



Governance Strengthening for the Management and Protection of Coastal & Marine Biodiversity in key ecological areas and the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

BACKGROUND

The project focused on the following global environmental objectives: i) strengthen management and protection capacities for marine biodiversity in areas of ecological importance by creating new marine protected areas and applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries; ii) expand knowledge about the biological, ecological, social and economic aspects of marine ecosystems and their biodiversity to manage the protection of key areas for biodiversity, and minimize the negative impacts of fishing by implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries.



ABOUT THE EVALUATION

KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The evaluation's methodology involved the formulation of questions and subquestions associated with the following eight criteria from the GEF: relevance; coherence; efficiency; implementation and execution; effectiveness and progress towards impact; sustainability; planning and implementation of the monitoring and evaluation system; and implementation of the GEF policies and guidelines.

EVALUATION METHODS

The evaluation followed a theory of change approach. Data collection included a desk review, semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions and direct observations during the field mission phase. The evaluation's methodology included a focus on gender and minority groups, which sought their participation in data collection.



PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT CODE

GCP/ARG/025/GFF

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE Argentina

START/END DATE

May 2017—March 2024

FUNDED BY

Global Environment Facility (GEF), Undersecretariat of Environment of the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Security, National Scientific and Technical Research Council, National Institute for Fishery Research and Development, Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers, Federal Fisheries Council, Ministry of Defence, the private sector, FAO

PRIORITY AREAS

- Better environment
- Better nutrition

PARTNERS

GEF

WHAT DID THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

The project was relevant to national and international priorities and successful in achieving its objective. Some of the main outcomes included:

i) establishing technical bases for the creation of marine protected areas and fisheries management plans that incorporate an ecosystem approach to fisheries; and

ii) strengthening national action plans to reduce by catch through good fishing practices.

Another key outcome was the creation of institutional arrangements and regulations to achieve environmental and developmental outcomes.

Further, the project contributed to the first gender analysis in the fishing sector.

WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES?

The project had limited capacity to disseminate its results. Although it produced a wide variety of documentation and products with valuable information for decision makers, academics and professionals at the international level, this wealth of information and access to it was limited at the time of the terminal evaluation. Beyond the governance arrangements established in the project document, another challenge involved generating collective agreements with all partners on procedures for operational and strategic decisions, internal communication channels, conflict resolution, and the management of internal project information and knowledge during government changes.



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LESSONS LEARNED

1. The political and technical will of the environmental and fishing sectors to work together paved the way for achieving the goals of protection, conservation and the sustainable management of fishing resources.
2. Argentina's high inflation and exchange rate must be considered in the planning, implementation and execution of international cooperation projects that involve financing in a foreign currency. This will mitigate financial and administrative gaps.
3. It is important to arrange the project's governance mechanisms so that they go beyond what is established in the project document. This will allow for adapting to unexpected or unplanned changes or events, while respecting project guidelines and objectives.
4. It is key for specialized staff to implement a monitoring system at the beginning of the project in order to promote its execution in a proactive way.

Find out more in the full report, [here](#).



NEXT STEPS

Improve the dissemination of knowledge products generated by the project. The quantity and quality of information generated is important, and the public should be able to access it with ease.

Incorporate cross-cutting perspectives such as gender from the project design phase to implementation.

For future projects, develop an operational project manual to define issues that the project document does not detail. This will support smooth execution. In fact, successful elements of this project can be used as a reference to design future projects with similar objectives in the region. These elements still consider the specific characteristics of each case and involve:

- i) the production of high quality data and information;
- ii) the promotion of dialogue and interinstitutional coordination between the fisheries and environmental sectors; and
- iii) the creation of biological conservation instruments through participatory processes.

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