



Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 17-Jun-2025 | Report No: PIDDC01213



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

| | |
|---|--|
| Operation Name Targeted Restoration and Economic Enhancement of Chiquitania Forests for Sustainability | Operation Short Name TREES Bolivia |
| Operation ID P509669 | Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing (IPF) |
| Beneficiary country/countries Bolivia | Region Bolivia |
| Environmental and Social Risk Classification Moderate | |
| Date PID Prepared 08-Jan-2025 | Estimated Date of Approval 28-Nov-2025 |
| Borrower(s) Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC) | Implementing Agency Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC) |

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PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Total Operation Cost | 5.00 |
| Total Financing | 5.00 |
| Financing Gap | 0.00 |

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Trust Funds | 5.00 |
| Japan Social Development Fund | 5.00 |

B. Introduction & Context

Country Context



1. Bolivia has faced significant political, economic, and environmental challenges in recent years, exacerbated by the intensifying climate-related risks. Following the political transition in 2019–2020, the country returned to the *Movimiento al Socialismo* (MAS) administration after the presidential election process of 2020. Subsequently, persistent macroeconomic imbalances have emerged as significant concerns. Public debt, including obligations to the Central Bank, escalated from 80.1% of GDP in 2022 to an estimated 93.9% in 2024. Additionally, foreign reserves have experienced a substantial decline, falling from 46% of GDP in 2014 to just 8.8% in 2022.

2. Economic growth has decelerated markedly, with GDP growth slowing from 3.1% in 2022 to an estimated 1.4% in 2024. This slowdown is attributed to constrained access to external financing, declining hydrocarbon revenues, and reduced private investment. The fiscal deficit remains elevated due to falling hydrocarbon revenues and high subsidies.

3. Poverty levels have been adversely affected by the economic downturn. As of 2021, approximately 36.4% of Bolivia's population lived below the national poverty line, equating to about 4.2 million individuals. Extreme poverty affected 11% of the population, or roughly 1.27 million people. Poverty is particularly severe in rural areas, where approximately 60% of the population lives in moderate poverty, and 39% in extreme poverty. Rural households heavily depend on small-scale farming to survive, often lacking access to vital resources like running water and electricity. By 2024, the poverty rate remained high, with the most recent official data showing a national poverty rate of 36.5% in 2023 and 14.1% at the \$6.85/day line. Inflation surged to 10% by the end of 2024, particularly impacting food prices, as fuel shortages, political tensions, and road blockages disrupted imports and supply chains. These pressures have exacerbated living costs and food insecurity, especially in poorer regions. Although the full effect on poverty for 2024 is yet to be determined, mounting inflationary trends and economic imbalances are expected to constrain improvements in poverty reduction in the medium term. Rural and Indigenous populations remain disproportionately affected, facing higher rates of poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to essential services.

4. Concurrently, Bolivia confronts escalating environmental challenges. The country is highly vulnerable to climate-related risks such as droughts, floods, and forest fires. In 2024, Bolivia experienced one of its most severe wildfire seasons, with over 10 million hectares burned nationwide representing about 9.1 percent of the country's total land area. These fires affected approximately 220,000 people, primarily in the eastern regions. These environmental shocks have profound implications for agriculture and the livelihoods of the most vulnerable rural communities, underscoring the urgency for robust development strategies with a strong focus on climate adaptation and mitigation[1].

[1] World Food Program USA <https://opecfund.org> ,World Bank 2, The World Bank 3)

Sectoral and Institutional Context

5. Forests are central to Bolivia's environment and economy, covering over 51% of national territory and providing essential ecosystem services, sustaining livelihoods, and conserving biodiversity[2]. Only in the Chiquitania ecoregion, ecosystem services are valued at nearly 1,5 billion USD[3]. Nevertheless, the timber sector represents only about 1-3% of national GDP and generates employment for about 15,000 people in primary production and 25,000 industrial and commercial postings[4], noting that data for informal employment creation is lacking. However, INE estimates that about 80% of forest and agriculture production areas are from family farming. Increased exposure to climate risks for landscapes including forests and agricultural production - such as drought and extreme weather events - are expected to reduce land productivity and GDP growth with rural communities being among the most vulnerable.

6. The Chiquitania region is a vast biodiverse area spanning approximately 230,000 square kilometers in the east of Bolivia and home to over 300,000 people, many of whom are indigenous. Six months of rainy season and six months of drought make its dry forests located between the dry Chaco and the humid Amazon unique in its biodiversity, but also extremely fragile. The region plays a crucial role in sequestering carbon and supports a variety of ecosystems. The area is home to indigenous communities such as the Guarayos, Chiquitanos, and Ayoreo, who are highly dependent on the region's natural resources, especially forests, to sustain their livelihoods. These communities are predominantly



engaged in subsistence farming and the use of forest products, especially non timber forest products for traditional and medicinal use

7. The Chiquitania is vital to Bolivia's environmental health but faces growing socioeconomic and environmental threats. The Chiquitano Dry Forest is part of the largest tropical dry forest in the world and serves as an important carbon sink, storing approximately 1.6 gigatons of carbon. The forest also provides critical ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water regulation, and soil preservation, which are essential for the livelihoods of local communities. However, the region is under severe pressure from deforestation, one of the highest in the world, caused by agricultural expansion, cattle ranching, and wildfires. Poverty levels in this region are particularly high, with rates up to 58 percent higher than the Santa Cruz department average and 33 percent above the national average in 2012. Forest degradation threatens not only local livelihoods but also Bolivia's ability to meet its climate and biodiversity goals.

8. The 2024 wildfires have been catastrophic for Bolivia, especially the Chiquitania region, continuing a decades-long trend of destructive fire seasons. In 2024, Bolivia experienced one of its worst wildfire seasons, with fires affecting an estimated 7.2 million hectares in Santa Cruz department. Wildfires have been a recurring problem in Bolivia over the past decade, with increasingly severe fire seasons driven by a combination of unsustainable land use practices and worsening climatic conditions. The fires in 2024 caused widespread environmental destruction, including loss of biodiversity, destruction of forest ecosystems, and severe damage to critical infrastructure, including schools and health centers. Worsening air quality led to a surge in hospitalizations for respiratory problems and forced authorities to cancel school classes and urge people to stay home. Indigenous communities, who depend on these ecosystems for their livelihoods, have been severely impacted, having lost not only forest resources, but also agricultural land and homes. The fires have caused economic losses in excess of US\$300 million, estimated to be around 12 percent of the Chiquitania's regional GDP. Long-term ecological damage will take decades to reverse. The magnitude of fires in 2024 exceeded that of previous seasons, demonstrating the urgent need for intervention.

9. Unsustainable agricultural practices are a major driver of wildfires in the Chiquitania region, exacerbated by climate change. The widespread use of slash-and-burn agriculture, along with extensive cattle ranching, has led to significant deforestation and land degradation, increasing the region's vulnerability to wildfires. The expansion of mechanized agriculture, particularly for soy production, has further fueled land conversion, contributing to the destruction of forest cover. Climate change has exacerbated these challenges, with rising temperatures and prolonged droughts creating ideal conditions for wildfires. Over the past decade, the region's annual average temperature has risen by 1.5°C, while rainfall has dropped by 20%, resulting in drier forests that are more susceptible to fires. This interplay between unsustainable agricultural practices and climate change calls for a multifaceted approach to address both immediate fire risks and long-term environmental sustainability.

10. Local communities in the Chiquitania depend heavily on forests for food, water, medicine, and income through agroforestry and non-timber forest products. Wildfires, land-use change, and climate variability have undermined these livelihood systems, deepening rural poverty and food insecurity[5].

11. Women in the Chiquitania face additional challenges related to land tenure, income inequality, limited access to education and health care. The department of Santa Cruz, where the Chiquitania is located, consistently reports the highest number of gender-based violence (GBV) cases in the country. Evidence from recent crises, including the 2024 wildfires, suggests that women and children in the region face heightened exposure to risk and limited access to protection mechanisms. These events have further underscored existing gender-based vulnerabilities, particularly in rural and Indigenous communities. As observed in comparable contexts, extreme events tend to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable populations, exacerbating social and economic disparities and placing additional strain on already limited support systems.

12. Despite national commitments to forest conservation, such as through the country's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), institutional capacity and enforcement remain weak. The MMAyA (Ministry of Environment and Water), the MDRyT (Ministry of Rural Development and Land), and the ABT (Forest and Land



Authority), responsible for the promotion and oversight of integrated forest management, lack adequate resources to prevent deforestation, regulate fire use, or implement large-scale restoration[6]. In addition, other government entities including SERNAP (National Service for Protected Areas), the INRA (National Institute of Agrarian Reform) and the INIAF (National Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Innovation) also face a chronic shortage of financial, technical and human resources. Subnational government authorities, including the Departmental Government of Santa Cruz and several municipal governments in the Chiquitania, are central actors in landscape planning and management.

13. In order to develop institutional capacities and complement the role of the government, international cooperation plays a crucial role in supporting Bolivia's environmental sustainability efforts. Multilateral and non-profit organizations lead key initiatives in the country, particularly in the context of climate vulnerability, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. Development partners—such as Sweden, the European Union, Germany, and various UN agencies—have provided technical and financial assistance to strengthen environmental governance, promote sustainable natural resource management, and support community-based conservation initiatives. These institutions coordinate through a multi-stakeholder platform to channel resources through national and local institutions, civil society organizations, and platforms that promote inclusive and participatory environmental decision-making. At regional level, such as Chiquitania, the NGOs complement Bolivia's national strategies and help bridge institutional and financial gaps in the protection of its rich but threatened ecosystems.

14. Despite these efforts, there is a perceived lack of scalable activities in the territory that can counteract the pressure over the Chiquitano dry forest. Measures to restore forest landscapes at scale are incipient and dispersed, and while some productive initiatives on Non-Timber Forest Products are promising, tailored technical and financial support from the JSDF grant to address the bottlenecks is required to become truly transformative in improving resilient livelihoods of Chiquitano's vulnerable communities. In addition, there is an expressed lack of capacity in subnational governments and communities to prevent and manage wildfires that have recently occurred at an unprecedented scale.

[2] FAO (2020) FRA Bolivia country report: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb0024en/>

[3] FCBC (2022) Study of Economic Benefits provided by Environmental Functions in the Chiquitano Dry Forests

[4] BDP (2022) <https://www.bdp.com.bo/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/DIAGNOSTICO-DE-MADERA-EN-BOLIVIA.pdf>

[5] UNDP Bolivia 2023: <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/resources/project-briefs/bolivia-climate-change-profile-2022.pdf>

[6] Government of Bolivia, NDC 2022: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Bolivia%20NDC%20Actualizada%202021.pdf>

Relationship to CPF

15. The proposed project is fully aligned with the World Bank Group's FY23–26 Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Bolivia. It directly supports High-Level Outcome (HLO) 1: Increased Climate and Economic Resilience, by contributing to Objective 1.1: Improve management of climate-related risks, which emphasizes climate risk reduction, landscape resilience, and natural resource governance.

16. The project also contributes to HLO2: Increased Income Earnings for Vulnerable Households, through Objective 2.1: Increase sustainable agricultural productivity, by supporting agroforestry systems and NTFP value chains that enhance the resilience and income of Indigenous and smallholder communities.

17. Moreover, the project responds to cross-cutting priorities identified in the CPF, including gender equality, Indigenous inclusion, and climate adaptation. The CPF highlights the need to address regional disparities, particularly in lagging areas like the Chiquitania, where social, environmental, and economic vulnerabilities intersect.



18. The intervention is in line with Bolivia’s Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) 2021–2025, specifically Strategic Axis 8, which prioritizes ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, and the protection of biodiversity in harmony with “Mother Earth”.

19. The Project is aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement on both adaptation and mitigation. The proposed operation is consistent with Bolivia’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, updated in April 2022), which prioritizes adaptation and mitigation in the forest sector by focusing on sustainable forest management, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and promoting community-based approaches to forest conservation and management, all directly related to the project's components. On mitigation, project activities from Components 1 and 3 can be considered Universally Aligned as they promote sustainable forest management (incl. reforestation, restoration and conservation). In Component 2, activities related to promoting sustainable value chains will be evaluated in more detail when ongoing studies finalize technical assistance packages for prioritized products. However, a priori, value chains offering sustainably produced forest products can be considered low risk on mitigation. On adaptation, risks from climate hazards could have a material impact on the operation. Drought conditions combined with human-induced wildfires could hamper restoration and conservation efforts while more intense and frequent flooding could disrupt prioritized value chains. Project activities are planned to address these risks by facilitating restoration efforts using fire-resistant native species, selecting intervention areas based on the climate risk profile (e.g., avoiding flood-prone areas), and strengthening fire prevention and response capacities for multiple relevant actors, among others. With these, the residual risk is reduced to an acceptable level and the project can be considered aligned on adaptation.

20. The JSDF grant is critical to addressing the urgent needs identified for this project and is fully aligned with the national CPF priorities to expand development efforts in Bolivia. It will support localized, community-driven interventions focused on forest rehabilitation and sustainable livelihoods in the Chiquitania region. Although various donors are active in the country, most initiatives concentrate on the Amazon, overlooking the pressing needs of the vulnerable populations in Chiquitania. This project aims to bridge that gap by advancing small-scale reforestation, strengthening livelihoods, and establishing community-led fire prevention systems. JSDF financing is key to piloting these approaches, which will empower indigenous communities in areas currently underserved by existing donor programs. It will also enable the World Bank to launch concrete actions with the Government of Bolivia, laying the groundwork for future investments and scaling up project initiatives through the existing pipeline.

C. Development Objective

Development Objective

21. To restore degraded forest landscapes and enhance the resilience of local populations in the Chiquitania.

Key Results

22. PDO-level indicators include:

- **Forest landscape area restored.** At least 10,000 hectares have been restored through project interventions.
- **People with improved livelihoods** (disaggregated by gender). At least 2,000 people, of which at least 50% are women. The indicator accounts for a subset of the total group of people benefited by the project, focusing on those participating in sustainable value chains interventions. Activities contributing to this indicator include participation in job-focused, food security and water use interventions (appropriate intermediate indicators for these will be identified during project preparation).



- **People with increased resilience to climate risks** (disaggregated by gender). At least 8,000 people, of which at least 50% are women. The indicator accounts people benefiting from Integrated Fire Management (IFM) interventions, which addresses wildfire as the major climate risk of the region.

D. Preliminary Description

Activities/Components

23. Component 1. Targeted restoration of forest landscapes: This component focuses on restoring at least 10,000 hectares of priority forest landscape areas affected by recurrent forest fires, directly contributing to the PDO regarding restored forest landscapes. Through a combination of natural regeneration and assisted restoration, this component will target areas identified through geospatial analysis conducted by FCBC, focusing on lands managed by or adjacent to smallholders and vulnerable communities. The project will employ community-led restoration practices, leveraging local knowledge and labor to ensure cost-effectiveness and sustainability. Practices for forest regeneration may involve enrichment planting of native tree species, while protecting natural regeneration areas showing early signs of recovery from new fires. To ensure long-term success and scalability, monitoring and evaluation will be an integral part of this activity, assessing the effectiveness of restoration efforts and identifying the most successful approaches. The insights gained from this process will be used to inform potential replication and upscaling.

24. Activities:

- Demarcate and map at least 10,000 hectares of forest landscapes targeted for restoration using participatory methods with communities to focalize activities.
- Support natural regeneration by protecting areas already showing early signs of recovery and if needed, undertake enrichment planting with native tree species.
- Strengthen existing tree nurseries or support the creation of new ones.
- Strengthen community restoration committees to coordinate local labor, monitor growth, and maintain planted areas.
- Train and mobilize community members (with a focus on indigenous groups and women) on restoration techniques and fire risk mitigation.
- Provide tools and materials needed for restoration activities.
- Survey seedling survival, growth, and canopy recovery.

The early cost estimate for this component is \$2,000,000, based on average restoration costs per hectare in the region, per studies conducted by organizations on the ground, such as FCBC and CSF, and their recent implementation experience in the Chiquitania. In principle, the area subject to assisted restoration would be around 2,000 hectares, while 8,000 hectares would be covered with natural regeneration. Key tasks include restoration activities, establishment of nurseries for native species and support from technical personnel throughout project implementation. This component includes a pilot involving cutting-edge technology for remote sensing and monitoring which can set the base to scale up cost-effective monitoring tools/methods.

25. Component 2. Sustainable Livelihood Technical Assistance: This component will provide technical assistance to at least 2,000 beneficiaries to support the adoption of sustainable agricultural and agroforestry practices that reduce forest fire risks and strengthen local resilience. The grant will support local livelihoods by contributing through two main areas:



(i) **Technical Assistance for Priority Products:** Value chain studies will be conducted during project preparation to identify a limited group of forest products with strong commercial potential—such as *Almendra Chiquitana*—in forest landscapes. Based on these findings, the project will provide tailored assistance packages to interested communities. These interventions shall promote crop diversification associated with agroforestry, and regenerative silvopastoral systems, providing sustainable alternatives to slash-and-burn practices. These packages may include equipment and materials, capacity building, and support for processing and marketing activities to help develop viable value chains.

(ii) **Demand-Based Technical Assistance:** Communities interested in other value chains or community-based enterprises (e.g., ecotourism) will receive customized technical support. During the first year, detailed needs assessments and feasibility studies will be conducted to inform the design of targeted support packages that align with community priorities and opportunities. These packages will also emphasize sustainable land management practices to enhance resilience.

By increasing community members' capacity to manage their land sustainably, this component contributes to improving livelihoods by creating job opportunities, thus addressing root causes of forest fires and building economic resilience to shocks. The project will have a strict selection process for implementation of sub-projects and will engage only with legally established entities that meet minimum formality criteria to operate in the region, some of which can be NGOs. It will support the formalization of productive initiatives as a condition for further technical assistance. By promoting the integration of local producers with specialized value chains and generating additional income for beneficiaries and their families, the sustainability of the process is reinforced. It will also strengthen participatory decision-making in land and resource management, empowering indigenous communities to advocate for policies for sustainable landscape management and engage constructively with all relevant stakeholders.

26. Activities

- Carry out community-level needs assessments to identify demand-based livelihood opportunities.
- Develop capacity building activities, including training in sustainable management practices, processing and marketing and promoting training exchanges between communities. All of these, while integrating gender and youth-sensitive strategies.
- Design and deliver assistance packages based on value chain and service development assessments, tailored to local opportunities and capacities, including:
 - Provision of equipment and materials for production and processing.
 - Support for product packaging, branding, and access to markets.
 - Provide coaching and mentoring on enterprise development, including basic financial literacy, business planning, access to financing services, and bookkeeping.
- Support formation or strengthening of community producer groups (e.g., associations) to enhance access to markets, financing and/or TA services.

The estimated cost for this component is \$900,000. A study is currently underway to define technical assistance packages to be provided to beneficiaries under Component 2. Final results, expected in October, will inform project design. However, this early cost estimation considers supporting 20-30 productive endeavors during the project lifetime, consisting of continuous technical support from experts and financial support in the form of sub-grants for productive activities, which could range from \$10,000-20,000 per grant.

27. Component 3. Fire Prevention and Management: The project will implement an innovative community approach, focusing on establishing community-led fire prevention brigades and developing early warning systems. This will be done in close partnership with local authorities, strengthening the collaboration between local institutions and grassroots levels. These brigades will be trained in fire control techniques, including creating and maintaining firebreaks, and will be equipped with basic firefighting tools. In addition, an early warning system will be implemented



to alert communities to fire risks and allow for rapid response. This component addresses the immediate need for improved fire management capacity at the community level, helping reduce the spread of future wildfires. By empowering local communities to take proactive measures against fires, this activity directly contributes to both the project’s development objective and the long-term conservation of forests in the Chiquitania.

28. Activities

- Establish and/or strengthen fire brigades (e.g., technical assistance, capacity building, tools, equipment, etc.)
- Establish and/or strengthen early warning systems
- Design and implement communication strategies for fire prevention and management
- Strengthen regional and local governance mechanisms focused on fire prevention and management
- Develop and implement disaster risk management plans at community level focused on fire prevention and management
- Contribute to the development of DRM plans at municipal level focused on fire prevention and management, as well as financial strategies to ensure long-term sustainability of brigades and increase local capacity

The estimated cost for this component is \$1,300,000. A fire management study led by a specialized NGO and regional experts is underway and will help refine activities during the next stages of project preparation. This early estimate includes support for the establishment and training of community fire brigades, equipment and infrastructure for fire response (e.g., PPE, pumps, radios, tanker trucks), and the rollout of early warning and monitoring systems (e.g., drones, weather stations, app development). It also covers technical support, logistics for field teams, awareness campaigns, and a contingency fund for rapid response and emergency air support

29. Component 4. Project management, M&E, and knowledge dissemination: This component will support effective project coordination, implementation, and knowledge generation and sharing. A dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established to oversee day-to-day operations, including environmental and social standards, procurement, and financial management . A robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system will be developed and deployed to track progress, capture results, and inform adaptive management. The component will also facilitate knowledge exchange and dissemination of lessons learned to support future scaling-up, including through manuals, community exchange visits, and regional workshops. Additionally, the project will produce outreach and educational materials to raise awareness on forest restoration and fire prevention.

30. Activities

- Establish a Project Management Unit for project coordination (e.g., ESF, fiduciary, etc.), including a field office and technical/thematic specialists
- Design and roll out a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system
- Document and disseminate lessons learned to inform potential scaling-up efforts (via manuals, community exchange visits, or regional workshops)
- Produce outreach and education materials to promote awareness of forest restoration and fire prevention

The early cost estimate for this component is \$520,000, consisting of key personnel and administrative costs for four years of project implementation[7].

[7] Based on JSDF Secretariat guidance, a detailed cost table will be prepared for subsequent milestones.

Environmental and Social Standards Relevance

E. Relevant Standards

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| ESS Standards | Relevance |
|--|------------------------|
| ESS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts | Relevant |
| ESS 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure | Relevant |
| ESS 2: Labor and Working Conditions | Relevant |
| ESS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management | Relevant |
| ESS 4: Community Health and Safety | Relevant |
| ESS 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement | Relevant |
| ESS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources | Relevant |
| ESS 7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities | Relevant |
| ESS 8: Cultural Heritage | Relevant |
| ESS 9: Financial Intermediaries | Not Currently Relevant |

| Legal Operational Policies | | |
|---|------------|------------------------|
| Safeguard Policies | Triggered? | Explanation (Optional) |
| Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50 | No | |
| Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60 | No | |

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The project's environmental risk rating is primarily assessed as Moderate, due to the nature of its activities, scale, and organizational capacity. Although the current project design does not include Protected Areas (PA) within the planned intervention zones, the exact boundaries of the project area have not yet been fully defined. As a result, there remains a possibility of overlap with subnational PA, which will be formally confirmed during the appraisal stage. This uncertainty, combined with the potential use of pesticides and fertilizers under Component 2, introduces possible environmental and community health risks. In particular, it highlights the importance of ensuring compatibility between the management objectives of any nearby or overlapping PAs. Based on current information, the project do not contemplate infrastructure construction, and aim to adopt sustainable agricultural and agroforestry practices through small donations supported by Component 2. The main environmental risks and impacts include: (i) the generation of organic waste, and (ii) exposure to pesticides. Other minor environmental issues will be evaluated during project preparation, considering the characteristics of eligible projects aimed at promoting value chains for sustainable livelihoods. The risks and impacts are anticipated to be of low magnitude, site-specific, and manageable through established mitigation measures. None of the impacts are expected to be significant, given that the investments will be small-scale and dispersed. Additionally, the FCBC has extensive experience in addressing environmental and social issues through the implementation of projects within the region. The project's social risk rating is considered



Moderate. Key potential social risks include the exclusion of vulnerable populations (women, people with disabilities, low education levels, the poorest, minority indigenous groups) from project benefits, unless targeted strategies are implemented; sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse (SH/SEA) risks associated with subproject activities, if codes of conduct are not adopted and followed; increase in local tensions, especially between indigenous and migrant communities, if stakeholder engagement is not properly managed, particularly in forest fire risk areas; inability to manage rising expectations and demands for employment and income from local populations; reproduction of gender inequities in decision-making processes; inadequate management of community-level access restrictions to natural resources if not managed participatively and consensually; and lack of experience with the Bank’s ESF among FCBC and institutional stakeholders (including GAD Santa Cruz, MAGs, natural resources management stakeholders) which requires close technical support and capacity-building actions.

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