosystems, through the different tools included in the Forest Law.

In Argentina, native forests cover an area close to 53.6 million ha Argentina's wealth of biodiversity is expressed in 18 ecoregions with different environments, such as tropical rainforests, grasslands, steppes and Antarctic and coastal marine environments, among others. To date, Argentina's Biodiversity Inventory (still under development) has identified 13,230 species.⁴⁶

The Argentine National Constitution states that it is the duty of the authorities to preserve the "natural and cultural heritage and biological diversity" (Article 41), and the main goal of the Convention on Biological Diversity that was ratified by the country (Law No. 24375) is "to conserve biological diversity". Similarly, the Forest Law seeks to preserve natural forests and categorizes them by conservation value categories through a OTBN. Clearing is allowed in low conservation forests with prior authorization and approval of the relevant Plan on Land Use Change, and an environmental impact assessment.

The Forest Law also includes key legal definitions:

- "native forest"⁴⁷: "natural forest ecosystem that predominantly includes mature native tree species, diverse associated flora and fauna species and the surrounding environment –soil, subsoil, atmosphere, climate, water resources- that constitute an interdependent network with its own characteristics and multiple functions. Under natural conditions, these elements make the system dynamically balanced and provide different environmental services to society, including diverse natural resources with potential for economic exploitation. This definition includes primary native forests –where no human intervention has occurred -, secondary forests which grow after clearing, and forests resulting after voluntary recovery or restoration" (Article 2, Law No. 26331). Based on these definitions, the Law categorizes forests according to their conservation interest as:
 - a. *Category I (red)*: forests with very high conservation value that should not be transformed in perpetuity;
 - b. *Category II (yellow)*: forests of medium conservation value that may be degraded but if restored may have a high conservation value. No clearing is allowed. Only their sustainable use, tourism, gathering and scientific research are permitted;
 - c. *Category III (green)*: forests of low conservation value that may be partially or totally

⁴⁶ SAyDS. 2019. Informe del estado del ambiente 2018 (Environment status report 2018)

⁴⁷ Besides this legal forest definition, as detailed in FREL and in Sección B.1 (i) of this document, Argentina has an operational forest definition (used in the construction of the FREL) which includes the types of land cover that the country adopted based on FAO's proposed classification -through FRA-, adapted according to national circumstances into two classes: FL and OWL. This forest definition is the one used to calculate the results presented in this proposal.

transformed but only after an environmental impact assessment.

- **Environmental services** of natural forests: the “tangible and intangible benefits generated by native forest ecosystems (...)”, including water regulation, conservation of biodiversity, fixation of greenhouses gases and others (Article 5). As the list is not complete, this article could serve as a legal basis to recognize the benefits of REDD+, beyond those of carbon.

The definition of conservation categories for native forests (red, yellow and green) requires methodologies that valorize and weight the Environmental Sustainability Criteria (ESC) associated with their connection to other natural habitats, biological diversity, indigenous peoples and local communities, among others.

In line with the analysis carried out by MAyDS in early 2017, between 2010 and 2016, the ESC most frequently used by the provinces to valorize the importance of native forests for their OTBN were C9, *Basin conservation potential*; and C4, “*Presence of outstanding biological values* (23/23 and 20/23, respectively).⁴⁸ This shows that biodiversity, within the protection framework laid down in the Forest Law and, therefore, in REDD+ actions carried out in the Results Period, is a fundamental value to protect the forests and promote the co-benefits of REDD+. Additionally, to strengthen biodiversity conservation within the framework of the Forest Law, in 2014, MAyDS published “[Ecological Corridors for the Argentine Chaco Region. Definitions and Methodological Guidelines for Implementation](#)”, which served –like the one on Forests– as a basis to promote ecological corridor planning when updating OTBNs⁴⁹.

It is worth highlighting that both the Forest Law and REDD+ actions within the framework of the PANByCC are designed to be consistent with, and support the country’s regulatory framework for the protection and non-conversion of native forests of high (red) and medium (yellow) conservation value, and the maintenance and enhancement of their biodiversity and other related social and environmental services. Furthermore, neither the PANByCC nor the Forest Law include afforestation or reforestation with exotic species. By Law **there is no incentive for replacement of natural forests with cultivated forests**, as also the Art. 5 of Law 25080 of Forest plantations demand the necessity of respecting the OTBN. Likewise, REDD+ actions in the country, within the framework of the PANByCC, do not include activities that may cause conversion of other natural ecosystems and, therefore, loss of their biodiversity and ecosystem services, for example, by afforestation of natural grasslands. It may therefore be said that REDD+ actions during the Results Period (and beyond) were in line with this safeguard or else there would have been non-compliance with the scheme of the Forest Law and other above-mentioned regulatory frameworks.

Endangered tree species

Argentina ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (Law No. 22344). As a result, the following species were included in Appendix I (highest level of protection): *Fitzroya cupressoides* (*alerce*); *Pilgerodendron uviferum* (*ciprés de las Guaitecas*) and *Araucaria araucana* (*pehuén*) in the Andean –Patagonian forest region and *Podocarpus parlatorei* (*pino del cerro*) in the Argentine Yungas region. Appendix II (medium level of protection) includes *Bulnesia sarmientoi* (*Palo Santo*) in the *Parque Chaqueño* region. Lastly, Appendix III (lower level of protection) includes continuous monitoring of export volumes and interventions involving *Cedrela fissilis* (*cedro misionero*) in the *Paranaense* Rainforest region, and *Cedrela angustifolia* (*cedro salteño*) and *Cedrela odorata* (*cedro coya or acayú*) in the Argentine Yungas region.

With regard to *Palo Santo*, the “Forest Management Requirements for the Exploitation of *Palo Santo* (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*) intended for export” that were established by the former SAyDS in Resolution No. 393/2013 are in line with supplementary provincial regulations that substantially reduced exports and increased the sustainable use of the species (Table 9). Furthermore, during this period, MAyDS assisted the three jurisdictions (Chaco, Formosa and Salta) to improve not only the follow-up process but also training, strengthening and adoption of practices to enable a sustainable management of this resource⁵⁰.

⁴⁸ MAyDS. 2017. [Ley N° 26.331 de Presupuestos Mínimos de Protección Ambiental de los Bosques Nativos: Informe de estado de implementación 2010-2016](#), p. 11 (*Minimum standards for the environmental protection of native forests: Implementation status report*)

⁴⁹ MAyDS. 2017. [Law No. 26331 on Minimum Environmental Protection Standards for Native Forests: Implementation status report 2010-2016](#), p. 14

⁵⁰ MAyDS. 2017. [Law No. 26331 on Minimum Environmental Protection Standards for Native Forests: Implementation status report 2010-2016](#), p. 28

Table 9. Exports of palo santo logs and sawn timber in the period 2009-2016.

Year	Logs (tonnes)	Sawn timber (tonnes)
2009	3,741	1,581
2010	10,591	2,675
2011	10,888	2,449
2012	10,359	1,675
2013	6,371	1,513
2014	3,450	642
2015	1,469	273
2016	1,321	348

Source: MAyDS, 2017, p. 29

Relevant Regulatory Framework

- Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD), 1992 (Law No. 24375, O.G. of 03 October 1994)
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, 1971 (Law No. 23919, O.G. of 24 April 1991)
- The Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 16 November 1972 (Law No. 21836, O.G. of 14 July 1978)
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973 (Law No. 22344, O.G. of 01 October 1982)
- General Law on the Environment No. 25675 (O.G. of 28 November 2002)
- Forest Law No. 26331 (O.G. of 26 December 2007)

Tools and initiatives that contributed to implementing the safeguard in the Results Period

Some of the most relevant projects that contributed to implementing this safeguard are:

- **Forests and Community Project:** amongst other purposes, this project strategically targets sustainable production and marketing of native forest assets and services, with transformation and marketing taking place at the local level, as well as infrastructure and social capital investment - respecting and promoting biodiversity conservation. The project focuses on the *Parque Chaqueño* region (Salta, Santiago del Estero and Chaco)⁵¹.
- **National Native Forest Research and Development Programme:** an initiative to strengthen forest governance that COFEMA declared of federal environmental interest (Res. No. 263/13). In response, MAyDS issued a National Call for Projects on Scientific and Technological Research in Sustainable Management of Native Forests in 2014, and 16 research projects were financed, including one on “Economic and social aspects of the use, transformation and marketing of native forest-derived resources”.
- **Argentina UN-REDD National Programme:** between 2015 and 2017, MAyDS, with the support of UN-REDD NP, and the technical support of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and *Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina* (FVSA), carried out a participatory study on the social and environmental benefits of native forests, together with other entities and stakeholders in the WG on Safeguards. The purpose of the study was to conduct a spatial analysis of the social and environmental benefits (beyond reducing carbon emissions) of native forests in each of the forest regions of the country. This effort also provided useful information to define priority intervention areas for the PANByCC in order to maximize forest benefits, beyond those of carbon. The [Booklets on social and environmental benefits](#) for each of the country’s forest regions may be downloaded from the Country Approach to REDD+ Safeguards web page.

Some of the **tools** are listed below:

- [Argentine Biodiversity Information System](#) (BIS, under development): in compliance with the CBD (Article 7), BIS was established to initiate the process of gathering, classifying, organizing and providing to the community biological information on protected areas under the remit of the National Parks

⁵¹ MAyDS. 2017. [Ley N° 26.331 de Presupuestos Mínimos de Protección Ambiental de los Bosques Nativos: Informe de estado de implementación 2010-2016](#), p. 17 (Minimum standards for the environmental protection of native forests: Implementation status report)

Administration; the system will later be expanded to include the rest of the country. Currently, the National Parks Administration is responsible for 48 protected areas covering a total surface area of 4,661,356 Ha.

- Argentina's [NFMS](#): includes annual information on native forests and their conservation categories. One of its many layers of geo-referenced information includes the location of indigenous peoples and the social and environmental benefits maps, disaggregated by forest region.

(vi) **Actions to address the risks of reversal.**

Addressing the risks of reversal of emissions requires measures to ensure long-term permanence of ER and an increase in GHG sequestration due to the implementation of REDD+ actions. In line with the country approach to safeguards⁵², *Argentina has measures in place to tackle the risks of reversals of emissions reduced through the PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives*⁵², that were operational during the Results Period.

To that end, one of the goals of the Forest Law is to conserve, regulate and control the decrease in native forest surface areas in the country, with institutions and tools that minimize or avoid the risks of reversal of emissions.

For this purpose, the National Government allocates 30% of the resources of the Fund provided for in the Law, to develop and maintain the monitoring network and NFMS (Article 35). Between 2014 and 2016, ARS 202,350,681 were allocated to the provinces to develop and maintain a monitoring network and native forest information systems at a sub-national level, thus strengthening the mechanisms to avoid and/or reduce the risk of reversal (Table 10).

Table 10. Resources allocated to FNECBN in the Results Period

Year	Resources allocated to FNECBN
2014	\$ 222,000,000
2015	\$ 228,450,000
2016	\$ 224,052,271
Total	\$ 674,502,271
30%	\$ 202,350,681

Source: MAyDS (2017), p. 16

In 2015, through the FCPF Programme, MAyDS identified the following risks of reversal and their mitigation strategies:

Table 11. Risks of reversal and potential mitigation measures

Type of risk	Description	Mitigation strategies
Natural (extreme climate events)	Fires are the most probable threat. Droughts and floods are likely to happen, but less frequent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the Fire Management and Control Plans of the jurisdictions; - Implement climate change adaptation strategies together with REDD+ interventions; - Strengthen the capacity to respond to extreme climate events.
Governance	The main risks include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unforeseen impacts of policy interventions; 2. Policy changes that impact sustainable long-term financing of activities; 3. Weak government and social institutions to face new economic and social scenarios. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed analysis and planning of regulatory instruments, anticipating behaviors in transition periods and attitudes towards speculative risks; - Strengthen financial and management structures; - Strengthen social participation and support for new policies; - Include policy commitments in legislation and State policy.
International demand and prices of	Increases in commodity prices or exchange rate fluctuations may lead to annulling decisions concerning protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impacting international commodity prices through the actions of the Programme is difficult. However, good land use planning, sustainable land management, zoning and existing land use

⁵² SAyDS. 2019. [Primer Resumen de Información de Salvaguardas de REDD+ de la República Argentina para el Periodo 2014-2019.](#) (First Summary of Information on REDD+ Safeguards of the Argentine Republic for the Period 2014-2019.)

commodities	areas. This risk is higher in the Province of Chaco, where deforestation prevails due to the expansion of the soybean growing area.	regulations, may serve to ensure production of commodities and reduce deforestation; - Efforts will be made to establish partnerships with organizations that promote sustainable production of commodities.
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Source: FCPF Argentina. ER-PIN, version 2015, p. 49

MAYDS, with the support of the Argentina UN-REDD NP, later expanded this analysis to identify the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation that served as a basis to develop the PANByCC⁵³.

Among the measures put in place to mitigate risks of reversals is worth mentioning:

- The significant efforts made to continuously strengthen forest monitoring through improved resolution, higher frequency of information and, specifically, methodological design and application to detect and report fire-affected areas;
- The step-wise development of an [Early Warning System for deforestation](#), that to date has sent early warnings for 22,734 ha;
- The strengthening of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation in new policies (for example, the significant participation process to develop the PANByCC – as described in previous Sections);

Other actions have been described in the PANByCC such as, for example, its strategic action pillars (structural and operational) (Figure 4), several of which were implemented through existing projects (such as the Forests and Community Project, Argentina UN-REDD NP, FCPF), and others that could be strengthened with the funds of this Funding Proposal.

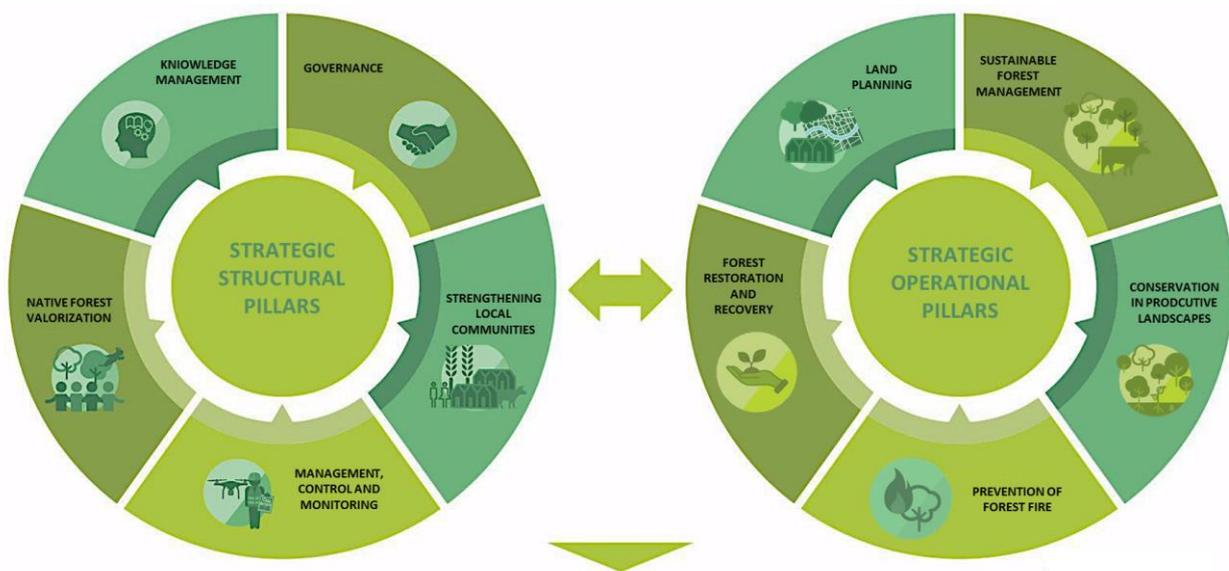


Figure 4. PANByCC Strategic Structural and Operational Pillars
Source: National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change, MAYDS

Forest Fires

One of the risks of reversal that was identified was forest fires (see also Annex 5 Analysis of Risk of Reversal and Buffer estimation). In Argentina, forest fires are due to both natural and anthropic causes. The most significant and common natural cause is lightning strikes produced by electrical storms. Climatic factors such as lack of rainfall, high temperatures, low humidity, constant frost and strong winds affect fire spread and impact. The total area of native forests impacted by fire is reported by The National Forest Statistics Programme of the DNB of the MAYDS, which maintains and publishes Forest Fire Statistics since 1993. Such statistic reports the information per year and per department (which is the smallest administrative unit in Argentina), however it does not differentiate the exact number of hectares burnt due to anthropogenic causes from those due to natural causes. The statistics counts on the number of fire outbreak (*focos de incendios*) and reports the combined total area burnt. The Sistema Nacional para la Gestión Integral del Riesgo (SINAGIR) recognizes that 95% of the forest fires are linked to human negligence that – in conjunction with natural phenomena (such as drought, wind, temperature), lead to forest fires. Such negligence includes cigarettes,

⁵³ SAyDS. 2017. [Plan de Acción Nacional de Bosques y Cambio Climático](#). (National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change)

badly extinguished campfires and un-controlled fire for preparation of land for grazing.

In the Results Period (2014-2016), forest fires affected 456,440 ha of native forests. Figure 5 shows the surface area affected by fires over the results period by province.

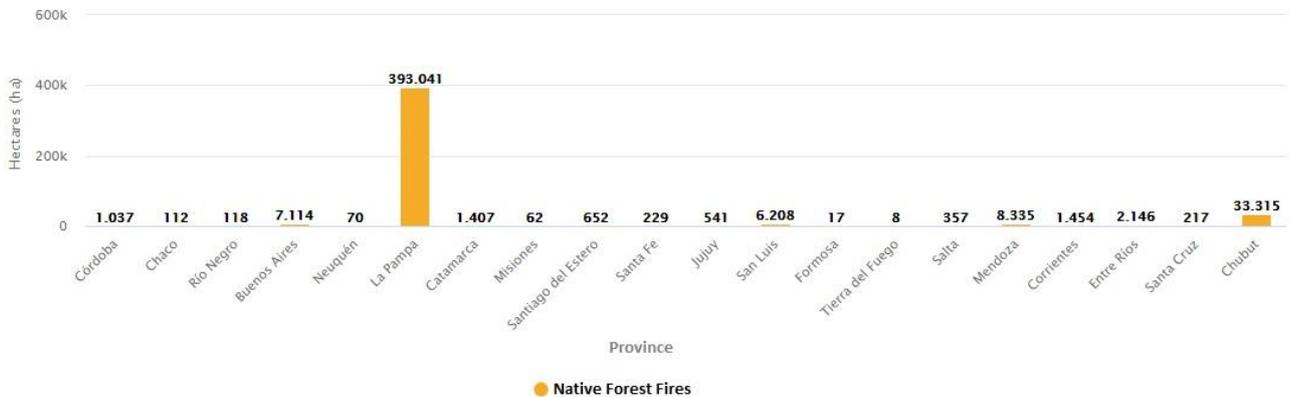


Figure 5. Natural Forest Area affected by fires per province in the period 2014-2016

Source: <http://bosques.ambiente.gob.ar/geomaps#heading6>

According to MAYS records (Figure 6), since 2004 the surface area of native forests affected by forest fires has been dramatically reduced (by 92% compared to 2003), with a slight rise in 2012, which was then reduced in the Results Period.

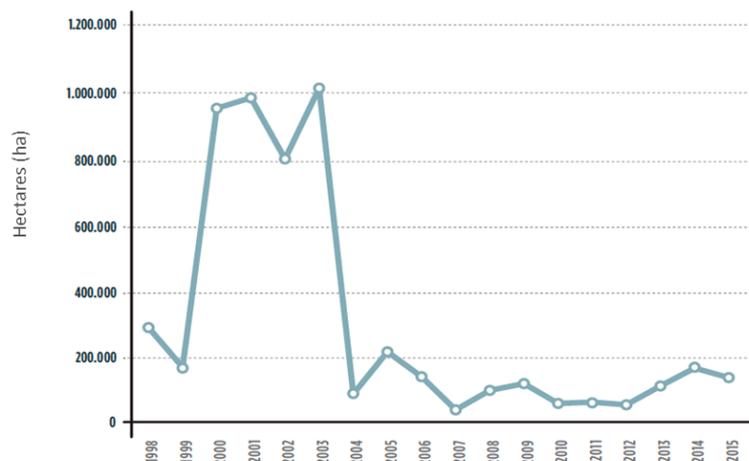


Figure 6. Forest fires surface area (1998-2015)

Source: MAYS, 2016

Part of this reduction could be due to the substantial efforts to combat forest fires with support of the Forest Law. Some of the measures used by local authorities to combat forest fires include the installation of water tanks (AGN, 2019) and firebreaks maintenance in key locations, together with establishing and reinforcing firefighting brigades, among others (MAYS, 2016).

In terms of reporting contribution of fires to national GHG emissions, forest fires are reported in category “3.C.1.a.i - Biomass Burning in Forest Lands (Native Forest)” of the INGEI. Considering that the national Forest Fire Statistics do not differentiate the specific amount of hectares burnt due to anthropogenic or to natural causes (see paragraphs above), by assumption the INGEI considers the entire burnt surface as due to anthropogenic causes. According to the latest INGEI, for the year 2016, emissions from fires (biomass burning in forest land) represent approximately 1% of total emissions in native forests and less than 1% of the national GHG emissions (0.88 MtCO₂e).

Despite the direct contribution of forest fires to the INGEI is limited, fires (and especially inefficient fire management practices) do contribute to the land-use change caused by livestock or agriculture in the country, and Argentina put in place various mitigation policies and measures.

To *avoid and mitigate this risks of reversal*, one of the goals of the **Forest Law** is to conserve, regulate and control the decrease in native forest surface area across the country, with institutions and tools to minimize or avoid those risks. Specifically regarding forest fires, the Law establishes a [Federal Fire Management System](#) (SFMF, in its Spanish acronym), Law No. 26815, to “prevent, pre-suppress, and fight forest and rural fires (...) in native forests and other non-urban ecosystems” with three operational levels:

- (i) Jurisdictional: the province is responsible for the “initial fire attack”, as well as warning and informing the Regional Coordination Office what resources the jurisdiction has assigned to control the situation. If extra jurisdictional assistance is necessary, the next stage is activated;
- (ii) Regional: support from the National Fire Management Organizational Unit, through the relevant Regional Coordination Office, including personnel, materials and equipment of other jurisdictions in the region;
- (iii) Extra-regional: operational phase in case of disasters that exceed the response capacity of the resources used in previous stages, with prior agreement of the authorities in the affected jurisdiction.

There are also other elements of Argentina’s regulatory framework which support forest fire prevention and control:

- Argentine Criminal Code (Law No. 11179): causing fires in forests, plantations, trees or bushes, among others, is a criminal offense with a prison term of three to ten years (Art. 186);
- Forest Law No. 26331 states that native forests degraded by fire or other natural or anthropogenic events must be recovered and restored via local authorities, and it is necessary to maintain the forest category defined in the OTBN (Art. 40), as a measure to avoid speculation or intentional forest fires to enable land-use changes; and
- Law No. 26562 (O.G. 16/12/2009) on Minimum Environmental Protection Standards to Control Burning Activities, aimed to prevent fires, environmental damage and risks to public health and safety. In accordance with this, burning activities without specific authorization by local competent authorities are prohibited throughout the national territory (Art. 3). Penalty fines are established. Regulation of this Law is still pending.

It is worth underscoring that, during the Results Period, some of the resources of the FNECBN (the National Fund for the Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests) were allocated to improve the SFMF in different jurisdictions.

The relevant **institutional framework** to respect this safeguard mainly includes:

- **MAYDS:** is the enforcement authority of the SFMF throughout the country, responsible for operational firefighting response action. It should be noted that this mandate was transferred from the Ministry of Security to MAYDS through Decree 706/2020 in August 2020. This transfer allows for enhanced coherence between forest prevention and control policies, considering the MAYDS is the authority in charge of the Forest Law. Additionally, it allows for an enhanced coordination, contributions and collaboration with provincial jurisdictions through the COFEMA.
- **DNB under MAYDS:** is the enforcement authority of the Forest Law responsible for managing Argentina’s NFMS. Within the framework of the SFMF, DNB is responsible for fire prevention, monitoring of environmentally hazardous conditions and recovery of burnt areas;
- **DNCC under MAYDS:** DNCC is responsible for the SNI-GEI-AR and for calculating, compiling and reporting the INGEI to UNFCCC, as well as monitoring of NDC mitigation measures, among others;
- **National Parks Administration:** with competence in the SFMF, it is responsible for prevention in the areas under its jurisdiction.

Furthermore, there are interinstitutional forums to reach regional agreements which are essential to maintain the forest cover across the country. Of these, COFEMA and the GNCC can be highlighted.

Relevant regulatory framework

Domestic law

- Law No. 11179: Penal Code of the Argentine Nation (1921)
- Law No. 26331: on Native Forests (O.G. of 26 December 2007);
- Law No. 26562: on Minimum Environmental Protection Standards to Control Burning Activities (O.G. of 16 December 2009)

- Law No. 26815: Federal Fire Management System (O.G. of 16 January 2013).
- Law No. 27520: on Minimum Standards for Global Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (O.G of 20 December 2019).

Tools and initiatives that contributed to implementing the safeguard in the Results Period

- Argentina's [NFMS](#): the system provides updated information on native forest resources in the country, enables following up on the implementation of the Forest Law and helps to comply with international conventions to which Argentina is a Party, such as UNFCCC, including monitoring and reporting of REDD+ results, and informing society of the importance of native forests. The data generated by Argentina's NFMS is made available to the provinces before it is published to ensure their participation and the complementarity of the technical information provided by different local bodies.
 - Argentina's NFMS has a [web portal](#)⁵⁴ which includes information on native forests and climate change. The portal enables access to available forest coverage information (with layers from 1990 to 2017) and has dynamic forest fire graphs and other relevant layers for this safeguard. The portal allows users to discover, visualize and download the contents. The tool, which is very relevant for this specific safeguard, also facilitates collaboration to avoid deforestation, as it allows users to report deforestation or degradation events by drawing the affected area on a map.

To further reduce this risk and negative impact, Argentina included fire prevention as one of the mitigation measures within its PANByCC/ REDD+ strategy, with an associated Strategic Pillar (EEO10). It is in this framework, and as a contribution to this mitigation measure, that the RBP proposal includes a specific component on fire prevention (component C: Enhanced response to forest fires). Complementary information on the risk of reversal is also included in Annex 5.

(vii) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.

The displacement, or "leakage," of emissions takes place when the efforts to reduce emissions in a certain area result in an increase in emissions in another area (for example, an initiative to avoid deforestation in one province brings about a rise of deforestation in a neighbouring province).

According to Argentina's National Interpretation of Safeguards⁵⁵, "*the country has measures in place to reduce the risk of displacement of emissions during implementation of the PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives.*" In the understanding that to mitigate the risk of displacement of emissions, it is necessary to consider the drivers of deforestation which could shift from one jurisdiction to another, technical analyses and studies were carried out for the design of the PANByCC, and regional workshops were held with the participation of interprovincial working groups, in order to identify and weight those drivers.

During the results period, but even more so in subsequent years, Argentina had mechanisms to reduce the risks of displacement of emissions in its legal framework and, particularly, a monitoring system for deforestation (as indicated in safeguard f (vi) above). Additionally, after having identified and updated the most significant deforestation drivers, it may be safely stated that the risk of emissions displacement in Argentina is mitigated also due to the physical characteristics of the country.

From a legal framework perspective, the Forest Law addresses this safeguard since the scheme it provides for is applicable *nation-wide* and is based on pre-established criteria that prevent the displacement of deforestation to other forests that fall under any of the three conservation categories defined by the law (red, yellow, green), regardless of the jurisdiction.

From the physical/geographical perspective, as detailed in footnote 7 of the REDD+ TA, the country assumes there is no risk of deforestation shifting from one forest region to another (and especially to regions not covered by the FREL and REDD+ TA) since climate and soil conditions are different, which means that the same productive activities cannot be carried out in different forest regions. Specifically, the advancement of the agriculture frontier, which is the main driver behind the loss of native forest cover, is very specific to regional, climate and soil conditions. Figures 182 and 183 of the NIR included in the BUR 3 provide more

⁵⁴ [Boletín informativo 7 del Programa Nacional ONU-REDD de Argentina](#)

⁵⁵ MAyDS (2019)

evidence in this regard, showing the Soils, Isotherm and Isohieta Maps of Argentina.

As indicated in the previous safeguard, Argentina has a very advanced NFMS, including an Early Warning System and tools for users that are external to the MAYDS to be able to contribute to the identification of forest clearance and degradation areas. It is also worth mentioning that since 2018, the Argentina's NFMS has extended monitoring of native forest loss to the Argentine *Monte* and the Andean-Patagonian forest regions. As shown in Table 2 of Argentina's Native Forest Cover Monitoring Report for 2018⁵⁶, it was noted that only 1.7% of native forest coverage loss occurred in the forest regions of the Andean-Patagonian Forest and Argentine *Monte*.

Tools and initiatives for implementing this safeguard

- **OTBN:** Forest mapping at the provincial level, within the framework of the Forest Law, which indicates which forest areas need to be monitored and their conservation categories (red, yellow, green);
- **Argentina's NFMS and web portal:** See above, section on safeguard f (vi)
- **Early Warning System (EWS) for deforestation:** the system is operational since november 2018 and issues warnings every 16 days that forwards them to the provinces to take action if a deforestation event occurs and, therefore, avoid it from spreading. These warnings are an efficient tool to control and prevent illegal deforestation. All alerts (100%) are validated and processed in a GIS environment and crossed-checked with related secondary information – OTBN and plans -. Finally, a report with the list of warnings is sent to each province together with a request to report whether the deforestation events were legal, for example, if they were authorized, or not, and, if they were, what instrument allowed them, the dossier number, and the measures that will be taken in the case of illegal deforestation, among other data. The EWS is operational for the *Parque Chaqueño* region (Humid and Semiarid, in 8 provinces: Salta, Jujuy, Tucumán, Formosa, Chaco, Córdoba, Santa Fe y Santiago del Estero) which is the widest forest region and where most pressure on forests for deforestation occurs. Currently the EWS was expanded to other areas of the *Parque Chaqueño* region (Arid and *Serrano* in Córdoba province) and to some areas of the Argentine *Yungas* region (provinces of Tucumán and Jujuy). The EWS foresees the progressive inclusion of the rest of the forest regions.
-

C.1.2. Stakeholder involvement.

Please describe and provide evidence that the Cancun safeguards information was made transparently available to stakeholders.

Starting in 2014, the engagement, information dissemination and training strengthening process related to the Cancun safeguards has been very comprehensive in Argentina.

The development of the PANByCC and the outlining of the National Interpretation of Safeguards greatly benefitted from the full participation of the Working Group on Safeguards and Social and Environmental Benefits set up in 2015 with the participation of several stakeholders (Government at national and provincial level, including representatives from MAYDS, GNCC, COFEMA, MAGyP; NGOs at national and provincial level; academia and technical institutes) that could contribute knowledge and experience to enable the country to address and respect the Cancun safeguards. In 2016, the National Native Peoples Directorate (DNPN in its Spanish Acronym) under MAYDS, other technical areas of MAYDS, NGOs, INAI and the Ombudsperson's Office started organizing the WG on Indigenous Peoples, which provided another forum to disseminate and explore in depth issues related to the Cancun safeguards. Likewise, the workshops and multisectoral dialogue meetings held in the different forest regions across the country in 2017 and 2018 (already mentioned in previous sections), and which continued taking place after the Results Period, were other important spaces for sharing progress made in connection with the Cancun safeguards.

Thanks to these cooperation and dialogue forums, Argentina was able to move forward in the development of its **Country Approach to Safeguards (CAS)**, which includes the following elements: National Interpretation of Safeguards, Safeguard Information System (SIS-AR), Summary of Information on Safeguards, and Tools for implementing Safeguards on the ground.

⁵⁶ Available at <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/tierra/bosques-suelos/manejo-sustentable-bosques/umsef>

The CAS and its components were prepared following a broad participatory process headed by MAYDS, through DNCC, together with DNB, with the support of the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme. The participatory process included meetings of the WG on Safeguards and Social and Environmental Benefits, and other workshops and dialogue forums, such as two rounds of regional meetings that covered all the country's forest regions.

More specifically, CAS is the output of a broad dialogue process with key stakeholders from governmental, social and environmental organizations, the private and academic sectors. Throughout different stages, technical aspects were discussed, such as the national interpretation of each of the REDD+ safeguards, the applicable regulatory and institutional framework, social and environmental benefits of PANByCC actions, and also the review and inputs of technical studies and relevant practices concerning the purpose of this document.

Through this process, the country identified, organized and made available transparent and accessible information on the Cancun safeguards and was able to submit its [First Summary of Information on REDD+ Safeguards](#) to the UNFCCC in December 2019. Additionally, Argentina's CAS web site has public available information on safeguards and hosts the SIS-AR, in its initial stage. It is expected that this system will fully develop as more experience is gained in implementing the PANByCC on the ground. Furthermore, a series of tools is in place to support the different stakeholders in the application of the safeguards to REDD+ actions on the ground. (For more information see the [First Summary of Information on REDD+ Safeguards](#).)

A prioritization process of the PANByCC strategic operational pillars was undertaken in the second round of dialogues held in 2018 as part of the PANByCC development participatory process. In such instance 88% of the provinces prioritized the "land planning" pillar and 83% prioritized the "sustainable forest management" pillar. The need for an effective and participatory articulation including all relevant actors in the territory was highlighted. The importance of working at different scales (basin level, within family systems, at the municipal level and between provinces) was also highlighted, with special focus on participation and attention to conflicts that may arise locally. With regards to the rest of the PANByCC's SOP, 33% of the provinces prioritized "Restoration and Recovery" pillar and 13% prioritized "Prevention of forest fires" pillar. Northern provinces of the country mostly prioritized the first pillar and the southern provinces mostly prioritized the second. Finally, 8% of the provinces prioritized the "Conservation in Productive Landscapes" pillar.

The components of this REDD-plus RBP proposal (described in section C.2) were defined largely basing on these results and considering the dynamics of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, together with the current forest management policies.

C.2. Use of proceeds and non-carbon benefits

C.2.1. General description:

Provide a description on how the proceeds will be reinvested in activities consistent with the country's NDC, national REDD-plus strategy and/or low carbon development plans and policies. The description should also include how the proceeds will be used in a manner that contributes to the long-term sustainability of REDD-plus activities, including non-carbon benefits.

Proceeds from results-based payments will be used as indicated in this section (subsection C.2.2) and consistently with the restrictions established in paragraph 14 of the Terms of Reference for the REDD+ RBP Pilot Programme adopted by Decision B.18 / 07.

Forests in Argentina are considered either native or planted forests. The latter are cultivated with exotic species and primarily planted for commercial purposes (mainly production of timber and paper). During its readiness phase to access REDD+ results-based payments and, specifically during a long process of consultation and participation to outline its national REDD + strategy (PANByCC) - Argentina defined that only native forests would be considered within the REDD+ framework.

As a consequence, to be fully consistent with and support the implementation of the PANByCC and country's NDC, **this proposal exclusively considers the context of native forest**, directly or indirectly addressing related drivers of deforestation and degradation, including boosting the growth of the native forest

mass and ensuring regeneration of native forests in the framework of Integral community Plans (PICs).

Public policy implementation related to the management of native forests is in the remit of MAyDS, as National Enforcement Authority (ANA in its Spanish acronym) for the Forest Law, while the policies linked to forest plantations are implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP in its Spanish acronym). In the framework of the RBP project, considering that it will not entail activities related to forest plantations, the collaboration between MAyDS and MAGyP will serve to strategically coordinate and implement the activities included mainly in components A.1, and A.2, that is to say, within the framework of the comprehensive approach at the basin level, regarding topics of family agriculture and work with local communities. Activities related to the Forest management with integrated livestock (MBGI, in its Spanish acronym) (Component B.1) will also be jointly coordinated and addressed within the framework of the National Technical Committee on Forest Management with Integrated Livestock (MBGI), made up of MAyDS, MAGyP and Argentine Institute for Agricultural Technology (INTA in its Spanish acronym).

Additional information can be found in the specific sectors of this funding proposal (C.2.2 – Outputs and outcomes, and C.2.5 - Implementation arrangements).

Context: Argentina, its native forests and the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

In the Argentine Republic, native forests cover an area of 53.6 million ha (as of 2018) distributed across seven forest regions (created according to native forest natural distribution areas). These are: *Parque Chaqueño*, Argentine *Yungas* (Tucuman Bolivian Rainforest), *Misiones* Rainforest, Andean Patagonian Forest, Argentine *Monte*, Argentine *Espinal* and Delta and Parana Islands (Figure 7). These regions have specific characteristics, dynamics and experience different human and natural pressures, as reported more in details in section 4 (Environmental and social baseline) of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (Annex 3 of this funding proposal).

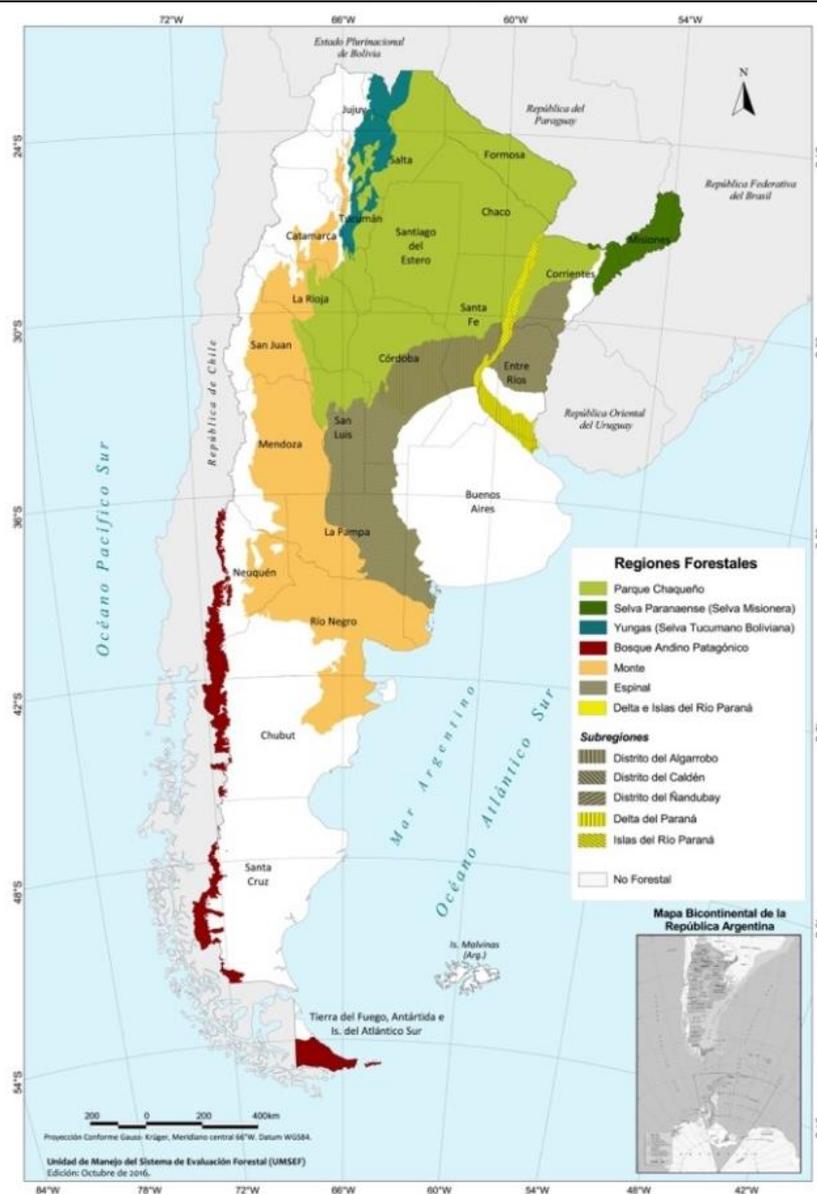


Figure 7. Forest regions of Argentina

Source: GIS 250. National Geographic Institute of Argentine Republic.

Management Unit of the Forest Assessment System (UMSEF). National Directorate of Forests, MAyDS.

Deforestation, understood as the loss of native forests coverage, has been one of the historical problems of greatest impact in the forest sector. Between 2002 and 2018, Argentina lost 5,313,919 ha of native forests⁵⁷.

The average deforestation surface area in that period amounted to 312,583 ha/year, decreasing from 394,374 ha in 2002 to 183,368 ha in 2018 (Figure 8).

⁵⁷ This surface area includes native forest loss in the regions included in the FREL (*Parque Chaqueño*, Tucuman Bolivian Rainforest, *Misiones* Rainforest and Argentine *Espinal*), and the date source is the REDD+ Technical Annex, Third Biennial Update Report, 2019, for the period 2002-2016; and the Forest Monitoring Report, 2018, MAyDS, for the period 2017-2018.

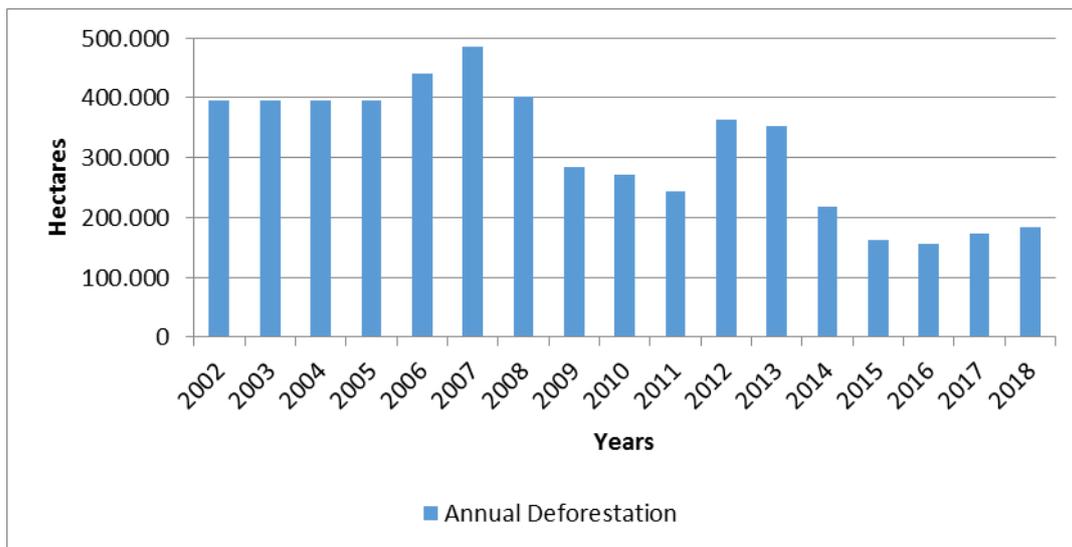


Figure 8. Annual native forest loss in Argentina, 2002-2018.

Source: REDD+ Technical Annex, Third Biennial Update Report, 2019, and Forest Monitoring Report, 2018.

In terms of gross emissions of CO₂ from deforestation, there was a variation from 109,012,933 tCO₂e in 2002 to 39,384,527 tCO₂e in 2016.

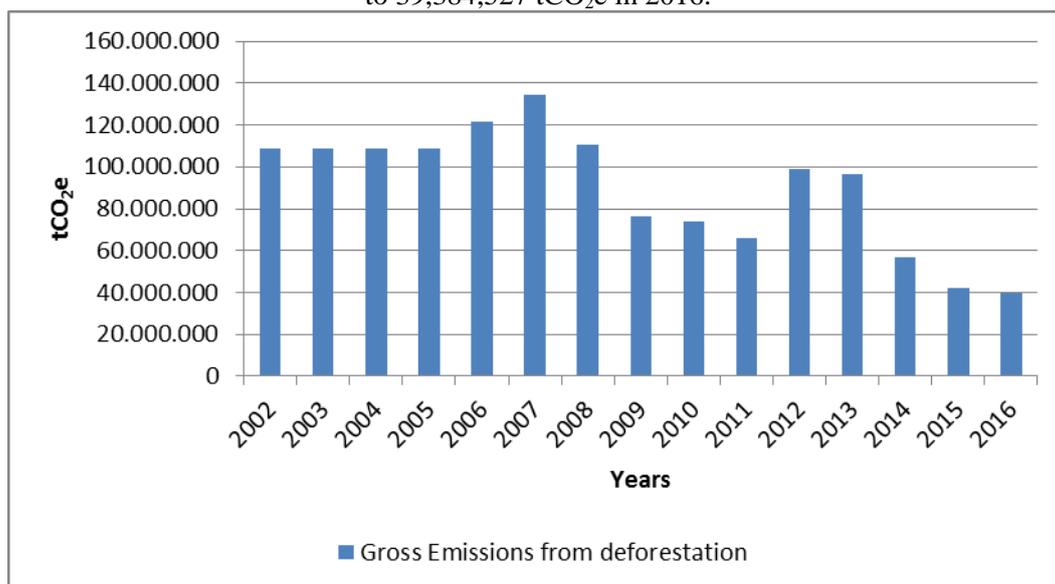


Figure 9. Gross Emissions from deforestation, 2002-2016.

Source: REDD+ Technical Annex, Third Biennial Update Report, 2019

The **prevailing causes of deforestation and forest degradation** in the country are related to the expansion of the use of forest land for agriculture and livestock farming. This is the consequence of a competitive and profitable agribusiness model, from the emergence of transgenic soy and no-tillage systems, which has been benefited by the incorporation of new technologies and high relative prices of agricultural products worldwide; the displacement of livestock farming from the Pampas region to forest land, previously considered marginal for agricultural production. Traditionally, livestock farming in forests is carried out through traditional silvopastoral systems, with extensive livestock farming and sowing pastures, leaving a low tree cover of adult tree species without regeneration capacity. These productive systems are developed with intense and severe interventions to the natural ecosystem, they are characterized by a high fragmentation of the forest landscape, the loss of native fauna habitat and the exposure of soils to water and wind erosion. Besides, these systems are simplified and inefficient, with high energetic costs, without control and monitoring of the system components.

On the other hand, illegal logging is a historical practice that has led to the development of poorly controlled

informal markets with low marketing prices that, in some regions such as *Argentine Yungas* and *Misiones* Rainforest, have turned into an important driver of forest degradation.

Other drivers that put pressure on forests are related to demographic growth, urban sprawl and very large real estate developments, and forest fires — both natural and human-induced. All these factors are related, as underlying causes, to the lack of economic, social and environmental recognition of the value of forest goods and services; legal uncertainty regarding land tenure; weak control and oversight policies and lack of institutional and public policy coordination over the territories.

Table 12 describes the main deforestation and forest degradation drivers for each forest region and the scale of deforestation during the relevant period covered by the FREL in Argentina, which includes the historical average of forest loss for the 2002-2013 period.

Table 12. Argentina's forest regions, forest surface areas, deforestation area during the FREL period and main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

Forest region	Native forests (ha)	Average deforestation 2002-2013 (ha/year)	Main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
<i>Parque Chaqueño</i>	31,985,422	324,705	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of agriculture and livestock farming due to the increase in the profitability of crops (high prices for agricultural and livestock products, technological packages, capital liquidity) and, to a lesser extent, due to rural property investment. • Selective forest extraction and overgrazing, which brings about a decline in their economic value, and subsequent deforestation.
<i>Paranaense</i> (or <i>Misiones</i>) Rainforest	1,299,535	10,902	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural, forest-industrial, urban and infrastructural development. • Public policies that encourage colonization, resulting in demographic growth. • Selective extraction of timber and illegal logging.
Tucuman-Bolivian Rainforest (<i>Argentine Yungas</i>)	3,767,527	11,069	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of crops such as sugar cane, citrus fruit, tobacco and, in recent years, soybean. • Unregulated utilization of the forest. • Livestock practices (particularly cattle breeding) with overgrazing. • Forest fires.
<i>Argentine Espinal</i>	6,847,076	21,720	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of agriculture in marginal lands. • Scarce regulation of forest resource utilization (<i>algarrobo</i> and <i>caldén</i>). • Animal husbandry in the shrubland. • Forest fires.
Andean-Patagonian Forest ⁽²⁾	3,240,759	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest fires. • Urban expansion due to population growth and real estate developments. • Extractive forest use. • Invasive alien species.
<i>Argentine Monte</i> ⁽²⁾	767,253	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the use of land for farming • Metal and oil mining (alteration of the forest due to heavy machinery traffic, opening of paths, installation of survey lines and ducts, and pollution of soil and water). • Forest fires. • Extractive utilization of the forest and overgrazing.

Parana River Delta and Islands ⁽²⁾		-	Not included in the study on drivers of deforestation and native forest degradation or in the report to INDEC.
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1. Area measurements reported by the DNB to the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC). Available at: https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/anuario_estadistico_2018.pdf.
2. For the Argentine *Monte*, Andean-Patagonian forest and Parana River Delta and Islands regions, there is no deforestation information for the 2002-2013 period and, therefore, those regions were not included in Argentina's FREL.

Legal context of native forests and climate change in Argentina

The Argentine Republic (Argentina) has adopted a republican, representative and federal form of government, with a decentralized political structure (National Constitution (NC), Article 1). It comprises 23 provinces (internally divided in departments) and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. Within this structure, the provinces are autonomous, and existed even before the Nation was established as such, and maintain those powers not explicitly devolved to the national government (NC, Article 121). The provinces are also the original owners of the natural resources within their territory (NC, Article 124), inter alia, the native forests. Therefore, the Federal Government can only legislate on “minimum standards” (NC, Article 41) in matters concerning the environment and natural resources – including native forests. Thus, the national regulatory framework for native forest governance is supplemented by the pertinent provincial legislation.

In 2002, was enacted the Law No. 25675, General Law on the Environment, which establishes the basic principles of the national environmental policy and conceptualizes the minimum standards for sustainable and adequate environmental management, principles, competencies, and instruments of application. Subsequently, in 2007, Argentina enacted the [Law on Minimum Environmental Protection Standards for the Enrichment, Restoration, Conservation, Sustainable Use and Management of Native Forests No. 26331 \(the Forest Law\)](#), in response to the problem of deforestation and forest degradation in the country. This Law governs the country's current forest policy and is the most effective regulation that the country has to rule deforestation and forest degradation, as an instrument of command and control.

This Law mandates that each jurisdiction/province of Argentina must carry out and update every five years its Territorial Planning of Native Forests (OTBN), using a participatory process, according to three conservation categories (Table 13), pursuant to ten environmental sustainability criteria outlined in the provision. As the result of this process, the 23 forests jurisdictions presented their own OTBN. At national level as of 2018 the 81% of forests are protected by the categories I (21%) or II (60%), while the 19% might be transformed to a Land Use Change (Figure 10).

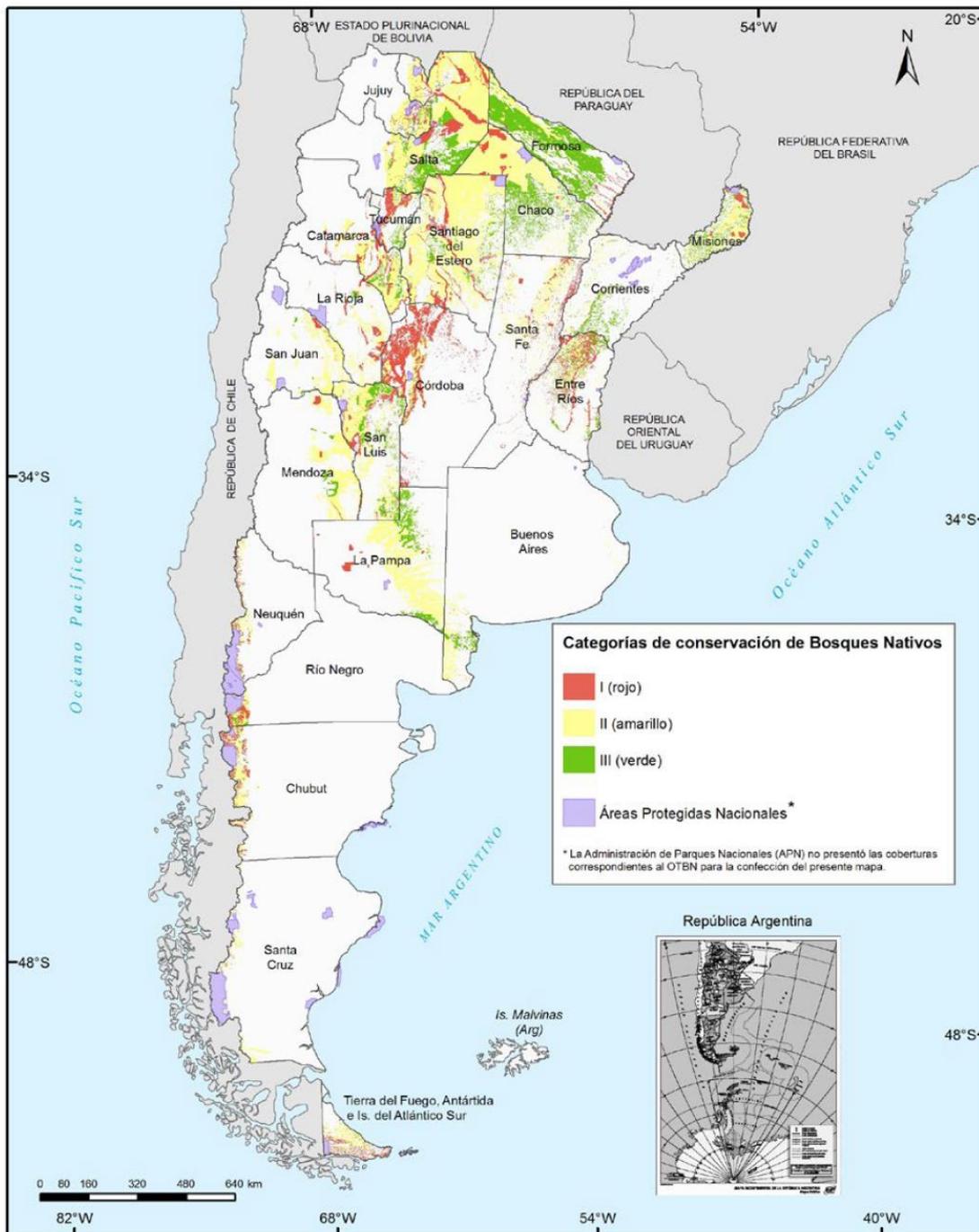
Table 13. Categorization of native forests according to Forest Law

Category	Conservation Value	Native forests (OTBN) as of 2018	
		(ha)	(%)
Category I (red)	Forests with very high conservation value that should not be transformed in perpetuity.	11,047,104	21
Category II (yellow)	Forests of medium conservation value that may be degraded but if restored may have a high conservation value. No clearing is allowed. Only their sustainable use, tourism, gathering and scientific research are permitted.	32,060,520	60
Category III (green)	Forests of low conservation value that may be partially or totally transformed but only after an environmental impact assessment and with a Land Use Change Plan approval.	10,482,104	19
Total forest surface area		53,589,728	100

Source: Table prepared for the Project proposal (basing on Implementation Status Report of the Forest Law, 2010-2018).

It is worth to mention that the regular update of the OTBN must be carried out taking into account the notion of non-regressiveness in environmental matters, which means that environmental regulations should not be amended if this entails going back on their steps regarding the levels of protection previously achieved.

Therefore, the changes proposed in the OTBN updates should not entail significant variations that may affect the conservation levels achieved. All changes must be the outcome of substantial technical improvements and/or of greater information availability. In the case of native forests that have been affected by fires or by any other natural or anthropic events that have degraded them, it is up to the enforcement authority of each jurisdiction to carry out recovery and restoration tasks, maintaining the classification category defined in territorial land-use planning. On the other hand, with regard to Category III (Green), although this category can be subjected to deforestation, the maximum level of land use change authorized will depend on the provincial regulations that each jurisdiction has established (detailed information included in the ESA annex of this funding proposal).



Fuente:

CARTOGRAFÍA BASE
- Instituto Geográfico Nacional de Argentina (IGN). SIG 250. República Argentina.

CARTOGRAFÍA TEMÁTICA
- Dirección Nacional de Bosques (SGAyDS).
- Administración de Parques Nacionales (APN).
- Ordenamiento Territorial de los Bosques Nativos (OTBN). Información entregada por la provincia en cumplimiento de la Ley N° 26.331 de Presupuestos Mínimos de Protección Ambiental de los Bosques Nativos.

Confeccionado en:

Unidad de Manejo del Sistema de Evaluación Forestal (UMSEF).
Edición: Marzo de 2019.

Figure 10. Territorial Planning of Native Forests of Argentina

Additionally, the Forest Law also created the National Fund for the Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests (FNECBN), intended to establish a compensation mechanism by jurisdiction, for the purpose of: strengthening control agencies, that may be set up by the ANA of the Law, that is, the National Directorate of Forests (DNB in its Spanish acronym) within the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS in its Spanish acronym) and the Local Enforcement Authority (ALA in its Spanish acronym) in each province; and compensating the users/owners/holders of forests for the implementation of sustainable forest management measures, which could ensure the continuity and enhancement of the forest cover in accordance with the permitted activities in each conservation category.

The distribution of the FNECBN is carried out annually among those provinces that have their OTBN approved by provincial law and accredited by the ANA. For its distribution, COFEMA has established a methodology, in accordance with Article 32 of the Forest Law, which considers the area of native forest in each province; the ratio between the total area of the provincial territory to its native forests area; and the conservation categories defined by OTBN.

Every intervention in native forest has to be authorized by the ALA, through Conservation (CP), Management (MP) or Land Use Change Plans (LUCP) presented by forest users/owners/holders and sign by a proper professional. Every other intervention – which does not follow this process is considered illegal, especially when it comes to logging and deforestation processes. Forest conservation and management plans can be financed by the (FNECBN) including formulation projects (FP); while LUCP and its formulation, are not allowed. Table 14 shows which type of plan can be carried out in each conservation category, as well as a brief description of the type of activities that can be conducted.

Table 14. Intervention Plans and activities allowed by type of conservation category within the framework of the Forest Law

Type of plan	Description	Category I	Category II	Category III
Conservation Plans	Plans oriented to forest conservation and recovery. Only protection, restoration, recreation, subsistence and research activities can be carried out.			
Management Plans	In addition to conservation, forest management activities that involve the commercial extractions of timber and non-timber products can be carried out, and the implementation of silvopastoral systems.			
Land Use Change Plans	These plans allow deforestation activities with multiple purposes. They must be presented accompanied by environmental impact studies and supported by public hearings prior to their approval.			

Source: National Directorate of Forests, MAyDS

The management and conservation plans implemented with FNECBN funding, are uploaded into the Integrated Forest Information System (SIIF, in its Spanish acronym) annually by each ALA, and thus ANA has information on types of plans in each conservation category, amounts allocated, holders and responsible technicians. ALA's own technical teams in each jurisdiction are mainly in charge of outlining the monitoring plans, and the ANA also carries out field monitoring through the territory-based teams of the DNB in the different provinces.

From the very beginning of the Forest Law and FNECBN's implementation, supplementary regulations were passed related to funding and its **allocation under the Federal Environment Council (COFEMA)** (created in the framework of the reform of the national constitution in 1994). Among the federal agreements reached, one of the most relevant ones is the Technical and Strategic Guidelines for Implementation of the Forest Law, approved by [Resolution 360/2018](#), as it facilitates comprehensive planning of the territory at different levels. On the other hand, the **National Climate Change Cabinet** (GNCC in its Spanish acronym) of Argentina is in the process of consolidating its National Climate Change Response Plan as the main mechanism to comply with the commitments undertaken by the country in its revision of the NDC. Argentina was the first country

to present a [revised NDC](#) to make it more ambitious. The absolute goal established was “to not exceed a net emission of 483 million tCO₂e by 2030”.

Sectoral plans are an essential part of this instrument, including the National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change (PANByCC), which is considered to be the country’s REDD+ strategy and was presented to UNFCCC in 2019. The instrument also comprises the National Action Plan for Farming and Climate Change, which spells out the agricultural sector response options both regarding mitigation and adaptation, and which is closely related to the PANByCC.

Native forests play an essential role in fulfilling Argentina NDC, through the implementation of the PANByCC; this establishes specific measures so to mitigate 27 MtCO₂e⁵⁸ by the year 2030.

The **PANByCC is a public policy instrument** and an operational management tool with the overall objective of strengthening sustainable management of native forests to reduce their vulnerability and that of forest-dependent communities to climate change. A contribution will thus be made to diminishing GHG emissions by reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and to increasing GHG emission sequestration by managing, restoring and recovering degraded native forests. The Plan defines strategic pillars for action, which are classified into structural pillars and operational pillars (see Figure 4 in section C.1.1 (v)). Strategic Structural Pillars (SSP). These aim at overcoming barriers and meeting structural needs for the Plan’s implementation, through different actions. They include cross-cutting actions that are necessary to reach the objectives established, but which are not considered as emission reductions:

- SSP 1. Strengthening of governance.
- SSP 2. Strengthening of local communities.
- SSP 3. Strengthening of management, control and monitoring capabilities.
- SSP 4. Recognition of the importance of native forests as an asset for society.
- SSP 5. Knowledge management.

Strategic Operational Pillars (SOP). These define specific actions that are linked to a concrete mitigation measure that has been considered for the NDC. They include actions that amount to direct interventions in native forests and have associated mitigation measures:

- SOP 6. Land use planning.
- SOP 7. Sustainable management of native forests.
- SOP 8. Conservation in productive environments.
- SOP 9. Restoration and recovery.
- SOP 10. Prevention of forest fires.

The PANByCC is consistent with the General Procedures and objectives of the Forest Law and the Strategic Guidelines mentioned above.

Social and economic context of forests in Argentina.

The 23 provinces of Argentina are subdivided into departments, of which 67% have native forests and are part of the OTBN.

According to the National Population and Household Census 2010, it is estimated that 21,521,008 inhabitants live in these departments (54% of the country's total), which in turn is divided into urban population (87%) and rural population (13%, of which 5% is grouped and 8% is dispersed).

By crossing census radio data with OTBN forest cover, other data is obtained:

- 5,064,918 inhabitants (13% of the total country) live within the forest matrix.

⁵⁸ All the quantifications were made based on parameters and assumptions in force at the time of estimating and preparing the PANByCC. Given the dynamic nature of sector planning, the values obtained will be modified and updated according to the availability of new data, the update of assumptions and adjustments for interaction between measures. Also, the implementation of the objective could be achieved through other management options and locations.

- The population living in native forests landscapes is distributed: 61% in urban sectors (small towns or urbanizations – within the forest landscapes) and 39% rural (10% grouped and 29% dispersed).
- The rural population that depend on forests for their livelihood is 1,992,877 inhabitants (54.6% of the country's rural population).

Also, the latest census of indigenous peoples ([2010 Census](#)) identified 955,032 people who recognized themselves as members or descendants of indigenous peoples, with 31 different indigenous ethnicities⁵⁹, accounting for 2.38% of the country's total population. Out of this percentage (2.38%), 57% of the country's indigenous population lives in districts with native forests, and 80% of the indigenous rural population lives in the forests.

Using the National Registry of Indigenous Communities (Re.Na.CI) and the Territorial Survey of Indigenous Communities (Re.Te.CI) and linking them to the OTBN, it is inferred that 1,218 (65.6%) communities live in the native forest or less than 10 km from it; while in the rest of the country, are distributed the remaining 639 communities (34.4%). The Re.Na.Ci/ Re.Te.CI official map showing areas with presence of indigenous peoples is available [here](#).

The 2010 national census also indicated that the departments with native forests account for 63.5% of the total population with unmet basic needs (UBN) and 89% of the rural population with UBN.

Also, it is estimated that in 71.2% of the districts with native forests, the UBN percentage goes over the national average, which is 12.4%. Crossing data on the migratory balance between 2001-2010 population censuses by departments, prepared by Atlas ID (2017), and native forests loss from the same or near period, generated by the Management Unit of the Forest Assessment System (UMSEF) of the DNB, it is reflected that negative immigration balance mainly occurs in departments with deforestation, as shown in Figure 11. It is not clear if population loss happens because of land grabbing before deforestation, or because of it. But many reasons lead to assume that is also related to weak land tenure and UBN that forces people to migrate in search of other opportunities to settle.

⁵⁹ 2010 Census allowed to know the composition of indigenous peoples population in Argentina, constituted by 31 indigenous ethnicities: Atacama, Ava Guaraní, Aymara, Chané, Charrúa, Chorote, Chulupi, Comechingón, Diaguita-Calchaquí, Guaraní, Huarpe, Kolla, Lule, Maimará, Mapuche, Mbyá Guaraní, Mocoví, Omaguaca, Ona, Pampa, Pilagá, Quechua, Rankulche, Sanavirón, Tapiete, Tehuelche, Toba (Qom), Tonocote, Tupí Guaraní, Vilela and Wichí. The map with indigenous ethnicities distribution within the country is available at <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/derechoshumanos/inai/mapa>

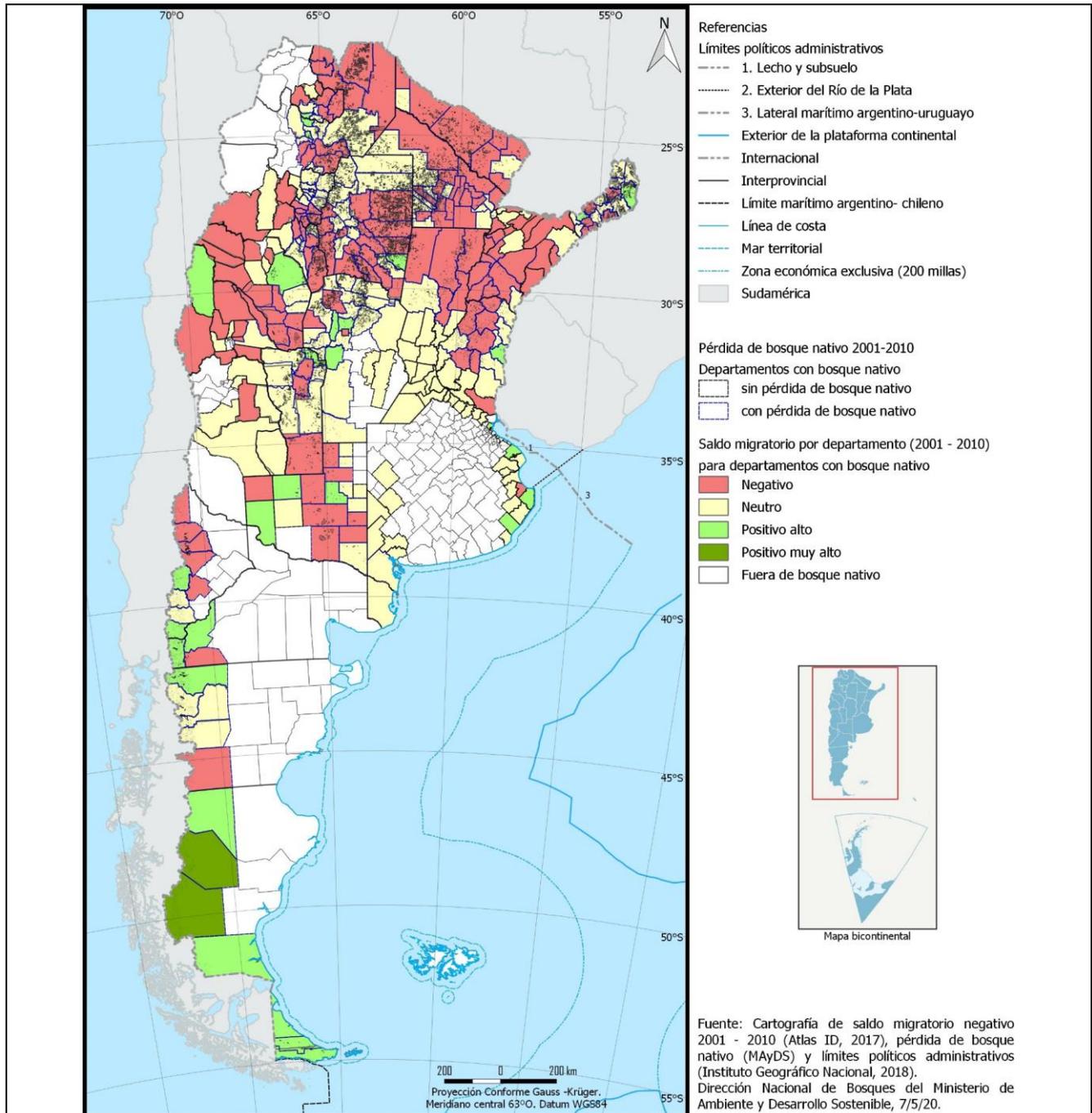


Figure 11. Immigration balance by departments OTBN

By crossing data from the National Agricultural Census (2018) and OTBN, it is estimated that approximately half of the native forests in Argentina have precarious land tenure systems that generally coincide with areas inhabited by indigenous peoples and local communities, with no legal access to their livelihoods.

With regards to the economic activities related to native forests, the productive activity is predominantly extractive. Native forest production includes the extraction of logs, poles and firewood (for fuel and charcoal), which is produced with low added value.

On the other hand, obtaining non-timber products is basically a matter of collecting the products, and marketing them through unconventional channels and, therefore, these products are not reflected in the statistics, do not have a fixed market, respond to seasonal variations and, often times, to the occurrence of certain events or factors that hinder their adequate appraisal. The main NTFPs obtained from native forests in Argentina include: carob, honey, crafts, among many others⁶⁰.

⁶⁰ More information available at: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/tierra/bosques-suelos/manejo-sostenible-bosques/productos-forestales-no-madereros/panorama>

Parque Chaqueño region supplies 90 % of the country’s forest products (poles and posts, tannins, firewood and charcoal). The 2015 National Census of Sawmills indicates that 100% of the sawmills in the *Parque Chaqueño* are micro to small, with unsafe working conditions and low technification, 88% of employment is provided by micro sawmills and more than 90% of the timber comes from native forests.

Forest-dependent communities in the *Parque Chaqueño* region are among the population with the highest percentages of unmet basic needs throughout the country. It is estimated that 40 to 50% of income per plot of land of rural and indigenous families in the region comes directly from the sale of forest products, while the forest is also used for subsistence livestock farming.

Finally, according to Argentina’s Native Forest Cover Monitoring Report for 2016, issued by the [Unit for Managing the Forest Evaluation System](#) (UMSEF) at DNB, in the provinces of Santiago del Estero and Chaco, approximately 40% of deforestation results from livestock introduced into forests by intensive clearing and thinning of the tree mass for pasture implantation (Figure 12). As explained above, silvopastoral use is allowed in category II, but due to the intensity and severity of the treatments carried out in the forest to promote forage, the transformation of the forest is considered to be assimilable to a change in land use.

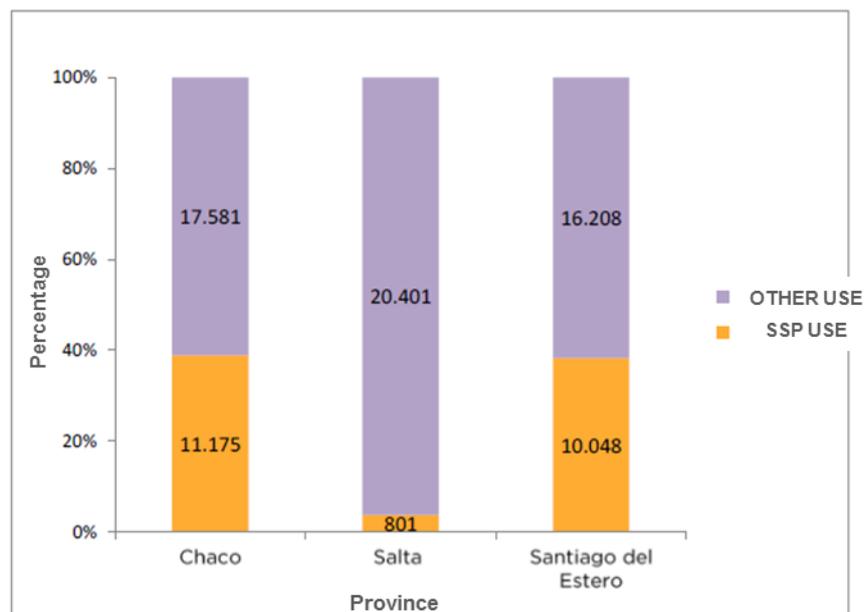


Figure 12. Distribution (in percentages) of the potential silvopastoral use and other uses of areas with loss of native forests as of 2016 for the provinces of Chaco, Salta and Santiago del Estero (values in ha).

The Forest Law entailed a paradigm shift in the use of land across the country and is the main legal instrument, together with other concurrent variables, to reverse native forest cover loss trends at the national level (as can be seen in section B.2.2, Table 8). However, during the first 10 years of its implementation, three situations were noted that demanded greater financial and strategic planning efforts to expand the scope and thus obtain even better results:

a) Low access by the indigenous peoples and local communities to the benefits granted by the Law. One of the reasons for this is the land tenure status. Although the issue was addressed within the framework of COFEMA and, at present, Resolution 277/2014 allows the holders of management and/or conservation plans to have different tenure situations, this improvement to the law did not bring about a significant increase in plans targeting these communities. This could be due to various situations; such as lack of inter-institutional coordination to address plans approvals, lack of knowledge on the part of the communities about its possibilities or lack of technical support to accompany the communities in their preparation.

b) High proportion of Management Plans (MPs) under a silvopastoral system. Silvopastoral management plans are eligible under categories II and III of OTBN. However, the intensity of interventions performed in forests to enable livestock farming brings about, in most cases, a thinned woodland where the herbaceous and shrub layers are completely lost, as is a significant portion of the lower diameter classes in the tree layer. This

compromises the sustainability of the resource due to loss of biodiversity and natural habitats, ageing of the forest mass and reduction of ecosystem services.

c) Territorial dispersion of plans. Forest Law Funds were mainly allocated to the private-business sector through successive provincial calls for plans, where the forest holders submit Formulation Projects (FPs), (MPs and Conservation Plans (CPs). The provinces administer scarce resources through the FNECBN, striving to provide a response to annual demands that result in a scattered impact across the entire OTBN coverage. All the aforementioned and other aspects will be addressed in this proposal. Further information on the context of native forests in Argentina, as well as the socio-economic baseline of the native forest regions is included in the ESMF (section 2 and 4) – annex 3 of this funding proposal.

Objectives of the use of the proceeds in this funding proposal

In light of the national and native forests context described in the paragraphs above, the Project will support the implementation of selected pillars of the PANByCC, contributing to the continuous reduction of deforestation, degradation, protection and enhancement of carbon forest stock through different forest management practices, which also include boosting the growth of the forest mass and ensuring regeneration, to the achievement of the NDC and of sustainable development in the country. As mentioned in paragraphs above, the **Argentina REDD+ process works within the context of native forests**, and do not include forest plantations.

In doing so, the **project aims at addressing selected drivers of deforestation (unsustainable livestock management, fires) and especially the underlying causes of deforestation and degradation**, by strengthening economic and social opportunities (and diversified livelihoods), strengthening the control and oversight capacities at provincial and national level, and strengthening the overall forest governance.

More in the specific the actions included in this proposal (details in section C.2.2) seek to strengthen the initiatives contemplated by the Forest Law (native forests), prioritizing the implementation of the Strategic Technical Guidelines that were designated as a SOP by the PANByCC at the same time that SSPs are attended. Additionally the Project mainly focus on native forest areas classified under Category II (Yellow) according to OTBN. This focus has been decided considering that this Category represents 60% of the country's forests surface area and that although in this Category deforestation is not allowed, uncontrolled or illegal logging is still ongoing and management schemes currently being implemented (for example traditional silvopastoral systems) still often lead to deforestation and degradation and must be enhanced so to achieve reduction in forest degradation levels and impacts on the forests.

The increase of deforestation due to extensive agriculture for soybean production was the main boost for the enactment of the Forest Law. Since the enactment of the Forest Law, deforestation for agricultural purposes, such as soybean cultivation, has been banned by category I and II of the OTBN, and it has been allowed in forests under category III (green). The Forest Law permits livestock activity under silvopastoral management plans within the yellow category, however as of today in most cases these management plans are still implemented through practices which are impacting the native forests. Considering the strategic value in continuing the reduction of the deforestation, this project will focus on OTBN areas category II (yellow), by enhancing practices, facilitating and boosting sustainable and forest-friendly approaches, preventing deforestation and forest degradation due to lack of planning and control, or due to the use of unsustainable practices. By focusing on this key category, the project will also prevent potential "opening" towards livestock or (illegal) soybean expansion.

On the other hand, forest harvesting is an important economic activity in regional economies and especially in the family economies of small producers and local communities in Argentina.

The native forests in Argentina have enough capacity to provide timber goods to respond to the demand, but it must be carried out based on an appropriate planning to avoid overexploitation. For this purpose, forests have to be under sustainable management plans (at the basin level, community territories or private properties), with an annual capacity of use clearly established and permits are granted, by the ALA. In this way, users are subject to controls throughout the value chain, and the ALAs have instruments to monitor the environmental status of native forests and intervene at times and places where required to guarantee the sustainability of the forest resource.

Summarizing, priority will be given to actions aimed at strengthening regional economies through sustainable forest management by adding value to goods and services from native forests, with special attention to forest-dependent communities with no access to formal economies, offering legal access to their natural resources and improving their livelihoods and production systems, promoting the legality of value chains, increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of micro and small industries, and guaranteeing products harvest, maintaining and increasing natural capital, through models that are economically viable, socially fair and environmentally sound; and transforming silvopastoral management practices into sustainable livestock and forest systems through the implementation of the National Forest Management with Integrated Livestock Plan. The purpose of the actions, is to increase coverage of forests under sustainable use, as well as under protection and restoration (native forest regeneration), with special attention to vulnerable communities, forest economies and activities with impacts on land use change as livestock expansion. In addition, the risk of forest fires incidence, as well as their associated impacts, particularly on the levels of forest degradation, is considered of great importance for the country; for this reason fire prevention will be addressed through a transversal approach in all project activities and with a specific component (component C) assigning resources at local level, through the ALAs, to develop and implement strategic plans for fire prevention. Furthermore, with this proposal it is expected to strengthen forest governance and the monitoring and control capabilities of national and provincial enforcement authorities.

The intention of the project is to put under management plans an area close to 4,549,075 ha of native forests, which represents 8.5 % of the total area of the OTBN. A considerable amount, taking into consideration that during the first 10 years of application of the FNECBN within the framework of the Forest Law, was reached an area close to 3,000,000 ha. **The use of proceeds are expected to be used in the following four components, which are described in detail in section C.2.2:**

A. Territorial forest management. This component aims at landscape-scale forestry planning at two levels: i) forest basins defined around value chains and multisectoral agreements; ii) and collective territories under traditional use of one or more communities. This includes planning and implementation of forest management projects/interventions at forest basin level, and the design and implementation of Integral community plans (PICs in its Spanish Acronym). PICs are an innovative proposal for outlining forest management plans at the community level, respecting the customary collective use made of forest lands by local and indigenous communities. In addition, to promoting sustainable use and improving its legality, both Forest Basin Plans and PICs, might include actions to promote the growth of the forest mass as well as its regeneration and restoration. Community actions related to forest management with integrated livestock (MBGI) could also be included in PICs, Main beneficiaries: forest producers; micro and small sawmills and carpentry; logistics providers; indigenous peoples and local communities.

B. Forest management with integrated livestock (MBGI, in its Spanish acronym). This component aims to transform traditional silvopastoral practices towards models that allow livestock development, ensuring the sustainability of native forests. MBGI systems will be designed and implemented with clear environmental and social safeguards for the various types of forests, with interested farmers located in II and III categories of OTBN. Main beneficiaries: small to medium cattle farmers.

C. Enhanced response to forest fires. This component is intended to implement strategic provincial plans for the prevention of forest fires in priority regions and reinforce initial response capabilities in forest fires. Component C also focuses on the determination of fire risks, prevention and operational planning. Main beneficiaries: provincial authorities, forest holders, communities and urban society. It is worth mentioning here that, in addition to the specific activities included in component C, activities related to or catalytic towards enhanced response to forest fires are also included in project components A, B and D. Project Components A and B, as mentioned in above points, relate to the implementation of management guidelines at the basin, community or farm level. They focus on adopting sustainable practices, addressing the causes of deforestation, including forest fires. Fostering and supporting enhanced territorial management with the beneficiaries, Components A and B will contribute to address the anthropic causes of forest fires. Component D will also contribute to strengthening forest fires response, through improvements of the early fire detection systems at national and local level.

D. National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor forest and control are strengthened. This component entails enhancing local and national monitoring, oversight, technical and extension capacities, including a continuous enhancement and operationalization of Argentina's NFMS, its MRV functions, including for an enhanced early detection and prevention of fires, and the Safeguards Information System (SIS-AR). The strengthening of the capacities will also entail developing commercialization services, markets and supplementary strategic investments as well as knowledge management. Main beneficiaries: national and local enforcement authorities; and beneficiaries mentioned in components A, B and C.

These components will be implemented using the general procedures provided by the Forest Law and its monitoring and control instruments. The theory of change of the project is included in Annex 6 of this proposal.

Benefit-sharing scheme

The full available funding from the GCF results based payments (total Project budget) is planned to be used in its **94.7% for investments** at provincial level and for strengthening capacities at national and provincial level - as indicated in details in the use of proceeds and in the investment framework (sections C and D of this funding proposal); and in its **5.3% to allow the efficient and effective implementation of this complex project**, including in due diligence with rules and procedures and with an appropriate monitoring and evaluation (further information in section G of this proposal).

For the 94.7% of the budget for the proceeds referred to above, the project will promote articulated schemes between the ANA and the ALA and territorial stakeholders such as municipalities, public agencies, private sector, local communities and academy. In this context, the **benefit-sharing proposal for the use of the proceeds** of this Project envisages the allocation of funds as follows (and as shown in **¡Error! No se encuentra el origen de la referencia.!**):

- **72%** allocated to **investments at territorial level** in forest regions and provinces, and to strengthen capacities of communities, indigenous peoples and small holders (components A, B, C);

As mentioned above, 72% of the GCF resources will be targeted toward interventions to decrease deforestation and forest degradation – and related carbon emissions - at territorial level in forest regions, implementing forest, land-use and livestock management with a landscape approach contributing to enhanced livelihood at different levels: forest basins, community territories and private farms (small and medium holders). The distribution of the budget assigned to each component was defined prioritizing social inclusion, job creation, large-scale planning and the transformation of livestock practices in native forests. A portion of the funds will also be allocated to strengthening institutional plans and implementation for fire prevention (comp. C), therefore supporting protection of forest carbon stock. Lastly, a 5%⁶¹ of the total budget funds will be dedicated for the needs of specific ALAs, to improve monitoring and oversight capacities through equipment purchased for forest inspection and strengthening of outposts and checkpoints.

- **28%** allocated to **strengthen technical capacities of institutions at provincial and national level** to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor and control forest cover, to enhance and operationalize safeguards system and for **supplementary strategic supports** to investments in forest basins, including boosting women engagement (component D).

The 28% allocated to the national level will be targeted toward carrying out several activities that will also have an impact on the ground, such as implementing forest extension programmes, strengthening monitoring instruments and generating knowledge on forest dynamics. A portion of this 28% may be allocated to strategic investments in support of forest basins or to the enhancement of PICs and the implementation of a program to support rural women who live in the forests.

Allocation of funds to the local level will be prioritized in accordance with the areas where the drivers of deforestation are exerting the most pressure on native forests.

⁶¹ In the budget breakdown (details in section C.2.4) this 5% is visible in component D

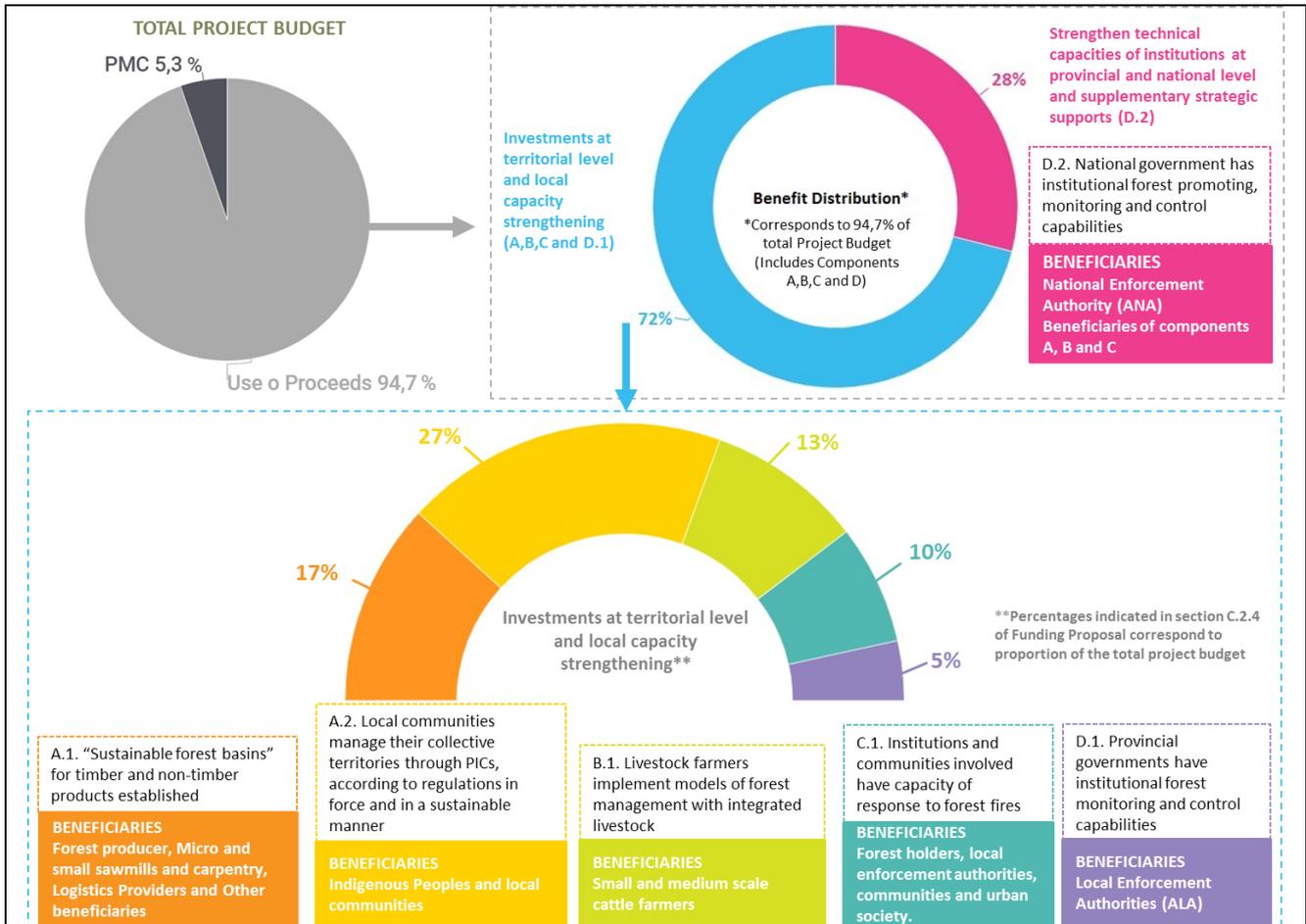


Figure 13. Benefit sharing scheme

Table 15. Types of beneficiaries by output

Component	Output	Use of proceeds percentage	Type of Beneficiary	Description
A. Territorial forest management	A.1. “Sustainable forest basins” for timber and non-timber products established	17%	Forest producer	These are forest land owners, holders with rights or users who carry forest harvesting permits issued by the ALA, to make use of timber and non-timber products for sale. It involves members of local communities, indigenous communities, smallholders, and occupants with legal or consensual arrangements with landowners.
			Workers and owners of Micro and small sawmills and carpentry	They are mainly small family businesses with an employment capacity is around 10 operators per establishment. These are ventures with little reinvestment capacity, precarious facilities, in some cases without walls or ceilings.. When they do not have a roof and the weather conditions are adverse, it is not possible for them to work. de As for the use of personal protection elements, most of the micro and small sawmills do not have the minimum elements for the safe work of the operators.
			Logistics Providers	These are family enterprises dedicated to the transport of forest products (timber and non-timber products) from the supply basins to the transformation centers (micro and small sawmills and carpentry). They generally have

				inadequate equipment, with low security conditions for loading, transporting and unloading products, as well as safety equipment for operators. In general, these are work teams of between 3 to 4 people.
			Other beneficiaries	Depending on the identity of the basins, governmental or non-governmental organizations might require investment support for the performance of sustainable development plans such as; municipalities, producer organizations or service providers linked to environmental education, support for the commercialization of crafts or other products or tourist and recreational services.
	A.2. Local communities manage their collective territories through PICs, according to regulations in force and in a sustainable manner	27%	Indigenous peoples and local communities	They are groups of families who share a common identity and make collective use of the territory and hold land rights through traditional and public occupation of the territory. They can be holders with recognized rights or owners with collective or individual land deeds. These are communities with low capitalization, and Unmet Basic Needs (UBN). They are generally dedicated to subsistence activities, with the sale of surpluses, complementing their economy with jobs outside the plot work and State aid. The main activities are extensive animal breeding, sale of forest products, while indigenous communities also incorporate hunting, gathering fishing and crafting.
B. Forest Management with Integrated Livestock – MBGI	B.1. Livestock farmers implement models of forest management with integrated livestock	13%	Small scale cattle farmer	Small size farmers with less than 500 hectares of land, mostly covered by native forests, that carry out their activities based on cultivated pastures and forage, with acceptable levels of technology on their plots of land, as well as infrastructure. Their economy is mainly dedicated to cattle breeding on non-forest areas or forest areas converted into cultivated pastures combine with timber products.
			Medium scale cattle farmer	Medium size farmers with 500 to 3000 hectares of land that carry out their activities based on cultivated pastures and forage, with acceptable levels of technology on their plots of land, as well as infrastructure and machinery. Forest activity is scarce or non-existent. There are significant areas of native forests on their land, and these farmers are dedicated to cattle breeding and cow-calf operations on non-forest areas or forest areas converted into cultivated pastures
C. Enhanced response to forest fires	C.1. Institutions and communities involved have capacity of response to forest fires.	10%	Provincial authorities, forest holders, communities and urban society.	While the plan preparation activities will be conducted by the provincial authorities (ALAs), and their capacities will be strengthened accordingly, the main beneficiaries will be the forest holders who will see their fire risks decrease due to the implementation of the institutional plans, together with local communities and urban society.
D. National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor forest and control are	D.1. Provincial governments have institutional forest monitoring and control capabilities	5%	Local Enforcement Authorities (ALA)	They are the Provincial Directorates of Forests, or their equivalents, who are in charge of regulating the use of forests, approving interventions in their jurisdiction, promoting sustainable management guidelines and overseeing compliance with legislation.
	D.2. National government has	28%	National Enforcement Authorities (ANA)	This is the national authority, represented by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation. It is in charge of coordinating, with the ALA, compliance with

strengthened	institutional forest promoting, monitoring and control capabilities			the Forest Law and promoting improvements in implementation at the technical and legal level.
			Beneficiaries of components A, B and C	See above

For further details on the distribution of funds, please see section C.2.4. Budget estimate.

C.2.2. Expected outputs and outcomes:

The Argentina REDD-plus RBP project (period 2014-2016) has been designed and planned to contribute to the implementation of the PANByCC and to the achievement of Argentina NDC.

The Project will reduce emissions from land-use, combat deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management, conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stock (not through forest plantations, but through regeneration and restoration of native forests). Sustainable management of native forests will be strengthened, with a view to contribute to climate change mitigation and to reduce forest and forest-dependent communities vulnerability to climate change. The full theory of Change of the project is included in Annex 6.

The Project will also support enhancing national and provincial institutional capacities on land and forest governance, and contribute to the continued strengthening and operationalization of its NFMS and SIS-AR. It is expected that in the forest regions and basins of implementation, the project will contribute to shift of paradigm in the use of land, adding value to the production of goods and services from forests in a sustainable way with social participation; promote rooting through improving the livelihoods of rural communities; and boost a change in the livestock management pattern that guarantees the sustainability of the forests. Project activities will aim at improving the protection of forests and social valorization, promoting sustainable use and adding value with fairer approaches that favor rural communities, small landowners and taking actions to involve in the care of resources to medium producers. To promote the change in the distribution and legal access to resources in an equitable and fair manner, the project will promote the inclusion of all relevant actors, emphasizing the participation of women and indigenous peoples. It will boost an enhanced cross-sectoral (for example livestock-forests) and multi-level (local, provincial, national) coordination.

The implementation of the project will be focused in the native forest areas in OTBN Category II (Yellow), where most of the deforestation of the country is occurring (Figure 14), with the aim of boosting a successful implementation of the Forest Law and empowering local stakeholders (communities, indigenous peoples, small and medium holders) with capacities and economic opportunities to promote the sustainable use of the resources, instead of converting forests to other land-use.

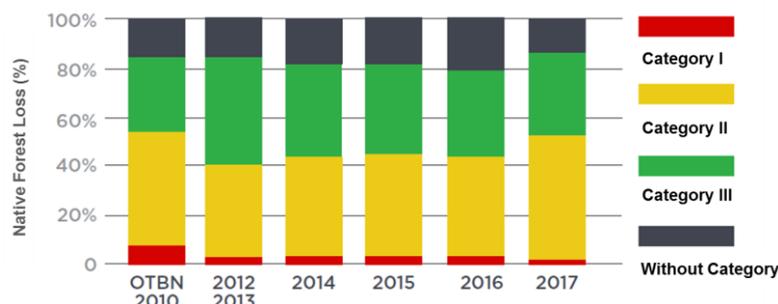


Figure 14. Annual native forest loss (%) per conservation category

Source: Implementation Status Report of Forest Law, 2010-2018. DNB, MAyDS

The four components of the project are:

A. Territorial forest management

B. Forest management with integrated livestock

C. Enhanced response to forest fires

D. National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor forest and control are strengthened.

These components are graphically represented in Figure 15 and are described in details in the next headings/paragraphs.

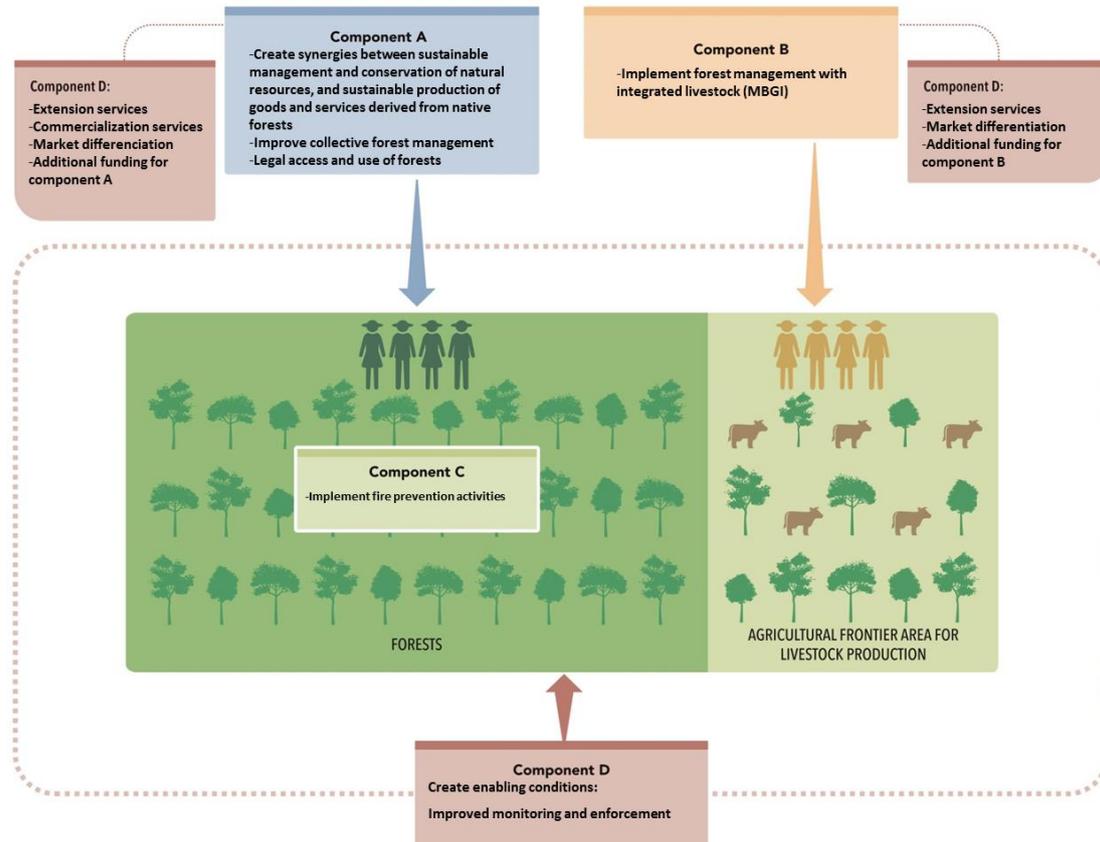


Figure 15. Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016 components

Considerations on post covid-19 recovery

Conscious of the potential important impacts the current international and national health emergency caused by the covid-19 outbreak could bring to the national and worldwide economy, in addition to the tragic health consequences that populations in the world are currently phasing, the Project is planning to mainstream in its actions, considerations for the support of a potential post-covid 19 recovery phase.

While a more detailed action plan on this regard will have to be formulated at project inception phase, so to be able to count with more realistic and updated information on potential socio-economic impacts in Argentina, the Project is committed to contribute to the universal call of “[building back better](#)” by boosting and fostering “green recovery measures”, turning the recovery phase into a real opportunity to achieve transformational and sustainable change at local level.

With its strong approach and emphasis on engagement of local communities, small-holders and indigenous peoples, enhancing diversification of “deforestation free” products and income generation, access to markets, develop of more sustainable practices of livestock and forest management, the Project already represents an important contribution to enhancing livelihoods in rural areas.

Some initial considerations – that will have to be rediscused and aligned with future potential national

recovery plans that Argentina may develop in the future - can be summed up as follows:

- In case covid-19 outbreak would persist still once the project will be operational, develop specific protocols for project implementation, with special care of field visits procedures so to avoid contributing spreading the virus – especially in remote communities;
- Mainstream actions that improve food security in design and implementation of community plans (activity A.2);
- In the selection process of plans and projects to be implemented (component A, B, C) enhance selection criteria to assign a higher priority to regions or provinces that experienced a higher socio-economic impact from covid-19 outbreak;
- Without losing sight on country priorities to address the drivers of deforestation, contribute to enhancing carbon stock and achieve climate change mitigation commitments, consider the possibility to partly increase attention and budget dedication to those activities that could foster a higher employment rate for women and men;
- For markets and value chains assessments to be developed for the “deforestation-free” labeled products to results from project’s activities (activity A.1 and especially B.1) put special attention on potential market price fluctuations caused by the effects of COVID-19 on the national and global economy;
- Enhance efforts on early warning systems and on-the ground control and response, to promptly act on potential increased of deforestation. Enhance the engagement of communities in forest protection through specific projects, as a mean of potential additional income for forest dependent communities and forest dwellers.
- Design, promote and enhance alternative commercialization channels so as to improve peoples’ livelihoods in COVID-damaged local economies;
- Improve communities and forest dwellers resilience to COVID impacts (both socioeconomic and in health) by enhancing local networks and improving communication channels.

It is expected that these activities focused on post-covid green recovery and job creation would have a number of quantifiable co-benefits. An initial proposal for how these benefits could be measured could include consideration of the following, which will be reviewed, updated and complemented (as needed) at project inception phase:

- Change in employment rates in rural areas targeted by project activities, as compared to other rural areas (including with gender breakdown);
- Number of jobs generated by forest conservation, management, restoration or agroforestry (including MBGI) activities;
- Number of PICs (Integral Community Plans) that make reference to or have measures related to food security;
- Number of PICs that make reference to or have measures related to sustainable income generation;
- Market share (%) of labelled deforestation-free products, and total value sold/year; and
- Number of forest conservation projects or interventions or total budget of projects or interventions in rural areas with deforestation risk.

Components, outputs and activities general description

On its Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Toolbox for forest tenure FAO says, “The condition of forests depends on how they are used and managed, which in turn depends largely on who has rights to their ownership and management. Tenure is a generic term referring to a variety of arrangements that allocate rights to land and resources and (usually) set conditions on those who hold land. Tenure regulates access to, and the use of, resources. Tenure arrangements may involve exclusive rights (where only one person or group has access to a resource), or non-exclusive rights, where more than one group of people have certain tenure rights to the same resources. Forest tenure is a broad concept that includes ownership, tenancy and other arrangements for the use of forests. It is a combination of legally or customarily defined forest ownership and other rights and arrangements for the management and use of forest resources. Forest tenure determines who can use which resources, for how long and under what conditions. While forest tenure is closely linked to land tenure, it concerns not only the land but also the forest growing on the land”.

Furthermore... "A forest-tenure system that is clear, fair and appropriate for local conditions is more likely to result in SFM and lead to a concomitant reduction in deforestation and forest degradation because secure

tenure provides incentives for people to invest time and resources in forest management. People are more likely to look after forest resources if they can benefit from them"

These considerations are the basis of the present proposal, since as mentioned in previous sections, all interventions in the forests must be authorized by the ALAs of each jurisdiction through forest management plans which must assure the current use, maintaining the assets and services that the forest possess in perpetuity. This requires specific studies on the potential for forest use and multiple arrangements between user parties and local authorities, which must be acceptable to the ALA to obtain any authorization.

It was also stated that forests in Argentina, are subject to various forms of tenure, which are admissible under the Forest Law as long as the ALA considers that the proponents meet the conditions for the approval of a management plan. This is particularly important for forest dependent communities.

The activities will address preparation and implementation of Management Plans at Landscape Level through sustainable forest basins, which will allow the activity of the entire unit to be regulated, guaranteeing legal access to resources for forest residents in conditions of social vulnerability and local economies based on forests, with sustainability guidelines and permanent monitoring possibilities; management plans at the collective territories level to strengthen the permanence of vulnerable communities in their habitat, ensuring forest tenure regardless of their land tenure status in order to use and inhabit their forests with greater security; and farm-level management plans to improve silvicultural practices and interventions on private producer farms that put greater pressure on native forests.

While components A, B and C stimulate, plan and execute interventions at territorial level to further reduce deforestation, component D aims at strengthening institutions at national and provincial level, in terms of knowledge, tools and capacities in monitoring, forest governance, extension safeguards, and access to markets. Activity D.2.6 however also contributes to the volume of funds to be used for interventions at territorial level, which will be channeled from strategies conducted by the ANA in agreement with the ALA, for interjurisdictional or sectoral projects of greatest need, including to further boost actions for reducing deforestation or enhancing protection of native forests of indigenous communities and rural women. Such activity has been kept within the component D (instead of directly including it under components A, B, or C) due to the fact that the ANA can promote initiatives that, although at original stage are not directly prioritized by the provinces, once tested positive, gain scale and replicability, such as the Forests and Community Project, or the MBGI technical agreement. In this sense, the ANA is also responsible for improving - in accordance with the ALA - the implementation of forest management policies conducive to the fulfillment of the environmental and social objectives of the Forest Law. Based on the aforementioned, activity D.2.6 aims to have a reserve fund for larger territorial projects that involve more than one jurisdiction (province), such as shared forest basins, restoration (as part of PICs/territorial forest management) of degraded basins, prevention of forest fires activities at local level (as part of PICs/forest basin), implementation of a pilot programme aimed at women who live and depend on forests or to promote PIC where communities have not been reached through the provinces.

On the three components that stimulate, plan and execute interventions:

- Component A is the most relevant in terms of territorial impact and number of beneficiaries reached, and prioritizes the well-being of local communities through management, improvement of living conditions and improvement of associated markets. This approach seeks to strengthen the local communities, also considering the important role that local communities could play in the territorial defense of forests. Following this approach, they are also key partners in the fulfillment of the objectives of the Law.
- Component B engages less forest-dependent actors, but some of those who have the greatest influence/impact on forest degradation.
- Component C, in which the forest holders are going to be the main beneficiaries - through the strategic plans conducted by the ALAs -, prioritizes mainly the prevention of forest fires – which has been recognized as a critical driver of deforestation and degradation in some provinces.

Steps and entities involved in the decision-making process through which local interventions will be selected is reported in section C.2.5 of this funding proposal.

COMPONENT BY COMPONENT DETAILS

A. Territorial forest management

This component includes planning and, especially, the implementation of **forest management projects/interventions, at forest basin level** (A.1 – “sustainable forest basins”), as well as the design and implementation of **Integral Community Plans (PIC** in its Spanish Acronym) (A.2) with an integrate landscape approach. This component has the main objective to enhance and bring impact at scale of the benefits of the Forest Law to local communities, indigenous peoples, forest producers, micro to small sawmills and carpentry, and logistics providers.

The component will aim at enhancing socio-economic value of the forest sector in the landscape/forest basins, stimulating and boosting sustainable use, protection and enhancement of forest resources as a mean to recover/boost forest regions’ economies (which, as indicated in the context section of this document is where the 61.5% of population with UBN and the 89% of the rural population with UBN is located (2010 Census). Making it more attractive and profitable a sustainable use of the resources will also contribute to combat deforestation, degradation and “depoblation” of forest regions.

This component will operate at two levels: regionally, promoting sustainable forest management at the basin level, and locally, at the community territorial level, through the implementation of PICs. It is expected that this component will be implemented mainly in *Parque Chaqueño*, Argentine *Yungas*, Argentine *Monte*, Andean-Patagonian Forest and *Misiones* Rainforest.

The territorial forest management plans and the Integral community plans (PICs) that will be developed, selected and implemented through component A are expected to contribute to addressing drivers of deforestation responding to the local circumstances and context-specific drivers, including addressing livestock and fire risk. At both levels, actions aimed at preventing forests fires and increasing the capacity to respond to them can be developed. A PIC could also entail actions related to restoration of native forests. These management plans will have a three-fold positive effect on local communities: i) addressing the drivers of deforestation/degradation, ii) enhancing local capacities, economy and livelihood and iii) helping to combat “income-led forced migration” from the forest regions towards other areas of the country

Output A.1 “Sustainable forest basins” for timber and non-timber products established

In the Argentinian context, and according to the COFEMA [Resolution No. 360/2018](#), forest basins are not only defined by the geographical regions or areas characterized by the presence of native forests, but also by a strong presence of stakeholders who use, transform and trade timber and non-timber products in such a way to (COFEMA resolution No. 360/2018, Anexo I, apartado 1.1.).

Such “[sustainable forest management at landscape level](#)” have the aim of establishing an integrated approach for the use of the territory, in which the vocational use, the sustainable provision of ecosystem goods and services, and the conservation of natural and cultural resources are balanced boosting sustainable development, protection and sustainable management of forests, also integrating forest products to other productive value chains.

Sustainability is the main purpose of forest management. Forest management practices entail a proper planning of the use of forests, based on knowledge concerning their status and growth dynamics, which determines the possibility of their use; activities are reflected in the Forest Management Plans, which are then analyzed and authorized by the ALAs.

Forest management for commercial purposes entails the possibility of earning an income, but preserving the resource and increasing the number of standing trees. The income is determined by the average growth per hectare, and forest harvesting must remain under the authorized thresholds, duly planned in time and space. Management practices aim at stimulating the growth of forests, promoting their regeneration and the growth of oppressed trees, whilst improving their health conditions.

After interventions, it is estimated that a managed forest increases its growth capacity and, therefore, its carbon fixation capacity by 50%. The establishment of sustainable forest basins requires a comprehensive scheme for addressing the territory, taking into account geographical, natural resources, vocational and socio-economic factors. It aims at organizing forest resources so as to ensure harmonious and coordinated development of the sector’s existing or potential value chains, based on the condition of the forest and land

use possibilities.

The promotion of an integrated basin approach, allows to develop specific work-streams that promotes synergies among various stakeholders, facilitate inter-sectoral and inter-institutional coordination to plan comprehensive forest development policies, also contributing to the definition of the needs and priorities for intervention in each forest region.

The process for the identification, and subsequent establishment and operationalization of sustainable forest basins, starts with an expression of interest sent from the Local Enforcement Authorities (ALA for its acronym in Spanish) or local stakeholders to the Provincial government (step 0), it continues with the submission of the expression of interest from the Provincial government to the National Government (step 1). Once such expression of interest is received, the National Government, in discussion with the Province, runs specific criteria to evaluate the potential authorization for the establishment of the basin: i) interest and political willingness of the ALA and other related institutions; ii) execution capacity of local stakeholders; iii) production value chains' integration potential; iv) presence of forests with high commercial value of timber, non-timber or ecosystem services; and v) high presence of indigenous peoples and local communities in vulnerable conditions of tenure and legal access to forest resources. If all the criteria are met, the basin is declared established and the local stakeholders can develop a diagnosis and forest management strategic plan (step 2). The final step moves the plan into and operational, investment and action phase on the ground (step 3).

Since the approval of the Technical and Strategic Guidelines for Implementation of the Forest Law in 2018 (COFEMA [Resolution No. 360/2018](#)), the country has established 2 sustainable forest basins, Monte Quemado and Caimancito, both of them located in areas affected by deforestation (Table 16).

Table 16.

“Sustainable forest basins” established in Argentina since approval of the Technical and Strategic Guidelines for Implementation of the Forest Law

Forest basin	Province	Forest Region	Area (ha)	Status (steps)
Monte Quemado	Santiago del Estero	<i>Parque Chaqueño</i>	1 200 000	(3) Implementation phase
Caimancito	Jujuy	<i>Yungas</i>	500 000	(2) Diagnostic analysis & forest management strategic plan completed

The implementation of the REDD+ RBP Project will serve as tremendous boost to bring up to speed the preparation of basins' strategic plans and especially in supporting the implementation of the related actions. The Project will select and support the basins, working together with the provinces through COFEMA.

The aim is to support at completion of the Project life, a total of 7 sustainable forest basins, empowering local stakeholders not only in the planning phase, but also working with them in the operationalization and implementation of the actions on the ground, concretely contributing to continuous reduction of carbon emissions and enhancement of livelihoods for local communities, indigenous peoples and medium-holder farms.

Importantly the Project, through this output, will **create synergies between sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, and sustainable production and consumption of goods and services derived from native forests**, under a framework that promotes integration with other productive activities, conservation and improvement in the lives of local communities.

With this integrated approach and concrete investments on the ground, the Project will **play a key and strategic role to up-scale efforts in the forest regions**, allow for higher impact and for a reduction of the risk of fragmentation of native forests. Through these strategic planning, investments and actions, the project will support at enhancing livelihood of a large number of beneficiaries, promote an efficient use of financial resources and apply more operational environmental and social monitoring schemes to native forests. The forest basin approach will reach out to all value chains (timber and non-timber forest products) beneficiaries that are included in land-use planning, from primary farmers to industry (Figure 16). Regarding primary

production, support will be provided to the logs, posts, firewood and charcoal value chains, since these are products made by community and small farms. Work will strongly focus on the legal origin of wood, improvement in working conditions, training and linkage to the market. In principle, this support is targeted to improving traceability, as well as the organization and work of groups of producers to supply local or domestic markets. Should international market opportunities be identified, the standards will be adjusted accordingly to meet export requirements. With regard to non-timber products, production and marketing of honey and crafts will be promoted, among others. As to wood in its first stage of transformation, special emphasis will be placed on producing planks, sleepers and wood boards. The second stage of wood transformation will focus on furniture, doors and windows and other carpentry specialties adding value to native timber.

With regard to wood markets, the project will support to place products on existing markets, facilitating direct links, quality improvement and design and certification of products. For non-timber products, there are markets specialized in organic forest honey for export, as well as in crafts.

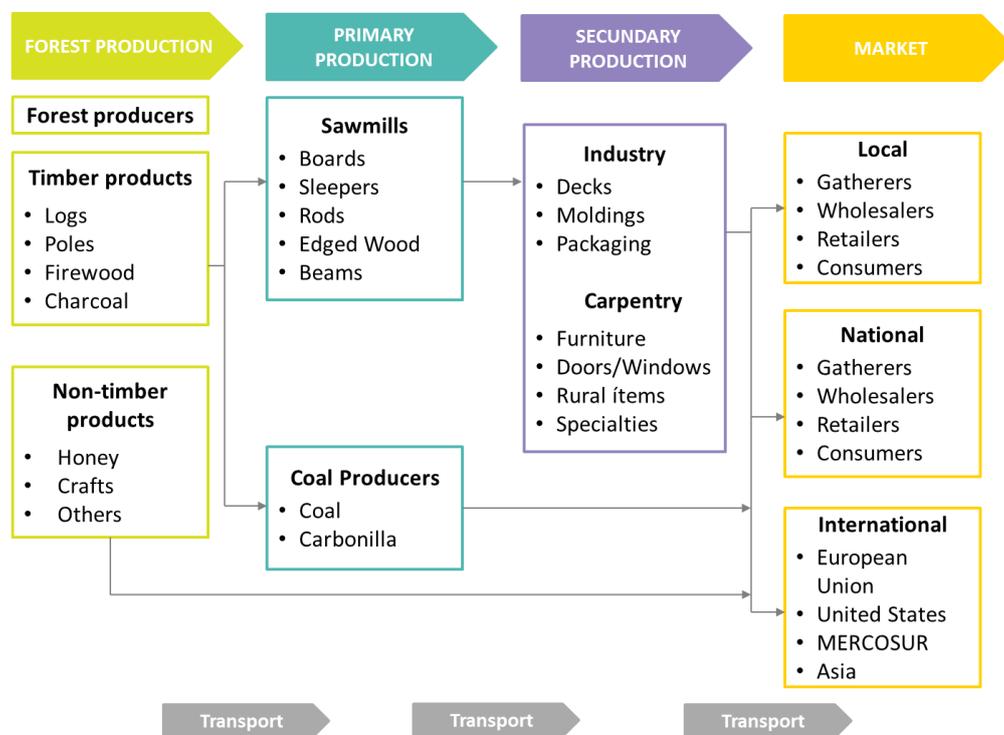


Figure 16. Native forest products Value chain scheme

Through the basin approach, the aim is to ensure legal access to the use of forests by local communities who, due to different tenure conditions, are not traditionally encompassed in management plans or use permits. The **inclusion of communities in the local economy** is promoted, through the general plan that, in turn, sets use limitations based on a possibility that has been duly analyzed, and can be monitored to ensure forest sustainability. Legal access and forest tenure are necessary conditions to ensure sustainable forest management and avoid forest degradation.

As described in

Table 15, through this output it is not expected to support big industries for purchasing equipment or for other financial support.

The beneficiaries will be forest producers on forest basins who are precarious rural workers with no technification and no legal access to forest use, who depend on timber and non-timber products sales to sustain their economies, such as local communities, small producers, and indigenous peoples.

On the other hand, as previously indicated the scale of sawmills and carpentries that might need financial

support considering their precarious conditions for timber processing, low security on blue-collar workers conditions, and low to null capacity for investment. This is extended to short distance logistic providers. Strategic investment with a low cost per amount of beneficiaries might be transformative for value chains and working conditions of many families involved.

Building up on ongoing efforts in the country, the specific activities under this first output are as presented in Table 17.

Table 17. Activities included in output A.1

Activity	Goal
<p>A.1.1 Preparation of integrated management plans for the sustainable forest basins and their value chains (timber and other non-timber forest products).</p> <p><i>The activity will be implemented through a participatory approach with the beneficiaries. It will include market and value chain studies (timber and other forest products), business plans, development plans for the whole of the forestry-related and services industries. When preparing the strategic plans for the sustainable forest basin, a comprehensive development committee may be set up bringing in specific technical areas, with sectoral representatives. These committees will make decision-making more dynamic, participatory, promote transparency in the creation of forest basin councils, including with a gender perspective, and will help monitor fulfillment of goals and activities during implementation.</i></p>	<p>7 Basins with studies and a plan*</p>
<p>A.1.2 Preparation of strategic forest management plans within the sustainable forest basin.</p> <p><i>The strategic forest management plan is a technical forest management document, prepared in line with the Forest Law's General Procedures, respecting OTBN categories, with each area of intervention duly planned and the potential use of forest resources calculated on the basis of the forest inventory and with the aim of maintaining ecosystem services. A specific section on monitoring has to be included. The plan must be signed by a responsible technical expert in the pertinent province, and submitted to the province's environmental authorities for approval. Social and environmental diagnosis and impact studies are undertaken in the process of the preparation of the strategic forest management plan to ensure broad social support and full respect of environmental guidelines.</i></p>	
<p>A.1.3 Implementation of specific timber and non-timber sustainable production investments, pursuant to the integrated management and the strategic forest management plans.</p> <p><i>Once the scope of the integrated management and the strategic forest management plans (A.1.1 and A.1.2) have been defined, investments will be disbursed (through procurement of services and goods by the Executing Entity) for the operationalization of sustainable forest management in the basin, consistent with the environmental and social criteria outlined in both plans.</i></p> <p><i>Depending on the specific sustainable forest basin and the activities defined by each area, production investments may be directed to a combination of the following: improve value chains competitiveness, efficiency in the use of forest resources, working conditions of blue-collar workers and small and medium holder farmers, purchasing specific working equipment (considering the financial challenges of this specific category of beneficiaries). This may include investment in tools for primary producers that supply forest basins; equipment to improve efficiency and safety operations to micro and small sawmills and carpentries for adding value, transformation and efficiency in the use of timber and timber products; support for timber and non-timber products logistics as well as safety equipment for forest industry workers and primary producers. Each investment plan will</i></p>	<p>7 Basins with specific investments and operations running on the ground*</p>

be accompanied by training programs aimed at improving silvicultural practices, facilitation of forest permits, working conditions, and participatory environmental monitoring. All investments will be planned and implemented in due diligence with the environmental and social management framework

(see FP Annex 3 for details). Additionally, this item includes actions of engagement of the national private and public financial sector to explore the feasibility of developing financial products attuned to the characteristics and needs of sustainable forest management (cash flows, tenors, needs, repayment periods, guarantees, etc). The barriers to access financing by SMEs in the country are exacerbated in the case of the small businesses in native forest value chains. As in the case of Component B, the project will also document the environmental and economic performance of producers associated with forest basins and raise awareness of these results by sharing information with public and private providers of finance, with a view to explore ways to facilitate access to finance for those producers and incentivize further uptake of integrated management plans for the sustainable forest basins. Further, the project will explore ways to expand access to financing for small and medium size enterprises and producers.

* This goal has been calculated considering an average extension of 500,000 ha per basin, reaching a total goal of 7 basins (3,623,254 ha). This scope is based on the budget reported in section C.2.4

The implementation of these strategic actions at the forest basin level will be carried out by the ALAs, and relevant stakeholders at the local level (sectoral organizations, municipalities, industries, among others), in coordination with the MAyDS. The **National Programme on Forest Extension** will support the Provinces in the call for proposals/expression of interests, as well as technical capacities strengthening. The National Programme itself will be strengthened and expanded thanks to financial resources coming out from the 28% of the project budget (in accordance to the proposed benefit-sharing scheme).

Output A.2 Local communities manage their collective territories through PICs, according to regulations in force and in a sustainable manner

Addressing the conditions in which producers (women and men) access natural resources and establish mechanisms for democratization of their use is essential in order to implement an inclusive forest policy.

Beyond the areas of native forests registered in farming and livestock farms with defined boundaries (EAP-CLD, in its Spanish acronym), as informed by the 2018 National Agricultural and Livestock Census, and with regard to the surface areas accredited by the OTBNs created since the Forest Law was passed, it is noted that over 40% of the OTBN area might be agriculture and livestock farms without defined boundaries (EAP-SLD, in its Spanish acronym). This classification refers to communal, rightful farms, indigenous communities and other fiscal lands, which are in general subject to precarious land tenure conditions.

Most of the deforestation in Argentina has occurred in the *Parque Chaqueño* region, due to advancement of the agricultural frontier increasing territorial conflicts and evicting rural communities from their territories. In addition, this region supplies 90 % of the country's forest products (poles and posts, tannins, firewood and charcoal). It is estimated that 40 to 50% of income per plot of land of rural and indigenous families in the region comes directly from the sale of forest products, while the forest is also used for subsistence livestock farming. Forest-dependent communities in the *Parque Chaqueño* region are among the population with the highest percentages of unmet basic needs throughout the country.

Precarious land tenure is a factor that accounts for poor engagement of the indigenous peoples and local communities. There has been misinterpretation of the notion of *plan holder*, which has been traditionally associated with the holders of record (owners of the plot of land), and this has prevented many provinces from implementing plans in areas where the beneficiaries lack proper registration of land ownership.

Therefore, with the new Plans' Regulation contained in Annex 1 to [Resolution 277/14](#), issued by COFEMA in 2014, the concept of *plan holder* was further explained and it was determined that owners, possessors, holders, and indigenous communities with current, traditional and public occupation may access the funding facilities under the FNECBN, as long as they have a plan approved by the ALAs of the Forest Law.

Also, to facilitate the planning of small-scale productive units subject to the same technical assistance, the concept of "Beneficiary Groups" was developed. This entailed a major breakthrough in the regulatory

framework, as it allows for a wider scope of management plans for the entire area subject to the OTBN, and the inclusion of beneficiaries that used to be systematically excluded due to their tenure status.

This output seeks to improve collective forest management and to facilitate legal access to small forest producers through integrated forest community management.

PICs to be promoted by this output consist of forest planning schemes launched by the DNB within MAyDS, intended to develop Community Forest Management schemes as a strategy for social inclusion within the framework of the Forest Law. The initiative started through the Forests and Community Project (IBRD 8493), which seeks to strengthen livelihoods of local communities in their territories therefore contributing to combating forced-migration, through land management plan, training processes, promotion of sustainable production, enhanced access to water and support to product marketing. The funds of this loan were allocated to the development of community projects aimed at favouring legal access to the resource through forest tenure, and positively impact more communities and areas beyond the scope of the Forest law. This stems from the institutional need to promote social inclusion through schemes that supplement the benefits of the Law.

At present, there is a portfolio of 80 PICs covering more than 400,000 ha and population scope of approximately 2,500 families of indigenous peoples and local communities on the poorest departments of Chaco, Salta and Santiago del Estero. The average forest cover in these territories is 90%, with management units of approximately 6,000 ha administered, on average, by more than 30 families. Details on the beneficiaries of Output A.2 are included in

Table 15.



Figure 17. Example of PIC in the province of Santiago del Estero (boundaries in white) with forest cover under traditional community use compared to the advancement of nearby private entrepreneurial activities

Reinforcing livelihood of these communities in their territories has a strategic value for the protection of forests and the attainment of the purposes of the Forest Law, the PANByCC and NDC, while having a Management Plan within the framework of the Forest Law provides the communities with tools to protect and enhance their territories and natural resources, through the recognition of areas subject to traditional and public use. These actions are intended to comply with the goals set under the avoided deforestation measure contained in the PANByCC, by giving livelihood opportunities to the communities living in the forests and which are forest-dependent. By doing so such actions would also support the reduction of “forced-migration” and displacement due to lack/reduced opportunities. Besides, in seeking to comply with the sustainable forest

management measure, it is considered that community management of forests offers a virtuous circle of protection of rights, commitments to manage beyond the specific plot of land and reinforcement of the sectors that best integrate their lives with forest cover preservation (**Error! No se encuentra el origen de la referencia.**).

The PICs are made up of users under different land tenure conditions: individual property, indigenous community property, condominiums, individual or collective possession, and occupants of state-owned lands. The owners are people who have title deeds registered in the provincial property and real estate registries, while possessors are people with a right over the land because they have traditionally and publicly occupied it for over 20 years, although they have no consolidated title deed, they often recognize themselves as "possessors with an owner's spirit". The occupants of public lands can be candidates for ownership, although they recognize that property of the land belongs to the province and they must request permits for use, occupation or eventual adjudication to the local Land Institutes.

These various forms of tenure are possible to address from the regulations of the Forest Law in agreement between the parties; communities and Local Enforcement Authorities in collaboration with other institutions with interference in land issues so that the former can have an approved forest management plan and thus obtain greater security in access to their livelihoods.

Activities included in this output are presented in Table 18:

Table 18. Activities included in output A.2

Activity	Goal
<p>A.2.1 Identification of eligible territories at the local level.</p> <p><i>Dissemination workshops and calls to communities so that they can submit expressions of interest. Calls for participation must be broad, in line with the gender plan, and include appropriate material to explain the management proposals involved in a PIC.</i></p>	<p>95 investment plans prepared and communities supported for the related on-the ground implementation*</p>
<p>A.2.2 Participatory development of the Integral community plans (PICs).</p> <p><i>It includes technical support for the formulation of the PICs (through participatory and inclusive gender responsive workshops, following the General Procedures of the Forest Law and including necessary forest inventory steps) and of the investment plan, the subsequent submission to the ALA.</i></p> <p><i>All decision-making on the proposed management scheme and requested investments will have to be recorded in a register book, with signature of the participants or of the representatives that the community elects in an assembly. Copies of these records must be submitted to the ALA, together with the PIC, as back-up documents agreed to by the beneficiaries so the authorities can provide for approval thereof. The plan must be submitted by an authorized professional, registered in the province's professional council.</i></p>	
<p>A.2.3 Support for managing community forest rights at the provincial level.</p> <p><i>The approved plan must respect the legal conditions of the applicants. If these do not hold ownership of the land, actions to protect this right must be promoted, such as the inclusion of applicants in registers of holders or any other similar instruments that the province may have. The Forest Law does not require ownership of the land as a condition for approval of a Management Plan, and the Management Plan ensures the right to use the resource through temporary forest tenure, throughout the plan's duration, that can be renewed after it expires.</i></p>	
<p>A.2.4 Implementation of community investment plans.</p> <p><i>These investments are expected to strengthen the structure and inclusion of the communities, through small works and goods that not only enhance native forest production and/or regeneration but especially improve living conditions.</i></p> <p><i>These include small size civil works to enhance access to water, increasing climate</i></p>	

resilience (for example through rainwater reservoirs or wells systems, all in full respect of environmental safeguards), for sustainable productive management (for example wire fences for cattle management and forest protection or apiaries and supplies for beekeeping), activities aimed at boosting the growth of the forest mass and regeneration of native forests, safety equipment, cooking stoves and supplies for horticultural family production to increase food security. Implementation includes also training, procurement of inputs, products and services.

* This goal has been calculated considering an average extension of 6 000 ha per PIC, reaching a total goal of 95 plots (567,209 ha). This scope will be adjusted based on the final budget assigned.

In this respect, this component **seeks to expand the scope of the PICs, considering the experience and lessons learned by the Forests and Community Project, to the national level, fostering productive use through the implementation of sustainable forest management plans that are beneficial to small producers, indigenous peoples and local communities.**

At the local level, this output will contribute to **ensuring forest tenure** by the communities at the territorial level, strengthening local communities in their organization, formal marketing of forest goods and services, and approaches to favour persistence of the communities in their territories and low-emission sustainable production.

The activities of this output will be of national scope and **will be prioritized provinces with higher percentages of vulnerable rural communities and greater pressure on native forests.** This includes the forest regions of *Parque Chaqueño*, *Paranaense* Rainforest and Argentine *Yungas*, , and the provinces of the Andean-Patagonian Forest, as well as the Argentine *Monte* and Argentine *Espinal* regions, which have large population of indigenous peoples.

The direct participants will be **indigenous peoples and local communities and small family farmers**, most of whom live in poverty. The project estimates that it will provide support to 95 communities in the preparation of their PICs. Thus, the targeted communities will gain access to works, goods, equipment, training and information. The project will be implemented through five investment and application areas.

ALAs may promote calls for communities to submit statements of interest during the first three years of implementation of the proposal. The applications shall be reviewed by local and national consultative authorities prior to the award of technical support for the preparation of the PIC. The processes for hiring technical assistance shall be conducted by MAYDS, and the deliverables shall include: the PIC, prepared via participatory processes duly documented and submitted to the provincial jurisdiction for final approval; and a plan of investments and activities prioritized by the beneficiary community.

For territory-based calls for statements of interest, training of technical plan developers and follow-up of projects, the province will be supported by the National Programme on Forest Extension, which will be expanded with resources coming out of the 28% of funding allocated to the national level, according to the proposed benefit-sharing scheme.

Selection criteria:

Social: Indigenous peoples, or belonging to a peasant or small groups of producers; Communities under poverty; Interest in community work; and Community forest territories belonging to any of the three conservation categories of the Forest Law.

Environmental: Community territories with abundant forest cover; Boundary sharing between properties of the proponents; and high forest conservation value.

For the implementation of activities, it is also necessary to have a PIC written and agreed by the main stakeholders, regardless if its formulation has been financed by the project or by other sources.

Steps and entities involved in the decision-making process through which local interventions will be selected is reported in section C.2.5 of this funding proposal.

B. Forest Management with Integrated Livestock – MBGI

As a consequence of the increase in cash crop agriculture, livestock farming has expanded to forest areas,

thus exerting greater pressure on native forests.

With a view to eliminating any incompatibilities between livestock farming and the preservation of forest integrity, in 2015, the MAYDS (in that year known as SAYDS) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP) entered into a Technical Agreement for Forest Management with Integrated Livestock pursuant to the Forest Law, which is still in force.

The purpose of the agreement is to establish native forest intervention thresholds regarding forestry-livestock systems to ensure the continuity of the forest ecosystem services by implementing best practices; harmonize both ministries' development policies and create synergies among instruments available for the promotion of livestock programmes, the FNECBN and other sources.

Therefore, a National Technical Committee was created, which comprises the relevant areas of each ministry and the Argentine Institute for Agricultural Technology ([INTA](#) for its acronym in Spanish). Moreover, ten Argentine provinces executed voluntary agreements for the implementation of a National Plan for Forest Management with Integrated Livestock for the *Parque Chaqueño* and Andean-Patagonian Forest regions, where there is livestock farming and a higher number of silvopastoral systems (Figure 18).

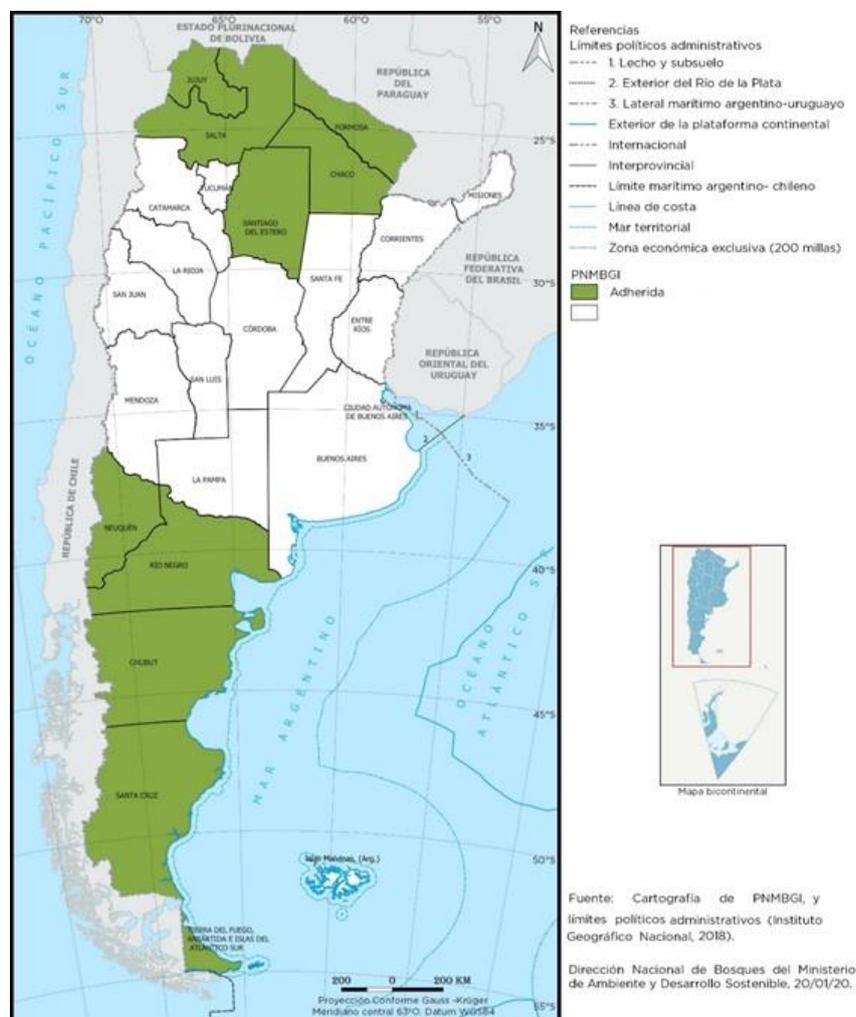


Figure 18. Map of the provinces that executed the Technical Agreement for Integrated Livestock and Forest Management.
Source: DNB, MAYDS

Within this context, **MBGI is an alternative to make livestock farming compatible with forest conservation at the plot of land level and beyond**, such as the landscape or regional level, so as to avoid deforestation and reduce the fragmentation of the native forest, while maintaining and enhancing the integrity of ecosystems and their services. Also, MBGI seeks to maintain and improve the productivity of the ecosystem, contributing to the communities' well-being. The following are the basic agreements enshrined in an MBGI Plan:

- Protect at least 10% of the area considered a biodiversity reserve that cannot be used for livestock farming, so as to maintain the genetic wealth of existing fauna. The protected area must be that of greater biodiversity value.
- The aim is to maintain the structure and function of forests in the intervention area, preserving all diametric tree classes and at least 30% of the shrub cover. The intensity of interventions should be lower if there are other areas that can be used as pasture lands outside the forest.
- Sustainable planning of livestock and forestry, adjusting animal carrying capacities, rotation and rest schemes, planning intervention frequency and outlining a forest management plan targeted to resource maintenance and recovery.
- Native or non-invasive alien species could be sown to increase the foraging capacity.
- Furthermore, the plan should also include a fire prevention plan. And moreover, it should include the proper planning of water sources distribution for animal farming to avoid any damages to the forest.
- Apply adaptive management approaches through monitoring, and adjust activities to guarantee the sustainability of all system components.

Furthermore, MBGI plans must include a system for the prevention and control of fires in native forests and associated grasslands. Such system should include specific actions for prompt control, as a mean to prevent or limit the impact of fires in the ecosystem.

In summary, the MBGI agreement defines certain country principles and guidelines that include: (i) minimum elements to be included in the management plans; (ii) maintenance of exclusive areas for conservation; (iii) maintenance of all the layers of the forest structure and conservation of fauna; (iv) regular monitoring; (v) limitation of livestock management to the actual possibilities, taking into account any year-on-year variability; (vi) prevention and control of forest fires; and (vii) enhanced management of water sources.

Provincial Technical Committees should propose the required threshold adaptations based on the different types of forests, according to the classification made by each jurisdiction, and these should be validated as appropriate by the National Technical Committee.

B.1 Livestock farmers implement models of forest management with integrated livestock

The purpose of this output is to implement the National Plan for Forest Management with Integrated Livestock by funding projects targeted to the private sector to promote transformational practices (Table 19). To such end, there is a set of measures to not only implement less intense interventions, but also support the development of differentiated market strategies for products derived from lands where MBGI is applied. These measures include, among others, the development of certifications of sustainable meat and other schemes, and the commercial development of native pasture seeds to gradually replace the current use of cultivated pastures.

Table 19. Activities included in output B.1

Activity	Goal
<p>B.1.1 Generation and request of interest from the ALA for submission of projects on MBGI.</p> <p><i>Prior to this call, each province must have voluntarily signed the Technical Agreement for Forest Management with Integrated Livestock, have set up their own Provincial MBGI Technical Committee, and must have defined their MBGI standards, with the support of the National Technical Committee. In the calls for submission of projects, the local MBGI guidelines must be clearly communicated to make sure the applicants understand the management proposals to be implemented. A specific environmental and social impact framework would be developed as part of the diagnostic work on diagnosing and scoping investment opportunities in MBGI.</i></p>	
<p>B.1.2 Formulation of MBGI projects at the provincial level. Includes professional support service for the formulation of the plan following the general procedures of the Forest Law and the MBGI Technical Guidelines locally adopted.</p> <p><i>The plan must be presented by a professional registered in the province's professional council and be accompanied by the proposed investment plan (technical support for the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of the plan; rural services; division of farms into plots). MBGI projects will be formulated taking into account environmental standards included in the National</i></p>	

<p><i>Principles and Guidelines for MBGI, defined within the framework of the Forest Law. MBGI plans must be developed in accordance with three sustainability principles: a) The productive capacity of the ecosystem must be maintained or improved; b) The integrity of the ecosystem and its ecosystem services must be maintained or improved; c) The well-being of the communities associated with its use must be maintained or improved (details included in the ESMF). Additionally, all formulation and implementation plans will have to be undertaken in full respect of the environmental and social management framework (see ESMF, FP Annex 3, for details).</i></p>	<p>92 Plots of land*</p>
<p>B.1.3 Implementation of MBGI projects <i>The activity will also include training and investments in supplies, tools and civil works (cattle fences, forest protection fences, small rainwater reservoirs) and rural services (mechanized silvicultural interventions for forage improvement) for the application of low intensity treatments. Investments will be made through procurement of services and goods by the Executing Entity. Implementation of MBGI projects will be undertaken following National Principles and Guidelines for MBGI and will have to be fully consistent with the ESMF of this project (see above, and ESMF, FP Annex 3, for details).</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, this item includes actions of engagement of the national private and public financial sector to explore the feasibility of developing financial products attuned to the characteristics and needs of MBGI implementation (cash flows, tenors, needs, repayment periods). In addition to documenting the environmental and economic performance of producers using MBGI systems in contrast with standard silvopastoral systems, the project will raise awareness of these results by sharing information with public and private providers of finance to livestock producers, with a view to explore ways to facilitate access to finance for those producers and incentivize further uptake of MBGI. Further, the project will explore ways to expand access to financing for small and medium size enterprises and producers.</i></p>	

* This goal has been calculated considering an average extension of 3 000 ha per plot, reaching a total goal of 92 plots (276,612 ha). This scope will be adjusted based on the final budget assigned.

For MBGI implementation purposes, the provinces that signed MBGI Provincial Agreements will submit the priority projects to the Local Technical Committees, which include authorities of the forest and livestock areas and representatives of the relevant sectoral institutions. Projects will be selected primarily through the Local Technical Committees. At inception phase, and once formed, these committees will establish environmental, social and gender criteria with the support of project experts so as to score the projects and award them. Among the projects to be prioritized are those that improve the thresholds established for forest management in each province, projects presented by women, projects that maintain a greater area of forests under conservation, proponents with less investment capacity and MBGI projects located in OTBN green areas that choose MBGI when faced with the possibility of land use change.

These proposed projects will be then selected by the National Technical Committee, formed by MAYDS, MAGyP, INTA and the private sector, pursuant to the committee’s prioritization criteria. Steps and entities involved in the decision-making process through which local interventions will be selected is reported in section C.2.5 of this funding proposal.

MBGI projects will focus on areas where pressure on forests due to livestock farming is more significant, in particular the *Parque Chaqueño* and the Andean-Patagonian forest regions. Also, at the local level, priority will be given to areas with the highest number of interventions in the form of traditional silvopastoral practices.

MBGI projects will be targeted to small and medium-sized farmers as described in table “Types of beneficiaries by output”; these beneficiaries might require technical and financial support to change traditional cattle production within forests into sustainable livestock forestry systems – therefore reducing the impact on the native forests. Large farmers with an investment capacity will be excluded from financial support, but they may still receive technical support, as required, to implement these projects.

C. Enhanced response to forest fires

This component is intended to prepare the institutions and the vulnerable ecosystems to prevent and fight forest fires by determining fire risks, prevention and operational planning. These actions will be

complemented with activities in project components A, B and D related to or catalytic towards enhanced response to forest fires. Project Components A and B, as described in previous pages, relate to the implementation of management guidelines at the basin, community or farm level. They focus on adopting sustainable practices, addressing the causes of deforestation, including forest fires. Fostering and supporting enhanced territorial management with the beneficiaries, Components A and B will contribute to address the anthropic causes of forest fires. Component D will also contribute to strengthening forest fires response, through improvements of the early fire detection systems at national and local level.

C.1 Institutions and communities involved have capacity of response to forest fires.

Uncontrolled fire management, lack of coordination among government bodies responsible for the detection and suppression of fires, besides scarce human resources and the weaknesses of forest management schemes are all barriers and threats to native forests in Argentina. Only in 2017, over [500,000 ha of native forests were affected by forest fires](#). This action is intended to address the above issues and reduce the vulnerability of the native forests to the threat of forest fires (Table 20).

In line with the PANByCC, this **output consists in implementing strategic plans, to reduce (fine and coarse) fuel, and other prevention activities, such as fire-breaks. Also, the aim is to increase the response capacity of the teams responsible for initial attacks on wildfires in the provinces at greatest risk.** Although a more detailed geographical scope will be identified at inception phase, the output will aim at supporting institutions and communities **in forest regions with higher impact of forest fires**, for example Andean-Patagonian Forest and Argentine *Espinal* regions

Unlike other outputs, fire prevention plans are strategic institutional plans where the higher risk areas are identified and addressed at the provincial level. The plan's activities and management are not carried out by the users/holders of forest areas, but by ALAs, that are in charge of planning actions such as establishing fire-break roads and purchasing equipment for the prevention and control of fires. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the local population must be involved in planned activities, must be aware of these activities and must agree to their implementation, for example, by giving permission to enter property. These participatory processes will be carried out by promoting meetings and workshops and they will be called and conducted by local authorities.

Table 20. Activities included in output C.2

Activities	Goal	Unit
<p>C.1.1 Participatory design of forest fire prevention plans. <i>Forest fire prevention plans are an activity that must be identified and planned at the institutional level, since scattered efforts of individual farmers are not necessarily effective in preventing the spread of fire once it starts. Therefore, prevention plans must be executed at the territorial level, covering large areas and crossing different properties. For their implementation, forest holders must agree to having firefighting teams enter their properties, reduce combustion and set up firebreaks. Likewise, outreach activities should include training on how to maintain fire trails and what to do in the event of a fire.</i></p>	6	Provinces
<p>C.1.2 Field activities to implement the prevention plan, including investments in rural services such as opening fire trails and firebreaks, and purchase of equipment for forest fire initial attack. All the investments will be made through procurement of services and goods by the Executing Entity.</p>		

Selection criteria:

- Fire risk
- Severity of native forest fire impact

D. National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor forest and control are strengthened

The activities under this component are intended to ensure that institutions are capable of implementing and maintaining actions to fight against the direct drivers of deforestation.

D.1 Provincial governments have institutional, forest monitoring and control capabilities

This output will provide for investments to enhance the monitoring and control capabilities of the provincial jurisdictions. This may include equipment for control on the ground, such as trucks for the staff responsible for inspections, or equipment for forest stations and control posts, including IT technology, radios and/or connectivity equipment in rural zones (Table 21).

ALAs will submit to MAYDS any support requests to strengthen their monitoring and control capabilities as required, and MAYDS will be responsible for purchasing the equipment.

This output will be applied nation-wide. Provided they submit an investment plan, all the provinces shall be entitled to request access to the necessary equipment. The ALAs of the Forest Law that apply for support to strengthen their monitoring and oversight systems will be the beneficiaries of this output.

Table 21. Activities included in output D.1

Activity	Goal & unit
D.1.1 Strengthening of Local Enforcement Authorities to improve their technical and operational inspection and control capabilities. <i>Capacity strengthening with regards to forest monitoring, control and oversight. Includes purchasing of equipment to access IT systems, vehicles for ground inspection and oversight materials.</i>	23 provincial governments with improved monitoring and control capabilities

D.2 National government has institutional forest promoting, monitoring and control capabilities

The subcomponent of capacity strengthening at the national level includes activities that supplement the direct investments made within the framework of the other components. Such activities help to create enabling conditions to ensure that climate change mitigation goals will be met and the intended socio-environmental benefits will be generated. These actions include the activities shown in Table 22.

Table 22. Activities included in output D.2

Activity	Goal & unit
D.2.1 Improvement of regulations, standards and public policies. <i>Efforts will be made at the national level, in coordination with the provinces, to create conditions that may facilitate the use of forest resources by indigenous peoples and local communities.</i>	Regulatory and public policy at national level improved. Improve knowledge of forests, carbon dynamics and sustainable management.
D.2.2 Increasing of forest extension capacities (SFM, MBGI and participatory processes mainstreaming gender). <i>This will be achieved through the creation of a National Programme on Forest Extension (PNEF, in its Spanish acronym). DNB has a group of professionals located at different strategic points across the country, who provide a range of services, mainly including but not limited to: training and monitoring the plans funded by the Forest Law; developing management plans for communities; supporting the planning of strategic approaches at the forest basin level; providing forest services such as inventory and marking; obtaining extraction permits for small farmers. PNEF seeks to enlarge this body of professionals nationwide, so as to facilitate territory-based implementation of the activities in this proposal. The PNEF will be coordinated by the National Directorate of Forests (DNB), whilst its new staff will be hired by the Project Management Unit throughout the project's duration. This type of support will focus on providing communities, owners and plan</i>	Greater knowledge of forest management plans as a contribution to climate change mitigation (through REDD+), by authorities, technicians and communities at the national and local levels. Improve of MRV capacities at national level. Better economic performance of forest projects nationwide. Improvement of the livelihoods

<p><i>developers with training on plan development and follow-up, especially regarding the activities proposed and the application of the associated safeguard policies. In addition, they will support local jurisdictions in monitoring and evaluating plans, and will also be a part of the consultative structures during the implementation of the funding proposal. The goal of PNEF is to promote the territorial outreach of the public policies developed within the framework of the Forest Law and the PANByCC.</i></p> <p><i>This activity also includes targeted trainings to achieve successful forest promotion, monitoring and control, for government staff, including activities associated with the gender plan.</i></p>	<p>of forest communities with emphasis on rural women.</p>	
<p>D.2.3 Follow-up, evaluation and knowledge management, including forest carbon dynamics, forest management, social and cultural dynamics associated with use of forests, mainstreaming the gender perspective. <i>The purpose of this subcomponent is to gain a deeper knowledge of forest dynamics and of variations in the associated carbon content, to develop research for management and monitoring, social and cultural regarding use of forests mainstreaming gender and to conduct value chain studies. Agreements with academic institutions, state research agencies and consulting services will be promoted for follow-up and evaluation of the actions carried out and for knowledge management.</i></p>		
<p>D.2.4 Continuous improvement of Argentina’s NFMS, FREL, SIS-AR and consistency with SNI-GEI-AR. <i>This activity is expected to broaden the nationwide reach of the NFMS and the MRV system, including enhancement of monitoring and early detection of fires impacting native forest, as well as the safeguards information system.</i></p> <p><i>Technical and institutional capacities will be strengthened, so that the tools and information developed can be used by decision-makers for preventing any activities that may hinder the conservation and sustainable use of forests, including fire early detection and prevention; establish an efficient forest project follow-up system, strengthen national and local capabilities for developing, implementing and monitoring forest projects under the Forest Law, and ensure consistency between monitoring instruments for the follow-up of REDD+ activities. New tools shall be developed to automate monitoring, to obtain additional information on forest degradation and recovery, and forest monitoring at the basin level. It is expected that updated information on the state of forests will be collected, thus providing continuity to the National Native Forest Inventory, enhancing the Early Warning System and the monitoring of forest fires. The new information generated is expected to improve and enhance country capacities in relation to measuring, monitoring and reporting emissions reduced through REDD+ activities, in addition to the FREL update and the preparation of a new REDD+ Technical Annex. Resources will also be allocated to enhance the SNI-GEI-AR, accountability of ER and to facilitate the introduction of obligatory regulations for reporting to the REDD-plus national registry, the SIS-AR and for future NDC revisions and the development of long-term low-emission mitigation strategies (LTS) for the AFOLU sector.</i></p>		
<p>D.2.5 Market development and financing options, considering the needs of vulnerable groups. <i>This activity is expected to accompany the economic performance of the projects developed, through National Market Service of Timber Products, promoting purchase agreements, linking legal timber offer with buyers on-demand in transformation centers and developing of business strategies between forest basins and consumer centers. The marketing service supports commercial processes among the different stakeholders associated with the</i></p>		

products developed in the projects promoted by this proposal as fair price agreements at different stages of the value chain and linkage of basin businesses with remote markets. This activity is intended to start during the project implementation stage. A further intended goal is to develop special market strategies for new timber and non-timber products, including (large and small) livestock farming in forests. On financing, the project will connect producers with alternative sources of financing and financial instruments. Activities will pay particular attention to barriers faced by women, indigenous peoples, local communities, producers, and will involve other relevant stakeholders along the supply chains.

D.2.6 Supplementary strategic investments in forest basins, PIC and special projects, including to strengthen rural women engagement. *This activity includes complementary or synergistic investments that will depend on the PICs and plans selected and developed in the first phase under components A, B, and C and that therefore will start only in the last three years of implementation of the project.*

The interventions under D.2.6 therefore will target scaling up and expanding the scope of positive interventions which after an initial positive phase and if aggregated, could result into an enhanced value and impact. More in the specific the activity aims at:

- Providing support to inter-jurisdictional projects (e.g.: forest restoration in basins shared between provinces)*
- Supporting PIC groups that require shared investments in a nearby territory (e.g. construction of a honey harvesting room, provision of equipment and capacity strengthening for fire prevention)*
- Providing more investment as required by the basins that are considered strategic for better environmental, economic and social performance, and that were not included due to a limitation in the maximum budget originally estimated for the basin, it has not been able to cover a certain investment.*

- Creating a support programme for rural women in forests at the national level, aimed at organizations of indigenous and local community women from different parts of the country that can set the foundations for a larger support programme. At a first stage, USD 4,000,000 of the funds available under activity D.6 are scheduled to be used. Investments may be requested - through expressions of interest - by the provinces, beneficiaries, or identified by the ANA and proposed to the corresponding jurisdictions.*

Budgets were allocated to each of these components **seeking to strike a balance between having an impact across large territories (e.g. through the forest basins or fire prevention plans) and causing a deep transformation of land management approaches and reducing pressure on forests (e.g. with the PICs and MBGI).** The rationale of the final allocation is to generate a sufficient number of profound interventions (PICs, MBGI), while creating conditions in larger territories and in the State’s capability to support these processes as necessary to scale up and multiply the specific but more transformational interventions. The budget breakdown presented in section C.2.4 is the fruit of the considerations described in the paragraph and sections above, and of the results of the feedback received by relevant stakeholders during the consultation process (see section E.1.3 for details)

The table below summarizes outputs and activities of this proposal (the columns SSP and SOP refer to the relevant PANByCC strategic structural and operational pillars).

Table 23. Expected outputs of the project

Component	Output	Activity	SSP	SOP	Outcome
A. Territorial forest management	A.1. “Sustainable forest basins” for timber and non-timber products established	A.1.1 Preparation of integrated management plans for the sustainable forest basins and their value chains (timber and other non-timber forest products). Leading EE: MAyDS	1,2,3,4	6,7,8	7 basins with a study, a plan and specific investments operational on the ground
		A.1.2 Preparation of strategic forest management plans within the sustainable forest basin. Leading EE: MAyDS			
		A.1.3 Implementation of specific timber and non-timber sustainable production investments, pursuant to the integrated management and the strategic forest management plans. Leading EE: FAO			
	A.2. Local communities manage their collective territories through PICs, according to regulations in force and in a sustainable manner	A.2.1 Identification of eligible territories at the local level. Leading EE: MAyDS	1,2,4	6,7,8,9	95 investment plans prepared and communities supported for the related on-the ground implementation
		A.2.2 Participatory development of the Integral community plans (PICs) Leading EE: MAyDS			
		A.2.3 Support for managing community forest rights at the provincial level. Leading EE: MAyDS			
		A.2.4 Implementation of community investment plans. Leading EE: MAyDS			
B. Forest management with integrated livestock (MBGI in its Spanish acronym)	B.1. Livestock farmers implement models of forest management with integrated livestock	B.1.1 Generation and request of interest from the ALA for submission of projects on MBGI. Leading EE: MAyDS	5	7,8	92 plots of land with MBGI plans
		B.1.2 Formulation of MBGI projects at the provincial level (technical support for plan formulation until plan’s submission to ALA for approval Leading EE: FAO			
		B.1.3 Implementation of MBGI projects (including training and investments on supplies, rural services and productive tools and civil works) Leading EE: MAyDS			
C. Enhanced response to forest fires	C.1. Institutions and communities	C.1.1 Participatory design of forest fire prevention plans Leading EE: FAO	4,6	10	6 provinces with forest fire prevention plans

	involved have capacity of response to forest fires	C.1.2 Field activities to implement the prevention plan (firewall paths, reduction of combustible material and purchasing of equipment for forest fire initial response) Leading EE: MAyDS			and capacity of response to forest fires
D. National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor forest and control are strengthened	D.1. Provincial governments have institutional forest monitoring and control capabilities	D.1.1 Strengthening of Local Enforcement Authorities to improve their technical and operational inspection and control capabilities. Leading EE: FAO	3		23 provincial governments with improved monitoring and control capabilities
	D.2. National government has institutional forest promoting, monitoring and control capabilities	D.2.1 Regulatory, statutory and public policy improvement Leading EE: MAyDS	1,2,3, 4,5	6,7	Regulatory and public policy at national level improved Improve knowledge of forests, carbon dynamics and sustainable management. Greater knowledge of forest management plans with REDD + approaches, by authorities, technicians and communities at the national and local levels. Improve of MRV capacities at national level.
		D.2.2 Increase of forest extension capabilities (SFM, MBGI and participatory processes mainstreaming gender), and targeted training to government staff, including activities associated with the gender plan. Leading EE: MAyDS			
		D.2.3 Follow-up, evaluation and knowledge management, including forest carbon dynamics, forest management, social and cultural dynamics associated with use of forests, mainstreaming the gender perspective Leading EE: FAO			
		D.2.4 Continuous improvement of Argentina's NFMS, FREL, SIS-AR, emission scenarios and mitigation measures Leading EE: FAO			
		D.2.5 Market development and financing options, considering the needs of vulnerable groups Leading EE: FAO			
		D.2.6 Supplementary strategic investments in forest basins, PICs and special projects directed to rural women Leading EE: MAyDS	Better economic performance of forest projects nationwide. Improvement of the livelihoods of forest communities with emphasis on rural women.		

Mitigating the risks identified in the ESMF.

As part of the preparation of the activities and outputs mentioned in this section, the Project – through the Project Management Unit, its partners and beneficiaries - will take into consideration the risks identified in the ESMF and, at inception phase and formulation phase of each sub-project in the components A, B, C, further develop and assign specific funding for the risk mitigation measures to be implemented. Component D on strengthening capacities of key stakeholders at national and provincial level will also embed attention to risk mitigation efforts.

C.2.3. Timeframe of implementation (for monitoring and reporting purposes):

Completion of the activities proposed is estimated in an **overall timeframe of six years**, including an expected inception phase of 6 months. Year of intended completion per component is reported according to Table 24. Financial closure, following FAO internal rules and regulations, will happen six months after the closure of the operations.

Table 24. Timeframe of project implementation

Component	Output	Activity	Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Y 6
A. Territorial forest management	A.1. “Sustainable forest basins” for timber and non-timber products established	A.1.1						
		A.1.2						
		A.1.3						
	A.2. Local communities manage their collective territories through PICs, according to regulations in force and in a sustainable manner	A.2.1						
		A.2.2						
		A.2.3						
		A.2.4						
B. Forest management with integrated livestock	B.1. Livestock farmers implement models of forest management with integrated livestock	B.1.1						
		B.1.2						
		B.1.3						
C. Enhanced response to forest fires	C.1. Institutions and communities involved have capacity of response to forest fires.	C.1.1						
		C.1.2						
D. National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor forest and control are strengthened	D.1. Provincial governments have institutional forest monitoring and control capabilities	D.1.1						
		D.2.1						
	D.2. National government has institutional forest promoting, monitoring and control capabilities	D.2.2						
		D.2.3						
		D.2.4						
		D.2.5						
D.2.6								

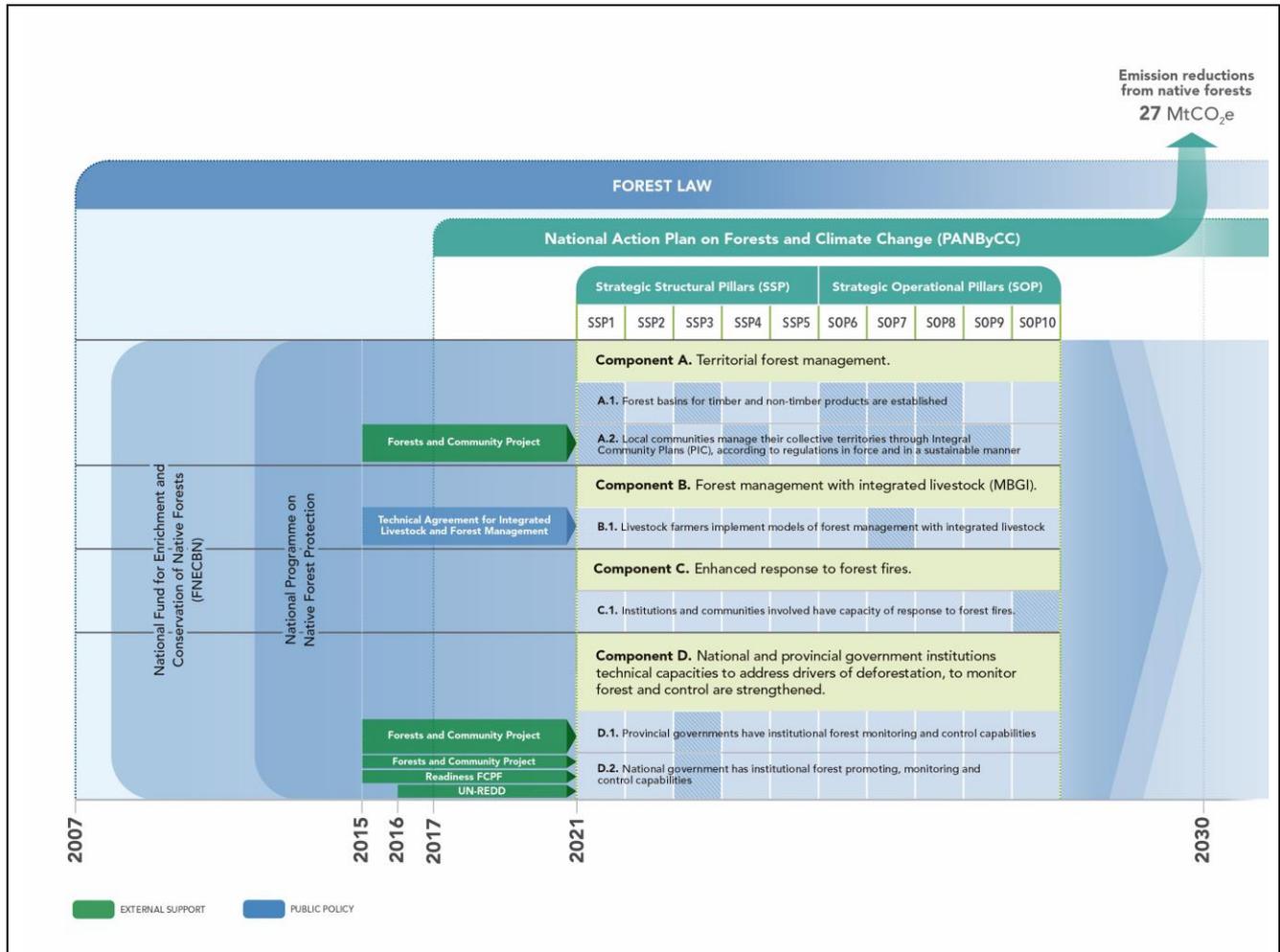


Figure 19. Timeline of project activities and external support and public policies scheme *Full size graphic available in Annex 7)*

C.2.4. Budget estimate (for monitoring and reporting purposes):

Following the procedures included in the Terms of Reference for the REDD+ Results-based Payments Pilot Programme, the Funding Proposal was technically assessed by the iTAP, which in its assessment report indicated: Carbon elements score 41/48 and all criteria “pass”; Non-carbon elements all criteria “pass”, use of proceeds and non-carbon benefits score of 2. The iTAP recommended that the Board consider the following:

- (a) GCF volume of emission reductions: 20,542,281.2 tCO₂eq tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) [for the 24,049,500 tCO₂eq offered by Argentina in the version of the FP submitted for iTAP assessment, prior to the communication on the special circumstances linked to the ending phase of the financial envelop of the GCF REDD+ RBP Pilot Programme];
- (b) Additional 2.5 per cent for use of proceeds and non-carbon elements; and
- (c) Proposed REDD-plus RBP (USD 5/tCO₂eq): \$105,279,191.

However, given the special circumstances linked to the ending phase of the financial envelop of the REDD+ Results-based Payments Pilot Programme communicated by the GCF Secretariat, the total funding available volume assigned and available for Argentina confirmed by the GCF amounts to **\$82,000,000**.

As a consequence, and as reported in details in Section A, the volume of ER offered to the GCF RBP programme is 18,731,707 tCO₂eq, with additional 7,492,683 tCO₂eq set aside as an interim mechanism to manage risks of reversals (see section A of this FP for details).

Argentina may choose to include the remaining \$23,279,191 as part of a subsequent proposal at a later Board meeting/phase of the REDD+ Results-based Payments Programme.

Table 25 provides a detailed breakdown of the \$82,000,000 project budget.

Table 25. Indicative budget of this proposal

Component	Output	Activity	Indicative cost (USD)	Use of pr. %	Tot bud. %
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A. Territorial forest management	A.1. “Sustainable forest basins” for timber and non-timber products established	A.1.1 Preparation of integrated management plans for the sustainable forest basins and their value chains (timber and other non-timber forest products).	\$ 1,089,586	15.9	94.7
		A.1.2 Preparation of strategic forest management plans within the sustainable forest basin.	\$ 1,089,586		
		A.1.3 Implementation of specific timber and non-timber sustainable production investments, pursuant to the integrated management and the strategic forest management plans.	\$ 10,869,761		
		Subtotal A.1	\$ 13,048,933		
	A.2. Local communities manage their collective territories through PICs, according to regulations in force and in a sustainable manner	A.2.1 Identification of eligible territories at the local level.	\$ 105,039	25.6	
		A.2.2 Participatory development of the Integral community plans (PICs)	\$ 1,890,696		
		A.2.3 Support for managing community forest rights at the provincial level.	\$ 105,039		
		A.2.4 Implementation of community investment plans.	\$ 18,906,959		
		Subtotal A.2	\$ 21,007,733		
Total A			\$ 34,056,666	41.5	
B. Forest management with integrated livestock	B.1. Livestock farmers implement sustainable models of forest management with integrated livestock	B.1.1 Generation and request of interest from the ALA for submission of projects on MBGI.	\$ 207,200	12.63	
		B.1.2 Formulation of MBGI projects at the provincial level (technical support for plan formulation until plan’s submission to ALA for approval	\$ 932,400		
		B.1.3 Implementation of MBGI projects (including training and investments on supplies, rural services and productive tools and civil works)	\$ 9,220,400		
Total B			\$ 10,360,000	12.63	
C. Enhanced response to forest fires	C.1. Institutions and communities involved have capacity of response to forest fires.	C.1.1 Participatory design of forest fire prevention plans	\$ 1,476,000	9	
		C.1.2 Field activities to implement the prevention plan (firewall paths, reduction of combustible material and purchasing of equipment for forest fire initial response)	\$ 5,904,000		
Total C			\$ 7,380,000	9	
D. National and provincial government institutions technical capacities to address drivers of deforestation, to monitor forest and	D.1. Provincial governments have institutional forest monitoring and control capabilities	D.1.1 Strengthening of Local Enforcement Authorities to improve their technical and operational inspection and control capabilities.	\$ 3,690,000	4.5	
		Subtotal D.1	\$ 3,690,000		
	D.2. National government has institutional forest promoting, monitoring and control capabilities	D.2.1 Regulatory, statutory and public policy improvement	\$ 1,107,000	27	
		D.2.2 Increase of forest extension capabilities (SFM, MBGI and participatory processes	\$ 5,535,000		

control are strengthened	mainstreaming gender), and targeted training to government staff, including activities associated with the gender plan.				
	D.2.3 Follow-up, evaluation and knowledge management, including forest carbon dynamics, forest management, social and cultural dynamics associated with use of forests, mainstreaming the gender perspective		\$ 2,214,000		
	D.2.4 Continuous improvement of Argentina's NFMS, FREL, SIS-AR, emission scenarios and mitigation measures		\$ 3,321,000		
	D.2.5 Market development and financing options, considering the needs of vulnerable groups		\$ 3,321,000		
	D.2.6 Supplementary strategic investments in forest basins, PICs and special projects directed to rural women		\$ 6,642,000		
	Subtotal D.2		\$ 22,140,000		
Total D			\$ 25,830,000	31.5	
Project Management	Project Management Unit		\$ 1,694,667	5.3	
	Direct Support Cost		\$ 1,202,667		
	Provision of supervision services to the project		\$ 1,476,000		
Total PM			\$ 4,373,334		
Total Budget			\$ 82,000,000		

C.2.5. Implementation arrangements:

List and describe the institutions involved in the activities that will be funded with proceeds from this pilot programme, and explain their anticipated roles and interactions with one another, including the flow of funds.

The Government of Argentina, through MAYDS, has requested FAO's technical and overall assistance for the design and implementation of the REDD+ Results-Based Payments funding proposal package, with collaboration from UN Environment Programme (UNEP) as needed - mostly regarding safeguards, but also on issues related to private sector and markets.

The Government also specifically requested that FAO act as executing entity for this project; responding to such request, **FAO will serve both as Accredited Entity (AE) and Executing Entity (EE).**

As an AE of GCF, FAO **shall be responsible for the overall management, implementation and supervision of the Funded Activity.** FAO will do so through its Headquarters. FAO will carry out both **operational and administrative support activities**, as well as **advisory and technical support functions** during the implementation of the Project.

As EE, the FAO Argentina Country Office will carry out operational and administrative support activities which include the provision of the following services:

- Payments, disbursements and other financial transactions.
- Recruitment of staff, project personnel, and consultants.
- Procurement of services and equipment, including disposal.
- Organization of training activities, conferences, and workshops, including fellowships.
- Travel authorization, visa requests, ticketing, and travel arrangements.
- Shipment, customs clearance, vehicle registration, and accreditation, among others.

According to standard procedures, GCF and FAO will enter into a Funded Activity Agreement (FAA), under which FAO shall administer the relevant GCF Proceeds to be used for the financing of the Project, in accordance with the FAA and Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA).

Execution will be carried out in collaboration with a variety of partners as needed (an initial identification of which is reported in the “Project partners” paragraphs in this section).

FAO recognizes that successful development should be driven and owned by countries, as emphasized by Agenda 2030. At this purpose, to achieve the objectives of the project, while reinforcing capacities, ownership, sustainability and making the best use of expertise available on the ground, the project will be implemented through the FAO Operational Partner Implementation Modality (OPIM) with MAyDS. Under this modality, **FAO and the national counterpart (MAyDS)** enter into an Operational Partners Agreement (OPA), through which **MAyDS also become Executing Entity, together with FAO**. The agreement will follow the rules and procedures of FAO Manual Section 701 on OPIM.

Since its launch in 2015, OPIM has been increasingly used by FAO to implement its projects and programmes in conjunction with eligible operational partners. According to Manual Section 701.6.5.1 the MAyDS can be directly selected as Operational Partner, being a governmental entity. The assessment of MAyDS scored the risk linked to its capacities as “low”. There is a clear advantage to jointly deliver the project with MAyDS, as such approach will allow for complementarity of skills, capacity and expertise to achieve results between FAO and MAyDS, for better sustainability of project’s results also at project’s end, and for continuous capacity strengthening of this key national entity in implementing and monitoring climatic and environmental policies.

In accordance with the FAO Manual Section 701.8.1 *after signature of the Operational Partners Agreement, FAO is responsible for the monitoring of progress in achieving project/programme results, compliance with the agreed work plan, monitoring of risks and compliance with the conditions set out in the signed Operational Partners Agreement. This includes inter alia timely funds transfers and reporting, quality of reporting, verification of eligibility of expenditures incurred by the Operational Partner, compliance with the Risk Mitigation and Assurance Plan, and timely completion and follow-up on the results of Assurance Activities.*

In summary, it is herewith confirmed that **the Argentina REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014-2016 proposal has two co-EE: FAO and MAyDS.**

While the project will be implemented in partnership, **FAO and MAyDS detailed out a clear division of roles:**

- **FAO:** in addition to the AE and EE responsibilities mentioned in the paragraphs above, will provide technical support for the design and implementation of ground interventions as well to strengthen capacities of the counterpart and key stakeholders and beneficiaries, at different levels. Main areas of technical support will encompass: integrated land-use planning, sustainable forest management, community based forestry, restoration, and forest and land governance - in support of strategic integral forest basin management plans and Integral Community Plans; enhancement of practices on forest and livestock management, sustainable rural development and environmental and social safeguards – in support of Forest Management with Integrated Livestock; fire management – supporting institutions and communities strengthening their capacity of response to forest fires. Furthermore FAO expertise in REDD+, climate change mitigation, forest monitoring and MRV will be key areas of technical support within the framework of component D, enhancing the National Forest Monitoring System, updating Greenhouse Gas National Inventory, Forest Reference Emissions Level, NDC revision process and through targeted trainings for government staff, to achieve successful forest promotion, monitoring and control, including activities associated with the gender plan. *FAO will take leadership on the implementation of Activities: A.1.3, B.1.2, C.1.1, D.1.1, D.2.3, D.2.4, D.2.5.*
- **MAyDS,** as the technical entity responsible for forest public policies, including the PANByCC (i.e. the national REDD+ strategy) and REDD+ National Focal Point to UNFCCC, will have a key role in the articulation with key national platforms (for example the GNCC) and with the provinces through COFEMA. In addition MAyDS will deliver key efforts to strengthen capacities at territorial level and increasing of forest extension capabilities. As indicated in Figure 21 MAyDS will also be part of the Project Board (together with FAO, NDA, NPA and MAGyP) and from there it will support technical

oversight and management. Within M_AyDS, support for the project will be coordinated between the Ministry Unit, the Dirección Nacional de Bosques (National Directorate of Forests - DNB), and the Dirección Nacional de Cambio Climático (National Directorate of Climate Change - DNCC). *M_AyDS will take leadership on the implementation of Activities: A.1.1, A.1.2, A.2.1, A.2.2., A.2.3, A.2.4, B.1.1, B.1.3, C.1.2, D.2.1, D.2.2, D.2.6*

FAO may also enter into agreements with other organizations and entities (project partners) beyond M_AyDS, which may support the implementation of specific activities and achievement of project outputs on its behalf / in collaboration with it. These arrangements seek to facilitate and enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the project. These entities are accountable directly to the FAO and will be selected as per FAO Rules and Regulations. FAO may use the following instruments when entering into agreements with other partners (Figure 20):

- **UN to UN Agreement**, used when the need exists for transferring funds from FAO to another UN Agency for the purpose of programmatic activities. Following FAO rules and regulations, UN agencies will be contracted through UN to UN agreement as “service providers” (“procured parties”, using language from the GCF secretariat)
- **Letter of Agreement**: It is a contractual arrangement with academic or non-profit organizations to obtain specific technical services, governed by the FAO Manual Section 507 regulations.
- **Contracts (procurement actions)**: It is a contractual arrangement with private institutions to purchase goods or specific technical services, and governed by the procurement regulations of FAO (Manual Section 502)

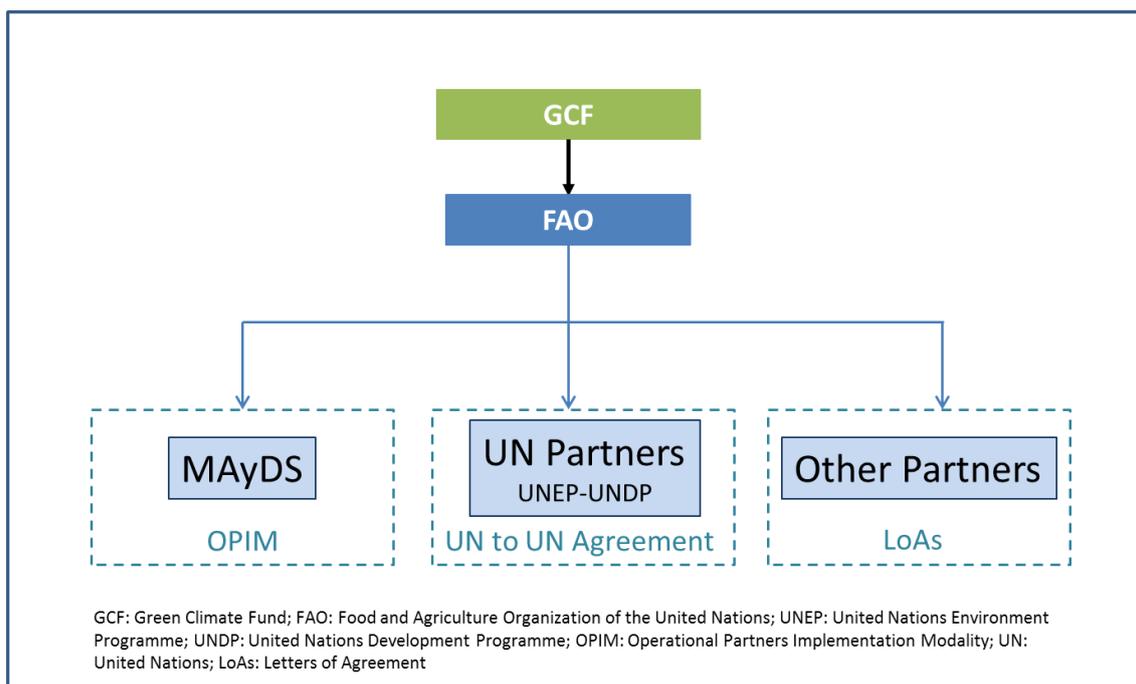
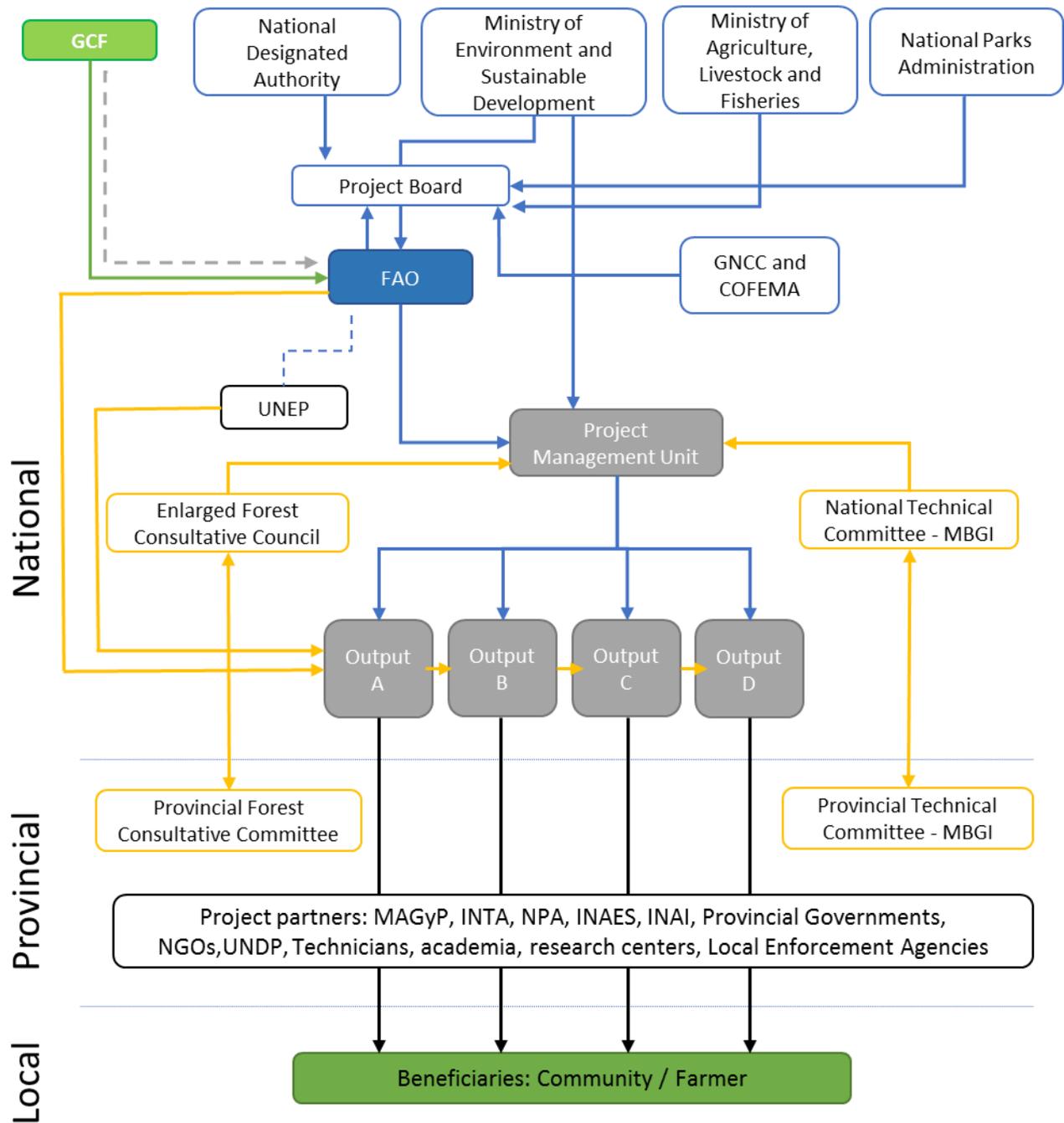


Figure 20. Project Flow of Funds to EEs and partners

The GCF and the FAO, shall enter into a FAA in due course. The FAA shall (A) incorporate the relevant terms and conditions of the Terms of Reference for the REDD+ RBP Pilot Programme adopted by Decision B.18/07 (“ToRs”), and (B) the terms of the AMA entered into by the Parties on 8 June 2018, and effective as of 4 October 2018. The arrangements to be entered into by the AE with the Host Country are described in more detail in the term sheet and will be reflected in the project agreement.

The **implementation arrangements** - described below and summarized in Figure 21 - include the Project Board, Project Management Unit, Enlarged Forest Consultative Council, National MBGI Committees and at the sub-national level the Provincial Forest Consultative Committee and Provincial MBGI Technical Committee and the initially identified project partners. Additionally, it should be noted that the GNCC in coordination with COFEMA, as platform for the federal dialogues and articulations, can be the decision-

making forums for establishing benefit-sharing arrangements and managing the ER volume within the framework of GCF.



GCF: Green Climate Fund; FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme; GNCC: National Climate Change Cabinet; COFEMA: Federal Environment Council; MBGI: Forest Management with Integrated Livestock; MAGyP: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; INTA: National Institute of Agricultural Technology; NPA: National Parks Administration; INAI: National Indigenous Affairs Institute; INAES: National Institute of Associativism and Social Economy, UNDP: United Nations Development Programme; NGOs: non-governmental organizations

Figure 21. Diagram of institutional arrangements proposed for the project

Project Board

The Project Board is the governance body that will provide overall guidance and direction to the project and will approve the Annual Work Plan (AWP). It is responsible for making management decisions by consensus or majority, when guidance is required by the Project Manager, including recommendations for FAO approval of project plans and revisions, and addressing any project-level claims. To ensure FAO's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions must be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. The following are the specific responsibilities of the Project Board:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
- Address project issues as raised by the project manager;
- Provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible countermeasures and management actions to address specific risks;
- Agree on project manager's authority levels, as required;
- Analyze and discuss the development of the Project activities and recommend changes as required, based on project monitoring and evaluation processes and outputs, and in line with FAO policies, such as AE;
- Discuss and approve the Annual Work Plans ensuring that required resources are committed;
- Evaluate the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating reports, and make recommendations for the work plan;
- Provide *ad hoc* guidance and advice for exceptional situations that to beyond the project manager's authority;
- Discuss and approve progress reports and the final project report;
- Analyze project achievements and ensure these are used for performance improvement, accountability and learning;
- Settle disputes within the project or negotiate a solution to any problems with external agencies.

Following the structure of other RBP projects implemented in the region, **the Board shall be composed of MAYDS, the National Directorate for Funding through International Financial Institutions (NDA), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP in its Spanish acronym), the National Parks Administration (NPA) and FAO.** FAO will also act as the Board's technical secretariat through the Project Manager. FAO will chair and organize Board meetings at least once a year or at the request of any of the Parties. MAYDS, as Chair of the Board, may consider including other relevant stakeholders. MAYDS will be responsible for articulating the projects implemented under this proposal and other multisectoral and territory-based activities, as well as for supporting coordination with and participation of territorial authorities..

Project Management Unit

Under the overall guidance of the Project Board, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating all Project activities. The PMU will have responsibility for, among others:

- Project operational planning, management and execution, including the direct supervision of project activities subcontracted to experts and other institutions;
- coordinating the management of financial resources and procurement;
- reporting on the use of resources and results achieved;
- preparing management reports for the Project Board, GCF, NDA and FAO, including annual reports and any proposals for the adaptive management of the Project, if required, and based on inputs from the Project M&E plan;
- promoting inter-institutional linkages; and
- disseminating project results.

The PMU will be headed by a Project Manager (PM), who will submit reports to the Project Board. The unit will also be composed of an appropriate technical and work team to ensure correct execution. The PM will be responsible for the overall management and implementation of the project's activities and for requesting disbursement of the Project's resources to the EEs for delivery. The PM is recruited by and directly reports to the FAO Budget Holder and is also technically accountable to the MAYDS to serve the overall project on

operational and managerial matters. The PM leads the management of the project activities as per approved Annual Work Plans (AWP), including financial, budget and human resources. He/She also prepares detailed project annual work plans, in collaboration with the PMU and according to the logical framework.

Under the PM's leadership and guidance, the PMU team will lead the preparation of the AWP for the effective and efficient implementation of the project activities to achieve the stated objectives, will prepare and/or oversee the development of Terms of Reference for consultants, subcontractors and partnerships, ensure consistency between the various project elements and activities provided or funded by other donors, and develop reports on project progress in the project for technical meetings, and others, as appropriate. The PM is a full-time position throughout the duration of the Project, reporting directly to FAO and is technically accountable to MAgDS.

The PM has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis, for management and decision-making on behalf of the Project Board. The PM's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the outcomes specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

MBGI National Technical Committee and MBGI Provincial Technical Committee

A National Technical Committee including MAgDS, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP in its Spanish acronym) and INTA, was established in order to implement the National MBGI Plan. Provinces which entered into participation agreements will create a Provincial Technical Committee tasked with defining its own intervention guidelines and thresholds for establishing the Forest Management with Integrated Livestock Plans, which will require approval by the National Technical Committee. Within its jurisdiction, the Provincial Technical Committee will also be in charge of outreach actions, identifying interested farmers and training technicians and farmers in MBGI models. The Provincial Technical Committee will be responsible for submitting the projects to be funded to the National Technical Committee for their evaluation, prior to submitting projects to the PMU for resource allocation. These committees will be made up of the Forest Law ALA, the local institution in charge of carrying out livestock farming plans and the local INTA office, as well as the public and private institutions that they deem relevant.

Provincial committees shall work jointly with the National Committee towards meeting the National Plan goals, focusing mainly on training, monitoring, project implementation and development of marketing strategies, and pilot sites.

Enlarged Forest Consultative Council and Provincial Forest Consultative Committees

The Enlarged Forest Consultative Council will be integrated by MAgDS, MAGyP, INTA, the National Indigenous Affairs Institute (INAI in its Spanish acronym), National Institute of Associativism and Social Economy (INAES in its Spanish acronym), the NPA, among other institutions; and its role will be the coordination of project promotion actions all along the national territory.

Provinces interested in submitting projects related to this proposal shall create adequate consultative structures to identify projects, develop activities, evaluate, monitor and implement social and environmental safeguards. Several provinces have their own Forest Consultative Committees, composed of ALAs, academic and technical institutions, professional associations and non-government organizations which are active in the territory. These spaces may be considered as Provincial Consultative Committees, and participation may be broadened to include Institutes or Ministries of Indigenous Affairs, representatives of local communities, Indigenous Councillors and other sectoral structures, so as to give transparency to the activities and secure broad support for initiatives, prior to submitting them to the PMU. In the absence of an adequate consultative structure, each province shall create its own Provincial Consultative Committee, which will consider each jurisdiction's proposals, including those developed by the MBGI Technical Provincial Committee.

Project Partners

The implementation of project outputs requires participation and support from partners related to each of the projects' areas of work. Such partners may support the implementation of specific activities according to previous experience in the region, or their possibility to facilitate the processes underway. FAO will enter into agreements with project partners following the instruments mentioned in the previous paragraphs in this section. Key initial partners have been identified as follows:

UNEP will be a strategic partner and will have an important role in providing ongoing technical support and advice on safeguards throughout the implementation of the project. In this endeavor, and given the

importance of a duly application of environmental and social safeguards, UNEP will accompany crosswise across the project activities and will focus on ensuring that activities are consistent with relevant safeguards. Support will be provided on the updating/development of relevant safeguards plans, in coordination with the PMU and safeguards and gender specialists. Specific support will also be provided for the strengthening of the safeguard both nationally and on the ground and for the strengthening of the safeguard information system, to ensure that a robust system is in place for the continuous application, evaluation, monitoring and reporting on safeguards, in line with project requirements and country needs. Additionally, it is envisaged for UNEP to be a strategic partner also for technical support on issues related to engagement with the national financial sector leveraging the experience of its Climate Finance Unit and of the UNEP Finance Initiative.

Discussions are ongoing with *UNDP* to partner up, capitalizing on the experiences and lessons learnt from past and ongoing initiatives, continuing building up strengthening stakeholders engagement processes especially at local level and with indigenous peoples. UNDP strong experience, knowledge and skills in ensuring gender mainstreaming and boosting gender equality will highly benefit the implementation of the project components. Building on ongoing efforts in the country, the collaboration will also benefit in the identification of social and economic impact of COVID-19, with the overall objective of boosting the project contribution to enhanced livelihood in its areas of implementation.

The *MAGyP* will be a key partner in the implementation of the project, as well as part of the Project Board, mainly for the articulation of activities framed in the Forests with Integrated Livestock National Plan (component B.1), as well as for strategic coordination and implementation of activities under the outputs A.1 and A.2, specially in family farming issues in the work with local communities and restoration activities (boosting the growth of the forest mass and regeneration of native forests). The *MAGyP* will also contribute to the implementation of the project as member of the MBGI committee, and the Enlarged Forest Consultative Council (see above)

The *MAGyP* has under its orbit the [INTA](#), a decentralized public body whose objective is to generate capacities for the agro-industrial sector, generate knowledge and technologies that are put at the service of different sectors of society, through its extension systems, information and communication. INTA will be a key partner in the implementation of activities under components A, B and C through technical support and its experience in extension capacities at the territory level; as well as providing technical support to basins plans development and being a member of the different participatory spaces such as the MBGI National and provincial Technical Committees, Enlarged Forest Consultative Council and Provincial Forest Consultative Committees.

INTA together with other science and technical institutions, such as the National Scientific and Technical Research Council ([CONICET](#) for its acronym in Spanish) as the main organism dedicated to science and technology promotion in the country will be key partners for articulation and generating knowledge within the project framework; to carry out technical studies, diagnoses and to provide technical support to development of technical guidelines for the implementation of project activities; and will be a member of the participatory spaces in order to provide technical knowledge to strengthen and support decision making.

NPA: is a public body in charge of the National System of Protected Areas, aimed at conserving the country's biological diversity and cultural resources. It depends from the MAyDS. In addition to being a member of the Project Board, NPA may participate in provincial consultative spaces and other planning spaces for the activities to be developed that are close to NPA jurisdictions or areas of influence. Agreements may be established for the development of PIC with communities surrounding National Parks and other protected areas.

Other stakeholders will strengthen the actions undertaken in terms of the regulations governing the project activities, e.g., Ministry of Productive Development, Provincial Governments, in particular, those agencies acting as Local Enforcement Agencies under the Forest Law. In addition to government agencies, academia will be involved through universities and research centers, as well as social and productive sector representatives, on both the national and provincial scale.

INAI: in its role of enforcement authority for Law No. 23302 on Indigenous Policy and Support to Indigenous Communities and is a key public institution related to indigenous and communities' rights in the country, will be a member of the Enlarged Forest Consultative Council and Provincial Forest Consultative

Committees providing technical support regarding consultation process issues. Also the institute will contribute to forest extension activities and facilitating dialogues with indigenous peoples, including via their own participatory spaces at the national and local levels. Furthermore, INAI will provide support in the preparation of PICs and in the activities carried out with indigenous peoples and local communities within the project framework.

NGOs are active stakeholders in the context of native forests as well as in community forest and land management. They are active parties in the ongoing consultation process. NGOs are expected to be involved in a complementary manner with the above mentioned partners for technical assistance in the preparation of management plans, especially in activity A.2, and in the processes of promotion, dissemination and participation of components A, B and C. They will also take part in the participation instances within the framework of the Provincial Consultative Committees, certification processes and the development of market strategies.

Box 1. Decision making process for local interventions investments:

Key steps can be summarized as follows:

1. Local intervention proponents (beneficiaries in collaboration with/supported by grass-root organizations, NGOs, technicians, academia, as needed) prepare the expression of interest and submitted to Provincial Technical Committee (MBGI) and Provincial Forest Consultative Committees;
2. MBGI and Provincial Forest Consultative Committees select proposals and grant a first level approval. MAyDS (through the forest extension service at provincial level and National Directorate of Forests, DNB, of the MAyDS) and FAO can provide technical support to the committees as needed. The provincial committees submit the proposals to the national level committees, i.e. the Enlarged Forest Consultative Council and National Technical Committee MBGI. MAyDS, MAGyP, NPA, academia, and other key governmental and non-governmental actors are included in these committees;
3. The national level committees in collaboration with the Project Management Unit of the Project (FAO and MAyDS) will evaluate and select the proposals received. Specific clarifications and/or modifications of the proposals could be requested to the proponents if needed, and prior to final approval.
4. Upon final approval by PMU and national level Committees (point 3 above), the PMU requests to the EE the disbursement of the funds.

Roles:

FAO will be part of the PMU, of the project Board and shall participate in the different decision making instances at provincial and national level.

National government: MAyDS will be member of the project Board, the National Enlarged Forest Consultative Council/National MBGI Committee and Provincial Forest Consultative Committees at the province level. Besides the MAyDS, other National Governments entities will be members of the Project Board such as the NDA, MAGyP and NPA. MAGyP and NPA will also be members of the National and Provincial Consultative Committees.

Provincial government will have a key role at the first stage within the Provincial Forest Consultative Committees where the expressions of interest will be discussed and selected. Provincial Forest Consultative Committees will include INAI, representatives of local communities, Indigenous Councilors and other sectoral structures, to ensure broad support for initiatives and transparency.

Recipients/beneficiaries will prepare, submit and implement the interventions, in collaboration with/supported by grass-root organizations, NGOs, public agencies⁶², technicians, academia, as needed.

C.2.6. Non-carbon benefits:

⁶² Public agencies: provincial governments, Argentine Institute for Agricultural Technology, National Indigenous Affairs Institute, National Parks Administration, among others)

Argentina conducted studies to assess the environmental and social benefits of native forests associated with the implementation of REDD+ activities, with the support of the UN-REDD National Programme. These studies were intended to gather and generate spatial information to identify areas where the implementation of the Forest Law and, subsequently, the PANByCC, particularly those actions related to conservation and sustainable management of forest resources, could provide benefits beyond climate change mitigation. The studies were carried out on a subnational scale the forest regions: Andean-Patagonian Forest, *Parque Chaqueño*, *Misiones* Rainforest, Tucuman-Bolivian Forest, Argentine *Monte* and Argentine *Espinal*.

The benefits assessed in the study were prioritized by national stakeholders and they include conservation of biodiversity, control of water and wind erosion, support for indigenous peoples' livelihoods or the potential to reduce poverty, among others.

The results of these studies were released in 2019 through a set of individual information charts for each forest region, which can be downloaded from Argentina's [REDD+ safeguards webpage of the MAYDS](#). The maps resulting from the study can also be viewed through the [web portal](#) of Argentina's NFMS (<http://snmb.ambiente.gob.ar/>).

The results of the study suggest that the implementation of REDD+ provides great potential non-carbon benefits, although these vary greatly among the various forest regions.

For example, biodiversity conservation benefits would be particularly important. Argentina is characterized by a rich diversity of species and habitats, being one of the countries with the largest number of ecoregions in the world (18). The country is estimated to host over 10,000 vascular plant species, 1,750 of which are endemic. In addition, Argentina is home to 385 mammal species, 1,002 bird species, 175 amphibian species and over 400 reptile species.

In addition, Argentina harbours a large area of two of the most globally threatened ecoregions: the *Gran Chaco Americano* and the Atlantic Forest. In these ecoregions, the conversion of natural ecosystems into agricultural land is causing a great loss of natural habitats and the fragmentation of ecosystems, particularly in the *Chaco* area. This constitutes a severe threat to the biodiversity present in this region. The actions implemented on forests, within the framework of the Forest Law and the PANByCC, provide important opportunities for biodiversity conservation.

The implementation of the Forest Law and the PANByCC in the dry tropical forest of the *Gran Chaco Americano* -60% of it is located in Argentina-, offers important opportunities to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Strengthening and expanding the *Gran Chaco* protected area network would be important to ensure the survival of a large number of endemic terrestrial vertebrates⁶³, so the implementation of measures targeted at maintaining and enlarging the forest area under some kind of protection would have a great positive impact. Such measures could include the Forest Law itself, which sets the goals and instruments for the enrichment, restoration, conservation, use and sustainable management of native forests and the environmental services that they provide, or the National Strategy to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation, which includes the concept of "neutral land degradation" as a guiding principle and promotes, for example, forest management with integrated livestock practices, as well as sustainable silvopastoral systems. Similar measures in the *Misiones* rainforest region (hosting some of the most important world remains of Atlantic Forest) or the Argentine *Yungas* region would provide significant benefits for biodiversity conservation, given their importance as biodiversity "hotspots" at a national and global level.

⁶³Nori, J., Torres, R., Lescano, J. N., Cordier, J. M., Periago, M. E. and Baldo, D. (2016), Protected areas and spatial conservation priorities for endemic vertebrates of the Gran Chaco, one of the most threatened ecoregions of the world. *Diversity Distributions*, 22:1212-1219.

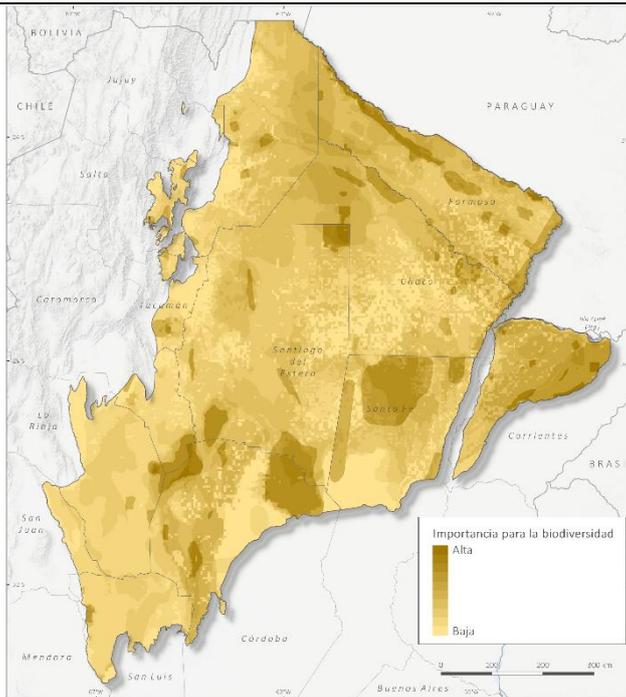


Figure 22. Areas where the implementation of REDD+ actions targeted at native forest conservation and sustainable use in the Parque Chaqueño region could provide the greatest benefits for the conservation of biodiversity

Recognizing this potential benefit, the PANByCC includes several actions targeted specifically to the conservation of biodiversity. The following are among the main actions: “fostering native forest conservation activities in public and privately-owned lands and in local community territories encompassing high conservation value forest ecosystems” (Action 8.1), “creating and implementing new protected areas in biodiversity focal sites with conservation gaps” (Action 8.2) and “promoting connectivity among areas with conservation value through ecological corridors and other strategies” (Action 8.3) (Figure 22).

One of the ways in which implementation of REDD+ could foster native forest conservation activities is by providing incentives for the declaration of private nature reserves, which could supplement the federal and provincial protected areas in sites of biodiversity importance with conservation gaps, or increase connectivity among conventional protected areas. In this regard, during the 2014-2016 period, 26 new reserves were registered with the Argentine Network of Private Natural Reserves, raising the number of existing reserves to a total of 211. These 26 reserves cover 56,113 hectares altogether, taking the total number of privately-owned conservation hectares to 572,400 as at 2016⁶⁴.

In addition to biodiversity conservation, another important non-carbon benefit from the implementation of the Forest Law is the control of soil salinization and the rising of water tables. In the Chaco-Pampean plain, forests have a key role in controlling the water balance and the distribution of salts. The extremely low inclines of this area make it difficult for surface water and salt to drain towards the ocean, so excess water in these areas usually causes floods by waterlogging and salinization due to the rise of the water table. In these areas, the transformation of forests into herbaceous crops like soybean often increases the balance of water, which seeps down to the subsoil. As a result, water tables rise and salts are transported to the surface⁶⁵. This process can have severe consequences for agricultural and livestock farming productivity, and threatens the long-term sustainability of the crops and pastures in this area. Therefore, this is a key benefit that the implementation of REDD+ would bring about in both the *Parque Chaqueño* and the Argentine *Espinal* regions, as long as actions are performed in strategically defined locations. The planning of such actions could be informed by maps like the one included in Figure 23, in combination with other information sources.

⁶⁴SaYDS (2019). *Project for strengthening voluntary conservation in private lands in Argentina*.

⁶⁵ Jobbágy, E.G, Noretto, M.D, Santoni, C.S, and Baldi, G. (2008). El desafío ec hidrológico de las transiciones entre sistemas leñosos y herbáceos en la llanura Chaco-Pampeana. *Ecología austral*, 18 (3):305-32

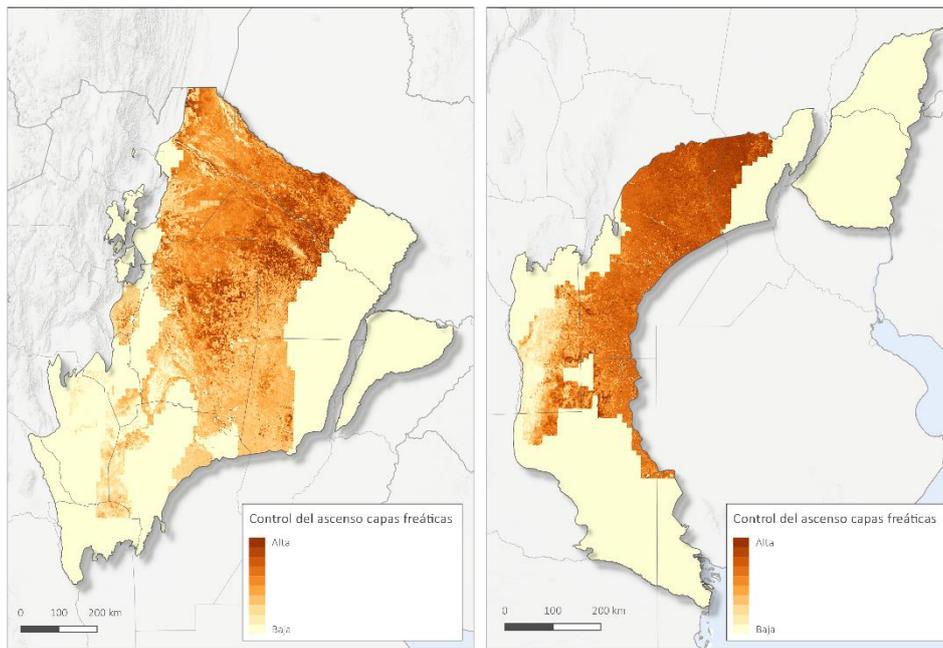


Figure 23. Areas where the implementation of REDD+ actions targeted at native forest conservation and sustainable use could provide the greatest benefits in controlling the rise of water tables in the Parque Chaqueño (left) and Argentine Espinal (right) regions.

Another important benefit from the implementation of the Forest Law is the control of soil erosion. In Argentina, the role of forests in providing this benefit depends, to a great extent, on the biophysical characteristics of the different forest regions. In regions with high topographic complexity and heavy rainfall, such as the *Misiones* rainforest or the Argentine *Yungas* region, forests contribute especially to controlling water erosion. In those regions, actions fostering native forest conservation and sustainable use have the potential to help protect the soil capability for water storage, reduce surface run-off after heavy rains, decrease the concentration of suspended solids and downstream sedimentation and reduce the risk of floods.

In contrast, in arid regions with plain terrain and sandy soil, forests play a more important role in controlling wind erosion. In these areas, wind erosion is a key factor in soil degradation processes, like in some parts of the *Parque Chaqueño* (Figure 24) or the Argentine *Espinal*. Actions targeted at forest conservation and restoration have the potential to contribute to soil conservation in areas prone to wind erosion.

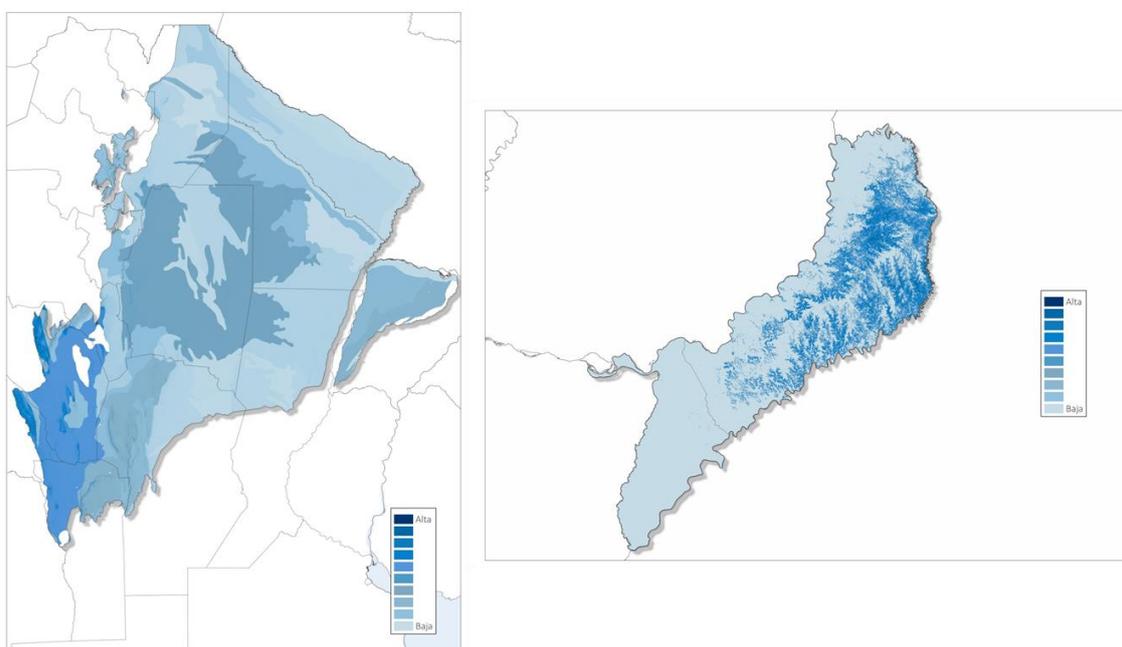


Figure 24. a) Soil vulnerability to wind erosion in the Parque Chaqueño region b) Soil vulnerability to water erosion in the Misiones rainforest region.

In addition to environmental benefits, Argentina also intends to maximize the social benefits from implementation through the strengthening of local communities, “promoting the regularization of land tenure based on the recognition of the territories of native peoples and local communities”. The PANByCC also intends to implement REDD+ in such a way that it may help reduce rural poverty by generating “job opportunities in order to discourage migration to urban areas”. The analysis of non-carbon benefits took these factors into account in including “support for native peoples’ livelihoods” and the “potential to reduce poverty” as possible benefits from the implementation of REDD+ in the different forest regions of the country.

The implementation of REDD+ can effectively contribute to reducing poverty, since poverty rates in Argentina's rural areas are significantly higher than in urban ones. In these areas, the populations’ reliance on forests for their sustenance can be relatively high (Figure 25).

According to the latest Argentine National Population, Household and Housing Census (2010), the UBN index, a multidimensional index which measures poverty in terms of a number of factors associated to living conditions, is 10 points higher in rural areas (18.2%) than in urban ones (8.3%)⁶⁶.

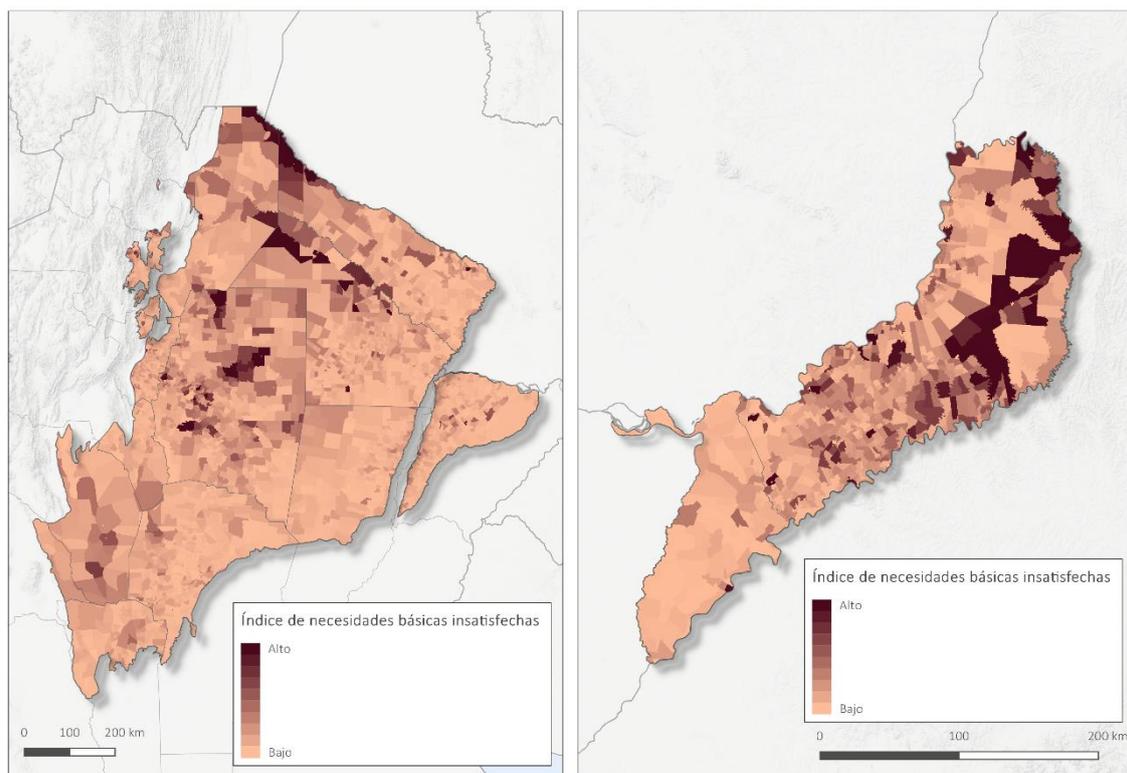


Figure 25. Areas where the implementation of REDD+, if adequately designed, could provide the greatest benefits in terms of poverty relief:

The REDD+ actions, developed with the participation of the local stakeholders, can benefit local livelihoods by helping clarify and strengthen land tenure rights, increasing communities’ forest management and collective action, and maintaining ecosystem services which play an important role in food safety and climate change adaptation (Figure 26).

⁶⁶INDEC. National Population, Household and Housing Census of 2010.

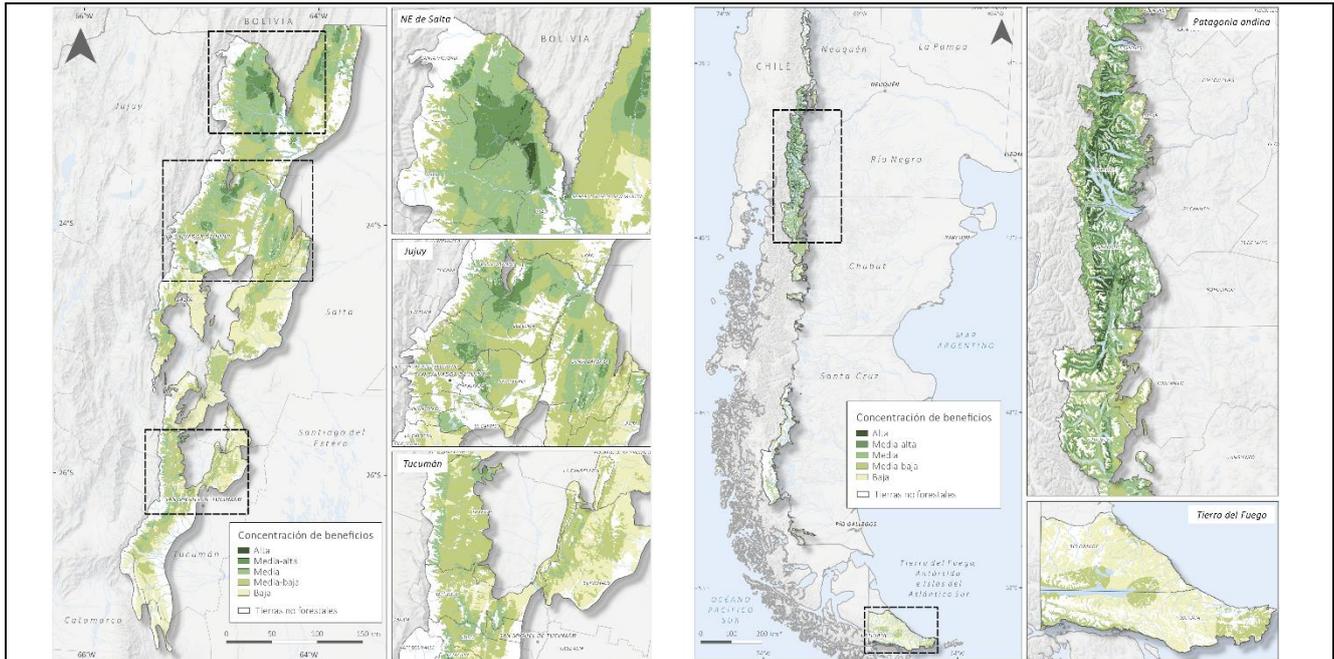


Figure 26. Concentration of social and environmental benefits in the native forests of the Tucuman-Bolivian forest and the Andean-Patagonian forest

In addition to those benefits associated with reducing poverty and supporting indigenous peoples' livelihoods, the implementation of REDD+ provides benefits in strengthening governance. In this regard, it is worth stressing the following:

- Promotion of inter-institutional, inter-jurisdictional and inter-disciplinary actions through the coordination and synergy of actions among different (national, provincial and municipal) public agencies and the various relevant actors.
- Generation capacities among stakeholders involved in forest management.
- Strengthening of management, control and monitoring capabilities.
- Enhancement of land use planning through participatory environmental management of resources and land use.

D. Investment Framework

Describe in this section how the proposed REDD-plus results-based programme aligns with each of the criteria of the Investment Framework for the activities that lead to the achieved results for the full period over which the results being submitted in this proposal were achieved.

D.1. Impact potential

Describe the potential of the programme to contribute to the achievement of the Fund's objectives and results areas.

In the period 2014-2016, Argentina reported significant REDD+ results associated with avoided deforestation in the *Parque Chaqueño*, the Tucuman-Bolivian Rainforest (Argentine Yungas), the *Misiones (Paranaense)* Rainforest and the Argentine *Espinal* regions (Table 26).

Table 26. REDD+ results in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (tCO₂e)

Period	Gross CO ₂ emissions caused by deforestation	REDD+ results (2014-2016)
2014	56,732,802	44,409,046
2015	42,135,510	59,006,338
2016	39,384,527	61,757,321
Reduced Emission Total		165,172,705

Source: 2019 Biennial Update Report REDD+ Technical Annex

The funds to be received from GCF through this funding proposal will be used to directly address drivers of deforestation such as unsustainable livestock management and fire. The funds will also be used to address underlying drivers of deforestation and degradation, by strengthening economic and social opportunities (and diversified livelihoods), strengthening the control and oversight capacities at provincial and national level, and strengthening the overall forest governance contribute to the implementation of the PANByCC; this establishes specific measures so to mitigate 27 MtCO₂e⁶⁷ by the year 2030, making a significant contribution to the absolute NDC goal.

The resources to be received will be used to support productive transformations and create conditions for low-emission development and resilience to climate change in the country's forest areas, especially in those which have made the greatest contribution to the achieved results.

The contribution of the GCF will provide substantial assistance to achieving these goals, not only in a direct manner, but also by creating enabling conditions with the potential to drive greater transformations in productive systems with additional funding (see section D.2 in this document).

The activities in this proposal will generate an estimated mitigation of 10 MtCO₂e in 6 years. Mitigation potential is based on an estimation of the total area impacted by the project as well as a set of assumptions on the effectiveness of project activities and pressures on forests.

The proposed activities will also generate important adaptation benefits reducing vulnerability of the country to climate change, and increasing resilience: reducing the incidence of forest fires, protecting ecosystem services that ecosystems provide, improving the economies of rural communities and transitioning to more sustainable low-carbon production systems.

Many of the approaches to be carried out through activities in this proposal take account of landscape or basin-level planning, and are consistent and complementary with the approach Argentina is following for the development of its National Adaptation Plan. Such Plan is currently under development and has the main aim of integrating climate change adaptation in national development strategies, allowing reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to the effects of climate change.

More intact forests are, on the whole, less vulnerable to fire, so good management that reduces degradation and fragmentation, as supported by project activities, should increase resilience to wildfire, which would otherwise be expected to increase in frequency and severity with climate change.

Protecting or enhancing ecosystem services can serve as important ecosystem-based adaptation measures when the services are relevant for climate resilience. Project activities focused on maintaining or restoring forests important for water regulation will be particularly important in areas where people are more vulnerable to climate change, with changing patterns and extremes of rainfall, affecting the provision of water for livelihoods and personal use. Forest conservation or restoration in areas important for soil erosion control (both water- and wind-related) can help reduce vulnerability to erosion, loss of soil, landslides and floods.

Project activities also support livelihoods and contribute to reduce poverty, particularly as rural populations often have greater reliance on forests for sustenance.

D.2. Paradigm shift potential

Describe the degree to which the REDD-plus activity catalysed impact beyond a one-off programme investment.

Potential for scale-up and replication

The proposal seeks the transformation of productive activities to reduce or eliminate their pressure on forests, creating new business models, as well as to generate new opportunities for the well-being of vulnerable and

⁶⁷ All the quantifications were made based on parameters and assumptions in force at the time of estimating and preparing the PANByCC. Given the dynamic nature of sector planning, the values obtained will be modified and updated according to the availability of new data, the update of assumptions and adjustments for interaction between measures. Also, the implementation of the objective could be achieved through other management options and locations.

poor communities living in the forests.

To achieve this goal, it is fundamental to advance towards ensuring that communities living in forests are entitled to legal land use and eventually tenure, which will also make it possible for them to settle down. In the case of Argentina, these are communities that, to a great extent, live in precarious conditions. A second element is related to laying the foundations for the social organization and effective governance of forests. Finally, the third element is related to providing support through strategic investments which may enable integrated forest management including livestock farming.

Thus, the project seeks to ensure the active and effective participation of local communities in the sustainable and comprehensive management of forests, by providing mechanisms and tools to achieve legal and collective forest management, based on their habits and customs, and linking them to the best practices of sustainable forest management and other sustainable productive practices that allow them to ensure the integrity of forest ecosystems and obtain economic benefits.

The traditional peasant and indigenous occupation of forests is communal and open. These are territories where areas of grazing and forest use are shared customarily. This has allowed communities to lessen pressure on natural resources and maintain healthy livelihoods. Based on this dynamic, the National Directorate of Forests, through the Forests and Community Project, promoted the first public policy of Community Forest Management through the Integral Community Plans (PIC), which were consulted prior to taking of the loan and are in current implementation. From 2016 to the present, 80 PICs have been formulated, covering 420,000 hectares of native forests in just 6 departments of Chaco, Salta and Santiago del Estero and including 2,500 peasant and indigenous families. The areas under community management are on average 6,000 hectares, with cases of more than 20,000 hectares of indigenous land.

The above must go hand-in-hand with the development and implementation of business models and investment plans to ensure the sustainable management of forests, as well as the strengthening of value chains in forest basins to provide marketing possibilities for sustainable products from the forests. These new business models will also seek market differentiation opportunities that provide better marketing conditions for both timber and non-timber products, including support through the marketing service that will be created with the project, that will help to improve their market access conditions.

The shift from conventional silvopastoral systems, in which the forest is degraded in the long term, to forest management models with integrated livestock will not only promote recognition of the value of environmental goods and services provided by forests and integrate forest conservation and restoration, but also improve livestock productivity. As in other components, this will include seeking opportunities for market differentiation, thus increasing the chances that this change will continue in the long term.

The project will also foster the development of new tools to improve inspection and surveillance capacities at the national and provincial levels which, combined with territorial regulations at the forest and local basin levels, will contribute to strengthening incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of forests.

It is expected that the combination of these positive incentives and conditions for effective governance will also provide long-term opportunities, including access to the funding of new activities in areas and for populations which currently lack resources and access to funding.

The actions proposed will generate replicable models in terms of vertical coordination mechanisms (along value chains) and horizontal ones (among farmers and other stakeholders across forest basins). This replication can become increasingly efficient as the project creates enabling conditions that cause a broader impact. Examples of this include:

- Possibility to include new local communities and farmers into value chains which positively discriminate in favour of sustainable production models.
- Improved capabilities for monitoring, inspection and oversight in broader areas than those included in the project, with specific investments.
- Laying the foundations to change the national criteria to promote forest-related productive activities, including livestock farming.
- Informing the criteria for the future allocation of public funds through the FNECBN, including the creation of guidelines and criteria for project selection and approval at the provincial level (e.g. through COFEMA).

- Mobilizing private funding by providing greater security as to land tenure, and demonstrating the profitability of low-carbon activities.

Knowledge and learning potential

The creation of a system for action follow-up and evaluation is proposed, with the primary purpose of providing feedback to the different interventions and making adjustments in a timely manner. Likewise, this process will lead to documenting and disseminating lessons learned so that they can be included in the development of new projects. The project elements that contribute to this are:

- The support team of extensionists linked to the PMU, who will facilitate communication and coordination with the provinces and the local technicians who support project formulation.
- The centralized management of investments and the use of reference and technical advice platforms, such as the Forest Consultative Council and the MBGI Technical Committee.
- The project documentation and knowledge management actions.

Contribution to creating a favourable environment

The project will help to create enabling conditions that contribute to a lasting and broader impact. A key element of the proposal is the promotion of forest conservation based on sustainable economic activities and governance models, which contribute to a longer-term conservation basis, potentially scalable to other communities and regions. Communication efforts will reinforce messages intended to drive consumers towards low-carbon emission / zero deforestation products.

The key barriers that the project seeks to remove include: allowing farmers and local communities who live on a low income or work in informal economic activities, including settlers who currently have no legal title to forest land, to gain access to investments. It will also address the lack of technical capability.

Respecting the criteria established by land management schemes is a key element to create a favourable environment, which will be strengthened with the provision of timely information and the creation of response protocols to address those activities which were not considered in land management schemes.

D.3. Sustainable development potential

Describe the wider benefits and priorities, including environmental, social and economic.

The PANByCC is the national REDD+ strategy in the country, which was developed within the framework of the GNCC as part of the Government's actions to promote sustainable development, thus meeting the international commitments made in that regard, and is closely related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically to goals 13 and 15.

In 2016, Argentina submitted its revised NDC to the UNFCCC. In order to identify each sector's contribution to the NDC goal and to implement the actions required, GNCC started to develop sector-based plans in 2017. The PANByCC is one of these sectoral plans and represents the overall action framework for implementing the REDD+ mechanism at a national level; it stresses the importance of native forests in meeting the NDC goal. Therefore, the individual quantification of each measure, in that document, aims to support internal planning, within the framework of the GNCC and COFEMA, and do not constitute specific sectoral goals. Commitment to the international community is the absolute goal established in the NDC.

The PANByCC was developed through a participatory process (see detailed description in section 4 of ESA) and, in order to follow up on the social and environmental aspects associated with its implementation, the country developed the CAS and has started up the [Argentina's REDD+ SIS-AR](#).

The successful implementation of PANByCC will result in environmental, social and economic co-benefits, such as increased ecosystem services, an improved quality of life for local stakeholders and better native forest management practices, also helping to enhance the adaptive capabilities of the communities living in the forests.

The main beneficiaries of this proposal are vulnerable rural population and indigenous peoples, with important mention to those who live in the *Parque Chaqueño* region, that is the region in which most of the activities will be carried out and which has the greatest concentration of this population.

The development of the programme's four components will help not only to reduce deforestation and increase carbon sequestration, but native forest conservation and management is also expected to generate multiple economic, environmental and social benefits, namely:

- Component A of this proposal intends to strengthen communities' livelihoods (A.2) and increase the economic development of local farmers by establishing sustainable forest basins (A.1).
- Component B will help integrate an economic activity which is highly profitable in the country with the conservation of forest ecosystems, through forest management with integrated livestock, promoting the maintenance and improvement of the ecosystem services with sustainable income generation, thus attaining integrated territorial management.
- Component C will ensure that native forests continue providing ecosystem services (biodiversity, regulation of the water cycle, control of erosion) produced by forests types which are unique in the world. This component will also have positive effects in terms of erosion reduction and biodiversity conservation. In addition, investments in this component may also contribute to maintaining livelihoods for vulnerable communities in the rural regions where they are implemented.
- Strengthening institutional capabilities, monitoring and oversight at a national and provincial level (Component D) will reinforce incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of forests. One of the lessons learned from the Forests and Community Project is that the annual deforestation rate was reduced in the project areas, and the increased presence of MAyDS staff on the ground is considered to have been a key factor in achieving this result.

The project's benefit sharing scheme considers 72% to be distributed directly at the local level, while 28% remains at the national level. The resources allocated to the local level will be assigned by open competition and through the provinces, to indigenous peoples, local communities and producers who have an interest in participating in the project's activities. Beneficiaries will be selected by the Provincial Committee and will be authorized by the National Committee so as to ensure transparency. The 29% assigned to the national level will be used mainly to reinforce institutional capacities that ensure compliance with existing regulations which, in turn, directly support execution and operation at the provincial level.

In view of the above, the implementation of the PANByCC contributes to meeting different sustainable development goals established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

D.4. Needs of the recipient

Describe the vulnerability and financing needs of the beneficiary country and population.

A general description of socio-economic (as well as native forests) context of Argentina has been presented in section C.2.1. **General description:**; it is worth however complementing with additional and more specific considerations on the needs of the recipient here.

Although Argentina is considered as one of the important economies in Latin America, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of approximately USD 470 billion, and important food production (big agri-based industries, including beef), historical volatility in its economic growth has hindered the country's development, and poverty levels are still high, with 35.4% of people below poverty line (INDEC, 2019)⁶⁸.

The 2018 financial turbulence had an impact on the country and led government to reviewing its economic plan and to requesting assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with a view to stabilizing public finance. So far, the economic situation in Argentina is maintaining a precarious balance. According to Argentina's Central Bank, the Argentine peso depreciated 222% between April 2018 and April 2020, and according to INDEC's last figure annual inflation rate is 45.6% (April 2020). The economy shrunk another 2.2% in 2019 (INDEC, 2019)⁶⁹.

Argentina's limited long-term economic performance affects the country's capacity to reduce poverty and increase citizens' income. In addition, although economic assessments still have to be developed, it is expected that the consequence of the COVID-19 outbreak will have heavy impacts on the already hindered rural population in the country.

⁶⁸ https://www.indec.gov.ar/uploads/informesdeprensa/eph_pobreza_01_19422F5FC20A.pdf

⁶⁹ https://www.indec.gov.ar/uploads/informesdeprensa/pib_03_201D372235F5.pdf

In the period 1950-2016, Argentina experienced 14 recessions (one or more years running of negative growth), with an average duration of 1.6 years. The country has thus been in recession for one third of the time since 1950⁷⁰.

Macroeconomic instability, the economic crises and periods of high inflation rates have considerably affected the well-being of people⁷¹ and had an impact on natural resource degradation.

Deforestation is a problem in Argentina, especially for local communities that inhabit and depend economically on forests; deforestation in favor of agribusiness has not been matched by an improvement in poverty indicators. The regions, with the provinces of the Argentine Northwest, concentrate the highest poverty rates in the country (Table 27).

Table 27. Poverty rates in Argentina, per region

Regions and provinces	Hectares	Incidence of Poverty* (2nd semester 2019)	Unemployment rate (4th trimester 2019)
Parque Chaqueño (Santiago del Estero, Chaco, Salta, Formosa)	24,695,634	Santiago del Estero 45.2% Chaco (Resistencia) 35.8% Salta 45.5% Formosa 41.6%	Santiago del Estero 5.5% Chaco (Resistencia) 7.4% Salta 10.3% Formosa 4%
Misiones Rainforest (Misiones)	1,612,558	Misiones (Posadas) 41.3%	Misiones (Posadas) 2.9%
Andean Patagonian Forest (Neuquén, Río Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz, Tierra del Fuego)	3,093,263	Neuquén 28.6	Neuquén 5.7%
Argentine Monte (Cordoba, San Luis, Río Negro, La Pampa, Santa Fe, Entre Ríos, Corrientes)	14,204,326	Cordoba 37.4% San Luis 35% Río Negro (Viedma) 32.9% La Pampa 33.9% Santa Fe 34.7 % Entre Ríos: 51.1% Corrientes 37.9%	Córdoba 9.5% San Luis 2.9% Rio Negro (Viedma) 4.7% La Pampa (Santa Rosa) 8.3% Santa Fe 5.5% Entre Ríos 9.1% Corrientes 5.2%

Source: Indec-EPH *agglomerates of more than 500,000 inhabitants.

Argentina has taken firm steps forward to consolidate a policy framework to halt deforestation in the country. As explained in the previous sections of this Proposal, since 2007, the Forest Law provided a framework for controlling deforestation, promoting land zoning through OTBNs, putting into practice sustainable forest management and fostering cooperation between the national and provincial forest management agencies. The Law, moreover, set up the FNECBN to supply public resources to the provinces, so that they can encourage the sustainable use of forests, and pay for environmental services. Table 28 shows the amounts transferred to the provinces by FNECBN, in the period 2010-2018.

⁷⁰ “Banco Mundial. 2018, Argentina. Hacia el fin de las crisis en Argentina: Prioridades para un crecimiento sostenible y prosperidad compartida. © World Bank”. Visit: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/693981558012501931/pdf/Summary.pdf>

⁷¹ COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK FOR THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC FOR THE PERIOD FY19-FY22. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/579151556416868661/pdf/Argentina-Country-Partnership-Framework-for-the-Period-FY19-FY22.pdf>

Table 28. Funds transferred to provinces within the framework of FNECBN (2010-2018)

Year	Funds transferred to provinces within the framework of FNECBN	
	Argentine pesos	USD
2010	97,567,726	24,858,019
2011	218,557,585	53,306,728
2012	229,889,267	51,429,366
2013	198,828,846	37,800,161
2014	221,622,575	27,479,551
2015	63,506,093	7,079,832
2016	387,281,772	27,466,792
2017	556,500,000	34,479,554
2018	570,500,000	22,769,906

Source: Forest Law Implementation Status Report, 2010-2018, DNB, MAyDS.

Argentina's commitment to forest conservation has been reflected in regular transfers to FNECBN since its creation, although the country has been unable to transfer the full amount foreseen in the Forest Law. On the other hand, regarding financing in support of REDD+ actions in the country, Table 29 shows the different projects under implementation/implemented along the past five years to the present.

Table 29. Financing in support of REDD+ actions in Argentina

Financing	Source	Relevant period	Amount	Notes (thematic and geographic location, main expected results)
Argentina UN-REDD National Programme	UN-REDD	2015-2019	3.8 million USD (FAO, UNDP, UNEP) (grant)	Contributed to readiness phase in Argentina of the four REDD+ requirements. The outcome achieved was the development of the four REDD+ pillars, thus fulfilling the requirements of the Warsaw Framework. Furthermore, a REDD+ Technical Annex was prepared and submitted to the UNFCCC, together with the Third BUR. National scope.
Forests and Community Project	World Bank	2015-2020	USD 20.7 million (loan)	Strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples to make a sustainable and productive use of native forests and protected areas to promote their economic development. The project will link 2500 families to Forest Law benefits through 80 PICs, which will cover a native forest surface area of 420,000 ha; promoting the settlement of communities through better conditions to access to water, goods and civil works for production and market. Furthermore, the Project will enhance the NFMS through the installation of permanent plot within the framework of the National Forest Inventory and the publication of INBN2 results. Finally, it will conclude the Forest Management, Control and Verification System (SACVeFor) development. Chaco, Salta, Santiago del Estero
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	World Bank	2016-2020	USD 3.8 mill (grant)	REDD+ readiness. Strengthening of the REDD+ pillars developed by the UN-REDD National Programme will be the outcome of the FCPF

				Project that will include: the technical and economic appraisal of the PANByCC mitigation measures, and determination of the balance of emissions at forest region / sub-national level, development of the PANByCC social and environmental risk assessment, and development of an information system integrating the systems that are currently operational, such as the SNMBN (Argentina's NFMS) and SIIF, along with new tools and sources of information. Nation-wide
Support to the Implementation of the Native Forests Protection Programme	UNDP	2012-2020		Strengthen the capacity of the National Enforcement Authority / Forest Law, so it can fulfill the mission and functions assigned to it therein. The outcome of this project will be to ensure the effective implementation of the Forest Law, through technical and administrative support to the ANA and promotion actions carried out in close coordination with ALAs. Nation-wide

The proposal is being prepared with a vision of building on the results achieved so far by projects above mentioned, and supporting Argentina in continuing and enhancing the work with local communities. The preparation of this project proposal builds on the participatory experience and mechanisms established through the Forests and Community Project. The RBP project plans to make best use of the channels of participation boosted by the Forests and community Project (and mentioned in details in the ESA) during the PIC preparation and implementation. The Forests and community Project grievance redress mechanism is also being considered as a base for the RBP ones – so to allow actors at local level to continue with a mechanism and protocol they are already familiar with.

The Government of Argentina seeks to strengthen the capacities of the ANA for the Forest Law and the Climate change Law, so it can fulfill the mission and functions assigned to it therein.

D.5. Country ownership

Describe the beneficiary country ownership of, and capacity to implement a funded project or programme (policies, climate strategies and institutions).

National climate strategy in place.

The Project contributes to the country's priorities of low-carbon and climate-resilient development. Argentina has undertaken commitments with the international community, that were ratified when it signed and adopted the Paris Agreement by [Law No. 27270](#), enacted in September 2016. Within this framework, Argentina conducted a review of its [NDC](#), coordinated among the ministries by the GNCC, with a participatory strategy for the different community sectors in the Enlarged Cabinet, and inter-jurisdictional work done through the COFEMA. A [first review](#) of these NDC was carried out in 2016. In its NDC Argentina has committed not to exceed 483 MtCO₂e by 2030,. In December 2019, Argentina ratified the Law on Minimum Standards for Global Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation ([Law No. 27520](#)), that sets up a structure to mainstream climate change in the State's long term policies.

. The [PANByCC](#), is a sector-based annex to PNAMCC, and is Argentina's REDD+ strategy. This Proposal is fully aligned with the provisions of the PANByCC, as explained in Section C.2.1. Furthermore, this Proposal also contributes to sustainable management of agro-ecosystems to reduce vulnerability .

Accredited entities' capacity

FAO was accredited by GCF in October 2016, which allows the organization to develop grant projects for up to USD 250 million, total project size (including co-funding). It is also an implementing partner in Readiness proposals.

FAO, in its capacity as AE, is supporting the preparation of projects that meet the Fund's eligibility criteria in 28 countries worldwide. Additionally, it is supporting other AEs by providing technical assistance in proposal formulation and implementation.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO is supporting as Accredited Entity 31 proposals within different funding windows of which 11 have been approved. Specifically 4 Funding Proposals have been approved for Cuba (120 mill), Colombia (USD 28 mill - under the GCF pilot programme for REDD+ results-based payments), Chile (USD 63 mill - under the GCF pilot programme for REDD+ results-based payments), El Salvador (USD 127 mill) and Paraguay (USD 25 mill) and six projects have been approved under the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (RPSP) for Guyana, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, Nicaragua (2) and Chile. Additional 8 Funding Proposals and 12 RPSP are under development, one of which being the "Strengthening Argentina's National Designated Authority through GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme". Additionally, FAO is also cooperating in the implementation of projects headed by other AE in Ecuador and Paraguay.

FAO's comparative advantage lies in supporting proposals that address climate change mitigation and adaptation in agricultural planning, rural development and food security, increase in family agriculture resilience (livelihoods and ecosystems), and capacity-building and innovation for the farming sector's adaptation and mitigation.

FAO, in close cooperation with Member States, promotes the planning and implementation of climate-related policies, including agricultural sector stakeholders and under-represented groups, such as vulnerable communities and women. FAO seeks to improve policy consistency, to ensure climate action in the farming sectors brings about a transformational change.

Additionally, in Argentina, FAO has closely cooperated to conduct REDD+ -related actions based on its participation in Argentina UN-REDD National Programme, and on previous specifically targeted support.

D.6. Efficiency and effectiveness

Describe the economic and, if appropriate, financial soundness of the programme.

Cost-effectiveness and efficiency with regard to financial and non-financial aspects

The proposal aims at ensuring greater efficiency on the basis of a focused allocation of financing to the most vulnerable populations and to areas in which deforestation pressure is higher, and where investments can have a greater impact, using a mechanism that combines the following:

- promoting actions focused on priority regions and communities using, inter alia, the team of extensionists;
- developing technical criteria agreed upon at the national level for allocating investments;
- ensuring centralized evaluation of the different proposals presented through the provinces.

Furthermore, the Project will seek to invest efficiently and eliminate funding barriers from other sources, so as to mobilize future investment from other sources by:

- integrating several activities and outputs into the community plans, which will enable harnessing the different income opportunities stemming from the sustainable use of forests, addressing a broader range of pressures on forests,
- promoting business plans, stressing their economic feasibility;
- setting the bases to ensure forest tenure by the communities.

Vulnerable communities and farmers, as the priority beneficiaries of this proposal, do not have any other funding options available to them and, therefore, the funding awarded through this proposal would not be displacing any other alternative funding.

Additionally, the Project will seek to improve all activities based on knowledge management mechanisms, which will provide feedback for the local implementation models.

The estimated cost of the project per tCO₂e, measured as "total investment / (emission reduction + sequestration)" is estimated at 8.2 USD/ tCO₂e. The estimated cost has been calculated basing on estimation

of the total area impacted by the project as well as a set of assumptions on the effectiveness of project activities and pressures on forests.

E. Compliance with GCF policies

Describe how the REDD-plus results-based programme that generated the results submitted in this proposal or will be supported with the proceeds earned by them aligns with GCF policies for the activities that led to the achieved results and for the use of proceeds.

E.1. Environmental and social safeguards

E.1.1. For the period of the achieved results

Summarize the main findings of the environmental and social assessment (ESA) report describing the extent to which the measures undertaken to identify, assess, and manage environmental and social risks and impacts, in the context of the REDD-plus proposal, were consistent with the requirements of the applicable GCF ESS standards. This supplements information about the country's own assessment as to how the Cancun safeguards were addressed and respected in the REDD-plus activities.

The Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) report submitted with this proposal demonstrates that during the period for which REDD+ results-based payments are being requested, activities were implemented in a way that was consistent with the environmental and social safeguards and standards of the GCF, FAO as AE to the GCF, and the UNFCCC, as well as the relevant legal framework of Argentina.

For the ESA, the activities leading to reduced emissions, as reported for the 2014-2016 period, were reviewed and assessed for their alignment with *FAO's Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM)*, which are consistent with the safeguard standards of the GCF (in this case the International Finance Corporation Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability), the UNFCCC Cancun safeguards for REDD+ and other GCF requirements in this area. This assessment includes information on how environmental and social risks and impacts were evaluated and managed; how relevant stakeholders were engaged; and how grievance redress mechanisms to receive and resolve complaints were implemented.

The assessment focuses on the implementation of Argentina's **Forest Law**, and relevant regulations, as the guiding framework for REDD+ in the country which has helped achieve the ERs during the results period of the proposal. Other relevant initiatives are also reviewed, including the Forests and Community Project, FCPF, the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme supported work to develop Argentina's REDD+ strategy (the **PANByCC**), in the context of the Forest Law and as a specific public policy instrument. The process for building the PANByCC was based on inclusive and participatory processes from 2014 to 2019, and involved relevant stakeholders linked to native forest management within national and sub-national governments, academia, the private sector, civil society organizations, small farmers and indigenous peoples.

Based on such analysis it can be concluded that during the results period for the funding proposal, Argentina had a robust legal and institutional framework which, together with a number of mechanisms, initiatives (projects and programmes), and other technical inputs, enabled the country to prevent or mitigate potential negative impacts that could affect people or the environment, through direct or indirect actions resulting from the implementation of the Forest Law. In fact, in that period, this Law contributed to the sustainable development of forest holders, with a special safeguard for the most vulnerable sectors.

The analysis in the ESA demonstrates that the activities that led to ERs for which the country is seeking REDD+ results-based payments were supported by the effective implementation of the legal framework in the country. Together with associated policies, initiatives and measures, these activities have allowed a reduction in the deforestation of native forests, within an efficient and transparent national forest policy framework, supporting the safeguarding of the rights of indigenous peoples, promoting gender equality and citizen participation, in line with the FAO's ESM and the Cancun safeguards for REDD+.

Key findings and recommendations of the ESA include:

- **Argentina's approach to REDD+** entails **building on and leveraging the framework and positive results of the Forest Law**: the analysis of the main REDD+ related initiatives in Argentina —i.e. the Argentina UN-REDD National Programme, FCPF, the Forests and Community project, and the PANByCC— demonstrates this.
- **Rights of indigenous peoples and local communities**: The country has made extensive progress in gathering information and helping to secure the legal and tenure status of these groups, work which has also been supported by the Forest Law. However, it was also noted that there are further opportunities to further engage with indigenous peoples and local communities, for example

incorporating simplified or more culturally appropriate processes in schemes to access funding through the Forest Law (such as the payment for environmental services scheme).

- **Risks and benefits:** from the start of its work on REDD+, MAYS has conducted a number of participative, multi-stakeholder assessments to identify risks and benefits of the activities included in this Proposal; these assessments included consideration of both social and environmental impacts of the implementation of different activities, as well as cross-cutting analysis of possible risks of reversal, or non-permanence, of the effects of the activities. These assessments have helped to identify key aspects to implement the PANByCC in a way that avoids or mitigates risks, while promoting benefits, and have also identified achievements and improvement opportunities in the effective implementation of the Forest Law.

Gender approach: the country has made significant progress in its public policy on gender, through the development and/or strengthened implementation of targeted policies, measures or guidance. However, an important gender gap remains, particularly related to income levels and working conditions.

E.1.2. For the use of proceeds

Provide adequate and sufficient information describing how environmental and social risks and impacts will be identified, screened, assessed and managed in a manner consistent with the GCF's ESS standards, including the determination of the relevant environmental and social risk category of the proposed activities and the appropriate environmental and social assessment tools and management plans.

In order to ensure that potential environmental and social impacts are addressed properly in accordance and in compliance with the GCF's ESS standards, consistent with FAO's ESS, as well as the UNFCCC safeguards for REDD+, all project activities will undergo a detailed screening, assessment, review, and clearance process before implementation of the project activities. This information will help identify, address and mitigate specific risks and impacts, depending on where, how, when and with whom the activities are implemented.

As the project is classified as Moderate Risk, according to the FAO Guidelines, an Environmental and Social Analysis for Moderate Risk Projects will be developed at project inception, and once the areas of intervention as well as all relevant stakeholders who could be involved in or affected by project activities have been identified. These same stakeholders will be involved in the development of the Analysis. Based on recommendations in the Analysis, and in line with FAO guidance on Moderate Risk projects, an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will be prepared to set out the measures and actions required for the project to manage and effectively mitigate environmental and social risks and achieve compliance with the ESM. The ESCP will set out the project commitments and lists actions that the project will take, with a timeframe for these actions, to achieve compliance with the standards and manage the identified risks and impacts throughout the entire life of the project. The ESCP will incorporate the mitigation recommendations of the Environmental and Social Analysis and the results of the stakeholder engagement process and will summarize concrete measures and actions required to avoid, minimize, reduce or otherwise mitigate the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the project.

The project, by its design, is intended to have environmental and social benefits. Though the potential negative impacts and risks from the project are likely to be small and limited, such impacts could result in larger impacts if they are not identified early during the planning cycle, with appropriate mitigation measures integrated into project planning and implementation. The identification and analysis of sub-activities can help to identify potential or expected impacts, as well as mitigation and monitoring measures.

FAO will be committed to ensuring meaning, effective and informed participation of stakeholders to help define sub-activities during the project inception phase (Year 1). The identification of sub-activities will be informed by a continual process of risk screening and analysis, wherein initial planning and selection of sites is informed by any potential adverse impacts, and either re-planned or developed with accompanying appropriate mitigation measures. Special attention will be paid to ensure that the risk classification of the project is not increased, and on potential impacts on protected areas, indigenous peoples, decent work and gender equality.

FAO will undertake environmental and social screening of sub-activities, following the Environmental and Social Screening Checklist. The results of the screening checklists will be analyzed by the project safeguards

specialists, and sent to the Environmental and Social Management Unit in FAO for endorsement. Screening of sub-activities will involve:

- Checking that the activities involved are permissible (as per the legal and regulatory requirements of the project);
- Determining the level of further assessment required based on the level of expected impacts.

The screening checklist will result in the following screening outcomes: (i) determining the risk category for further assessment; and (ii) determining which additional assessment instruments are to be applied.

FAO's environmental and social screening checklist will also help determine if a sub-activity will require a separate Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). This will apply to sub-activities that are classified as "moderate risk" according to the screening process. While the nature, magnitude, reversibility, and location of impacts are main elements in the screening of sub-activities, expert judgment will be a main factor in deciding whether an ESMP is required for a sub-activity or not.

For a sub-activity that requires a specific ESMP, the proposal must include a set of mitigation measures with monitoring (including the development of indicators and a timeframe where the completion of such mitigation measures are expected) and institutional arrangements to be taken during the implementation phase to correctly manage any potential adverse environmental and social impacts that may have been identified.

The sub-activity level ESMP should include:

- **Mitigation measures:** Based on the environmental and social impacts identified from the checklist, the ESMP should describe each mitigation measure in detail, together with operating procedures, roles and responsibilities.
- **Monitoring:** Environmental and social monitoring will take place during the implementation of the sub-activities, in order to measure the success of the mitigation measures. The ESMP will include a description of the methodologies and approaches for monitoring mitigation measures, including indicators, frequency, sampling areas and definitions of thresholds signaling the need for corrective actions, etc. It will also include the monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure early detection of impacts and provide information on the progress and results of particular mitigation measures.
- **Institutional arrangements:** The ESMP should also provide a specific description of institutional arrangements, i.e. who is responsible for carrying out the mitigating and monitoring measures (for operation, supervision, enforcement, monitoring of implementation, remedial action, financing, reporting and staff training). Additionally, the ESMP should include an estimate of the costs of the measures and activities recommended so that the necessary funds are included. The mitigation and monitoring measures recommended in the ESMP should be developed in consultation with all of the affected groups to incorporate their concerns and views into its design.

Once the pre-implementation documents with ESMPs are endorsed by the ESM unit in FAO Headquarters, the safeguards specialist from the PMU of the project will ensure ESMPs are included and reported upon, along with stakeholder engagement, in the context of the monitoring plan. In this context, field staff will be responsible for monitoring the progress, as relevant, in the monitoring plan, as well as to identify any potential risks that may emerge through the implementation phase. This information will be compiled in progress reports; templates will include a section on environmental and social risk management, where the above information will be reported upon.

E.1.3. Consultations with stakeholders

Provide adequate and sufficient information on the consultations undertaken with all the relevant stakeholders, describing who are the identified stakeholders, what the issues and concerns raised and how these are responded to and considered in the proposed activities. Information on the stakeholder engagement plan or framework will also need to be provided, describing how the activities will continue to engage the stakeholders, further consultations, communication and outreach, and process for grievance redress.

The development of the proposal for results-based payments for REDD+ builds on the extensive stakeholder

engagement processes that have been carried in Argentina throughout the implementation of the Forest Law, as well as during the development of the PANByCC and of the Forests and community Project. Extensive information on the participatory process that accompanied the development of the PANByCC, which in turn informed the selection of activities to be implemented with the use of proceeds, is available in the ESA and ESMF Annex, as well as the first Summary of Safeguards Information.

The main spaces of participation and dialogue as related to the PANByCC include:

- *Socialization and capacity strengthening on forests and climate change as well as on key elements of REDD+ strategies:* between 2015 and early 2017, workshops were held with representatives of COFEMA, NGOs, the government, the private sector and academia at provincial and national level. Worth mentioning a workshop attended by 106 participants, including representatives of civil society and academic organizations, and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, government ministries and institutions, and UN agencies;
- *Formation of technical working groups addressing key REDD+ issues :* i) environmental and social benefits and safeguards, ii) reference levels and forest monitoring, iii) financial structure and REDD+ financing, iv) drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, v) indigenous peoples;
- *Regional and multisectoral dialogue workshops,* developed in collaboration with local institutions with experience and knowledge of socio-environmental aspects of Argentina's forest regions. In total, 10 workshops were conducted in a systematic manner between 2017-2018, with a total participation of 627 people. The stakeholders mapping included representatives of the different sectors linked to land use, forests and climate change, validated by COFEMA representatives;
- *Workshops on safeguards, gender and free, prior and informed consultation processes* with indigenous peoples, which are described in detail in the ESA.

As part of the processes mentioned above, the Government of Argentina carried out numerous exercises to identify the risks associated with REDD+ in general, as well as the SOPs of the PANByCC, in order to design and implement REDD+ safeguards consistently, avoid or mitigate potential social and environmental risks, and promote benefits. Results of such exercises helped inform the ESA and the ESMF.

The participatory process that was carried out in six forest regions of the country in 2017 and 2018 served to analyze the potential social and environmental benefits and risks of the different pillars and actions associated with the PANByCC and ensure that its design was appropriate before it was implemented; the process also served to report on the progress of the CAS, and the future adjustments that would be made in the PANByCC, based on the experience with its implementation.

It should be noted that the analysis was conducted within the national safeguard development framework wherefore only the benefits and risks of potential actions of the SOPs, and not those of the SSPs, of the PANByCC were analyzed given that the actions of the SOPs are the only ones that entail a direct intervention on the ground and generate reduced emissions.

Based on the PANByCC's Strategic Pillars and its actions, MAyDS – with the support of the Argentina UN-REDD NP – made extensive technical and participatory efforts to identify the measures in order to address the risks and increase the benefits of implementing the PANByCC, giving special consideration to the Cancun Safeguards. These efforts resulted in the development of the CAS and its SIS-AR.

These participatory processes have helped inform the development of the PANByCC, and have guided the development of this RBPs proposal and its annexes, and have focused on continual assessment of potential risks and impacts of activities to ensure that both the PANByCC design and the development of this proposal address the concerns of key stakeholders.

In the ESMF annex, a number of key stakeholders for this project have been identified, along with information on their envisaged role in project implementation. This will be updated and refined at project inception, and to accompany the selection and screening of sub-activities.

Building on the extensive stakeholder engagement that have accompanied the implementation of the Forest Law, the design of the PANByCC and the development of this proposal, project activities will be implemented through participatory, transparent and equitable processes, with a focus on the needs,

perspectives and priorities of key project stakeholders. This will be in line with FAO and GCF commitments to ensuring meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of projects. Stakeholder engagement will be considered on-going process that involves in varying degrees identification of stakeholders, disclosure and establishment of a mechanism by which people can make comments on project proposals and performance or raise grievances.

In addition, the project proposes a number of activities that will support comprehensive participation processes, such as Component A, on "Territorial forest management", among other aspects, aims to increase the participation of local communities in the operation of the Forest Law, which is considered a priority action for the recovery of regional economies, aimed at generating fair forms of economic income, but at the same time maintaining and increasing forest heritage. Building capacities and technical assistance for the elaboration of PICs (A.2.2) will contribute to improving access to resources of the Forest Law for local communities. For this, the project plans to support territorial prospecting activities and participatory diagnoses (A.2.1), which will provide an opportunity for processes to understand the expectations, opportunities and obstacles of different actors as related to the Forest Law Fund.

Important resources for ensuring designing and implementing effective stakeholder engagement processes can be drawn from tools within the CAS, described in previous sections, as well as existing elements related to the Forest Law. This includes the following guidelines, published in 2014:

- [Guidelines on Analyzing Social Stakeholders for OTBN Participatory Processes;](#)
- [Guidelines for Disseminating OTBN Participatory Processes;](#)
- [Guidelines on Methodologies for OTBN Participatory Processes;](#)
- [Guidelines for Documenting the OTBN Participatory Process.](#)

The PICs that are described in Output A.2. can also serve as a useful tool to improve participation in forest governance, helping to promote free, prior and informed consultation processes. These can also help build capacities to help promote effective and transparent decision-making processes at the local level.

Likewise, output A.1 which focuses on establishing and consolidating forest basins for timber- and non-timber products, will provide an opportunity for multi-stakeholder participation processes, involving the different beneficiaries of the relevant value chains, with a particular focus on those who have not yet been able to access management plans or financing due to conditions of land tenure.

The MBGI National Technical Committee and Provincial Technical Committee described previously, as related to project implementation arrangements, will also be key to ensuring effective participation processes related to Component B, informed by expert inputs. The committees will work together to meet the objectives of the MBGI National Plan, mainly oriented to training, monitoring the implementation of projects and developing marketing strategies.

The Enlarged Forest Consultative Council and Local Consultative Committee described previously are also key to supporting provinces in project identification, development of activities, evaluation, monitoring, and implementation of social and environmental safeguards, and enabling wider participation – for example, from institutes or ministries of indigenous affairs, representatives of local communities organizations, and others.

Ongoing consideration will be made to ensure that relevant stakeholders are appropriately identified and involved in all stages of the project cycle for all activities.

Key participatory processes specifically focused on the development of this RBPs proposal are reported in detail in section 7 of the ESMF annex of this funding proposal. It is worth mentioning also here that since the start-up of the preparation process for the funding proposal was approved by the GCF (December 2019), Argentina experienced a change in government authorities.

In February 2020 the new authorities reconfirmed the interest and commitment of the country in combating climate change through the reduction of deforestation and the enhancement of carbon stocks. Initial contacts to socialize the concept of the funding proposal with key stakeholders, such as COFEMA, MAGyP, INAI, and the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity started up the same month.

In March, in the context of the meeting of the Forest Commission of the **COFEMA**, MAYDS presented to environmental authorities of all the provinces the concept of the RBP funding proposal, objectives, initial elements and concepts for use of proceeds, and the proposed distribution of benefits. The proposal – and the benefit distribution scheme (as reported in section C.2.1 of this funding proposal) was unanimously declared of interest of the provinces and approved.

In the same month, dialogue and consultations also progressed with **INAI** related to organization of a process for free, prior and informed consultation with indigenous peoples, resulting in the agreement for the joint-organization of a series of consultation events, the first of which should have been held in early April with the *Mesa Nacional del Consejo de Participación Indígena* (the Council of Indigenous Peoples Participation). A second meeting would have been held with a larger number of participants/representatives (approximately 130) at the regional level. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the related lock-down in the country, face-to-face meetings had to be put on hold, limiting the ability to carry out consultations as planned. As a contingency plan, the consultation process continued remotely from April 2020 – with the plan to resume face-to-face consultation as soon as the health emergency would allow it. As of October 2020 the country continues in health emergency and in lock-down, therefore the consultation and participation had to continue through virtual platforms, as the next paragraphs will explain.

An **online survey** was first prepared and sent out, together with a summary of the draft Funding Proposal, to 261 actors from more than **110 institutions and organizations** (including indigenous peoples, *campesinos*, NGOs and academia) who had participated in the regional workshops for the construction of the PANByCC described in previous sections (and at length in the ESA annex of this funding proposal), allowing for a period of ten days response. The same survey and a summary of the RBP proposal have then also been made publicly available on the [MAYDS website](#) for continuous feedback.

As of 21 September opinions and contributions from 126 actors, representing 73 institutions, were received (23% technical sector, 22% academic sector, 17% private sector, 17% NGOs and community-level organizations, 6% indigenous peoples, 3% small scale farmers, 12% government). Regarding gender, 70% of the replies were from males, and 30% from female actors. With relation to provinces, all the 23 provinces of Argentina were represented in the answers.

The survey asked for the respondent to indicate his/her engagement with native forest management and in the REDD+ process, and to indicate which kind of impact (positive or negative) the proposed project would have on his/her area of work. The survey also asked respondents to prioritize the outputs included in the Funding Proposal, in order of importance, and included questions on how to potentially improve the project.

When asked to identify the impacts of the proposal, 71% considered only positive impacts, 16% listed positive and negative impacts, 2% only negative and 13% abstained from answering. The positive impacts were numerous, including the strengthening of sustainable forest management, continuance of practices that produced good results and complemented the Forest Law, likelihood to reduce of pressures of extraction from small scale farmers, strengthening of the involvement of local communities and social inclusion. Within the negative impacts mentioned, there were concerns about the sustainability of results and benefits, which could arrive too late or generate false expectations from communities; and awareness of the need of a suitable monitoring and control system to achieve desired results.

The four components of the project were ranked in order of priority: 1° Territory-based forest management, 2° Forest management with integrated livestock, and 3° Strengthening institutional and monitoring and oversight capabilities. and 4° Enhanced response to forest fires.

When asked to suggest potential improvements to the proposal, 59% of respondents included details that already were included in the proposal but not fully or explicitly specified in the summary circulated with the questionnaire, 25% did not include any suggestion and 28% included suggestions which will be duly reviewed and considered, including defining clear guidelines for implementation, communication and diffusion of the tools, involving other actors of the agricultural sector, promoting financial incentives for the private sector, and including local entities in certification and control systems, among others.

To **foster continued dialogue and contributions from indigenous peoples** a specific online meeting was organized in July. It should be noted that under the ongoing pandemic and lock-down, indigenous peoples are following recommendations from UN and other international organizations and are postponing, until date

to be confirmed, any contact with external actors. Presential meetings will have to be planned as soon as the pandemic will allow it. The objective of the meeting, held on July 8th, was to present the main concepts and content of the proposal to gather inputs, queries, suggestions and exchanges. The meeting, received high attendance and participation, with more than 50 representatives from indigenous peoples. At the meeting MAYDS and INAI stressed the key role of IP to continue boosting the reduction of deforestation in the country, informed about the online survey fostering the provision of inputs also through that channel. The meeting was [recorded](#) and it is available for dissemination to other interested actors.

On 27 July MAYDS maintained a **new meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP in its Spanish acronym)** to present in more details the main contents and the most updated implementation arrangements of the Funding Proposal, so to further discuss role of MAGyP within the project. The meeting was attended by 9 representatives of different areas within the MAGyP, including the National Directorate of Industrial Forestry Development; Directorate of Bovine Livestock; Directorate of Sustainable Productions; Secretariat of Family, Peasant and Indigenous Agriculture; Under Secretariat of Politics Coordination; and the Under Secretariat of Agriculture. MAGyP ratified its commitment with the project proposal development and implementation. The main areas of joint work include MBGI, the strengthening of forest fires prevention measures, and developing adequate territorial planning within forest basins. They also ratified their support promoting sustainable production schemes, carbon-neutral to avoid deforestation and work together even sharing stakeholders' platforms. Furthermore, they valued the gender approach of the proposal.

On 10 August 2020, MAYDS presented the funding proposal main contents to the **Central of Workers of Argentina (CTA, in its Spanish acronym)**. The CTA is an organization that brings together first-degree unions, associations or federations of workers, popular cooperatives and civil associations. The meeting was attended by 34 representatives of the CTA based in different provinces of the country. The main issues addressed during the meeting were the necessity of inter-ministerial work to address land tenure issues, the need for a good approach between rural and urban transition, and key drivers of deforestation in the country. The importance of the continuity of the PICs developed within the framework of the Forest and Community Project was highlighted, as well as the participatory methodology used in planning. The CTA expressed their predisposition and openness to participate and work together, specifically when it comes to working in the territory. They highlighted that the CTA network is available and can help bringing territorial projects closer. MAYDS shared the online survey link for the CTA to give additional feedback, suggestions and contributions. The meeting was [recorded](#) and the minute is available upon request.

On 14 August 2020, MAYDS presented the funding proposal main contents to the **Argentine Forest Engineering Federation (FAIF in its Spanish acronym)**. FAIF is a civil and non-profit association, that brings together forest engineering and related organizations, exercising collective representation before public and private organizations of national and international order. The meeting was attended by 86 representatives of professional councils on forestry sciences and engineering. The professionals of the Federation made a call for all forestry professionals to improve the technical quality of the plans that are presented under the Forest Law. They suggested incorporating measures that can accompany and leverage investment made through private activity. In addition, they proposed to analyze the MBGI regulations and their application to see the results obtained in different regions and make the necessary adjustments. Each region has its own vectors or drivers of deforestation and degradation, and they should be addressed. They highlighted the need to strengthen the manufacture of native products. They maintained that the manufacturing chain of native products should be strengthened, due to physical accessibility problems and the amount of available resources.

The FAIF recognized that the implementation of the RBP will generate an important job market. They also emphasized the importance of strengthening technical teams to work on the valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests, not only as carbon sinks; work on issues such as sustainable tourism, and territorial identity, to showcase their value, and increase the awareness for those who are the beneficiaries of these services.

The Federation thanked and highlighted the openness and predisposition to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of those who live in the forests. MAYDS shared the online survey link for FAIF to give additional feedback, suggestions and contributions. The meeting was [recorded](#) and the minute is available upon request.

On 14 September 2020, MAYDS held a virtual meeting with **representatives of NGOs and Civil Society**

Organizations, to present further details and exchange on the main contents of the funding proposal. The meeting was attended by 41 representatives of different organizations. Some of the organizations that participated in the meeting were the Chaco Argentina Agroforestry Network (REDAF, for its name in Spanish), the Institute of Popular Culture (INCUIPO), the Argentine Climate Youth, the Association for the Promotion of Culture and Development (ACDP), the Association of Mountain Guides, ProYungas Foundation, the Argentine Wildlife Foundation (FVSA), among others.

Participants' interventions highlighted some key aspects, such as the importance of preservation of the forest through the strengthening of the communities that live in it and the positive impact and increase respect for communities' rights that working schemes through the PICs can bring.

The spaces for participation proposed in the RBP project, such as the Local Consultative Committee, were confirmed as good opportunities for participation. The important for consultations not be affected by cultural barriers was noted. The importance of financing effectively reaching the communities was pointed out. The importance of transparency in the implementation of the local interventions within the framework of the proposal was also addressed.

NGOs and civil society organizations representatives confirmed their interest in proposal and expressed their commitment to support. MAYDS shared the online survey link, for additional feedback, suggestions and contributions. The minute of the meeting is available upon request.

On 15 September 2020, the funding proposal was presented to main contents in the **Argentine Network of Forest Science and Technology** (REDFOR.ar, in its Spanish acronym), which is a joint initiative of institutions linked to forest sciences, integrated by researchers and institutions related to education, science and forest technology. The meeting was attended by 152 people. During the meeting, the need for a multisectoral approach was expressed, considering the different factors that are involved in deforestation. Carrying out long-term and sustained territorial work to strengthen communities so that they do not depend on technicians and financing, taking advantage of the existing permanent structures and presence of the State are also important. Greater articulation of the DNB and subnational institutions was suggested, specifically in monitoring implementation and deforestation processes. Regarding the proposed institutional arrangements of the proposal, it was proposed that explicit representation be given to the academic-scientific sector. The REDFOR.ar stated that they were going to send a formal document with contributions, that condenses all opinions collected by the internal survey sent to the members of the network. Additionally, MAYDS shared the online survey link, for all the members of REDFOR.ar to give additional feedback, and suggestions. The meeting was [recorded](#) and the minute is available upon request.

All the inputs collected throughout these different instances has been systematized. As mentioned above, an important group of them already were included within this proposal, and other suggestions will be addressed in the inception phase of the project. The distribution of the budget presented across activities reflects feedbacks on the prioritization of the interventions received from stakeholders during the consultation sessions (see section E.1.3 for further information). In this framework the highest priority for the investments on the ground was identified as the Territorial forest management (Component A), since such approach would continue triggering reduction of emissions from the forest sector, while boosting positive economic impacts on local communities and indigenous peoples. Component B (Forest management with integrated livestock) and component C (Enhanced response to forest fires) have been prioritized in second and third place (see also response 1 for component C).

The dialogue and exchange process will continue with the various stakeholders, with follow up meetings with COFEMA and INAI already organized for the month of October to share update on the upcoming B27. Other meetings and coordination actions will follow.

E.2. Risk assessment

E.2.1. For the period of the achieved results

Provide adequate and sufficient information that allows for an assessment of the historical performance of the activities undertaken and their track record against the risk tolerance levels specified in the Risk Appetite Statement and the criteria outlined in the Risk Guidelines for Funding Proposals.

Please note that you should consider only the applicable and relevant parts of the two above documents to the feedback you provide.

Argentina has a regulatory and institutional framework that promotes collective and individual human rights, transparent governance and public access to information. The legal framework on transparency and access to information on native forest management is binding for government agencies, and there are specific

institutions and mechanisms for enforcement purposes. These instruments apply to the implementation of the PANByCC and other REDD+ initiatives, including during the results period.

In general terms, the country has a very comprehensive regulatory framework dealing with the prevention of corruption practices and fraud in the public administration, as well as access to public information, which were in place during the results period. These include:

- United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) of 2003 (Law No. 26097, O.G. of 09 June 2006);
- Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC) of 1996 (Law No. 24759, O.G. of 13 January 1997);
- American Convention on Human Rights of 1969 (“Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica”) (Law No. 23054, O.G. of 27 March 1984); and
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 (Law No. 23313; O.G. of 6 May 1986).

Relevant domestic regulatory elements that were applicable during the results period include:

- National Constitution: Article 41 requires the authorities to provide environmental information;
- Law on Access to Public Information No. 27275 (O.G. of 29 September 2016): guarantees the effective right to access public information and promotes civic participation and transparency in public administration;
- General Law on the Environment No. 25675 (O.G. of 28 November 2002): requires all individuals and both public and private legal entities to provide environmental information on the activities they perform (articles 16, 17 and 18); and
- Forest Law No. 26331 (O.G. of 26 December 2007): requires the Office of the AGN and the SIGEN to oversee and audit the FNECBN (Article 36).

The institutional framework for addressing transparency that was in place during the results period includes:

- MAYDS and COFEMA, the two government bodies that have the most experience in the generation, systematization and provision of public environmental information;
- AGN (the Office of the National Auditor General), an oversight body of the National Public Sector, issues reports on transparency and management of the funds allocated as provided for in the Forest Law; AGN has an office that receives reports on any non-compliance of the government agencies it audits;
- The Office of the Comptroller General (SIGEN), an oversight body of the National Public Sector, audits the implementation of the Forest Law and has mechanisms to request information in person or electronically; and
- The Anti-Corruption Office of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (Law No. 25233, O.G. of 14 December 1999), develops and coordinates programmes to combat corruption.

These elements, along with the continuous risk analysis and management carried out in the framework of the implementation of the Forest Law and the development of the PANByCC demonstrate Argentina’s capacity to effectively manage risks, in line with the GCF risk management framework. While the risk analysis exercises carried out do not specify a difference between inherent or residual risks, the assessments included consideration of both risk categories and indicate that residual risk tolerance levels were not exceeded, nor were there any negative impacts that might result from the implementation of prohibited practices.

While the risk analysis exercises carried out do not specify a difference between inherent or residual risks, the assessments included consideration of both risk categories and indicate that residual risk tolerance levels were not exceeded, nor were there any negative impacts that might result from the implementation of prohibited practices. Detail on the prevention of prohibited practices is available in section E.4.1.

A multistakeholder process for identifying risks associated with the REDD+ activities and the Strategic Operational Pillars of the PANByCC, as well as the mitigation measures identified, is detailed in the ESA.

The main relevant risks include: unforeseen impacts of policy interventions; policy changes that impact sustainable long-term financing of activities, including implementation of the Forest Law; weak government and social institutions to face new economic and social scenarios; institutional decoupling between provinces and municipalities, and between different institutions responsible for territorial development policies in the same jurisdiction; conflicting infrastructure development plans in territories where ownership is not defined or in disputed areas; poor oversight of illegal logging and timber movements; forest overexploitation due to misapplication of incentives for non-sustainable activities; high agricultural prices and profitability of commodities (mainly soybean); and reluctance of decision-makers, native forest owners, farmers, etc., to adopt new production or sustainable forest management models.

These risks were managed within the framework of the Forest Law, and through the National Programme on Protection of Native Forests (article 12, Law No. 26331) and the National Fund for Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests (FNECBN). The number of different forest management and/or conservation instruments available under the Forest Law increased significantly since 2010, with the highest numbers in the results period, 2014 and 2015. MAYS is the enforcement authority for both the above-mentioned National Programme and the FNECBN.

During the results period there was a progressive strengthening of institutions such as MAYS, COFEMA and competent subnational agencies as well as the development of new tools and methodological guidelines to implement the different aspects of the Law. The 2017 Management Report of the Office of the National Auditor General (AGN) made note of the progress made in this regard, compared to the report auditing the period 2007-2013. It remarked that “the internal structure of the National Directorate of Forests within the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development is appropriate for the foreseen functions to implement Law 26331,” and that “a specific office to oversee the provinces (Cooperation and Control Unit) was established” (AGN, 2017, p. 36).

In 2014, the National Directorate of Forests (DNB) of MAYS created the DNB Social Participation Unit (APS-DNB)⁷² to support participatory methodologies, and to address claims and complaints, as well as requests for information. Within the framework of the participatory processes for outlining the first versions of the provincial OTBNs around 2012-2013, DNB’s Social Participation Unit advised that the participation of indigenous peoples was one of the weaknesses of the process. Therefore, in the Guidelines for OTBN Participatory Processes, a dialogue structure has been recommended for consultation with the Indigenous Peoples.

According to the different Forest Law regulations, as well as initiatives and actions in force during the Results Period, the local enforcement authorities must facilitate effective participation of all stakeholders, holding specific meetings with / for the indigenous peoples, on the one hand, and with other social stakeholders, on the other hand. During the Results Period, there were also tools such as the [Protocol on the Free, Prior and Informed Consultation of Indigenous Peoples](#) of ENOTPO (AGN, 2017), outlined jointly with 45 territory-based organizations, supported by technicians and officials from the different ministries.

A number of projects supported the implementation and enforcement of the Forest Law, and mitigation of identified risks in the results period:

- The project [“Support to the Implementation of the National Native Forest Protection Programme”](#) strengthened the capabilities of the National Forest Law Enforcement Authority (the MAYS) so it can fulfill the missions and duties commissioned by the Forest Law. Through this project (October 2012 to June 2020, with a request for extension to December 2020), UNDP supported MAYS in managing and transferring Forest Law funds. Considering that these funds originate from the Forest Law and are assigned every year, following the project, MAYS will still take responsibility for the management of the funds and their execution.

⁷² The Unit was set up at DNB in 2012, based on the need to analyze participatory processes for outlining OTBNs. The Unit (APS) performs the following functions:

1. Analyzes participation processes in the provinces’ OTBNs.
2. Provides technical assistance to local enforcement authorities on the participatory process, according to the Forest Law.
3. Outlines participatory methodologies, and acts as moderator at meetings for different DNB and SAYS units.
4. Manages claims filed with the National Forest Directorate by different stakeholders with regard to OTBNs.

- The [Forests and Community Project](#) (IBRD 8493), approved in November 2015, seeks to improve the quality of life of the indigenous peoples and local communities that live in native forests, particularly in the provinces of Salta, Santiago del Estero and Chaco, , through the promotion of the conservation, restoration and responsible use of their services and products. To do so, “Integral Community Plans” (PICs in its Spanish acronym), the first public policy on Community Forest Management, framed within the Forest Law promoted by MAYS, are prepared in a participatory manner to achieve a broad base of agreements on the management of the territory under use of one or more communities and avoid possible negative impacts on livelihood. They help evaluate and provide measures to increase project benefits and to avoid or mitigate potential negative impacts. This long-term project has provided MAYS and sub-national agencies with important inputs and capacities in participatory processes with forest-dependent communities, and is complementary to the Forest Law.
- The [Forest Carbon Partnership Facility \(FCPF\) in Argentina](#), which started in 2015, supported the development of REDD+ within the framework of the Forest Law, supplementing and strengthening the necessary aspects to implement the PANByCC,⁷³.
- The [Argentina UN-REDD National Programme](#) (NP)⁷⁴ started in April 2015 and supported the country to move forward and [complete all the elements of the Warsaw Framework](#) with a high level of participation of national, provincial and local stakeholders. These efforts enabled Argentina to publish the [National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change \(PANByCC\)](#), which is the country’s national REDD+ strategy, based on the Forest Law.

Some execution risks associated with implementation of the Forest Law and reliance on the Forest Fund were identified in the results period. Argentina’s commitment to forest conservation has been reflected in regular transfers to FNECBN since its creation, although the country has been unable to transfer the full amount foreseen in the Forest Law. These risks were managed through the achievement of projects implemented or initiated in the results period to support MAYS in implementation of the Forest Law and enhancing its capacities; these projects will be built upon and enhanced. The RBP project plans to make best use of the channels of participation boosted by the Forests and Community Project during the PIC preparation and implementation. The Government of Argentina seeks to strengthen the capacities of the ANA for the Forest Law and the Climate Change Law, so it can fulfill the mission and functions assigned to it therein.

In addition, as detailed in section C.1, section E.4.1 and in the ESA, there were several established platforms and mechanisms for requesting and accessing information, making complaints and promoting transparency and accountability, that were implemented in the framework of the Forest Law, and relevant initiatives.

Analysis of activities implemented during the results period, as well as the relevant legal and institutional frameworks in place, has been consistent with the requirements of applicable standards and safeguard policies and has not supported any practices for which the GCF has a zero-risk tolerance.

E.2.2. For the use of proceeds

Provide adequate and sufficient information that details how the plan for the use of proceeds does not violate the risk tolerance levels specified in the Risk Appetite Statement and allows for performance monitoring and evaluation against the criteria outlined in the Risk Guidelines for Funding Proposals.

Please note that you should consider only the applicable and relevant parts of the two above documents to the feedback you provide.

In addition to the extensive legal and institutional framework described in the previous section (E.2.1), following on from the results period, Argentina has developed an even more robust approach and framework to promote transparency, accessibility and access to information, which will be applicable for the use of proceeds.

Argentina signed the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) on 27 September 2018. This instrument seeks to promote full implementation of the rights of all people to access environmental information, public participation in decision-making that may affect their quality of life and the establishment of adequate mechanisms to access the procedures. A bill has already been submitted

⁷³ MAYS. [Emission Reduction Programme Idea Note \(ER-PIN\), Carbon Fund, FCPF](#). Date of submission: 15 September 2015

⁷⁴ For additional information visit: [Argentina UN-REDD Programme](#).

requesting parliamentary approval of the Agreement, a necessary prior step to its ratification.

Regarding anti-corruption practices, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights adopted a Resolution 186/18 stating that the Anti-corruption Office created by Law No. 25233/99, is a technical body with specialized competences, which concentrate its efforts specifically referring to acts of corruption and that require a high degree of professionalism in the subject.

More recently, the Decree 258/19 approves the National Anticorruption Plan for the period 2019-2023. To monitor and implement its measures, the following instruments have later been developed:

- Resolution 21/19 creates the Advisory Council to follow-up the Implementation of the initiatives incorporated in the National Anticorruption Plan (2019-2023) together with Decree 650/19, Resolution 797/19, and Resolution 33/19.
- To avoid conflict of interests in the public employment, a series of secondary instruments regulate the subject. Specifically, the framework Law regulating national public employment, Decree 8566/61 on the regime regulating accumulation of charges in the public administration.
- Finally, regarding money laundering, the Law No. 25246 and Decree 169/01 regulate the matter together with Decree 1025/01 establishing incompatibilities and prohibitions related to financial Information units. Decree 1023/01 defines the procurement regime for the public administration, and Decree 467/99 regulates administrative investigations.

FAO, as an AE to the GCF, will use its policies, rules and regulations for the management of funds to comply with the provisions of the GCF. These policies will be applied in all activities that are implemented not only by FAO, but also by implementing partners and collaborators of the project. FAO is committed to planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating activities for transparent, efficient and adequate management of resources, in line with the country's legal framework and the provisions of relevant international instruments and conventions.

Further information on the continuous risk analysis and screening that will be carried out is available in section E.1.2, helping to ensure that risk tolerance levels will not exceeded in the implementation of activities carried out with the use of proceeds, nor will any prohibited practices be supported.

E.3. Gender considerations

E.3.1. For the period of the achieved results

Provide adequate and sufficient information in the assessment describing the extent to which the measures undertaken complied with the GCF gender policy.

The Government of Argentina has been working on mainstreaming gender in the different public policies. In this regard, it is worth underscoring the following institutional and regulatory frameworks:

- Law No. 26485, on the *Full Protection for Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women in their Interpersonal Relationships* (O.G. 14 April 2009): its objectives are, *inter alia*, to ensure the rights recognized by international conventions ratified by the country in this field, to “eliminate discrimination between women and men in all the walks of life”.
- Law No. 27118, on *Family Agriculture* (O.G. 28 January 2015): its objectives are, *inter alia*, to contribute to eliminating the gender gaps and stereotypes, ensuring equal access to men and women to the rights and benefits enshrined in this law, tailoring actions and implementing specific policies for women; and, furthermore, to reinforce upward social mobility within family, peasant and indigenous agriculture, with special attention to women’s conditions and needs (Article 4.c).
- Law No. 27499, on *Mandatory Training in Gender Issues for all National Officials working in the Three Branches of the State* (O.G. 10 January 2019): it creates the National Ongoing Programme for Institutional Training in Gender and Violence against Women, with a view to “training and raising awareness” of all public officials at different State levels.

Within the framework of current regulations, Argentina has developed social policies with a gender perspective that have had a direct impact on the improvement of women’s educational attainments, the increase in their economic income, the development of new capacities and consolidation of stronger social and community relations, providing more empowerment and autonomy in decision-making (See more details

in Gender Assessment Annex).

Within the context of the PANByCC, an implementation strategy was developed, with actions aimed at ensuring gender equality in forest management programmes and policies, taking into consideration the following:

- a) All political initiatives have direct and indirect impacts on the population, and these effects are different for men and women, according to what a given society considers masculine and feminine in each context - gender roles-;
- b) There is a significant part of the population that cares for and depends on forests; among them, women have specific knowledge and relationships that must be taken into account; and
- c) Women, as well as other agents across the territory (youth, ethnic minorities, landless farmers) are usually relegated in decision-making processes regarding the territory, and this trend must be reversed.

In this regard, various activities have been carried out involving men, women, indigenous peoples and other social stakeholders in the construction of the PANByCC. Participation in quantitative terms in these regional multisectoral activities shows that, in the period 2017-2018, women accounted for 33.3% of the participants and men for 66.6% (Table 30), therefore, the minimum goal was reached of ensuring a 30% share of women.

Table 30. Percentage of participants in regional multisectoral meetings, by sector, and disaggregated by sex, in 2017 and 2018

Sector	Share of Women	Share of Men
Government	12.1%	21.0%
Technical-Academic	7.5%	17.8%
CSOs / NGOs	5.4%	8.0%
Private sector	2.3%	8.2%
Small farmers	1.0%	3.3%
Indigenous Peoples	5.1%	8.5%
Total	33.3%	66.6%

Source: Argentina UN-REDD National Programme, DNCC, MAyDS.

In addition, studies were carried out to evaluate the gender approach in addressing and respecting each REDD+ safeguard, together with a stakeholder training workshop on gender mainstreaming in forest management and climate change; and to present management tools for decision makers and technicians working on the ground. These implementation tools will be included in the “**Guide for mainstreaming gender in forest and climate change management: to support decision makers and entities involved in the implementation of the PANByCC**”, which will be available as part of the Tools for implementing safeguards on the ground.

INAI has also implemented a gender approach in its operation, aimed at empowering indigenous women. In 2016, the institution had in place a programme for indigenous communities called "Intercultural Facilitators", which included indigenous women representing 54% of the 247 existing facilitators. Likewise, in 2016, in coordination with the National Program of University Scholarships and the Bicentennial financed by the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Nation, INAI assigned a total of 167 scholarships to students from indigenous communities, from which women represented 61%.

On the other hand, the institutional framework under which the respect for the safeguard on the implementation of a gender approach is addressed, is made up of: the GNCC, which carries out initiatives to mainstream the gender perspective in transparency promotion mechanisms; the DNCC that prepared the PANByCC and follows the gender approach guidelines in its implementation; the Directorate for Environmental Education and Citizen Participation that addresses gender aspects within MAyDS; the National Ombudsperson’s Office that has an Area for Vulnerable Groups that works on gender issues; and the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, which develops policies, programmes and initiatives to

empower women, and promotes gender equality and eradication of violence, among them the National Action Plan against gender-based violence (2020-2022)⁷⁵.

E.3.2. For the use of proceeds

Provide adequate and sufficient information on how the EA will undertake activity-level gender assessments and action plans once the details of the activities become known.

Argentina has a broad national and international legal framework on gender and human rights that provides guidelines on the protection of human rights of women and communities. Therefore, the guiding principles to implement this proposal include compliance with national and international legislation on gender-related matters in force, and the establishment of social, gender and environmental safeguards and guidelines to ensure gender equality as well as the rights and full participation of women.

The Argentine State has committed to a fundamental pillar for implementing the Funding Proposal, that is, promoting gender equality and mainstreaming the gender approach in the forest management-related policies and actions included herein.

The efforts and resources of the actions included in this proposal thus focus on women and communities that live in the forest, to help them achieve a sustainable development and production model that also reduces the gender gap to access resources and participate in the benefits of public policies.

In this regard, effective participation of women in climate change mitigation actions is of fundamental importance to avoid negative impacts on them as a result of the implementation of forest management policies and, also, because their experience and specific knowledge are an important contribution to the implementation strategy. Also relevant to the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the implementation of the proposal is the identification of issues such as allocation of access, use and control of resources and assets, and distribution of tasks according to certain gender roles.

Therefore, participation will be considered both in quantitative and qualitative terms, so as not to reproduce and intensify existing gender inequalities and reduce gender gaps, in access to resources and participation of women in policy matters. For this purpose, the differentiated needs of men and women, as well as those in the different sectors involved, will be taken into account.

The guiding principles of the implementation will be:

- Compliance with existing national and international gender legislation.
- Application of social, gender and environmental safeguards and guidelines that ensure gender equality and the rights and full participation of women.

Within this context, the priority objective of the Gender Action Plan of this proposal is to strengthen the economic autonomy of the communities that live in native forests, particularly by providing women equitable access to these resources and the possibility to decide on their use, taking into consideration the impact this may have on their workload, be it productive or reproductive, to avoid any undesired increase in said workload. Another objective is to include gender considerations in existing practices and processes to develop forest management plans or actions (such as social and environmental safeguards), i.e., to mainstream gender in the planning, decision-making and implementation process and not as a separate stage.

The Gender Action Plan identifies gender-sensitive actions which shall be adopted and mainstreamed when the activities included in the funding proposal are implemented. Additionally, specific indicators to measure and follow-up on these actions are proposed (See Gender Annex). The expected results are the following:

- Diagnostic studies on access, use and control of resources and assets as well as distribution of tasks, disaggregated by gender.
- Effective participation of women and men in the different actions included in the proposal.
- Equitable distribution of the benefits arising from the implemented actions.
- Technical staff of Forest Law national and local enforcement authorities trained in gender-related

⁷⁵ https://www.argentina.gob.ar/generos/plan_nacional_de_accion_contra_las_violencias_por_motivos_de_genero

matters and human rights.

A gender expert team will be responsible for the implementation of the activities outlined within the Gender Action Plan. The composition of the team, their roles and the activities that they will carry out are detailed in Annex 4 of this funding proposal (Gender Analysis & Gender Action Plan). Within that Annex it also has been included a specific Budget for Gender Action Plan implementation.

E.4. Interim policy on prohibited practices

E.4.1. For the period of the achieved results

Provide appropriate and sufficient information to demonstrate that no Prohibited Practices occurred during the implementation of the activities that lead to the REDD-plus results, such as: undisclosed Prohibited Practices, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism, which occurred during the implementation of results-based actions; and double payment or financing for the same results achieved.

Argentina has a very comprehensive regulatory framework dealing with the prevention of corruption practices and fraud in the public administration, which has helped to ensure that no Prohibited Practices, as defined in the [GCF Policy on Prohibited Practices](#), occurred during the implementation of activities that led to REDD+ results. Argentina has developed a legal framework in accordance with international treaties to prevent money laundering and financing of terrorism. The country also has an access to information law.

Argentina has ratified international instruments including the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Law No. 26097), the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (Law No. 24759), the American Convention on Human Rights (Law No. 23054) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1986).

The country has a legal framework promoting transparent forest governance of native forests, and access to information on environmental matters by citizens, reflected in the Law on Access to Public Information (Law No. 27275) and the General Environmental Law (Law No. 25675).

The Law No. 27275 regulates the access of public information. The objective is to guarantee the effective exercise of the right of access to public information, promote citizen participation and transparency in the public administration. It also aims to guarantee the effective exercise of the right of access to public information, promote citizen participation and transparency in public administration. To implement the law, an agency of access to public information has been created, as an autonomous entity that will operate within the Head of Ministers 'Cabinet. In addition to enforce the law, a Joint Resolution SGRP 1/08 and FCA 3/08 state procedures for the processing of complaints for breaching the obligations contemplated in the Law and General Regulation of Access to Public Information.

To avoid conflict of interests in the public employment, a series of secondary instruments regulate the subject. Specifically, the framework Law regulating national public employment, Decree 8566/61 on the regime regulating accumulation of charges in the public administration. In addition, there is Regulatory Decree 1179/2016 regulating Article 18 "Regime of gifts to public officials" of Law No. 25188, Decree 895/13 regulating Law No. 26857, and Decree 41/99 on the Code of Ethics in the Public Service.

Regarding money laundering, the Law No. 25246 and Decree 169/01 regulate the matter together with Decree 1025/01 establishing incompatibilities and prohibitions related to financial information units. Decree 1023/01 defines the procurement regime for the public administration, and Decree 467/99 regulates administrative investigations.

This legal framework, as well as continual improvements in its coverage and application, have helped to ensure that Argentina has robust legal and institutional structures in place which have helped to avoid prohibited practices during the results period.

In line with the GCF policy on whistle-blowers and grievance redress, appropriate grievance resolution mechanisms were made available during the results period for this proposal. These are described in more detail in the ESA Annex and summarized below.

To prevent conflicts and make it easier to address claims and complaints within the framework of the Forest Law, the following citizen participation instruments have been operational since 2007, and available during the period of results for the proposal:

- Mandatory participatory process for preparing OTBNs;

- Mandatory Public Consultation for adopting Land Use Change Plans in low conservation value forests (III – green), and prior authorization of the Forest Law’s local enforcement authority;
- COFEMA, as a political-technical discussion forum at the federal level (and specifically, its Native Forest Committee), for general procedures to implement the Forest Law;
- [Buzón Verde](#) (Green Mailbox): MAyDS enabled this on-line public consultation mechanism that receives queries, complaints and allegations. This site lists the different communication channels and also includes the contact details of each directorate within the MAyDS, in case of more specific queries.
- Front Desk of the MAyDS: when a query is received at the front desk, a file is opened through the Electronic Document Management System (GDE, as its acronym in Spanish) and it is redirected to the corresponding area.

In addition, in 2014, the National Directorate of Forests (DNB) of MAyDS created the **DNB Social Participation Unit** to support participatory methodologies, and to **address claims and complaints, as well as requests for information**.

E.4.2. For the use of proceeds

Provide appropriate and sufficient information including control measures that assure that the proceeds will be used in a manner compliant with the Interim Policy on Prohibited Practices, such as: undisclosed Prohibited Practices, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism; improper subsequent use of GCF proceeds in the Prohibited Practices; and double payment or financing for the same results achieved, etc.

In addition to the measures mentioned in E.4.1, Argentina has developed and implemented other legal and institutional elements following on from the results period, to help ensure that the proceeds from this proposal will be used in a manner that is compliant with the GCF Policy on Prohibited Practices.

Regarding anti-corruption practices, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights adopted a Resolution 186/18 stating that the Anti-corruption Office created by Law No. 25233, is a technical body with specialized competencies, which concentrates its efforts specifically on acts of corruption and requires a high degree of professionalism in the subject.

Additional relevant instruments aiming to regulate and prevent corrupt practices and fraud, that were developed after the results period, include Decree 201/17 on the Integrity in lawsuits against the State and Decree 202/17 on Integrity in public procurement.

More recently, tDecree 258/19 approves the National Anticorruption Plan for the period 2019- 2023. To monitor and implement its measures, the following instruments have been enacted:

- Resolution 21/19 creates the Advisory Council to follow-up the Implementation of the initiatives incorporated in the National Anticorruption Plan (2019-2023) together with Decree 650/19, Resolution 797/19, and Resolution 33/19.
- To avoid conflict of interests in public employment, a series of secondary instruments regulate the subject, specifically, the framework Law regulating national public employment, Decree 8566/61 on the regime regulating accumulation of charges in the public administration.

FAO, as an AE to the GCF, will use its policies, rules and regulations for the management of funds to comply with the provisions and policies of the GCF, to ensure that activities are implemented in line with the [GCF Policy on Prohibited Practices](#). These policies will be applied in all activities that are implemented not only by FAO, but also by implementing partners and collaborators of the project. FAO is committed to planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating activities for transparent, efficient and adequate management of resources, in line with the country's legal framework and the provisions of relevant international instruments and conventions. In addition, the country has the mechanisms described in the previous section that guarantee that an adequate national legal framework is in place.

FAO’s Office of the Inspector-General (OIG) has the mandate to independently review any complaints about non-compliance with FAO’s social and environmental standards that cannot be resolved at programme management level, as detailed in the FAO [Guidelines for Compliance Reviews Following Complaints](#)

Related to the Organization’s Environmental and Social Standards. Complaints must be made in writing and communicated to OIG by mail, courier, email or fax, directly or via any FAO office. The OIG also investigates allegations of fraud and other misconduct in the programmes and operations of the Organization. It conducts investigations and inspections in compliance with the FAO Guidelines for Internal Administrative Investigations.

In addition, FAO has a Whistle-blower Protection Policy in place. All FAO personnel are required to report any breach of the Organization’s rules and to cooperate with the Organization’s oversight functions. An individual, whether FAO personnel or a third party, who makes a report in good faith has the right to be protected against retaliation. The Ethics Officer is responsible for the receipt of complaints of retaliation and for conducting the prima facie review of such complaints, prior to an investigation by the OIG. Retaliatory measures against a contractor or its employees, agents or representatives, or any other individual engaged in any dealing with the Organization because such person has reported wrongdoing in relation to FAO’s operations and activities, is prohibited.

In line with the GCF policy on whistle-blowers and grievance redress, an appropriate grievance resolution mechanism will be made available for the project, at project inception. Whilst the project’s grievance mechanism is being established and made operational, the FAO grievance resolution mechanism, described in detail in the ESMF Annex (section 5.4.1) will serve as the interim mechanism for the project, supporting and complementing the MAyDS’ Buzón Verde (Green Mailbox) (as described in section 5.4.2 of the ESMF) mechanism to receive queries, complaints and allegations. The internal processes and institutional responsibilities for the project-level GRM will be defined at project inception. Further detail and information is available in the ESMF annex.

E.5. Indigenous peoples

Provide adequate and sufficient information on how the activities to be implemented with the use of proceeds, will meet the requirements of the GCF environmental and social safeguards, standards and policies relevant to indigenous peoples and guided by the prevailing relevant national laws and/or obligations of the countries directly applicable to the activities under relevant international treaties and agreements.

In line with relevant GCF, FAO and UNFCCC standards, the project will be developed and implemented in such a way to foster full respect, promotion, and safeguarding of indigenous peoples so that they will benefit from the activities in a culturally appropriate manner; and will not suffer harm or adverse effects from the design and implementation of activities financed by this project. The planning and implementation of all activities will be informed by and consistent with the GCF’s Indigenous Peoples Policy. An indigenous peoples planning framework (IPPF) has been developed as part of the ESMF, and will serve as a key input for project design and implementation. It will also be a key input for the development of an Indigenous Peoples’ Plan (IPP), which will be undertaken at project inception.

The main elements of the legal framework related to indigenous peoples include the following:

- *National Constitution:* recognizes the ethnic and cultural pre-existence of indigenous peoples; guarantees respect for their identity, the right to bilingual and intercultural education and recognizes the legal status of their communities (Article 75, par. 17);
- ILO Convention 169 (Law No. 24071; O.G. of 07 April 1992): United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states “indigenous peoples have the right to participate in the adoption of decisions on matters that affect their rights” (Article 18) and State Parties shall adopt special measures “to safeguard” their people, institutions, property, labour, “cultures and environment” (Article 4). Additionally (Article 6), in applying the provisions of this Convention, “(...) governments shall: 1.a) consult the peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, whenever consideration is being given to legislative or administrative measures which may affect them directly; 2. the **consultations** carried out in application of this Convention **shall be undertaken**, in good faith and in a form appropriate to the circumstances, **with the objective of achieving agreement or consent** to the proposed measures.
- *Law No. 23302 on Indigenous Policy and Support to Aboriginal Communities* (O.G. of 08 November 1985): It defines indigenous peoples as groups of families that recognize themselves as such because they are descendants of peoples that inhabited the national territory at the time of the conquest or colonization; and defines indigenous peoples as the members of said community” (Article 2); and establishes INAI

(Article 5) as the enforcement authority of this Law. Additionally, the Law proposes the implementation of plans to foster agriculture, forestry, mining, industries and crafts of indigenous peoples, preserving their cultural beliefs in education plans and protecting the health of community members.

As mentioned in previous sections, Argentina voted in favour of the UNDRIP in 2007, which states “indigenous peoples have the right to participate in the adoption of decisions on matters that affect their rights” (Article 18); and the country is a Party to ILO Convention 169 (through its Law No. 24071) which states that governments shall consult them using appropriate procedures when legislative or administrative measures may affect them, consultations carried out in application of this Convention shall be undertaken, in good faith and in a form appropriate to the circumstances, with the objective of achieving agreement or consent to the proposed measures (Article 6). Although the country has not passed a national law on free, prior and informed consultation, within the framework of the national policy on indigenous peoples, significant progress has been made in this matter, including the establishment of institutions in which indigenous peoples participate, such as the National Indigenous Affairs Institute (INAI) and the Council on Indigenous Participation (CPI), mentioned above. Furthermore, with the consultation protocols and other tools that were developed, the country has progressed towards the realization of this important right.

Particularly concerning forests, the *Forest Law* (O.G. of 26 December 2017) includes several provisions to promote participation and safeguard the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and campesino (small farmer) communities, among them:

- It exempts the law from being enforced on all those uses on areas under 10 hectares, owned by the indigenous communities or small farmers (Article 2);
- It recognizes indigenous communities as forest-dependent populations and forest inhabitants and, thus, establishes that MAyDS must consider them in designing measures for the sustainable use of native forests, within the National Programme on Native Forest Protection (Article 12);
- It indicates that 30% of the resources collected by the Forest Law Fund must be allocated to developing and operating a monitoring network, together with “the implementation of financial and technical assistance programmes aiming at the sustainability of unsustainable activities carried out by small farmers and/or indigenous peoples and/or local communities” (Article 35);
- Specifically regarding participation, Article 19 states that “all native forest clearing or sustainable management projects shall recognize and respect the rights of the original indigenous communities that have traditionally occupied these lands”; moreover, to implement this safeguard, Article 26 mandates the law’s sub-national enforcement authorities to ensure that the provisions enshrined in the above article are fulfilled before authorizing any clearing of native forests, when allowed by the law.

To ensure indigenous peoples, local communities and other vulnerable groups can adequately access the grievance mechanism, the project will ensure that:

- The GRM will be identified or designed in consultation with the affected or potentially affected communities of indigenous peoples and other relevant stakeholders.
- The GRM will facilitate the resolution of grievances promptly, through an accessible, fair, transparent and constructive process.
- The GRM will be culturally appropriate and readily accessible, at no cost to the affected communities, and without compensation to the individuals, groups, or communities that raised issues or concerns.
- Where feasible and suitable for the project, the grievance mechanisms will utilize existing formal or informal grievance mechanisms, supplemented as needed with project-specific arrangements.
- There will be consideration of different ways in which stakeholders can submit their grievances.
- Language barriers/limitations will be taken into account, and there will be provision for interpretation/translation when possible.
- There will be provision to keep complainants’ identities confidential, especially in instances where the complainants fear retaliation.

- Specific avenues for raising complaints will be identified in consultations with various social groups within the affected communities.

The activities proposed in this project proposal which involve or could affect indigenous peoples have been reviewed, with consideration of impacts as well measures to reduce impacts. Screening of activities and sub-activities at project inception will also consider impacts for indigenous peoples to inform their design and implementation.

Throughout the process to define sub-activities and areas of interventions, and to implement activities through the use of proceeds, the following measures will be applied to help foster the full respect, promotion, and safeguarding of indigenous peoples' rights so that they (a) benefit from activities and projects in a culturally appropriate manner; and (b) do not suffer harm or adverse effects from the design and implementation of project activities. These are in line with both [GCF policies on IPs](#), as well as those of [FAO](#).

Some of the guiding principles for the design and implementation of activities are included below:

1. *Consultation*: In line with national regulations and the guiding principles of both GCF and FAO on indigenous peoples, the project will develop and implement appropriate consultation processes, ensuring effective consultation and the application of free, prior and informed consent through appropriate procedures whenever activities will affect indigenous peoples' lands, territories, resources, livelihoods and cultures.
2. *Governance and self-government*: Recognizing the importance of strengthening indigenous peoples' governance capacities, project activities will respect and support indigenous peoples' rights related to land, territories, resources, as well as cultural and spiritual heritage, values, traditional knowledge, resource management systems and practices, occupations and livelihoods, customary institutions, and overall well-being. The project will involve indigenous peoples' representatives in the planning and implementation of the project's sub-activities, particularly relevant for project components A and C, in order to understand and incorporate into the project the vision, objectives, and realities of IPs, including developing the capacity of indigenous representatives and leaders to participate in the project.
3. *National and international regulations*: According to the national policy framework, Project activities that involve indigenous peoples and local communities and/or are developed in indigenous territories will be executed respecting the relevant national laws and international agreements, including the National Constitution and the ILO Convention No. 169.
4. *Access to resources and capacity-building*: In order to facilitate access to resources and capacity building for indigenous peoples, activities under Component A and C will support Indigenous Peoples with technical assistance for the formulation and implementation of projects, including financial and management capacities for local leaders, organizations and communities. Sub-activities will be designed and agreed upon through participative processes, aiming to meet the needs and priorities of IPs to strengthen local capacities of deforestation monitoring, project formulation, implementation of conservation agreements and improvement of forest management, among others.

Taking into account that this project is considered Moderate Risk, potential adverse impacts of project activities and sub-activities will be continually screened and monitored, with close attention to those activities that involve or may affect indigenous peoples.

A monitoring plan will be developed once the sub-activities and areas of intervention are defined, at project inception. This will help define specific indicators and other measures to ensure negative impacts are avoided, mitigated or reduced, and benefits of project implementation are enhanced. This will also draw from the indicators developed in the Gender Action Plan.

A more specific monitoring plan and procedures related to indigenous peoples will be developed in the IPP, which will define the activities and sub-activities involving indigenous peoples' in each of the components of the project, with a corresponding monitoring and evaluation scheme. The IPP, and the monitoring plan included therein, will be developed in accordance with FAO, GCF and UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards requirements. While an indicative outline of the IPP will be developed at project inception, and will involve participatory processes and technical studies to help ensure the vision, objectives, and realities of IPs are

adequately reflected in the plan.

Safeguards, indigenous peoples and gender specialists supporting the PMU will help to develop the plan, and will have a key role in monitoring, evaluation and reporting related to indigenous peoples.

E.6. Monitoring and evaluation

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements that will take place for providing annual monitoring reports based on the information provided on the use of proceeds in sections C.2.3 and C.2.4.

Monitoring and evaluation arrangement will follow FAO and GCF policies.

Short information on monitoring of native forests in Argentina and details of project monitoring and reporting is presented in this section.

Monitoring of native forests in Argentina

To ensure consistency of data, project activities developed at the local level will be monitored by the [National Forest Monitoring System of Argentina](#) (Argentina's NFMS), which provides updated information on the location, area and condition of forests, either continuously or at regular intervals. The NFMS also serves for the monitoring of the implementation of the Forest Law plans and interventions. The NFMS counts with the following components:

- **Monitoring of Native Forests:** it provides information on the distribution and extent of forests and the annual changes it experiences, using remote sensing and GIS tools, and cartography. The main stages are the procurement and processing of satellite images, visual interpretation, and analysis by calculating forest areas, annual rate of forest loss, and CO2 emission estimates, and lastly, the communication and dissemination of results, which is coordinated by the Forest Assessment System Management Unit (UMSEF).
- **Deforestation Early Warning System:** this tool monitors the loss of native forest in an ongoing manner, through automated processes based on satellite images. The system, that is operational in the *Parque Chaqueño* Humid and Semi-arid sub-regions, and currently has been expanded to Arid and *Serrano* sub-regions, and to Argentine *Yungas* region, generates alerts every 16 days.
- **National Native Forest Inventory:** Argentina has a First National Native Forest Inventory drawn up between 1998 and 2006 which entailed a first step towards understanding the extent and status of native forests. At present, the Second National Native Forest Inventory is being drawn up with the peculiarity that the plots will be permanently installed to allow re-measurement and monitoring of changes in the forest mass. The total number of plots that make up the network of plots suitable for re-measurement purposes is 4,158 distributed across the country. Throughout 2020, results will be available for all forest regions.
- **Forest Statistics:** this is a DNB unit that compiles information on the sale of wood and its by-products, based on information provided by the provinces and other agencies, which leads to generating the Annual Forests Statistics report.

Other tools that will be used to support monitoring activities are:

Forest Management, Control and Verification System “SACVeFor”: Its fundamental objective is to manage the forest product traceability process by managing, controlling and verifying its different stages. It has a direct influence on the improvement and control of forest management and the use of its products, it increases the levels of formality in the sector and it increases transparency and social control over the use of the resource.

Integrated Forest Information System (SIIF, in its Spanish acronym): this is a digital platform that aims at gathering information on native forests in a single site. This system contains a series of modules, among which is the module of the National Registry of Plans. This Registry shows information on the management and conservation plans, the formulation projects that originate them and on other interventions in native forests framed under the Forest Law. The projects implements within this proposal will be registered by this system.

The measurement in the field is carried out by DNB in its role of National Enforcement Authority in close collaboration with Local Enforcement Authorities and other local agencies.

The information surveyed will be processed by Argentina's NFMS and systematized by DNCC in its role of compiler and coordinator of the INGEI. Emissions reductions will be reported through the SNI-GEI-AR.

Project level monitoring and reporting

Project-level monitoring will be undertaken in compliance with FAO policies. The project inception phase will include the formulation of a Theory of Change describing the causal relationship between outcomes that culminates with achieving the desired change and the underlying assumptions about how change will happen. FAO will ensure the existence of a well-designed, operational and effective impact monitoring and measurement system to measure the causal and attributable change, the contribution and the overall causal results of the project. The monitoring system should be designed to understand efficacy, targeting and verifying the assumptions that the program is making. It should also be used to generate information, data and lessons that can feed back into the project implementation and planning components. Progress will be measured against baselines, targets and indicators.

The monitoring system will be comprehensive and entail the Project workplan as well as the action plans for gender, indigenous people, biodiversity and the social and environmental framework.

The day-to-day project monitoring and implementation responsibility rests on a national recruited Project Manager that will lead the PMU. S/he will be supported by a monitoring and evaluation specialist, who will lead the PMU's Monitoring and Evaluation Unit. The M&E Specialist will coordinate the annual work plans to ensure the efficient implementation of the project. The PM will inform the PB and FAO Country Office of any delays or difficulties during implementation, including M&E plan, so that appropriate and corrective measures can be adopted. The PM will ensure that all project staff maintains a high level of transparency, responsibility and accountability in monitoring and reporting project results. FAO will support the PM as needed, including through annual monitoring missions. Additional M&E and implementation quality assurance and troubleshooting support will be provided by FAO as needed.

A project inception workshop will be implemented in order to: a) identify potential needs in fine tuning the project theory of change according to potential development of national circumstances at that moment; b) build a common understanding on the project strategy and discuss any change in the overall context that might influence implementation; c) discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, Enlarged Forest Consultative Council and MBGI National Technical Committee, including reporting and communication lines; d) review the results framework and discussion, reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities, and to finalize the M&E plans; e) review financial reporting requirements; f) planning and scheduling Project Board meetings; and g) finalize the first year work plan. The final Inception Report will be approved by the Project Board and FAO.

The PM and FAO will provide inputs to the Annual Report for each year of implementation. The PM and the M&E Specialist will ensure that the indicators in the results framework are monitored annually. The Annual Reports will be shared with the Project Board and other stakeholders. The annual performance reports will be due to GCF 60 days after the end of calendar year. The final project annual report and the terminal evaluation report will serve as the final project report package. Mid-term and final evaluations will be undertaken under the responsibility of FAO Office of Evaluation (OED).

According to the aforementioned, monitoring and evaluation at the project level will be carried out in accordance with FAO's corporate systems and the evaluation will be undertaken according to the FAO evaluation policy across the project life cycle. The Project Cycle establishes institutional standards and procedures for project management, improving accountability and quality through the principles of results-based management (RBM), while improving the strategic focus of all FAO projects. The Project Cycle sets corporate standards and procedures, including quality assurance criteria for phases 1 to 3 of all FAO's projects. These criteria are relevance, feasibility and sustainability which are complemented with the performance assessment during the implementation of the project (Initial Installation, Annual Project Report, Mid-term and Final Evaluation).

The project team and the FAO Country Office will carry out the M&E Plan in accordance with FAO and GCF procedures.

Performance indicators for project implementation are presented in section C.2. The project document within FPMIS will also include additional information, such as the corresponding means of verification. The M&E plan includes: an initial report, annual reports to the GCF, project implementation reviews, a mid-term and a final evaluation. This information will be available online. The following sections describe the main elements of this plan. The project M&E plan will be presented and finalized after an adjustment of the indicators, means of verification, and a full definition of the M&E responsibilities of the project staff.

Inception Workshop

The Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 3 months of project start (from when funds will be disbursed to the AE), involving those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, FAO Country Office and, where appropriate/feasible, FAO regional technical policy and technical advisors as well as key stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership of the project results and to plan the first-year annual work plan. The Inception workshop will address several key issues including:

- Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project.
- Confirm the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of FAO Country Office, Regional and Headquarter staff vis à vis the project team.
- Discuss and confirm on the roles, functions and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Based on the project results framework, finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
- Provision of a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The M&E work plan and budget will be agreed and scheduled.
- Discussion of financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- Planning and scheduling of project Board meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures will be clarified, and meetings planned. The first project Board meeting will be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.
- An Inception Workshop Report will be a key reference document and will be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

Annual Project Report

This report will be prepared by the PMU, consolidated by the Project Manager, and finally approved by the Project Board to monitor progress made since project start and for the previous reporting period. The format and content of the annual report will be adjusted based on the simplified reporting regime which will be established for RBP by the GCF.

Mid-term evaluation (MTE)

The project will undergo an independent mid-term evaluation at the mid-point of project implementation. The mid-term evaluation will determine progress towards the achievement of outcomes and will suggest corrective actions if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management.

Final Evaluation

An independent Final Evaluation will be launched within six months prior to project's actual completion date. It will aim at identifying project outcomes, their sustainability and actual or potential impacts, including *inter alia* global environmental benefits. It will also have the purpose of indicating future actions needed to assure continuity of the process developed through the project.

Both mid-term and final evaluation will be managed by FAO OED and organized in coordination with the FAO Technical Advisor and the Project Board.

During the final three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will be made available to the public through the MAyDS web site. It will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to

ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

F. Legal arrangements

E.6.1. Legal title to REDD-plus results

- *Provide an analysis with respect to legal title to REDD+ results in the country. This should include an analysis of entitlement to claim for the results to be paid for by the GCF.*
- *Covenant that no other party has a competing claim to the results proposed to the GCF in accordance with national policy, legal or regulatory frameworks.*

Argentina's legal framework does not explicitly define emission reductions ownership rights. The country currently opts to wait for further developments concerning Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, before enacting any legislation related to ER rights. Until then – as indicated in the NDC (revised in 2016: Section 3.5, Use of Markets), **“Any transfer of emission reduction units achieved in Argentina shall be explicitly authorized by the National Government and, unless otherwise provided for, all emission reductions in the country shall be counted towards achieving NDC goals”** and reported to the UNFCCC.

Nevertheless, the country's legal framework provides the foundation to MAyDS's mandate for receiving, managing and administering payments for forest environmental services, including GHG emission fixation. This is demonstrated by the implementation of previous payment for ecosystem services programmes related to the forest sector, and specific laws and resolutions as indicated below. In particular, according to the Argentinian's legislation, MAyDS is in charge of protecting the value of forest environmental services throughout the territory, in synergy with the provinces within their jurisdictions, as established in article 12 of Law 26.331/2007. Therefore, the agreement reached in the context of the Federal Environment Council (COFEMA) between the provinces and MAyDS in relation to the GCF REDD+ RBPs, **excludes potential claims by the provinces, originally owners of natural resources, on the volume of ERs transacted with the GCF (COFEMA Resolution N. 424, 4 March 2020).**

Hereby follows a clear explanation in support to those assertions, with reference to the pertinent legal instruments:

As Argentina is a federal state (by preamble of the Argentinean Constitution), **provinces hold the original domain of the natural resources found in their territory, among them, native forests.** **“The provinces have the original dominion over the natural resources existing in their territory”** (Section 124, par. 2 of the Constitution⁷⁶). **“The authorities [provinces] shall provide for the protection of this right, the rational use of natural resources, the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage and of the biological diversity, and shall also provide for environmental information and education”** (Article 41, par. 2).

“The Nation shall regulate the minimum protection standards” enforceable at national level while “the provinces those necessary to reinforce them, without altering their local jurisdictions”. (Section 41 of the Constitution).

In particular, as reflected in article 41 of the National Constitution, the law 25.675/2002 establishes minimum standards and conditions in order to guarantee common environmental protection measures to the entire territory. According to article 6, the Nation adopts the necessary conditions to guarantee the dynamics of ecological systems, maintain their carrying capacities and, in general, ensure environmental preservation and sustainable development. It also establishes in its Article 23 the Federal Environmental System implemented through COFEMA.

In accordance with the constitutional provisions cited, the **law on minimum standards for the environmental protection of native forests No26331/2007 (forest law⁷⁷)** defines the minimum environmental standards to protect, enrich, restore, conserve, use and sustainably manage native forests. It also establishes a regime and criteria for the distribution of funds derived from environmental services

⁷⁶ Link to the text of the Argentinean Constitution: <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/arg77017E.pdf> Source: FAOLEX

⁷⁷ Link the native forest law 26.331/2007: <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/arg76156.pdf> Source: FAOLEX.

(including GHG fixation) provided by native forests (Article 1).

In particular, according to this law, the Nation has the competence to establish minimum standard rules for the entire national territory, in order to guarantee a minimum protection over forest resources, while each provincial jurisdiction can establish equivalent or higher standards.

As it relates to ERs, article 5 of the forest law states that native forests provide the following environmental services, among others: a) conservation of biodiversity; b) soil and water quality conservation; c) **greenhouse gas emissions fixation** and d) defense of cultural identity.

MAYDS, designated as the competent national authority, is in charge to implement the national forest protection programme, aiming to “promote the creation and maintenance of sufficient and functional forest reserves for each eco-forest region of the national territory, in order to avoid adverse ecological effects and loss of strategic environmental services” (article 12, law 26.331/2007).

There is not a definition of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) ownership rights, instead the law clearly states that MAYDS is responsible to protect the value of the environmental services provided by native forests (article 12, numeral c)). The provinces concur in supporting MAYDS’ mandate. In this regard, the forest law includes principles and criteria for provincial jurisdictions to carry out land use planning of native forests, according to specified conservation criteria. Specifically, each jurisdiction must carry out land use planning of native forests in their territory according to criteria established in Annex I to the forest law. “The National Enforcement Authority, i.e. MAYDS, at the request of the Enforcement Authority of each jurisdiction, shall provide necessary technical, economic and financial assistance to carry out land use planning of native forests in their jurisdiction (article 6). The national enforcement authority shall be the National Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development⁷⁸ i.e. MAYDS (...) (article 11)”.

Considering that Argentina is a federal state, it is therefore necessary to reach consensus and promote agreements between the provinces and the central administration, i.e. MAYDS, for the institutionalization of climate actions, projects and programmes throughout the national territory.

The Federal Environment Council (COFEMA)⁷⁹ created by the General Law for the Environment (Annex I) constitutes the platform for decision-making and policy coordination among provincial jurisdictions and the central administration. It also instructs the National Executive Power to propose, as appropriate, the issuance of recommendations or resolutions to the COFEMA Assembly “... *for the adequate validity and effective application of laws of minimum budgets, the complementary role of provinces and their regulations in different jurisdictions...*” (Article 24- Annex I). Among its objectives, COFEMA aims to formulate a comprehensive environmental policy and manages international financial resources derived from environmental projects (Articles 23 and 24 of the law, Annex I of the law, Article 2, subsection 1 and 11).

Since the enactment of the forest law and the approval of its regulatory decree, COFEMA’s resolutions and decisions have contributed to clarify and overcome undefined aspects or existing gaps related to the implementation of the forest law.

In relation to the subject matter, a resolution ratified by the Assembly of COFEMA, confirms Argentina’s commitment (i) to participate at the GCF RBP Pilot Programme represented by MAYDS, as the national REDD+ entity, and (ii) for MAYDS to offer part of the achieved ER results during the period 2014-2016 to such scheme (resolution 424/2020, 4 March). The benefit-sharing distribution scheme proposed by MAYDS for this Funding Proposal was also presented and discussed and approved within COFEMA during that occasion.

Pursuant the resolution 424/2020 signed by COFEMA, the country’s results-based payments proposal was declared “of federal interest” and all members, including therefore all the provincial jurisdictions, unanimously agreed that MAYDS was the entity designated to progress with the preparation of the GCF funding proposal and offer ER (as per section A of this funding proposal).

⁷⁸ Currently: Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development

⁷⁹ COFEMA webpage: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-cofema-se-reunio-para-avanzar-en-la-agenda-de-los-bosques-nativos-0>

The assembly also **unanimously agreed to support the benefit-sharing distribution scheme** presented by MAYDS, in relation to the funds that prioritize the Strategic Technical Guidelines of the Forest Law (approved by COFEMA Res. No 360/2018). The MAYDS, in its capacity as manager of the proceeds of the RBP proposal to GCF, shall prepare an annual report on the allocation of funds transferred during the previous year, indicating the amounts per province and forest category (Article 37, Forest Law). The report shall be discussed with COFEMA members.

The Law 27520 also established the National Climate Change Cabinet) (GNCC in its Spanish acronym), **technically coordinated by the MAYDS through its Secretariat of Climate Change and Sustainable Development.** The GNCC plays a role of utmost importance as a platform for inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral climate change policy articulation at different levels with the participation of different bodies from the national and sub-national levels (provincial authorities). The coordination of the GNCC and the COFEMA is already ongoing and it would be important to achieve further agreements on carbon rights topics.

Argentina will include specific safeguards and criteria in the benefit sharing scheme **to ensure that all parties, including vulnerable groups, have no complaints regarding the results that are being offered to GCF.** These are i) implementing a **fair** benefit-sharing mechanism; ii) ensuring **fair compensation** to the owners of plans in forest regions that have significantly contributed to achieving ERs; iii) paying special attention to the risks associated with double counting.

Furthermore, to ensure a fair distribution of GCF-derived payments to vulnerable groups, MAYDS being entitled to administer ERs, “shall recognize and respect the rights of indigenous communities that have traditionally occupied the lands (article 19, forest law)”.

Lastly, it should be noted that in Argentina, following the guidelines of the UNFCCC, the construction of REDD+ pillars and implementation of related activities have been undertaken at a national or forest region level. This approach, does not permit to identify stakeholders or specific actions that originated ERs in the territory (e.g. farm level) with scientific rigor and accuracy.

To sum up:

- The country will use REDD+ results attained across Argentine territory to meet its NDC within the context of UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including the ERs offered to the GCF RBP pilot programme, the volume of set aside/deactivated ERs as a mechanism to manage the risk of reversal, and those obtained from the project implementation. The NDC (revised in 2016: Section 3.5, Use of Markets) indicates that any reduction achieved is not transferable and shall not be used for other purposes except with the explicit authorization of the National Government (MAYDS);
- According to Argentina legislation, the provinces originally own natural resources, including native forests, and forests environmental services (including GHG fixation) are administered by MAYDS, as reflected in the COFEMA Resolution 424/2020;
- The provinces, through COFEMA, unanimously agreed that MAYDS was in charge to prepare the funding proposal package, for the GCF REDD+ pilot programme;
- The provinces approved the benefit-sharing distribution scheme proposed by MAYDS, by COFEMA Resolution 424/2020;
- According to Argentina legislation, and endorsed by COFEMA, MAYDS, is authorized to regulate this subject in full respect of economic and environmental safeguards;
- The GNCC (technically coordinated by the MAYDS) with the COFEMA, are the most appropriate platforms for federal and multisectoral dialogues and articulations including for issues related to ER rights and related benefit-sharing arrangements and schemes.

The reported rationale covenants that no competing claims will occur on the GCF’s payments received by Argentina through the GCF RBP pilot programme.

A letter from MAYDS or another appropriate Argentinean authority is not necessary, as the analysis provided in this section contains relevant evidence that MAYDS is mandated by law to administer ERs titles. MAYDS’s key role in relation to issues concerning carbon credits is confirmed by the functions assigned to the entity by the climate change law (n.27520/2019). Particularly, MAYDS is designated as the national enforcement authority of this law, the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and all the

international conventions on climate change (article 6). Finally, the reference to the REDD+ national registry under development provides sufficient guarantees that no double counting of ERs or double payments will occur in Argentina.

Reference to registry of REDD+ projects

MAYDS – as national enforcement authority of the Law 27520/2019 on Climate Change, and as focal point for the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, and all other international conventions on climate change set up a [REDD+ registry](#) where payments to be received from GCF will be recorded, aiming at ensuring transparency and avoiding double accounting and double use of the ERs that have already been paid.

A description of the registry is available in section B.2.2. On the basis of the search undertaken in the set up of the registry, no certified or verified ER exist for the same period and geographical area included in the FREL and in RBP Proposal.

G. Accredited entity fee and project management costs

Provide a list of the activities that are expected to be conducted using the AE fees and project management cost with corresponding costs as follows:

- Accredited entity fee: 3.5% to be used according to the FAO - GCF agreements on AE entity fee.
- Project management costs (estimated – *final cost to be fine-tuned in subsequent submissions and once final budget of the RBP proposal will be agreed*):

List of activities	Costs (USD or EUR)	Explanation/justification
Project management unit	\$ 1,694,667	Consists of the staff that will coordinate and lead the project (and related cost to make the PMU operational), including: the National Coordinator, administrative clerk, technical area leaders, and experts on: gender, safeguards, monitoring and evaluation.
Direct support cost	\$ 1,202,667	This will cover the necessary inputs for FAO Argentina to adequately perform its execution functions for this project. Given the complex nature of the interventions, these direct costs will cover, in particular, the required actions to ensure necessary due diligence during execution and in full compliance with FAO and GCF operational and financial requirements. These costs also include communication services throughout the lifetime of the project and potential additional direct support cost.
Provision of supervision services to the project	\$ 1,476,000	This item includes the relevant provision of supervision service to the project. It includes spot checks, audits and field visits in accordance to FAO OPIM manual section 701.6.10.7 (assurance activities) for “low risk” operational partners in order to ensure strict control and compliance with FAO rules and procedures; evaluation costs, two technical missions per year from geographically dispersed FAO technical units are also covered in this item.

The final amount of accredited entity fees and project management costs will be negotiated between the GCF and the accredited entity.

H. Annexes

1. Non-objection Letter
2. Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA)
3. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
4. Gender analysis & gender action plan
5. Analysis of Risk of Reversal and Buffer estimation
6. Theory of Change
7. Timeline of project activities and external support and public policies scheme
8. AE fee budget

