

Project Summary

River Restoration for Climate Change Adaptation (RÍOS)

RÍOS is the first project presented by Mexico to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The objective of the project is to increase the adaptive capacity of people and ecosystems in watersheds vulnerable to climate change, through the restoration of rivers. RÍOS will be financially supported by a grant from the GCF for USD \$ 9 million and complementary financing from the CONECTA project, financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project will be implemented during 2021-2026 and will be in charge of the National Accredited Agency, the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN), with the technical leadership of the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), and two Funds Regionals as Executing Entities: Gulf of Mexico Fund (FGM) in Veracruz, and Northwest Fund (FONNOR) in Jalisco.



Figure 1. Watersheds of RÍOS

The Project Components are:

Component 1. Increase in forest and water connectivity with a vision of adaptation to climate change through restoration, conservation and best productive practices. This Component will strengthen capacities in producers and landholders along the Jamapa and Ameca-Mascota watersheds to conduct activities on their land that promote ecosystem-based adaptation through functional connectivity. INECC has identified the required actions to reduce climate change vulnerability through Integrated Watershed Action Plans (IWAPs) built with key local stakeholders, within the framework of the GEF-Financed C6 Project. It will be implemented through subprojects financed with GCF resources and executed by selected community, civil and private organizations working with producers on the ground to increase capacities in rehabilitation and restoration of forests along rivers and springs, protection and conservation of forests; and adaptation of productive activities that promote connectivity for river restoration (agroforestry and sustainable livestock management). These subprojects comprise a portfolio of four type of schemes, depending on the nature and objective of the activity: Grants through request for proposals, Payment-for-Performance (PfP), Public-Private Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), and Business development and facilitate access to credits.

The project will also increase local monitoring capacities to assess and reduce climate change vulnerability. RÍOS will adapt existing methodologies to evaluate the vulnerability by the communities of the project basins continuously and to monitor the provision of ecosystem services (biodiversity, soil and water quality). It will provide subprojects with technologies and assistance to learn about vulnerability and monitor project benefits and co-benefits. The project will also create a “learning community” to exchange local experiences between beneficiaries, collaborate with national and regional actors to coordinate activities and achieve connectivity in the watersheds.

Component 2. Alignment of public and private investments through natural capital accounting for scaling-up activities for the restoration of rivers for adaptation to climate change. The project will implement coordination activities to align public and private contributions to scale-up the best practices. This will be accomplished through the alignment of local and national public programs related to restoration and adaptation, bringing together national opportunities with local needs. The project will also improve enabling environment to access dedicated credit lines for sustainable, climate-resilient productive practices in sustainable ranching and agroforestry, by improving and developing dedicated credit lines, and training financial intermediaries.

Component 3. Design of a National River Restoration Strategy for climate change adaptation. Under the leadership of INECC, this Component will support the design of the NRRS to strengthen the country's adaptation to climate change. It will identify relevant stakeholders for the design; establish a Design Committee and its institutional arrangements; incorporate lessons learned from intermediate results from Components 1 and 2; develop workshops to define objectives, scope, and guidelines of the NRRS. This Component will further work with public officials and legislators to define the legal framework in which the strategy will be framed.

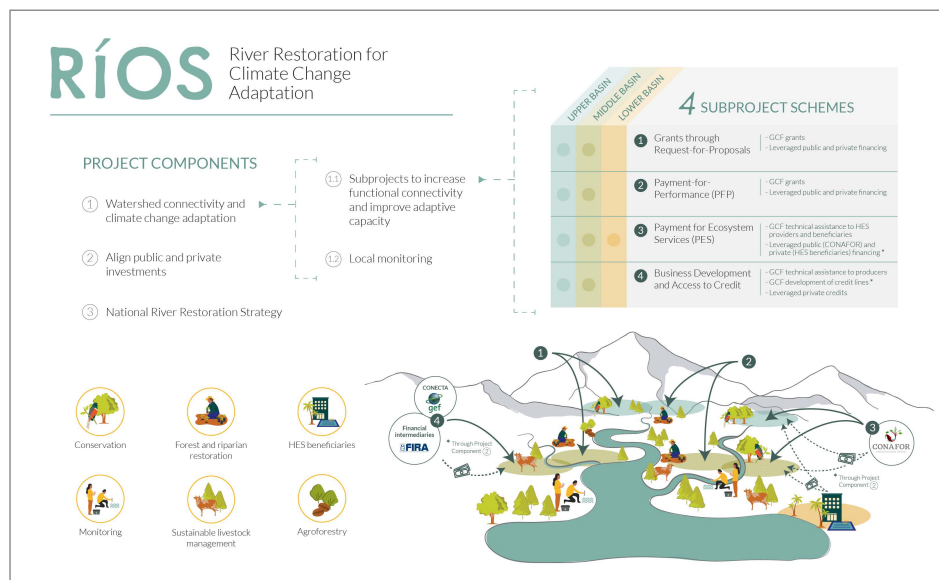


Figure 2. Summary of RÍOS Project Components