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ADAPTATION FUND

PROGRAMME ON INNOVATION:

SMALL GRANTS PROJECTS THROUGH DIRECT ACCESS MODALITY

REQUEST FOR PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE ADAPTATION FUND

The annexed form should be completed and transmitted to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat by email or fax.

Please type in the responses using the template provided. The instructions attached to the form provide guidance to filling out the template.

Please note that a project must be fully prepared when the request is submitted.

Complete documentation should be sent to:

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MSN P4-400
Washington, D.C., 20433
U.S.A
Fax: +1 (202) 522-3240/5
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org

ADAPTATION FUND

PROGRAMME ON INNOVATION/LEARNING: SMALL GRANTS PROJECT PROPOSAL

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Country: Costa Rica

Title of Project: ***Rise Up Climate: Empowering Communities Through Learning and Innovation in Costa Rica***

National Implementing Entity: Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible

Executing Entity/ies: Dirección de Cambio Climático, MINAE

Amount of Financing Requested: 750,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Background and Context:

Provide brief information on the problem the proposed project is aiming to solve. Outline the economic social, development and environmental context in which the project would operate.

Costa Rica is increasingly vulnerable to climate change, experiencing shifts in weather patterns that manifest as prolonged droughts in Guanacaste, severely impacting agricultural production and access to drinking water, and torrential rains along the Caribbean coast that trigger devastating floods and landslides and significant soil loss in mountainous regions, further diminishing agricultural productivity and increasing community vulnerability. These escalating impacts directly threaten the livelihoods of vulnerable populations, particularly rural women, who are often responsible for water and food security. In fact, the 2021 unemployment rate was 18.5% for women in the agricultural sector compared to 9.2% for men (SEPSA, 2021), highlighting their heightened economic vulnerability amidst these climate stresses. The annual economic toll of these climate-related events costs Costa Rica an estimated 2.1% of its GDP, affecting the agricultural sector with 48% and biodiversity and protected areas with the other 18%. Climate risks per agroecological zone vary, as shown in the table below.

Agroecological Zone	Key Regions	Climate Risks	Adaptation Challenges and knowledge needs
Tropical Lowlands	Guanacaste, Puntarenas, Limon	Droughts (Pacific), flooding (Caribbean) coastal degradation, Coastal salinity intrusion	Drought-resistant crops, agroforestry, rainwater harvesting, water management, efficient irrigation, soil sensors, precision agriculture, silvopastoral systems, community innovation schemes, circular bioeconomy
Central Valley	Cartago, Heredia	Erratic rainfall, soil degradation, rivers overflow, temperature rises, biodiversity loss	Climate-smart crops, urban agriculture, biochar, water management, soil sensors, precision agriculture, circular bioeconomy
Northern Plains	Upala, San Carlos, Sarapiquí	Flooding, pests, changes in rain patterns	Flood-tolerant crops, silvopastoral systems, drainage solutions, pest management, drainage systems, Early warning systems, circular bioeconomy
High-Altitude Zones	Los Santos, Puriscal, Northern Cartago cantons	soil degradation, landslides, water scarcity, frost risks, biodiversity loss	Terrace farming, cold-resistant crops, seeds and soil conservation, water management, soil sensors, precision agriculture, circular bioeconomy
Humid Tropics (incl. Coasts)	Osa Peninsula, Caribbean zone	Flooding, coastal and soil degradation, Coastal salinity intrusion	Flood-tolerant crops, silvopastoral systems, seeds and soil conservation, pest management, drainage systems, Early warning systems, community innovation schemes, circular bioeconomy

The diverse climate risks across Costa Rica's agroecological zones - from prolonged droughts in Guanacaste's dry tropics to excessive rainfall in the Caribbean lowlands - demonstrate that effective adaptation requires context-specific knowledge delivery systems. Standardized approaches fail because coffee farmers in Tarrazú's highlands face fundamentally different challenges than coffee producers in Guanacaste region. This requires either deep local expertise (community members who intuitively understand microclimates and cultural practices) or innovative knowledge-transfer systems that translate climate science into actionable, location-appropriate measures. Successful models might include mobile apps with zone-specific advisories, peer-to-peer "farmer field schools" adapting techniques to local soils, or interactive radio programs addressing hyper-local concerns - all while respecting indigenous knowledge systems. The key insight: adaptation knowledge must be as geographically and culturally tailored as the solutions themselves to drive informed decision-making.

While Costa Rica has demonstrated strong environmental leadership, these impacts reveal a fragmented approach to climate action that must be enhanced to reach and benefit local communities. A recent study entitled "Brechas de Conocimiento en Adaptación al Cambio Climático" (Knowledge Gap in Climate Adaptation) revealed that 77% of surveyed officials believe a lack of information significantly hinders adaptation efforts. The study pointed to a lack of access to the local level information needed to act for adaptation among key actors within communities, the research sector, and government, and more in general, not being easy to digest for a high number of audiences and sectors within the country. Key findings include:

- **Knowledge Generation Gaps:** Lack of relevant, user-friendly, and accessible climate change information at the local level.
- **Modes of Production, Transfer, and Integration:** Unsustainable knowledge co-creation processes that don't incorporate local needs. Limited coordination and multidisciplinary input for effective dissemination.
- **Appropriation and Use of Knowledge:** Scientific information is not easily accessible to local governments or communities. Technical language and lack of perceived practical value hinder knowledge adoption.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Lack of clear indicators, baseline data, and institutional capacity for effective monitoring of climate actions.

This study also pointed to an underlying lack of gender specific information, as only 6% of those surveyed believed it was an important factor in adaptation efforts. This reveals a significant knowledge gap and a lack of attention to the gender perspective in the climate change adaptation sector in Costa Rica, and underlines the need to implement actions that promote awareness, training, and the integration of a gender perspective in all stages of the adaptation process, to ensure actions are fair, equitable, and effective.

The study recommended:

- Strengthening User-Researcher Collaboration
- Enhancing Knowledge Transfer Mechanisms
- Building Institutional Capacity
- Promoting Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
- Integration between local stakeholders and the national level

The project will act on this with its innovative approach to community based learning and climate action. This is supported by Costa Rica's NDC (2020, Commitment 11.5) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2022–2026 in its Strategic Pillar 1: Knowledge management, climate services, and local and institutional capacity building.The urgency of addressing the knowledge gap and scaling the right knowledge has been re-iterated in both 2023 and 2024 "Estado de la Nación" reports, where they reveal limited data on adaptation projects, climate financing, and key sectors like agriculture and energy;it also reports that climate plans and government structure continue to show a lack of support of communities where the action actually has to happen.

This project stands apart in its effort to go beyond theory by developing a critical structural focus on information with the user at its heart, through human-centered design, bootcamps in rural areas that will empower communities to drive their own innovation and knowledge sharing and action. Aligned with the NDC 2025 and NAP 2022–2026 pillars, and building on key research, it will empower community leaders, territorial organizations, and citizens with the tools to identify vulnerabilities, co-create tailored solutions, and actively participate in climate policy implementation, enabling their livelihoods to be safeguarded in a future impacted by climate change This strategic investment in local climate literacy and community engagement will build resilience, promote innovation, and foster a collective, just, and effective response to climate change, ensuring sustainable economic and social development across Costa Rica.

Project Objectives:

List the main objectives of the project.

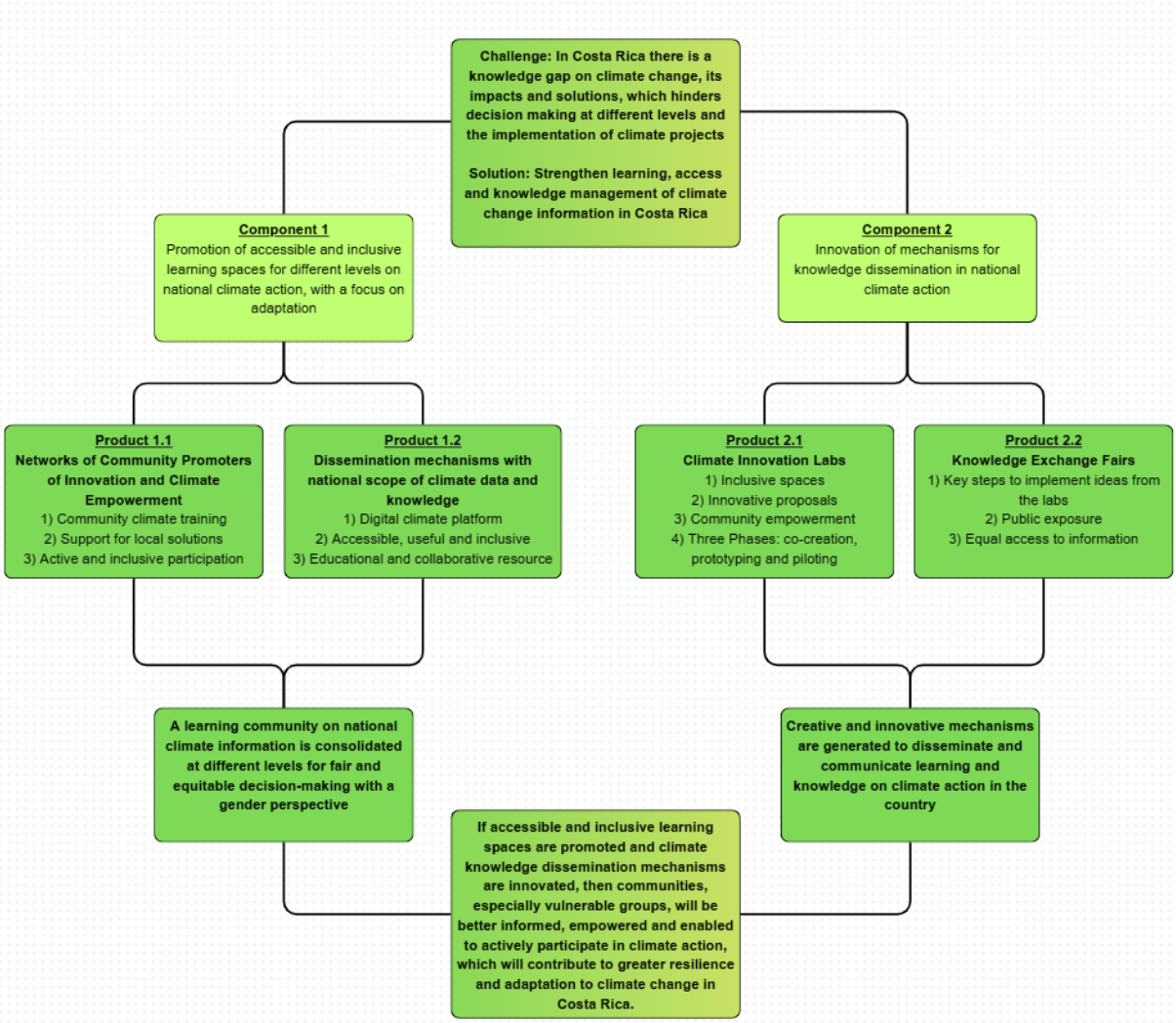
The main objective of this project is to strengthen learning, access to, and management of knowledge and information related to climate change in Costa Rica, especially in the area of adaptation.

The project is based on the central hypothesis that: if accessible and inclusive learning spaces are promoted and innovative mechanisms for disseminating climate knowledge are developed, then communities, especially vulnerable groups, will be better informed, empowered, and equipped to actively participate in climate action, which will contribute to greater resilience and adaptation to climate change in Costa Rica.

This project has two components: the first focused on promoting accessible and inclusive learning mechanisms to strengthen climate empowerment, and the second focused on promoting and developing innovative mechanisms to expand the impact, reach, and effectiveness of communication and climate knowledge management. Both components are complementary and mutually reinforce each other in a continuous cycle of learning, innovation, and climate action.

The specific objectives are:

a. Promote accessible and inclusive learning spaces for different levels – institutions, communities, organizations – to strengthen their capacities in national climate action, with a focus on adaptation.
b. Develop and innovate mechanisms for disseminating knowledge on national climate action through participatory processes.



Project Components and Financing:

Fill in the table presenting the relationships among project components, activities, expected concrete outputs, and the corresponding budgets. If necessary, please refer to the INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING A REQUEST FOR

Project Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US$)	Sources of funding (specify if innovation or learning)
1. Promoción de espacios de aprendizaje accesibles e inclusivos para diferentes niveles	1.1 Se establecen Redes de Promotores Comunitarios de Innovación y	Se consolida una comunidad de aprendizaje sobre información climática	296 000	Learning

	Empoderamiento Climático. 1.2 Se implementan mecanismos de difusión con alcance nacional de datos y conocimiento climático.	nacional a diferentes niveles para la toma de decisión justa, equitativa, con perspectiva de género.		
2. Innovación de mecanismos de difusión del conocimiento en acción climática nacional	2.1 Se elaboran Laboratorios de Innovación Climática con personas de diferentes sectores del país, de distintos niveles enfocados en la creación de mecanismos de divulgación de la información sobre cambio climático. 2.2 Ferias de Intercambio de Conocimiento de mecanismos de difusión de información climática desarrollados en los Laboratorios de Innovación.	Se generan mecanismos, creativos e innovadores, para difundir y comunicar el aprendizaje y el conocimiento sobre acción climática en el país.	347 000	Innovation
6. Project Execution cost			47 000	
7. Total Project Cost			690 000	
8. Project Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)			60 000	
Amount of Financing Requested			750,000	

Projected Calendar:

Indicate the dates of the following milestones for the proposed project/programme

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project Implementation	15/01/2026
Project Closing	14/07/2029
Terminal Evaluation	30/09/2029

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION [5]

A. Describe the project components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience.

The project is based on the central hypothesis that: if accessible and inclusive learning spaces are promoted, innovative mechanisms are implemented to manage climate knowledge, and rural communities are empowered, especially women and youth, they will be better informed, trained, and equipped to actively participate in climate action and promote the adoption of adaptive practices in their food systems. This will contribute to greater resilience and adaptation to climate change in Costa Rica, with a focus on their relationship with water resources, given its relevance to the sector.

This project has two components: the first focused on promoting accessible and inclusive learning mechanisms to strengthen climate empowerment in the agricultural sector, with special attention to women, youth, and rural communities; and the second focused on developing and promoting innovative mechanisms to strengthen the impact and reach of communication and climate knowledge management regarding resilient food systems. Both components are complementary and mutually reinforce each other in a continuous cycle of learning, innovation, and climate action.

With these two components, the project integrates two interdependent pillars:

a. Generation and empowerment (Component 1).
b. Communication and replicability (Component 2).

Together, they form a climate action ecosystem where communities not only learn but also innovate and lead solutions tailored to their realities, contributing to a more resilient and just agri-food sector in the face of climate change.

In summary, the project seeks to transform how communities access, interpret, and act on climate change, generating a virtuous cycle of learning, innovation, and empowerment that strengthens climate resilience in the agri-food sector in Costa Rica.

Component 1: Promotion of Accessible and Inclusive Learning Spaces at Different Levels
Product 1.1: Community Innovation and Climate Empowerment Promoter Networks Established

Climate Promoter Networks are spaces where people from the same community (with a cantonal or district scope) come together. They share an affinity for the agricultural sector, whether as producers or as individuals with academic training in this area. Their objective is to promote learning spaces on climate change and food systems, where solutions are discussed, presented, and innovated, and alliances are formed between neighbors to obtain food systems adapted to climate change.

A call is opened for people who want to become “Climate Promoters,” encouraging women, youth, indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups to participate in this process, obtaining extra points in the selection process.

These “Climate Promoters” must have a relationship with food systems, whether they work on farms, own farms, engage in domestic and subsistence production, or have participated in adaptation projects such as Programa Adapta2+ or Escalar Adapta2+.

Once these people are chosen, a theoretical and practical training process is scheduled so they are immersed in topics of climate change, its impact on agriculture, water resources, the use of available information for decision-making in adaptation, and adaptation solutions. In addition, these trainings will include concrete actions such as sustainable soil management, agroecological techniques to conserve biodiversity, efficient water management practices, diversification of drought- or flood-resistant crops, the use of technologies for local climate monitoring, and strategies to strengthen community food security. Climate Promoters will also participate in communication and leadership workshops to facilitate the transfer of knowledge in their communities and collaborate in the creation of local action plans that integrate innovative and adaptive practices. Once the training process for the "Climate Promoters" is completed, the idea is that these people now lead their respective Network and transmit this knowledge to the people belonging to this Network. In this way, knowledge reaches their communities, and they are trained among the same people, with the aim also that these can become the "Climate Promoters," ensuring a continuous cycle of the networks, and therefore of learning. Of course, in order to put into practice what they have learned.

Exchanges can be made between Networks from different communities, where cases are presented according to the context of their localities.

With the objective of reducing the existing knowledge gap in Costa Rica regarding climate change, its specific impacts at the local level and the available solutions, the aim is to create local "community climate innovation promoter networks" that bring together trained local leaders ("Climate Promoters") who act as multipliers of knowledge and facilitators of climate action in their communities, with a focus on resilient food systems. The project would train these promoters to train trainers. These networks would catalyze alliances to facilitate practical workshops, seminars and training on agroecological practices, adaptation of the agricultural sector to climate change, increased resilience, access and use of hydrometeorological information for decision-making to their own contexts, technology in climate action, mitigation, losses and damages, climate finance and climate empowerment, prioritizing access to these spaces for women, youth and rural populations. Once these networks of promoters are

consolidated, with leaders trained to be mentors in climate issues, the process of continuous learning and the transfer of knowledge within the communities is ensured, contributing to the sustainability of the project. Interactive digital platforms and toolboxes with resources adapted to different levels of knowledge and technological access will be provided.

In addition, these spaces aim to foster a culture of innovation at the grassroots level by providing resources and support for local communities to develop and implement their own climate solutions, based on their needs and problems, in this way promoting the use of citizen science to collect local climate data. A support toolbox will be designed for the networks, with which the project will provide support according to their particular needs, which would include support for the effective functioning of the networks from the point of view of facilitating institutional support, training, support in establishing local alliances, in promoting a network of support mentors, as well as actions for exchange and learning between networks. For the most active networks, initial funding may be included for community-led projects (max. 10 initiatives total, US$1 000 each), co-creation days or "boot camps" focused on local climate challenges and platforms to share successful initiatives.

Under this product, local participation is strengthened by empowering local residents, including women, people with disabilities, indigenous communities and other groups vulnerable to climate change, to become active participants in the identification of climate risks, in decision-making and exposure and the co-creation of impact solutions in their food systems.

Output 1.1: Community Innovation and Climate Empowerment Promoter Networks Established

Climate Promoter Networks are spaces where people from the same community (which may have cantonal or district scope) come together. They share an affinity for the agricultural sector, whether as producers or as individuals with academic training in this area. Their objective is to promote learning spaces on climate change and food systems, where solutions are discussed, presented, and innovated, and alliances are formed between neighbors to obtain food systems adapted to climate change.

A call is opened for people who want to become “Climate Promoters,” encouraging women, youth, indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups to participate in this process, obtaining extra points in the selection process.

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In addition, these spaces aim to foster a culture of innovation at the grassroots level by providing resources and support for local communities to develop and implement their own climate solutions, based on their needs and problems, in this way promoting the use of citizen science to collect local climate data. A support toolbox will be designed for the networks, with which the project will provide support according to their particular needs, which would include support for the effective functioning of the networks from the point of view of facilitating institutional support, training, support in establishing local alliances, in promoting a network of support mentors, as well as actions for exchange and learning between networks. For the most active networks, initial funding may be included for community-led projects (max. 10 initiatives total, US$1 000 each), co-creation days or "boot camps" focused on local climate challenges and platforms to share successful initiatives.

Under this product, local participation is strengthened by empowering local residents, including women, people with disabilities, indigenous communities and other groups vulnerable to climate change, to become active participants in the identification of climate risks, in decision-making and exposure and the co-creation of impact solutions in their food systems.

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Output 1.2: Mechanisms for Dissemination of Data and Climate Knowledge with National Reach are Implemented

Develop an online platform with updated, high-quality, accessible, and easy-to-use data that consolidates national climate data and realities, research findings, best practices related to climate change, successful adaptation projects that can be replicated, among other resources,

all in line with the theme of achieving climate change-adapted food systems and water resources.

This platform would serve as:

1. A resource for people involved in the agricultural sector and educational systems to have access to quality and updated information for decision-making in the face of uncertain climate scenarios and to be able to innovate in terms of adaptation.
2. An educational resource for students, researchers, the private sector, civil society organizations, policymakers, and the community in general, functioning as a window for collaboration between different levels.

The website plans to integrate data visualization tools, interactive maps, accessible audiovisual material for all types of users, as well as predictive modeling capabilities on the platform to allow users to explore climate trends, project future scenarios, and understand the potential impacts of different climate actions.

Likewise, alignment with NDC 2025 is sought by showing progress towards the objectives of NDC 3.0 and providing transparent information on national climate action. This platform would support the Climate Change Directorate (DCC) of the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) in communicating with the general public interested in contributing and learning about progress in climate adaptation and in using this information for decision-making in their different contexts. Therefore, to ensure the sustainability of the project, and specifically of this product, the DCC will facilitate access to the information so that the website has updated and accessible data and information.

Component 2: Innovation of Knowledge Dissemination Mechanisms in National Climate Action

Output 2.1: Climate Innovation Labs with People from Different Sectors of the Country, from Different Levels Focused on Creating Mechanisms for Disseminating Climate Information

Participants in the laboratories: different networks formed throughout the country in product 1.1; external civil society the networks with affinity to the topic, students in topics related to the agricultural and rural sector, in communication, people from the public and private sector could be included. Including representation from different vulnerable groups to generate an intersectional approach to gender and human rights.

First, the participants will present and discuss the difficulties and gaps they face when seeking information (especially national, without neglecting international information) on climate change, food systems, from impacts to adaptation solutions, that they need to meet their needs (labor, academic, subsistence). Once the gaps are identified from their contexts in access to climate/agri-food information, the participating people will be responsible for seeking, proposing and developing innovative and creative mechanisms responding to their needs so that national information on climate change (public policies, research, projects, metrics and relevant and updated data, learnings, experiences, successful projects, among others related to the theme) is available in an accessible way for communities and people in the sector. In this way, it is projected to have informed and empowered communities, capable of leading climate change adaptation actions from their realities in the food systems, adding to the climate resilience of the country.

The Laboratories would operate on a practical and scalable methodology to different areas of

the country, considering 3 phases: 1) co-creation, in order to identify real needs for climate information for vulnerable populations, facilitate accessible tools and generate adapted solutions; 2) rapid prototyping with mentors, in order to transform ideas into viable prototypes; 3) piloting and linking with allies, in order to ensure that solutions are implemented. Among the allies, it will be promoted to attract local media and other types of organizations related to communication and climate information.
Likewise, to ensure the sustainability of this product, key factors are taken into account, such as the approach with allies to ensure the implementation of the prototypes; promoting the dissemination of knowledge once the innovations developed begin to work, the inclusion of different vulnerable groups, among others.

Output 2.2: Knowledge Exchange Fairs of Mechanisms Developed in the Climate Innovation Labs

Knowledge Exchange Fairs are key links in turning the ideas generated in the Climate Innovation Labs into real, implemented solutions. These are exhibition spaces open to the public and local organizations (NGOs, municipalities, universities, schools, and colleges, among others) where prototypes of climate information dissemination mechanisms developed as results of the Climate Innovation Labs are exhibited, with an emphasis on solutions for resilient food systems. By showing the dissemination mechanisms to the public, it can help several of the ideas presented to be executed, generating an adequate flow of climate information to the communities, allowing them to make informed, fair, and equitable decisions. In addition, these knowledge exchange fairs, along with the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, facilitate the process being replicated in any part of the national territory, thus contributing to the sustainability of the project.

In summary, this project significantly complements other Adaptation Fund-supported initiatives implemented in Costa Rica. By building on lessons learned and knowledge generated from previous projects, particularly the Adapta2+ Program and its scaling-up program, the project aims to leverage existing foundations and avoid duplicating efforts. Synergies will be established with ongoing projects to maximize collective impact and promote a more cohesive national adaptation strategy. This collaboration will facilitate resource sharing, scale successful solutions, and contribute to enhanced climate resilience in communities and food systems across the country.

B. Describe how the project provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

This project delivers triple-benefit impacts by transforming climate knowledge into actionable adaptation for vulnerable agricultural communities:

Economic:

- Creates livelihood opportunities by training women/youth as certified Climate Promoters (200+ paid positions) and funding 10 community-led enterprises ($1,000 seed

grants each)

Social:

- Targets 50% participation by vulnerable groups (women, indigenous, disabled) in leadership roles through preferential selection criteria
- Access to climate information facilitates decision making in adaptation measures in community, local individuals and farms.
- Strengthens food security via diversified, climate-resilient crops co-developed with local networks

Environmental:

- Promotes nature-based solutions (agroforestry, soil conservation) across 5,000+ hectares
- Reduces climate vulnerability through hyper-local early warning systems co-designed with farmers
- Safeguard: Environmental screening excludes harmful interventions (e.g., invasive species)

Gender & Inclusion:

- Women lead 50% of Climate Promoter Networks with childcare-supported training schedules
- Indigenous knowledge integrated into all adaptation tools via participatory design

C. Describe how the project encourages or accelerates development of innovative adaptation practices, tools or technologies and/or describe how the project helps generate evidence base of effective, efficient adaptation practices, products or technologies, as a basis for potential scaling up.

The project promotes and fosters the development of innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies through three concrete results:

- **Networks of Community Promoters of Innovation and Climate Empowerment:** Foster a culture of innovation at the grassroots level by providing resources and support for local communities to develop and implement their own climate solutions. These spaces aim to foster a culture of innovation at the grassroots level by providing resources and support for local communities to develop and implement their own climate solutions, based on their needs and problems, in this way promoting the use of citizen science to collect local climate data.
- **The development of dissemination mechanisms with national reach for data and climate knowledge:** Integrate data visualization tools, interactive maps, educational material, and predictive modeling capabilities into the platform to allow users to explore climate trends, project future scenarios, and understand the potential impacts of different climate actions. In addition, innovate in creating a platform accessible to people with disabilities, including for example audiovisual material.
- **Climate Innovation Labs to create mechanisms for disseminating climate information for decision making on adaptation actions:** Promote the development of innovative initiatives that respond to the existing need to bring information on climate change to communities. The Laboratories would operate on a practical and scalable methodology to different areas of the country, considering 3 phases: 1) co-creation, in order to identify real needs for climate information for vulnerable populations, facilitate accessible tools and generate adapted solutions; 2) rapid prototyping with mentors, in order to transform ideas into viable prototypes; 3) piloting and linking with allies, in order to ensure that solutions are implemented.

D. Please confirm whether the project meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and is in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

The project complies with relevant national technical standards and the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy. Based in its design, the project presents low risk regarding ESP

risks and legal provisions have been taken into account, ensuring responsible implementation across all its components.

In the case of both components, Component 1—which focuses on promoting learning spaces on climate change—and Component 2—which focuses on the innovation of knowledge dissemination measures—activities will be carried out through workshops, laboratories, or training spaces, which do not involve the construction or intervention of permanent physical spaces. In this sense, no structural permits are required; however, basic biosafety measures will be followed, and it will be ensured that the space has adequate conditions for the execution of the activities, for example; compliance with Law N°7600 on Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

The project integrates potential risks and impacts, proposes mitigation measures, and includes a monitoring and evaluation process, ensuring that all actions are carried out in accordance with national legislation and the standards established by the Adaptation Fund.

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E. If applying for innovation-learning bundled funding modality, please describe the rationale and how the proposal meets the criteria set for this type of funding.

E1: LEARNING ACTIVITIES: Briefly describe how the proposed innovation activities contribute to learning, and ultimately to increasing climate resilience of beneficiaries.

The proposed innovation activities foster experiential, community-driven learning that directly strengthens the climate resilience of vulnerable groups in Costa Rica through three key mechanisms:

1. **Learning by Doing (Hands-on Capacity Building)**

The project's practical approach transforms community members into active climate resilience practitioners. Through the Community Promoters Networks, local leaders receive intensive training to become knowledge multipliers, particularly focusing on vulnerable groups like indigenous communities and women farmers. These promoters don't just share theoretical concepts - they facilitate hands-on activities like installing rain gauges to monitor precipitation patterns or conducting field trials of drought-resistant crops. The Climate Innovation Labs take this further by employing creative problem-solving techniques; for instance, coastal communities might develop interactive flood warning games while indigenous groups create native-language radio programs explaining climate forecasts. This experiential learning model ensures knowledge isn't just absorbed but immediately applied to real-world challenges, with mentorship from scientists and technicians helping bridge traditional wisdom with modern climate science.

2. **Learning Through Sharing (Collaborative Platforms)**

The National Data Platform serves as a dynamic hub where climate knowledge becomes universally accessible and actionable. Farmers can view personalized dashboards showing how changing rainfall patterns affect their specific crops, while community leaders track how local adaptation projects contribute to national climate goals. The Knowledge Exchange Fairs create physical spaces for this shared learning, where successful initiatives like women-led forest restoration projects demonstrate tangible results. These fairs aren't just exhibition spaces - they feature structured feedback sessions where communities collectively analyze what communication methods (like illustrated guides versus community theater) most effectively drive behavioral change. This continuous sharing and evaluation process creates a living repository of best practices that evolves based on real community experiences.

3. **Learning Through Empowerment (Institutionalizing Knowledge)**

The project embeds climate learning into social structures through deliberate inclusion strategies and policy connections. By reserving leadership positions for women and indigenous participants, it ensures adaptation strategies reflect diverse community needs. Accessibility features like audio-based training materials for non-literate farmers or sign-language interpretation at workshops remove traditional barriers to participation. Crucially, the project creates formal pathways for grassroots innovations to influence broader systems - whether through municipal governments adopting community-developed flood warning tools, or national policies incorporating traditional fire prevention techniques documented on the platform. This institutionalization transforms isolated local knowledge into scalable resilience strategies, while the alignment with Costa Rica's NDC ensures learning contributes to measurable national climate targets.

E2: CONTINOUS INNOVATION CYCLE: Describe how evidence based generated innovation will be shared and made available to NIEs and other partners, and ensure continuous cycle of innovation and knowledge sharing.

This project ensures climate solutions created by communities are shared, improved, and scaled up through 4 simple steps:

The project begins by testing and documenting real-world solutions. Local leaders called Promotores facilitate capacity building activities and promote use of climate information for decision making into practical climate adaptations i.e. drought-resistant farming techniques, then record their results on a National Climate Platform. Simultaneously, Innovation Labs transform these grassroots ideas into easy-to-follow instruction guides, such as step-by-step manuals for building community flood warning systems.

Knowledge sharing forms the project's second critical phase. Government agencies receive condensed briefings highlighting the most effective community innovations, while municipal leaders obtain ready-to-implement toolkits during interactive Knowledge Fairs. Researchers and NGOs can freely access all collected data through the project's digital platform, creating multiple pathways for solution dissemination.

The system then focuses on refinement and expansion. Communities themselves evaluate which innovations work best through participatory voting mechanisms, perhaps favoring radio alerts over printed materials for emergency communications. The platform's smart recommendation engine suggests similar successful solutions from different regions, while the most promising ideas get incorporated into official programs or attract private sector investment.

Finally, the project establishes mechanisms for long-term sustainability. Local Community Networks and Exchange Fairs continue to promote further innovations and scalability. A dedicated Innovation Fund provides seed money to scale up the most impactful solutions, while capacity-building initiatives train local governments to continue operating Innovation Labs independently. All methodologies get compiled into a freely accessible Climate Innovation Guide, ensuring anyone can replicate the process and maintain the innovation cycle indefinitely.

F. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project. Describe how the project will engage, empower and/or benefit the most vulnerable communities and social groups, including gender considerations, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

In compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, this project is classified

as Category C – Low/No Risk due to its minimal potential for adverse environmental and social impacts.

Checklist of environmental and social principles	***No further assessment required for compliance***	***Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance***
Compliance with Law		***Very low.*** *Project design ensure all activities comply with Costa Rican laws*
Access and Equity		***Low risk****: The design of this proposal has been planned with a focus on gender equity and accessibility, seeking the participation and inclusion of vulnerable groups but there is a possibility of exclusion of vulnerable groups if the participation mechanisms are not inclusive.*
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups		***Low risk:*** *The project is designed to encourage active and effective participation of different vulnerable groups through learning and innovation on communication mechanisms.. But there is a risk in excluding people from indigenous communities, youth or other vulnerable populations in the construction of workspaces, as well as in decision making if no appropriate measures are taken and if selection criteria doesn't prevent it.*
Human Rights		***Very low risk:*** *Project aligns with national and international human rights frameworks.*
Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment		***Low risk:*** *The project is gender-sensitive, thus ensuring the active and effective participation of women and other vulnerable groups and gender equity is a cross-cutting theme in all components. However, there is a risk if activities are not well executed and involving mechanisms are not followed carefully.*
Core Labour Rights		***Very Low risk:*** *The project will ensure full compliance with current labor regulations*
Indigenous Peoples		***Low risk:****, there is a risk that the proposed adaptation measures that may be related to indigenous communities may not adequately reflect their worldviews, traditional practices or community priorities, which could limit the effectiveness and inclusiveness of the project. Care will be taken to ensure that all knowledge transfer occurs through respectful, participatory processes that recognize and value the ownership of local communities.*
Involuntary Resettlement	*x*	***No Risk:*** *There is no risk of involuntary resettlement according to project activities.*
Protection of Natural Habitats		***Very low Risk:*** *Activities of learning and innovation in dissemination of knowledge do not create risk to natural habitats.*
Conservation of Biological Diversity		*Very low risk: Activities of learning and innovation in dissemination of knowledge do not create risk of disturbing natural habitats.*
Climate Change		***Very low risk:****. No negative emission outcomes expected.*
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		***Low Risk:****, there is a risk of pollution from from training activities. Carefull selection of logistics will be conducted*
Public Health	*x*	***Very low risk.*** *The project does not pose public health risks,*
Physical and Cultural Heritage		***low risk****: there is a risk of not transferring cultural knowledge appropriately. Follow up will be given.*
Lands and Soil Conservation		***Low Risk:*** *Soil and land conservation is a priority adaptation focus in this project. Trainings and technical assistance will be included.*

G. Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.

The requested funding is fully justified as it comprehensively addresses the full costs associated with promoting climate change adaptation in Costa Rica. This project transcends immediate needs by investing in long-term, sustainable solutions that empower communities, enhance their adaptive capacities, and transform systems for greater resilience. It is based on the central hypothesis that by promoting accessible, inclusive learning spaces and innovating climate knowledge dissemination, communities—especially vulnerable groups—will be better informed, empowered, and equipped to actively participate in climate action, thereby contributing to enhanced resilience.

The project addresses the full cost of adaptation through:

- Addressing Root Causes: By targeting underlying knowledge gaps, capacity constraints, and institutional barriers, the project tackles systemic challenges that exacerbate vulnerability and limit adaptive capacity.
- Promoting Holistic Solutions: Through its integrated approach combining awareness-raising, capacity-building, knowledge sharing, and innovation, the project creates synergistic effects that amplify individual interventions' impact, ensuring mutually reinforcing and sustainable benefits.
- Investing in Local Ownership: The project prioritizes active participation and leadership of local communities, women, and youth in all stages, ensuring solutions are contextually relevant, culturally appropriate, and aligned with community needs.

To achieve these goals, the project proposes two main components: (1) promoting accessible and inclusive learning spaces for climate action at different levels, focusing on adaptation, and (2) innovating knowledge dissemination mechanisms through participatory processes. These components mutually reinforce each other in a continuous cycle of learning, innovation, and climate action.

Therefore, the proposed funding supports not only concrete learning and knowledge management measures but also a comprehensive climate empowerment strategy, closing the knowledge gap through active citizen participation, local innovation, and informed decision-making. The project aligns with Costa Rica’s national commitments to climate resilience, particularly the NDC 2020 and aspirations of NDC 3.0, ensuring its contribution to national climate goals.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Describe the arrangements for project / programme implementation.

Project implementation will be overseen through a collaborative approach involving the Climate Change Directorate (DCC) of the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) and Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible (NIE). While the DCC serves as the executing entity, Fundecooperación, as the National Implementing Entity (NIE), will manage the majority of on-the-ground implementation activities. This arrangement respects the priorities, decisions, and strategic vision of the DCC, ensuring alignment with national climate action policies.

Fundecooperación will provide direct project services, including procurement and contracting, to

streamline implementation. To ensure effective coordination, a joint Coordination Committee will be established, comprised of representatives from the DCC and Fundecooperación. This committee will be responsible for project planning, management decisions, monitoring and evaluation, and overall supervision.
A dedicated Project Director will be contracted to lead the day-to-day implementation activities in the field. Furthermore, the project will actively collaborate with NGOs, academic institutions, government agencies, and the private sector to leverage their expertise and resources.
In particular, the project will emphasize the critical role of local organizations in rural communities. This includes working closely with technical colleges, universities, community-based organizations, and local associations. By actively involving these actors, the project will leverage their existing networks, expertise, and community ties to ensure that project activities are culturally relevant, contextually appropriate, and effectively address the needs of local populations. This collaborative approach will build local capacity, empower communities, and enhance the sustainability of project outcomes.

B. Describe the monitoring and evaluation arrangements and provide a budgeted M&E plan.

Recognizing the emphasis on learning and innovation, the project's M&E system will utilize a blended approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative methods to capture progress effectively. This will focus on capturing meaningful insights from community participation and feedback. The M&E system will align with both the Adaptation Fund's M&E Framework and Fundecooperación's guidelines.

Key Elements:

1. Baseline and Participatory Assessment: Conduct a combined baseline assessment to establish initial conditions and engage key stakeholders in defining project goals.
2. Activity Monitoring and Feedback: Regularly track project activities and outputs, gather stakeholder feedback through targeted consultations, and adapt strategies as needed. This includes reporting to AF.
3. Learning and Adaptation Reviews**:** Conduct regular reviews to extract key learnings, best practices, and adaptation strategies from project implementation.
4. Knowledge Management: Maintain a robust KM to ensure learnings are captured and are useful for future programming.
5. Terminal Evaluation: Implement a comprehensive, independent evaluation at project closure, assessing overall impact, sustainability, and alignment with Adaptation Fund goals.

Deliverables	**Timeline**	Responsibility	Cost (USD)
Baseline and participatory Assessment	Month 1-4	Fundecooperación, DCC, external facilitators	8 000
Activity Monitoring and Feedback	Quarterly and annually (to AF)	Project Team (Fundecooperación, DCC), partners	10 000

Learning and Adaptation Reviews	annually	Project Team (Fundecooperación, DCC), Specialists	6,000
Knowledge management system	Ongoing	Project Team (Fundecooperación, DCC), partners	5 000
Terminal evaluation	Project closure	External evaluators	18 000
		total	**47 000**

C. Include a simple results framework for the project proposal, including milestones, targets and indicators.

Component	Output	Milestone (year 1)	Milestone (year 3)	Indicator
1: Promotion of accessible, inclusive learning spaces	1.1: Community Innovation and Climate Empowerment Promoter Networks established	3 networks established; 30 promoters trained	10 networks established; 100 promoters trained	Number of community promoter networks established and functional. Number of trained promoters (disaggregated by gender and vulnerable group).
	1.2: Mechanisms for national-level data and climate knowledge dissemination implemented	Online platform developed with basic data sets and resources	Fully functional platform with updated data, interactive tools, and success stories	Number of unique users of the online platform per year. Number of resources available on the platform. Number of downloads or views of resources.
2. Innovation of knowledge dissemination mechanisms for climate action	2.1: Climate Innovation Labs (boot camps) conducted	2 labs conducted; 10 innovative dissemination mechanisms prototyped	5 labs conducted; 25 innovative dissemination mechanisms prototyped	Number of climate innovation labs conducted. Number of dissemination mechanisms prototyped (disaggregated by type).
	2.2: Knowledge Exchange Fairs of mechanisms developed in the Climate Innovation Labs	1 Knowledge Exchange Fair held showcasing prototyped mechanisms	3 Knowledge Exchange Fairs held showcasing implemented mechanisms; replicated in at least 2 regions	Number of Knowledge Exchange Fairs held. Number of attendees at each fair. Number of mechanisms showcased and replicated. Number of implemented solutions that can be implemented in the communities

D. Demonstrate how the project / programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

By promoting accessible learning and innovative solutions, this project directly supports the Adaptation Fund's Results Framework and its focus on empowered communities and enhanced adaptive capacity.

Project Objective(s)[6]	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Objective 1. Promote accessible and inclusive learning spaces for different levels—institutions, communities, organizations—on national climate action, with a focus on adaptation.	Number of workshops, seminars, and training sessions on climate change provided.	3. Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level	3.1. Percentage of targeted population aware of predicted adverse impacts of climate change, and of appropriate responses	296 000
Objective 2. Innovate in mechanisms for disseminating knowledge on national climate action through participatory processes.	Number of creative and innovative mechanisms developed to disseminate and communicate learning and knowledge about climate action in the country.	8. Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies	8. Innovative adaptation practices are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated at regional, national and/or subnational level	347 000
Project Outcome(s)	**Project Outcome Indicator(s)**	**Fund Output**	**Fund Output Indicator**	**Grant Amount (USD)**
Outcome 1. A learning community on national climate information is consolidated at different levels for fair, equitable decision-making with a gender perspective.	Number of Networks of Community Promoters of Innovation and Climate Empowerment.(10) Number of dissemination mechanisms with national coverage of climate data and knowledge implemented.(1)	3.2. Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning.	3.2.1 No. of technical committees/associations formed to ensure transfer of knowledge.	296 000
Outcome 2. Creative and innovative mechanisms are developed to disseminate and communicate learning and knowledge about climate action in the country.	Number of Climate Innovation Labs executed (5). Number of Knowledge Exchange Fairs carried. (3)	8. Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated.	8.2. No. of key findings on effective, efficient adaptation practices, products and technologies generated.	347 000

E. Include a budget, including a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use, and an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs.

Project Outcome	Output	Activity	Cost (USD)	Total
1: Promotion of accessible, inclusive learning spaces	1.1: Community Innovation and Climate Empowerment Promoter Networks established	Networks creation and technical support	58000	198 000
		Workshops	100000	
		Tools and equipment	40000	
	1.2: Mechanisms for national-level data and climate knowledge dissemination implemented	platform creation	40000	98 000
		communication in community media and other media	40000	
		Platform maintenance and sustainability	18000	
2. Innovation of knowledge dissemination mechanisms for climate action	2.1: Climate Innovation Labs (boot camps) conducted	Co creation workshops	80000	142 000
		Seed support to selected solutions	30000	
		piloting, dissemination and scale up	32000	
	2.2: Knowledge Exchange Fairs of mechanisms developed in the Climate Innovation Labs	Fairs planning and networks participation	30000	205 000
		Fair execution	150000	
		Follow up to success stories and communication	25000	
Project execution		M+E		47 000
Project Implementing Entity Fee				60 000
			Total	750 000

[6] The AF utilized OECD/DAC terminology for its results framework. Project proponents may use different terminology but the overall principle should still apply

F. Include a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones.

	Upon signature of Agreement	One Year after Project Start a)	Year 2b)	Year 3	Total
Scheduled date	Enero 2026	Enero 2027	Enero 2028	Enero 2029	
Project Funds	256 000	266 000	168 000		690 000
Implementing Entity Fees	20 000	20 000	20 000		60 000
Total	**276 000**	**286 000**	**188 000**	**0**	**750 000**

[a)]Use projected start date to approximate first year disbursement

[b)]Subsequent dates will follow the year anniversary of project start

[c)]Add columns for years as needed

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[7] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project/programme, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:*

Carlos Isaac Perez Mejía *ViceMinister of Strategic Management* *Ministry of Environment and Energy,* *MINAE*	Date: *July 30th, 2025*

B. Implementing Entity certification *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Marianella Feoli, 

Name & Signature
Implementing Entity Coordinator</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date: Aug 10th 2025</td><td>Tel. and email: +506 2225 4507
mfeoli@fundecooperacion.org</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Project Contact Person: Jorge Carranza</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Tel. And Email: gerencia@fundecooperacion.org, jcarranza@fundecooperacion.org</td></tr>
</table>

MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA | GOBIERNO DE COSTA RICA | VICEMINISTERIO DE GESTIÓN ESTRATÉGICA

July 11th, 2025
DVGE-074-2025

Letter of Endorsement by Government
Ministry of Environment and Energy

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for the project "Rise Up Climate: Empowering Communities Through Learning and Innovation in Costa Rica"

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Costa Rica, I confirm that the above national grant proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Costa Rica.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by Fundecooperacion para el Desarrollo Sostenible and executed by several executing entities.

Sincerely,

Carlos Isaac Pérez Mejía
Viceministro de Gestión Estratégica

cc: Archivo / Consecutivo

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