



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.36/31  
15 September 2025

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Project and Programme Review Committee  
Thirty-sixth Meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 7-8- October 2025

Agenda item 7(a)

**PROPOSAL FOR GLOBAL LOCALLY-LED  
AGGREGATOR PROGRAMME  
DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA  
(CAF)**

1. The Board through Decision B.39/61, approved the Fund's new Medium-Term Strategy (MTS-II) for the 2023 – 2027 period. The strategy introduced a special emphasis on promoting locally led adaptation (LLA) in the Fund's work and included a new cross-cutting theme to "Promote locally based and locally led adaptation action including by devolving access and decision-making on adaptation finance to national, subnational, and local levels."

2. The Board also requested the secretariat to "prepare, for each proposed type of new or adjusted grant and funding window, a specific document containing objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features, and present them for consideration by the Board, in accordance with the tentative timeline contained in the Annex I to document AFB/B.40/5/Rev.1." (Decision B.40/72, para (b) (iii)).

3. The implementation plan identified the following actions for the implementation of the cross-cutting theme "Promote locally-based or locally-led adaptation actions":

Under the action pillar

- (a) The Fund will continue to support concrete adaptation projects and programmes that meaningfully involve and deliver benefits to local actors and the Board will be invited to consider enhanced project review criteria, proposal templates and guidelines, as well as revised project reporting requirements.
- (b) To expand support to modalities that promote locally led action, and expand the reach of the Fund, it is proposed to enhance measures, including the existing Enhanced Direct Access window, a new Global MIE Aggregator programme for channeling grants for LLA to non-accredited entities, and opening the option for EDA-type national programmes for MIEs and RIEs.
- (c) The proposed new aggregator programme would resemble the model of the AF Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) but would be focused on LLA. Accredited MIEs could be invited to express interest for administering such a programme, especially those MIEs that are active in LLA relevant themes, sectors and target groups.
- (d) Such a vehicle for LLA grants through global MIE aggregators would also be an opportunity, among others, for the Board to identify, on a pilot basis, sectors, themes or target groups with high impact potential or relevance for adaptation and/or that are currently being underrepresented in adaptation, such as related to health, biodiversity and nature-based solutions, fragile and conflict-affected settings, Indigenous Peoples etc.

4. As mandated by the Board's request in paragraph b (iii) of Decision B.40/72, the document AFB/PPRC.33/39 'Additional delivery modalities for expanding support to locally led adaptation' was developed, leading to Decision B.42/36.

5. Subsequently, as mandate by Decision B.42/36, the secretariat circulated a Call for Regional and Multilateral Implementing Entities to express their interest in applying for funding to support to serve as LLA Aggregators on June 24, 2024. IEs were invited to submit expressions of interest to the AFB Secretariat in line with the provisional criteria presented in document

AFB/PPRC.34/8 for consideration at the forty-third meeting of the Board. The secretariat had received six submissions, which were presented in document AFB/PPRC.34/8.

6. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) *To invite the Caribbean Development Bank to develop a programme of up to US\$ 8 million, noting the possibility to submit a proposal under the regional locally led adaptation modality, once available;*
- (b) *To invite the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean to develop a programme of up to US\$ 12 million, noting the possibility to submit a proposal under the regional locally led adaptation modality, once available;*
- (c) *To invite the United Nations Development Programme to develop a programme of up to US\$ 10 million, noting the possibility to submit a proposal under the regional locally led adaptation modality, once available;*
- (d) *To invite the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to develop a programme of up to US\$ 15 million;*
- (e) *To encourage the implementing entities that have submitted expressions of interest to consider future opportunities to support locally led adaptation;*
- (f) *To request the selected implementing entity or entities to indicate their acceptance by letter to the Chair of the Board no later than two weeks from the date of the official invitation notification;*

**(Decision B.43/19)**

7. The following fully-developed proposal document titled “Adaptation Biodivercities (ABC) Regional Programme for Latin American and Caribbean Cities Adapting to Climate Change through Locally-Led Actions” was submitted by the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) , which is a Regional Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.

8. This is the fourth submission of the fully-developed proposal.

9. The current submission was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the forty-fifth Board meeting. The secretariat carried out four technical reviews of the project proposal, with the Project ID number AF00000457.

10. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared this review sheet with CAF and offered it the opportunity of providing responses before the review sheet was sent to the PPRC.



ADAPTATION FUND

## ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: LLA Aggregator Fully-developed proposal

**Country/Region:** Regional (LAC)

**Project Title:** ADAPTING BIODIVERCITIES (ABC) Regional Programme for Latin American and Caribbean Cities Adapting to Climate Change through Locally-Led Actions

**Thematic Focal Area:** Nature-based solutions, including ones that are biodiversity-supporting, in various settings (e.g. urban, peri-urban and non-urbanized), Urban adaptation and Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems

**Implementing Entity:** Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

**Executing Entities:** CAF and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

**AF Project ID:** AF00000457

**IE Project ID:**

**Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):** USD 12,000,000

**Reviewer and contact person:** Alyssa Gomes

**Co-reviewer(s):** -

**IE Contact Person:**

### Technical Summary

The project “ADAPTING BIODIVERCITIES (ABC) Regional Programme for Latin American and Caribbean Cities Adapting to Climate Change through Locally-Led Actions” aims to facilitate innovative local solutions and support the development and dissemination of local practices and knowledge that strengthen community capacities, promote inclusive and sustainable adaptation, and contribute to enhancing urban resilience to climate change in Latin American and Caribbean cities. This will be done through the 3 components below:

Component 1: Provision of Small Grants for Implementing LLA Actions (USD 7,700,000);

Component 2: Technical support and capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs (1,500,000 USD);

Component 3: Knowledge Management and Exchange (1,000,000 USD)

Requested financing overview:

Project/Programme Execution Cost: 1,000,000 USD

Total Project/Programme Cost: 11,200,000 USD

	<p>Implementing Fee: 800,000 USD Financing Requested: 12,000,000 USD</p> <p>The first technical review raised several issues, such as, clarification on participating countries, absence of gender analysis, inadequate checklist for USPs, question of programme duration, implementation arrangements and budget clarifications among others as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p> <p>The second technical review found that the IE has made significant progress in addressing the initial concerns. Many of the original clarification requests and corrective action requests have been cleared through substantive revisions, including new annexes for the Gender Action Plan and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). These changes provide greater detail and clearer justification for the project's design. However, a few pending issues remain concerning a concrete plan for institutionalizing knowledge, engaging national policymakers, and collecting crucial baseline data for core impact indicators. Lastly, a minor inconsistency was noted in the execution costs breakdown. These remaining issues are discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p> <p>The third technical review found only a few pending issues related to budget discrepancies in the components and financing table related to the total project cost, and couple of pending issues in the results framework and core impact indicators.</p> <p>The fourth technical review finds the pending CARs to be addressed.</p>
Date:	5 September 2025

Review Criteria	Questions	1 <sup>st</sup> Review [11 March 2025]	2 <sup>nd</sup> Review [25 August 2025]	3 <sup>rd</sup> Review [3 September 2025]	4 <sup>th</sup> Review [5 September 2025]
Country Eligibility	1. Does the proposal include a mechanism that will ensure that the participating countries are party to the Paris Agreement	<p><b>Cleared.</b></p> <p>All countries in the region are eligible on the basis of being party to Paris Agreement or Kyoto Protocol.</p>	-	-	-

	and/or the Kyoto Protocol?				
	2. Does the proposal describe how the IE will involve the participation of developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change? Does it specify countries, a region, or two or more regions?	<b>Not cleared.</b>  The proposal references Latin American and Caribbean countries, but it does not specify which countries will be the beneficiaries. In absence of identifying the participating countries upfront, there needs to be an assurance that only countries that are eligible to access Adaptation Fund funding will participate.	<b>Cleared.</b>  The revised proposal now clearly states in Table 1 that the program will be implemented in "LAC countries, eligible to access Adaptation Fund funding." This addresses the need for assurance that only eligible countries will participate even though specific countries are not identified upfront.	-	
Programme Eligibility	1. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than one hundred(100) pages for the fully-developed project document, and one hundred(100)	<b>Yes.</b>  The proposal contains 64 pages including its Annexes.	-	-	-

	pages for its annexes?				
	2. Does the proposal describe how it will source locally-led small grant proposals, and screen them for the potential to support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p>The proposal presents a structured small grants mechanism within the BiodiverCities Regional Programme, emphasizing ecosystem-based, community-based, and gender-based adaptation approaches. However, several aspects require further clarification to ensure that locally-led adaptation (LLA) is at the core of the grant selection, decision-making process, and implementation.</p> <p>The proposal describes a competitive grant process and highlights plans for periodic calls to fund pilot adaptation projects. It also</p>	<p><b>CR1: Cleared.</b>(Part II, Section C, paragraph 91).</p> <p>While the program requires proposals to be submitted by local governments, the mechanisms detailed in other sections ensure that this process is guided by and includes meaningful input from local communities and marginalized groups. The IE's response to CR1 is justified by the details provided</p>	<p><b>Total project cost in the Components and Financing Table as errors.</b></p> <p><b>The total project cost including of the EE cost is 11,200,000 in the detailed budget and Disbursement Schedule- this is fine. Please reconcile the figures in Components and Financing Table as there seems to be a missing number.</b></p>	<b>Cleared (Page 19).</b>

		<p>mentions capacity-building measures to enhance project formulation skills. However, further details are needed on how local actors—especially grassroots organizations, Indigenous groups, and informal community networks—will be reached and supported in the application process.</p> <p><b>CR1:</b> Please elaborate on the specific mechanisms to source grant proposals from local actors, particularly informal community groups, Indigenous Peoples, women-led initiatives, and youth organizations? Kindly specify whether outreach strategies (e.g., community workshops, simplified application processes, direct</p>	<p>in the following related CRs and CARs, which collectively clear the issue of community engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CR9 asked how communities would actively participate in defining, prioritizing, and designing projects. The proposal addresses this by: Implementing a co-design approach for all proposals, ensuring community input from the initial stages of needs identification and solution prioritization. Adding a new quota to allocate at least 25% of</li> </ul>		
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		<p>engagement with local networks) will be implemented to ensure broad participation.</p> <p>The proposal provides a logical sequence of activities under each component, but clearer articulation of the causal pathways is needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explicitly link activities, outputs, outcomes, and long-term adaptation impacts.</li> <li>● Ensure integration across the three components (i.e., how small grants (Component 1) contribute to regional knowledge-sharing (Component</li> </ul>	<p>projects to those led by women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CR27 asked for mechanisms to ensure vulnerable groups have meaningful participation beyond open calls. The proposal addresses this by: Including a stakeholder engagement strategy in Annex 5 (the ESMP). Planning for proactive outreach, such as women-focused webinars, to specifically support and</li> </ul>		
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		<p>3) and vice versa).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the rationale for regional scale intervention, ensuring the added value of a multi-country approach.</li> </ul> <p>Component 1 lays out a tiered grant system (G1, G2, G3) that scales adaptation interventions based on financial thresholds and implementation timeframes. The inclusion of periodic calls and a mentorship program is a strong mechanism for quality enhancement.</p> <p><b>CR2:</b> Please clarify how the grant-supported pilots will be sustained beyond their implementation period? Will there be</p>	<p>engage these groups in the proposal preparation process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CR29 asked for a defined role for civil society organizations (CSOs) and grassroots networks in the consultative process. The proposal addresses this by: Making meaningful participation by these groups a key selection criterion (C2) for all projects. Explicitly mentioning that the screening process will involve local stakeholders and that a</li> </ul>		
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		<p>mechanisms for scaling successful LLA models beyond the grant timeframe? Consider outlining a strategy for upscaling best practices within and beyond BiodiverCities.</p> <p><b>CR3:</b> Please provide more details on how the geographical distribution of grants will be managed to ensure equitable access across urban, peri-urban, and marginalized areas in the LAC region? Will there be specific quotas for underrepresented regions?</p> <p><b>CR4:</b> Please integrate a more explicit pathway on how pilot adaptation projects will inform broader urban</p>	<p>new criterion will prioritize projects that provide details on how the needs of vulnerable groups were considered.</p> <p>These changes demonstrate that, while a formal government entity remains the required applicant, the program’s design actively promotes and necessitates community and grassroots-level input to be successful. The IE’s response to CR1, therefore, is justified by a broader set of changes that collectively address the underlying concern about community engagement.</p> <p><b>CR2: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section P). The IE’s response correctly states that</p>		
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**CR5: Cleared (Page 18-23)**

		<p>adaptation policy. How will the linkage between local-level pilots and city-wide, national, or regional adaptation strategies be strengthened to ensure that LLA solutions do not remain isolated small-scale interventions?</p> <p>Component 2 provides a strong foundation for strengthening institutional and technical capacity at the subnational level through training, adaptation planning support, and participatory governance mechanisms. However, there are gaps in ensuring direct impact at the community level and clarity on institutional sustainability.</p> <p><b>CR5:</b> Please clarify how the capacity-building activities will</p>	<p>LAPs and institutional strengthening are key. The proposal now includes a robust section on sustainability (Section P) that details a plan for continued financial and institutional support beyond the grant period.</p> <p><b>CR3: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section C, paragraph 94). The IE's response clarified that while there would be no quotas, the Executive Committee would ensure equitable distribution. The proposal's text confirms this, and the addition of the MEL system to monitor this trend is a reasonable and cleared mitigation measure.</p>		
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		<p>be tailored to different levels of governance (i.e., local government officials vs. community-based organizations vs. grassroots networks)? A differentiated capacity-building strategy would ensure that technical support is appropriately targeted to different actors..</p> <p><b>CR6:</b> Could you please elaborate on how local actors will be involved in adaptation planning and decision-making? The outputs mention participatory governance schemes, but further details on co-design mechanisms between governments and communities would strengthen alignment with LLA principles.</p>	<p><b>CR4: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section D, paragraphs 78, 116, 118). The IE's response points to several paragraphs and the Theory of Change. The proposal now explicitly makes alignment with local and national policies a selection criterion (C4) and outlines a clear pathway for pilots to inform policy through knowledge management and dissemination (Component 3).</p> <p><b>CR5: Not cleared.</b> The clarification relates to how capacity building would be tailored to different levels (e.g., local government vs. community groups). The IE's response stated that the program's focus is on local government officials. However, please explain how the proposal will play</p>		
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		<p><b>CR7:</b> Please consider strengthening the linkages between this component and Component 1 (grants). How will lessons from funded projects be integrated into institutional planning processes at the municipal and subnational levels? It is recommended to outline a clear feedback mechanism between these two components.</p> <p>Under component 3, the proposal highlights regional learning through the BiodiverCities Network, including a knowledge database, regional cooperation cycles, and best practice dissemination. While this component has strong elements, it lacks clear mechanisms to ensure sustained</p>	<p>a role in building the capacity of all local actors. The proposal fails to outline a differentiated strategy for non-governmental stakeholders.</p> <p><b>CR6: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section E, paragraph 85). The IE's response points to new elements in the proposal. The revised document includes a commitment to a "co-design approach" and a new quota of "at least 25% of the projects... will be allocated to projects led by women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized communities." This demonstrates a concrete mechanism for involvement, clearing the issue.</p> <p><b>CR7: Cleared</b> (Annex 3, Theory of Change). The IE's response points to</p>		
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		<p>impact and practical application of knowledge at the local level.</p> <p><b>CR8:</b> Please consider strengthening the integration of MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning) into the regional knowledge platform. Consider detailing how MEL findings from LLA projects will inform adaptive learning and guide continuous improvements in adaptation programming.</p>	<p>the Theory of Change. The revised document's narrative and visual representation in Annex 3 clearly show how the three components are interconnected, with lessons from one component feeding into another.</p> <p><b>CR8: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section D, paragraph 82). The proposal now includes an explicit output (Output 3.5) for developing a MEL system within the BiodiverCities Network, directly addressing the comment.</p>		

	<p>3. Does the project/programme enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level? Does it give local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, implemented; how progress is monitored and how success is evaluated.</p>	<p><b>Not cleared.</b> The proposal states that small grants will be provided to local governments in the BiodiverCities Network and highlights capacity-building efforts for municipal actors. However, direct community participation in decision-making is not explicitly addressed beyond the role that subnational governments play in adaptation planning. LLA requires that local communities have direct decision-making power over adaptation actions.</p> <p><b>CR9:</b> Please clarify how the programme will ensure that local communities, including vulnerable groups, actively participate in defining, prioritizing,</p>	<p><b>CR9: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section C, C12; Part II, Section E, paragraph 85).</p> <p>The IE's response points to the same changes as CR6. The inclusion of a co-design approach and the new prioritization of projects led by vulnerable groups address this request by providing a clear mechanism for active participation in project design.</p> <p><b>CR10: Cleared (No longer applicable).</b> The clarification asks if CBOs would receive direct funding. The IE's response is "Does not apply." The proposal's model channels all funds through local governments, limiting the ability of CBOs to have full financial</p>	-	-
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		<p>designing, and implementing adaptation projects? What participatory governance mechanisms or co-design processes will be integrated?</p> <p><b>CR10:</b> Kindly clarify whether funding will be available directly to community-based organizations or whether local governments will act as intermediaries. If the latter, please provide details on how the funding mechanism will ensure that local communities maintain financial control and decision-making power over adaptation projects.</p> <p><b>CR11:</b> Please elaborate on how the programme will devolve decision-making power to community-level actors. This could include community-</p>	<p>control and decision-making power.</p> <p><b>CR11: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section C, C12; Annex 4, Gender Action Plan). The IE's response points to the new criteria and the Gender Action Plan. The proposal now includes a criterion to prioritize projects that have "meaningful participation of vulnerable and underrepresented groups" and the Gender Action Plan outlines activities to empower these groups.</p>		
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		led grant review panels, participatory budgeting processes, or direct funding allocations for community-based organizations.			
	4. Does the proposal describe how it will screen small grant proposals for their potential to provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p>The proposal outlines broad adaptation themes for grant funding, including urban planning, ecosystem restoration, and integrated water management. However, it does not provide a detailed screening framework for ensuring that grants deliver tangible economic, social, and environmental benefits while avoiding unintended risks.</p>	<p><b>CR12: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section G, paragraph 115). The IE's response points to improvements in Section D (now Section G). The revised proposal now clearly links its prioritization criteria (C1-C13) to specific environmental, social, and economic benefits.</p> <p><b>CR13: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section C, paragraphs 108 and 110).</p>	-	-

	<p>and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p> <p>Does the project/programme address structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized ethnic groups?</p>	<p><b>CR12:</b> Please outline the specific screening criteria that will be used to evaluate economic, social, and environmental benefits of small grant projects? For instance, will proposals be required to demonstrate:</p> <p><b>Economic benefits</b> (e.g., livelihood creation, income generation for marginalized groups)?</p> <p><b>Social benefits</b> (e.g., enhanced resilience for women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples)?</p> <p><b>Environmental benefits</b> (e.g., biodiversity protection, sustainable urban infrastructure)?</p> <p><b>CR13:</b> Kindly clarify which stakeholders will be responsible for screening grant</p>	<p>The IE's response points to specific paragraphs. The proposal now clearly defines the roles of the PMU and the IPE in the screening and safeguards assessment process.</p> <p><b>CR14: Cleared</b> (Part IV, Section J, paragraph 168).</p> <p>The IE's response explicitly states a "minimum quota to women's participation" of "at least 25% of the projects." The proposal confirms this, clearing the request.</p> <p><b>CR15: Cleared</b> (Part IV, Section J, paragraphs 168-169; Annex 4).</p> <p>The IE's response and the proposal itself confirm that gender is a mandatory criterion</p>		

		<p>proposals for compliance with Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy. Will there be local-level screening committees to ensure that projects meet LLA criteria and effectively address community needs?</p> <p>The proposal references gender-based adaptation (GbA) and acknowledges the importance of social inclusion in adaptation planning. However, there is no explicit mechanism to ensure that funding is equitably allocated to vulnerable and underrepresented groups.</p> <p><b>CR14:</b> Could you please clarify whether there will be dedicated funding windows or quotas</p>	<p>(C2 for all grants and C11 for G3) and that gender-sensitive indicators have been included in the results framework.</p> <p><b>CAR1: Cleared</b> (Annex 4). The IE's response points to Annex 4. The proposal now includes a comprehensive Annex 4 that addresses this request.</p>		
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		<p>for projects led by women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized communities? If so, how will these groups be prioritized and supported throughout the grant process?</p> <p><b>CR15:</b> Kindly specify how the gender-based adaptation approach will be operationalized in grant selection. Will gender mainstreaming be a mandatory criterion for project funding? If so, will gender-sensitive indicators be required in the monitoring and evaluation framework?</p> <p><b>CAR1:</b> Please include a Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan. The Gender Assessment should include an initial assessment of</p>			
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		<p>gender dynamics where feasible but, more importantly, should outline a gender mainstreaming strategy, with specific actions and indicators to track gender inclusion throughout project implementation.</p> <p><b>Please follow the link below to the Guidance Document:</b>  <a href="#">Gender Guidance Document for Implementing Entities on Compliance with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy (Updated in 2022)</a></p>			
	5. Does the programme provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed programme and explain how the regional or multi-regional	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CR16:</b> The proposal provides a strong foundation for cost-effectiveness by integrating prioritization criteria (C1–C11) and aligning with existing frameworks.</p>	<p><b>CR16: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section H, paragraph 116). The IE's response points to an expanded section. The proposal's Section H now includes a robust justification, citing a study with high benefit-cost</p>	-	-

	<p>approach would support cost-effectiveness</p>	<p>However, the cost-benefit rationale for each component and how these prioritization criteria translate into actual financial efficiencies is not fully detailed. Could you please provide quantitative estimates or case-based justifications on how these criteria will ensure cost-effectiveness, particularly regarding the sustainability of LLA actions beyond the grant period?</p> <p><b>CR17:</b> Component 1 outlines prioritization criteria for selecting LLA projects, but the proposal does not clearly explain how these criteria will be operationalized in decision-making. Kindly clarify how the project will ensure funding is allocated to the most impactful projects while balancing equity considerations.</p>	<p>ratios and explaining how the regional approach reduces costs.</p> <p><b>CR17: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section C, Figure 6). The IE's response points to Figure 9 (now Figure 6). The proposal now has a clear, phased process for grant allocation that shows how technical merit is balanced with equity considerations.</p> <p><b>CR18: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section D, paragraph 52). The IE's response points to a new paragraph. The proposal now explicitly justifies the three grant tiers (G1, G2, G3) based on project scale, timeline, and requirements.</p>		

		<p><b>CR18:</b> The justification for financing strongly aligns with the Adaptation Fund's focus on locally led adaptation and its global aggregation mechanism. However, the rationale for the specific grant size categories (USD 50,000–500,000) is not fully explained. Kindly provide an explanation of how these funding tiers were determined..</p>			
	<p>6. Is the programme consistent with national, sub-national or local sustainable development strategies, national, sub-national or local development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation</p>	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p>The proposal demonstrates strong alignment with key international agreements, including the Paris Agreement, the NAP process, SDGs (specifically SDG 11), and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.</p>	<p><b>CR19: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section A, paragraph 219). The IE's response points to a new paragraph. The proposal now states that all grant recipients must submit reports demonstrating compliance with national policies.</p>		

	<p>programs of action and other relevant instruments</p>	<p><b>CR19:</b> The proposal notes that Component 1 ensures LLA-funded projects align with local and national policy. However, the mechanism for verifying compliance with national frameworks beyond project selection is not explained. Kindly clarify how compliance will be monitored post-selection to ensure long-term policy alignment.</p>			
	<p>7. Does the proposal describe how it will screen small grant proposals for meeting the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund? Does the project provide support</p>	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CR20:</b> The proposal outlines an Environmental and Social Monitoring System (ESMS) for compliance with national and local regulations, which is a strong approach. However, concerning meeting the various technical standards in respective countries and sectors, please</p>	<p><b>CR20: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section J). The IE's response points to Section II.G (now Section J). The proposal now details the use of an Environmental and Social Monitoring System (ESMS) and offers capacity building to local governments on this topic.</p>	-	-

	to local actors and build their capacities to comply with the standards?	provide further detail how the programme intends to ensure compliance?			
	8. Is there duplication of programme with other funding sources? Does the programme enhance collaboration across sectors and enhance efficiencies and good practice?	<p><b>Yes.</b> However, additional clarification is required.</p> <p><b>CR21:</b> The proposal provides a comprehensive overview of existing initiatives (C40, ICLEI, CAF, UCLG, and Mercociudades) and articulates how the programme complements, rather than duplicates, ongoing efforts. However, there is limited information on specific funding overlaps. Could you please clarify if any ongoing initiatives in LAC cities are already financing similar LLA interventions and how this programme will ensure complementarity?</p>	<p><b>CR21: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section K, paragraph 139).</p> <p>The IE's response clarifies there are no direct funding overlaps for LLA in LAC and points to the proposal's detailed articulation of complementarity with other programs like C40 and ICLEI.</p>	-	-

	<p>9. Does the programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons, in particular managing traditional and/or indigenous knowledge, where relevant? Does it contribute to building and institutionalizing local capacities? framework, and other relevant instruments?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> However, additional clarification is required.</p> <p><b>CR22:</b> Please clarify how the knowledge management system will ensure that lessons learned from LLA projects are institutionalized within participating cities? Will there be formalized mechanisms for policy uptake or integration into city planning processes?</p> <p><b>CR23:</b> Kindly provide more details on how Indigenous and local knowledge will be captured and valued within the knowledge exchange activities. Are there specific mechanisms to document and integrate traditional ecological knowledge and community-led solutions?</p>	<p><b>CR22: Not cleared.</b> The IE's response states that "formal policy uptake or integration mechanisms are not expected." This is an explicit refusal to implement a mechanism for institutionalizing knowledge, which is a major inconsistency and leaves a gap in the program's long-term impact.</p> <p><b>CR23: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section L, paragraph 184). The IE's response points to a new section. The proposal now explicitly mentions that the knowledge database will include "indigenous peoples and local knowledge."</p> <p><b>CR24: Not cleared.</b> The clarification</p>	<p><b>CR22: Cleared (Pages 45-56).</b> The IE's response and the revised proposal have successfully addressed this by explicitly outlining a new mechanism for policy uptake. The proposal now states that the program will ensure institutionalization by having funded projects produce "Evidence Briefs" with policy recommendations that will be "formally presented for the record to city officials (executive and/or legislative) and city technical staff". This provides a concrete and direct pathway for integrating knowledge into local planning processes, resolving the issue.</p>	-
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		<p><b>CR24:</b> Please elaborate on how the regional exchange mechanisms (e.g., in-person meetings, cooperation cycles) will ensure that cities facing similar adaptation challenges collaborate effectively? Will there be thematic working groups, twinning mechanisms, or structured peer learning sessions?</p> <p><b>CR25:</b> Component 3 aims to strengthen regional learning through knowledge-sharing networks, but the role of national governments in integrating knowledge into national adaptation strategies is not explicitly described. Could you please elaborate on how national policymakers will be engaged in the</p>	<p>requested details on how collaboration would be ensured. The IE's response is to "be defined during programme implementation." Please provide details on the process to be followed at the very least in the proposal how this will be monitored during implementation.</p> <p><b>CR25: Not cleared.</b> The clarification requests how national policymakers would be engaged. The IE's response is that "no other mechanism for capacity building with national governments is planned." This is a significant inconsistency with the LLA principle of collaborative action across all levels of governance.</p>	<p><b>CR24, CR25, CR26: Cleared (Pages 20 - 21, 23-25, 37-38).</b></p> <p>Related to CR24, the revised proposal now clarifies this by describing concrete mechanisms under Component 3. The program will implement "structured online peer learning sessions" and organize "specific knowledge-sharing online and/or presence workshops" to ensure cities facing similar challenges can collaborate effectively. This explicit detailing of the process and its components addresses the previous deferral and resolves the request.</p> <p>Related to CR25, the revised proposal has corrected this by</p>	

		<p>learning process to ensure that local insights inform higher-level adaptation planning?</p> <p><b>CR26:</b> The proposal mentions that the MEL system will contribute to global adaptation tracking, but there is no clear mention of how local knowledge will be translated into insights that feed into national or international policy frameworks. Could you describe how lessons from LLA projects will be structured to support national adaptation reporting (e.g., NAPs, NDCs, adaptation communications)?</p>	<p><b>CR26: Not cleared.</b> The IE's response states that this is "part of the programme's activities." This is another deferral and inconsistency, as it fails to describe the process itself and instead promises to create one later.</p>	<p>explicitly detailing how national policymakers will be engaged. It states that program publications and policy recommendations will be "formally presented for the record to city officials (executive and/or legislative) and city technical staff," as well as to "national governments, in particular UNFCCC Focal Points, AF National Designated Authorities of participating countries and national adaptation planning and/or report experts". This demonstrates a clear mechanism for engaging national policymakers.</p> <p>Related to CR26, the revised proposal now provides a clear description of this</p>	

				<p>process. It states that project publications will include "references of how lessons from LLA projects can support national and international adaptation policies and frameworks" and that the program will build indicators at the local level that can "feed into the UAE-Belem Work Programme on indicators" to support global adaptation tracking. This provides a concrete description of how local knowledge will be structured and disseminated to inform higher-level policy, successfully addressing the request.</p>	
	<p>10. Has the proposal described what consultative process will take place, and how will it involve all</p>	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CR27:</b> The proposal provides a strong foundation for stakeholder</p>	<p><b>CR27: Cleared</b> (Annex 5). The IE's response points to Annex 5. The revised ESMP and GAP detail a proactive</p>	<p><b>CR30: Cleared.</b></p> <p>The implementing entity's response states that while the calls are primarily for</p>	-

	<p>key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations? Does the consultative consider and address gender-based, economic and other inequalities in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>engagement through the BiodiverCities Network, ensuring broad participation in grant procurement. However, there is limited detail on how vulnerable groups—including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities—will be specifically engaged in consultation processes. <u>Could you please elaborate on mechanisms to ensure that these groups have meaningful participation beyond open calls and notifications?</u></p> <p><b>CR28:</b> The proposal mentions gender balance within the Independent Panel of Experts (IPE) and the prioritization of projects with strong governance structures and participatory decision-making.</p>	<p>engagement strategy that goes beyond open calls.</p> <p><b>CR28: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section J, paragraph 168; Annex 4, GAP). The IE's response points to the GAP. The proposal now confirms that gender-sensitive tools, like women-focused webinars, will be used.</p> <p><b>CR29: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section J, paragraph 168; Annex 5, ESMP). The IE's response points to Annex 5. The revised proposal now includes a new criterion (C12) and ESMP section that addresses the role of community-level actors.</p> <p><b>CR30: Not cleared.</b> The IE's response is "Does not apply" and states that calls are only addressed to</p>	<p>members of the Biodivercities Network, which includes remote cities, the project acknowledges the potential for limited digital access within communities. To address this, a request will be made to participating local governments to provide digital access spaces, such as community centers, for grassroots groups to participate in project preparation and implementation. This new activity demonstrates a proactive approach to include underserved populations. <b>Please insert the explanation from the response sheet in the proposal main text.</b></p>	
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		<p>However, there is no mention of how gender considerations will be integrated throughout the consultation phases. <u>Kindly clarify whether gender-sensitive engagement tools (e.g., gender-disaggregated data collection, women-focused consultation sessions, or specific quotas for women's participation) will be used.</u></p> <p><b>CR29:</b> The role of local civil society organizations (CSOs), grassroots networks, and community-based organizations in the consultative process is not well defined. While the Executive Committee and Network members will have input, could you please clarify whether external community groups, informal local</p>	<p>members of the Biodivercities Network. However, how will the project address the very issue of accessibility for underserved communities? This needs to be clarified.</p>		
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		<p>governance structures, or marginalized populations outside municipal governance will have structured roles in the consultation process?</p> <p><b>CR30:</b> While the proposal ensures transparency through the publication of calls for proposals, it is unclear whether additional outreach efforts will be conducted in marginalized areas that may have lower digital access. Could you describe any proactive engagement strategies to reach underrepresented groups, particularly in remote or underserved cities?</p>			
	11. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of	<b>Yes.</b>	-	-	-

	adaptation reasoning?				
	12. Is the programme aligned with AF's results framework?	<p><b>Yes.</b> However, amendment is required. The programme is aligned with outcomes 1,5,6,7 and 8 of the SRF.</p> <p><b>CAR2:</b> Please ensure that the grant amount is separated by outcome under each component for table at section F.</p>	<p><b>CAR2: Cleared.</b> (Page 84)</p> <p>The Implementing Entity (IE) has adjusted Table 8 in Section III.F of the proposal to show the grant amount separated by outcome under each component. This revised table successfully aligns the requested funding with specific project outcomes, directly addressing the request for this clarification.</p>	-	-
	13. Has the sustainability of the programme outcomes been considered when designing the programme, including in the screening of the locally-led small grants projects? Does the project/programm	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CR31:</b> The justification for funding highlights the importance of direct access to adaptation finance but does not clearly explain how the program will ensure long-term financial sustainability beyond</p>	<p><b>CR 31: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section P, paragraphs 192-195).</p> <p>The IE's response points to a revised section. The proposal now includes a detailed plan for a finance framework with instruments like</p>	-	-

	<p>e support long-term development of local governance processes, and improve the capacity of local institutions to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions over the long term?</p>	<p>the AF grant. Could you provide more details on post-program financing strategies, including potential co-financing mechanisms, private sector engagement, or national government buy-in?</p> <p><b>CR32:</b> The proposal highlights the role of the BiodiverCities Network in extending program benefits to a broader range of cities, even those not directly funded. This is a strong approach to scalability and replication. However, there is limited information on how knowledge-sharing efforts will be institutionalized within national or municipal governments to ensure continued adaptation learning. Kindly clarify whether there will be structured</p>	<p>resilience bonds and a commitment to matchmaking with donors, clearing the request.</p> <p><b>CR 32: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section P, paragraph 189). The IE's response links this to specific outputs. The proposal now connects institutionalization to the support provided for LAPs, training, and publications, demonstrating a clear pathway for embedding knowledge into government processes.</p> <p><b>CR 33: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section P, paragraph 194). The IE's response points to a new section. The proposal now explicitly mentions that dedicated financial advisory support, guidance on accessing funds, and</p>		

		<p>mechanisms, such as policy briefs, training modules, or adaptation toolkits, to support long-term institutional capacity building?</p> <p><b>CR33:</b> The inclusion of a finance framework proposal for accessing climate finance is a key sustainability feature, but it is unclear how local governments will be supported in leveraging this framework to secure additional funding beyond the program. Please provide details on whether dedicated financial advisory support, matchmaking with donors, or guidance on accessing multilateral funding will be included as part of the program's sustainability plan.</p>	<p>matchmaking will be included.</p>		
	<p>14. Does the programme provide an overview of</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p><b>CAR3:</b> The ESS risk screening table is</p>	<p><b>CAR 3: Cleared (Annex 5).</b> The IE's response points to Annex 5. The</p>	-	-

	environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	not completed in line with the AF ESP requirements. Please revise using the guidance below.  Please follow the links provided here: <a href="#">ESP</a> and <a href="#">ESP Guidance</a>	proposal now includes a complete Annex 5 that provides a risk categorization, impact assessment, and ESMP.		
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project funding within the parameters for large grants set by the Board?	<b>Yes.</b>	-	-	-
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?	<b>Yes.</b>	-	-	-
Eligibility of IE	Is the programme submitted through an eligible Multilateral or	<b>Yes.</b>	-	-	-

	Regional Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board? Is the programme submitted by an entity that has been invited by the Board to do so?	CAF accreditation is valid until 14 September 2025. CAF was invited by the Board at B.43 to submit a proposal .			
Implementation Arrangements	1. Does the proposal include adequate arrangement for programme management at the multi-regional/regional level, including coordination arrangements within countries and among them? Has the potential to partner with national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs), been considered, and included in the management arrangements?	<b>No.</b> <b>CAR4:</b> Please demonstrate both in the graphic and the explanation provided please indicate how at the local level the beneficiaries of the proposed interventions have been or will be consulted and engaged and how they form part of shaping the proposed interventions. In other words, demonstrate how the local government actors indicated in the graphic has engaged or will engage with their constituents/the	<b>CAR 4: Cleared (Part II, Section D).</b> The proposal's new emphasis on co-design and stakeholder involvement as a selection criterion (C2) addresses this request. <b>CAR 5: Cleared (Part III, Section A, paragraph 216).</b> The IE's response points to a new paragraph. The proposal now explicitly includes a role for NIEs, stating they may act as executing entities or provide technical support. <b>CAR 6: Cleared (Part IV, Section B).</b>	-	-

		<p>beneficiaries to generate these project ideas.</p> <p><b>CAR5:</b> For any participating country that has a NIE, please outline the potential engagement or role for the NIE in this process.</p> <p><b>CAR6:</b> Please ensure that the IE certification is signed.</p>	<p>The IE's response states that it's included. The proposal's certification is now signed, clearing the request.</p>		
	2. Are there measures for financial and project/program me risk management?	<p><b>Yes.</b> However, additional clarification is required.</p> <p><b>CAR7:</b> Please consider procurement issues and environmental issues (hurricane disruptions for example) as risks that could also adversely impact the project and identify mitigation measures.</p>	<p><b>CAR 7: Cleared (Part III, Section B, Table 5).</b> The review requested the inclusion of procurement and climate-related risks. The IE's response states that they are included. The proposal now includes new rows in the risk table for "Hiring and procurement" and "Extreme events."</p>	-	-
	3. Are there measures in	<p><b>No.</b></p>	<p><b>CAR 8: Cleared (Annexes 4 and 5).</b></p>	-	-

	<p>place for the management of environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund? Are there measures in place to enhance the capacity of local actors contribute to developing and managing these measures?</p>	<p><b>CAR8:</b> This Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) programme will involve a significant number of Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs). In this context, the full proposal should clearly outline the process for risk identification and management, following the Adaptation Fund's guidance for USPs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) should detail the screening process for sub-projects, mitigation measures, monitoring arrangements, and compliance mechanisms for environmental</li> </ul>	<p>The IE's response points to Annexes 4 and 5. The proposal now includes a comprehensive framework for screening, assessing, and managing USP risks in line with AF guidance.</p> <p><b>CAR 9: Cleared (Annex 5, ESMP).</b> The review requested a grievance mechanism and a budget. The IE's response points to the ESMP in Annex 5. The proposal now includes a detailed ESMP that outlines the grievance mechanism and its integration into the program's oversight.</p>		
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		<p>I and social safeguards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal should explicitly define how environmental and social risks will be assessed at the sub-project level, particularly for activities that may not be fully identified at the time of proposal approval.</li> <li>• Kindly clarify how compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP) will be ensured throughout the</li> </ul>			
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		<p>implementation of USPs.</p> <p><b>Link provided:</b>  <a href="#">Guidance Document for Project/Programme with Unidentified Sub-Projects (English, French and Spanish)</a></p> <p><b>CAR9:</b> The proposal does not include an ESMP. Please note that the ESMP must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● allocated roles and responsibilities for its implementation.</li> <li>● opportunities for consultation and adaptive management</li> <li>● credible budget provisions, as needed, for the implementation of the ESMP.</li> </ul>			
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clear arrangements for the IE to supervise executing entities for implementation of ESMP.</li> <li>• clear monitoring and evaluation arrangements for ESP compliance For your reference: <a href="#">ESP</a> and <a href="#">ESP Guidance</a></li> <li>• Include a Grievance Mechanism.</li> </ul>			
	4. Is a budget on the Implementing Entity Management Fee use included?	<b>No.</b> <b>Please include a breakdown of the Implementing Entity Management Fee. See CAR14</b>	<b>CAR:</b> included in III.G	-	-
	5. Is an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs included?	<b>Yes.</b> The proposal mentions that CAF will be EE for C2 and C3.	<b>CAR 10: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section G, paragraph 227).  The IE's response clarifies that CAF is an EE and that costs	<b>CAR11: Cleared (Pages 19,91-93)</b>	-

		<p><b>CAR10:</b> Given that CAF will serve as EE for components 2 and 3, please include the attribution of EC costs to CAF as no more than 1.5% of the value of those components (i.e. \$37,500). However, please note that, as necessary, exceptions can be made with valid justification</p> <p><b>All EEs need to be identified. The proposal currently states that Subnational governments, CAF and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) will EEs. The specific subnational governments need to be identified for the purpose of the Legal Agreement if acting as EEs. Please clarify.</b></p>	<p>align with the 1.5% threshold.</p> <p><b>CAR 11: Not cleared</b> (Part III, Section A, paragraph 212). The IE's response indicates this was included. The proposal now clearly defines only CAF and ICLEI as EEs. The breakdown of the EE fees, as presented in the proposal's detailed budget (Table 9):  Component 1 Coordinator (ICLEI): \$195,000. This is the salary/cost for the coordinator of the component executed by ICLEI.  Coordination (CAF): \$153,000. This covers CAF's coordinator for the components it is executing (Components 2 and 3). Specialist 1 &amp; 2 (ICLEI): \$210,000 total. This covers the costs for the adaptation,</p>		
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		<p><b>CAR11:</b> Consider including only CAF and ICLEI as the EEs.</p>	<p>environmental, and LLA specialists on the Project Management Unit (PMU) who are affiliated with ICLEI. Local travel costs of the PMU (ICLEI): \$60,000. This is for travel by the PMU team, which is staffed by ICLEI. Project financial audits: \$24,000. Administrative costs are \$350,000 which is a general bucket for administrative overhead. This is well received.</p> <p><u>The detailed breakdown of the EE fee in the excel document sums to \$992,000, which does not match the total of \$1,000,000 indicated in the main project tables. This discrepancy needs to be corrected, and all budget figures should be consistently presented</u></p>		
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			<u>throughout the proposal.</u>		
	6. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?	<b>Yes.</b> See Annex 2. <b>CAR12:</b> Please include the budget in the main proposal document and not as an excel spreadsheet.	<b>CAR 12: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section G). The IE's response indicates it's included. The proposal now has the budget in the main document.	-	-
	7. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and sex-disaggregated data, targets, and indicators, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund? Do monitoring and innovation arrangement enable monitoring by the community and local actors (including by	<b>No.</b> <b>CAR13:</b> Please include provisions of gender-responsive and environmental risk monitoring; an inception report and a baseline evaluation.	<b>CAR 13: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section D, paragraph 230; Annexes 4 and 5). The IE's response points to Table 7 and Annex 4. The proposal now includes new indicators, a Gender Action Plan, and an ESMP that address these monitoring needs.	-	-

	deploying innovative tools)?				
	8. Does the M&E Framework include a breakdown of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the supervision of the M&E function?	<b>No.</b> <b>CAR14:</b> MTE and TE allocation is within the recommended range of 1-5% for M&E evaluations; however, the breakdown of the Implementing Entity Management Fee is missing from the main proposal. Please include this missing information.	<b>CAR 14: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section G, Table 10). The IE's response states that it's included. The proposal now has a new table with a detailed breakdown of the IE fee.	-	-
	9. Does the project/program me's results framework align with the AF's results framework? Does it include at least one core outcome indicator from the Fund's results framework?	<b>No.</b> <b>CAR15:</b> Please include indicators and targets that are gender responsive and disaggregated by sex as appropriate.  <b>CAR16:</b> please include at least the core impact indicator "Number of beneficiaries including estimations for direct and indirect beneficiaries". A second core	<b>CAR 15: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section E, Table 7). The IE's response points to Section III.E. The proposal now includes numerous new indicators that meet this requirement.  <b>CAR 16: Not cleared.</b> The IE's response and the current proposal are inconsistent with the Adaptation Fund's Evaluation Policy.	<b>CAR16: Partially cleared</b> (Page 68, 69)  <b>Baseline report arrangements are included, and the budget provision is included under the IE fee. This issue is cleared.</b>  <b><u>Following the Results Knowledge and Impact Team quality check, please address the following pending comment:</u></b>	<b>CAR16: Cleared</b> (Pages 72-85).

		<p>indicator must be added if the project includes activities targeting the areas identified in AF results framework, namely (1) Early Warning System; (2) Assets Produced, Developed; Improved, or Strengthened; (3) Increased income, or avoided decrease in income or (4) Natural Assets Protected or Rehabilitated.</p> <p><b>Please review the targets as some are not clear and/or say "X".</b></p>	<p>The policy mandates a baseline report with data for setting targets and monitoring, and the IE has not provided a clear plan to fulfill this requirement for its core indicators, citing the unknown nature of the sub-projects. The program needs to include a specific activity and a plan within its M&amp;E framework to collect this crucial baseline data on beneficiaries after the sub-projects are selected but before the first PPR is due. This is a mandatory component of the program's evaluation and needs to be budgeted under the IE fee.</p> <p><a href="https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/evaluation-policy-of-the-adaptation-fund-graphically-edited/">https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/evaluation-policy-of-the-adaptation-fund-graphically-edited/</a></p>	<p>Consider revising alignment between indicators and targets in the project results framework as appropriate. For instance, under output 1.1 the indicator "Type of gender considerations incorporated in approved adaptation pilot project proposals and communicated through progress reports" does not match with the target unit which is "All adaptation pilot project proposals progress reports included gender considerations"; output 2.3 indicator "Knowledge assessment on the adaptation policy cycle, including MEL, conducted" and the text of the target are the same, please consider rephrasing.</p>	
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			<p><b>CAR16 (b)-</b> While the proposal does include a results framework (Table 7) and an alignment table (Table 8) that list core indicators, these tables do not match the detailed, disaggregated templates mandated by the Adaptation Fund's methodologies for reporting. The required format includes separate tables for each core indicator, with specific rows for disaggregation (e.g., female beneficiaries, youth beneficiaries) and metrics for each reporting stage (baseline, target at approval, adjusted target, and actual at completion). This is a formal compliance requirement for project reporting and should be addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Methodologies for reporting</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>CAR16 (b): Partially cleared (Pages 85-86).</b></p> <p>The project currently reports just on the core indicator "number of beneficiaries", however please note that at least one additional core indicator should be added as relevant with the project scope.</p>	<p><b>CAR16 (b): Cleared (Annex 7).</b></p>
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			<a href="#">Adaptation Fund core impact indicators</a> (For fully-developed proposals) (Template) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Methodologies for reporting Adaptation Fund core impact indicators</a> (For fully-developed proposals) (Guidance)</li> </ul>		
	10. Is the timeframe for the proposed activities adequate?	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CAR17:</b> Given the scope of work, kindly justify why the proposed project timeframe of 3 years is considered realistic and that more time would not be required to effectively implement this proposal.</p>	<p><b>CAR 17: Cleared (Annex 6).</b></p> <p>The clarification requested a justification for the 3-year timeline. The IE's response points to Annex 6. The proposal now includes a detailed month-by-month timeline, which provides the necessary justification.</p>	-	-

	11. Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?	<b>Yes.</b>	<b>Yes, page 91.</b>	-	-
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ADAPTATION FUND

# ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: LLA Aggregator Fully-developed proposal

**Country/Region:** Regional (LAC)

**Project Title:** ADAPTING BIODIVERCITIES (ABC) Regional Programme for Latin American and Caribbean Cities Adapting to Climate Change through Locally-Led Actions

**Thematic Focal Area:** Nature-based solutions, including ones that are biodiversity-supporting, in various settings (e.g. urban, peri-urban and non-urbanized), Urban adaptation and Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems

**Implementing Entity:** Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF)

**Executing Entities:** Subnational governments, CAF and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

**AF Project ID:** AF00000457

**IE Project ID:**

**Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):** USD 12,000,000

**Reviewer and contact person:** Alyssa Gomes

**Co-reviewer(s):** -

**IE Contact Person:**

<p>Technical Summary</p>	<p>The project “ADAPTING BIODIVERCITIES (ABC) Regional Programme for Latin American and Caribbean Cities Adapting to Climate Change through Locally-Led Actions” aims to facilitate innovative local solutions and support the development and dissemination of local practices and knowledge that strengthen community capacities, promote inclusive and sustainable adaptation, and contribute to enhancing urban resilience to climate change in Latin American and Caribbean cities. This will be done through the 3 components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1:</u> Provision of Small Grants for Implementing LLA Actions (USD 7,700,000);</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Technical support and capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs (1,500,000 USD);</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Knowledge Management and Exchange (1,000,000 USD)</p> <p><u>Requested financing overview:</u></p> <p>Project/Programme Execution Cost: 1,000,000 USD</p>
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	<p>Total Project/Programme Cost: 11,200,000 USD  Implementing Fee: 800,000 USD  Financing Requested: 12,000,000 USD</p> <p>The first technical review raised several issues, such as, clarification on participating countries, absence of gender analysis, inadequate checklist for USPs, question of programme duration, implementation arrangements and budget clarifications among others as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p> <p>The second technical review found that the IE has made significant progress in addressing the initial concerns. Many of the original clarification requests and corrective action requests have been cleared through substantive revisions, including new annexes for the Gender Action Plan and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). These changes provide greater detail and clearer justification for the project's design. However, a few pending issues remain concerning a concrete plan for institutionalizing knowledge, engaging national policymakers, and collecting crucial baseline data for core impact indicators. Lastly, a minor inconsistency was noted in the execution costs breakdown. These remaining issues are discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p> <p>The third technical review find only a few pending issues related to budget discrepancies in the components and financing table related to the total project cost, and couple of pending issues in the results framework and core impact indicators.</p>
Date:	3 September 2025

Review Criteria	Questions	First Technical Review Comments [11 March 2025]	Second Technical Review Comments [25 August 2025]	Third Technical Review Comments [3 September 2025]	Responses IE: [4September 2025]
Country Eligibility	1. Does the proposal include a mechanism that will ensure that the participating countries are party to the Paris	<p><b>Cleared.</b></p> <p>All countries in the region are eligible on the basis of being party to Paris Agreement or Kyoto Protocol.</p>	-	-	

	Agreement and/or the Kyoto Protocol?				
	2. Does the proposal describe how the IE will involve the participation of developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change? Does it specify countries, a region, or two or more regions?	<b>Not cleared.</b>  The proposal references Latin American and Caribbean countries, but it does not specify which countries will be the beneficiaries. In absence of identifying the participating countries upfront, there needs to be an assurance that only countries that are eligible to access Adaptation Fund funding will participate.	<b>Cleared.</b>  The revised proposal now clearly states in Table 1 that the program will be implemented in "LAC countries, eligible to access Adaptation Fund funding." This addresses the need for assurance that only eligible countries will participate even though specific countries are not identified upfront.	-	
Programme Eligibility	1. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than one hundred(100) pages for the fully-developed project document, and one hundred(100)	<b>Yes.</b>  The proposal contains 64 pages including its Annexes.	-	-	

	pages for its annexes?				
	2. Does the proposal describe how it will source locally-led small grant proposals, and screen them for the potential to support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p>The proposal presents a structured small grants mechanism within the BiodiverCities Regional Programme, emphasizing ecosystem-based, community-based, and gender-based adaptation approaches. However, several aspects require further clarification to ensure that locally-led adaptation (LLA) is at the core of the grant selection, decision-making process, and implementation.</p> <p>The proposal describes a competitive grant process and highlights plans for periodic calls to fund pilot adaptation projects. It also mentions capacity-</p>	<p><b>CR1: Cleared.</b>(Part II, Section C, paragraph 91).</p> <p>While the program requires proposals to be submitted by local governments, the mechanisms detailed in other sections ensure that this process is guided by and includes meaningful input from local communities and marginalized groups. The IE's response to CR1 is justified by the details provided in the</p>	<p><b>Total project cost in the Components and Financing Table as errors.</b></p> <p><b>The total project cost including of the EE cost is 11,200,000 in the detailed budget and Disbursement Schedule- this is fine. Please reconcile the figures in Components and Financing Table as there seems to be a missing number.</b></p>	<p>The Financing Table was corrected (pag 19)</p>

		<p>building measures to enhance project formulation skills. However, further details are needed on how local actors—especially grassroots organizations, Indigenous groups, and informal community networks—will be reached and supported in the application process.</p> <p><b>CR1:</b> Please elaborate on the specific mechanisms to source grant proposals from local actors, particularly informal community groups, Indigenous Peoples, women-led initiatives, and youth organizations? Kindly specify whether outreach strategies (e.g., community workshops, simplified application processes, direct engagement with local networks) will be implemented to</p>	<p>following related CRs and CARs, which collectively clear the issue of community engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CR9 asked how communities would actively participate in defining, prioritizing, and designing projects. The proposal addresses this by: Implementing a co-design approach for all proposals, ensuring community input from the initial stages of needs identification and solution prioritization. Adding a new quota to allocate at least 25% of projects to those led by</li> </ul>		
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		<p>ensure broad participation.</p> <p>The proposal provides a logical sequence of activities under each component, but clearer articulation of the causal pathways is needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explicitly link activities, outputs, outcomes, and long-term adaptation impacts.</li> <li>● Ensure integration across the three components (i.e., how small grants (Component 1) contribute to regional knowledge-sharing (Component 3) and vice versa).</li> <li>● Strengthen the rationale for</li> </ul>	<p>women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CR27 asked for mechanisms to ensure vulnerable groups have meaningful participation beyond open calls. The proposal addresses this by: Including a stakeholder engagement strategy in Annex 5 (the ESMP). Planning for proactive outreach, such as women-focused webinars, to specifically support and engage these groups in the proposal</li> </ul>		
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		<p>regional scale intervention, ensuring the added value of a multi-country approach.</p> <p>Component 1 lays out a tiered grant system (G1, G2, G3) that scales adaptation interventions based on financial thresholds and implementation timeframes. The inclusion of periodic calls and a mentorship program is a strong mechanism for quality enhancement.</p> <p><b>CR2:</b> Please clarify how the grant-supported pilots will be sustained beyond their implementation period? Will there be mechanisms for scaling successful LLA models beyond the grant timeframe? Consider outlining a strategy for upscaling best practices within</p>	<p>preparation process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CR29 asked for a defined role for civil society organizations (CSOs) and grassroots networks in the consultative process. The proposal addresses this by: Making meaningful participation by these groups a key selection criterion (C2) for all projects. Explicitly mentioning that the screening process will involve local stakeholders and that a new criterion will prioritize projects that provide details</li> </ul>		
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		<p>and beyond BiodiverCities.</p> <p><b>CR3:</b> Please provide more details on how the geographical distribution of grants will be managed to ensure equitable access across urban, peri-urban, and marginalized areas in the LAC region? Will there be specific quotas for underrepresented regions?</p> <p><b>CR4:</b> Please integrate a more explicit pathway on how pilot adaptation projects will inform broader urban adaptation policy. How will the linkage between local-level pilots and city-wide, national, or regional adaptation strategies be strengthened to</p>	<p>on how the needs of vulnerable groups were considered.</p> <p>These changes demonstrate that, while a formal government entity remains the required applicant, the program's design actively promotes and necessitates community and grassroots-level input to be successful. The IE's response to CR1, therefore, is justified by a broader set of changes that collectively address the underlying concern about community engagement.</p> <p><b>CR2: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section P). The IE's response correctly states that LAPs and institutional strengthening are key. The proposal now includes a robust section on</p>	<p><b>CR5: Cleared (Page 18-23)</b></p>	

		<p>ensure that LLA solutions do not remain isolated small-scale interventions?</p> <p>Component 2 provides a strong foundation for strengthening institutional and technical capacity at the subnational level through training, adaptation planning support, and participatory governance mechanisms. However, there are gaps in ensuring direct impact at the community level and clarity on institutional sustainability.</p> <p><b>CR5:</b> Please clarify how the capacity-building activities will be tailored to different levels of governance (i.e., local government officials vs. community-based organizations vs. grassroots networks)?</p>	<p>sustainability (Section P) that details a plan for continued financial and institutional support beyond the grant period.</p> <p><b>CR3: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section C, paragraph 94). The IE's response clarified that while there would be no quotas, the Executive Committee would ensure equitable distribution. The proposal's text confirms this, and the addition of the MEL system to monitor this trend is a reasonable and cleared mitigation measure.</p> <p><b>CR4: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section D, paragraphs 78, 116, 118). The IE's response points to several paragraphs and the Theory of Change. The proposal now explicitly makes</p>		
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		<p>A differentiated capacity-building strategy would ensure that technical support is appropriately targeted to different actors..</p> <p><b>CR6:</b> Could you please elaborate on how local actors will be involved in adaptation planning and decision-making? The outputs mention participatory governance schemes, but further details on co-design mechanisms between governments and communities would strengthen alignment with LLA principles.</p> <p><b>CR7:</b> Please consider strengthening the linkages between this component and Component 1 (grants). How will lessons from funded projects be integrated into institutional planning processes at</p>	<p>alignment with local and national policies a selection criterion (C4) and outlines a clear pathway for pilots to inform policy through knowledge management and dissemination (Component 3).</p> <p><b>CR5: Not cleared.</b> The clarification relates to how capacity building would be tailored to different levels (e.g., local government vs. community groups). The IE's response stated that the program's focus is on local government officials. However, please explain how the proposal will play a role in building the capacity of all local actors. The proposal fails to outline a differentiated strategy for non-governmental stakeholders.</p>		
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		<p>the municipal and subnational levels? It is recommended to outline a clear feedback mechanism between these two components.</p> <p>Under component 3, the proposal highlights regional learning through the BiodiverCities Network, including a knowledge database, regional cooperation cycles, and best practice dissemination. While this component has strong elements, it lacks clear mechanisms to ensure sustained impact and practical application of knowledge at the local level.</p> <p><b>CR8:</b> Please consider strengthening the integration of MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning) into the</p>	<p><b>CR6: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section E, paragraph 85). The IE's response points to new elements in the proposal. The revised document includes a commitment to a "co-design approach" and a new quota of "at least 25% of the projects... will be allocated to projects led by women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized communities." This demonstrates a concrete mechanism for involvement, clearing the issue.</p> <p><b>CR7: Cleared</b> (Annex 3, Theory of Change). The IE's response points to the Theory of Change. The revised document's narrative and visual representation in Annex 3 clearly show how the three components are interconnected, with lessons from one</p>		
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		regional knowledge platform. Consider detailing how MEL findings from LLA projects will inform adaptive learning and guide continuous improvements in adaptation programming.	component feeding into another.  <b>CR8: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section D, paragraph 82). The proposal now includes an explicit output (Output 3.5) for developing a MEL system within the BiodiverCities Network, directly addressing the comment.		
	3. Does the project/program enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level? Does it give local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed,	<b>Not cleared.</b> The proposal states that small grants will be provided to local governments in the BiodiverCities Network and highlights capacity-building efforts for municipal actors. However, direct community participation in decision-making is not explicitly addressed beyond the role that subnational governments play in adaptation planning.	<b>CR9: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section C, C12; Part II, Section E, paragraph 85).  The IE's response points to the same changes as CR6. The inclusion of a co-design approach and the new prioritization of projects led by vulnerable groups address this request by providing a clear mechanism for active participation in project design.		

	<p>implemented; how progress is monitored and how success is evaluated.</p>	<p>LLA requires that local communities have direct decision-making power over adaptation actions.</p> <p><b>CR9:</b> Please clarify how the programme will ensure that local communities, including vulnerable groups, actively participate in defining, prioritizing, designing, and implementing adaptation projects? What participatory governance mechanisms or co-design processes will be integrated?</p> <p><b>CR10:</b> Kindly clarify whether funding will be available directly to community-based organizations or whether local governments will act as intermediaries. If the latter, please provide details on how the funding mechanism will ensure that local</p>	<p><b>CR10: Cleared (No longer applicable).</b> The clarification asks if CBOs would receive direct funding. The IE's response is "Does not apply." The proposal's model channels all funds through local governments, limiting the ability of CBOs to have full financial control and decision-making power.</p> <p><b>CR11: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section C, C12; Annex 4, Gender Action Plan). The IE's response points to the new criteria and the Gender Action Plan. The proposal now includes a criterion to prioritize projects that have "meaningful participation of vulnerable and underrepresented groups" and the Gender Action Plan</p>		

		<p>communities maintain financial control and decision-making power over adaptation projects.</p> <p><b>CR11:</b> Please elaborate on how the programme will devolve decision-making power to community-level actors. This could include community-led grant review panels, participatory budgeting processes, or direct funding allocations for community-based organizations.</p>	<p>outlines activities to empower these groups.</p>		
	<p>4. Does the proposal describe how it will screen small grant proposals for their potential to provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable</p>	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p>The proposal outlines broad adaptation themes for grant funding, including urban planning, ecosystem restoration, and integrated water management. However, it does not provide a detailed</p>	<p><b>CR12: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section G, paragraph 115). The IE's response points to improvements in Section D (now Section G). The revised proposal now clearly links its prioritization criteria (C1-C13) to specific</p>		

	<p>communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p> <p>Does the project/program address structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized ethnic groups?</p>	<p>screening framework for ensuring that grants deliver tangible economic, social, and environmental benefits while avoiding unintended risks.</p> <p><b>CR12:</b> Please outline the specific screening criteria that will be used to evaluate economic, social, and environmental benefits of small grant projects? For instance, will proposals be required to demonstrate:  <b>Economic benefits</b> (e.g., livelihood creation, income generation for marginalized groups)?  <b>Social benefits</b> (e.g., enhanced resilience for women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples)?  <b>Environmental benefits</b> (e.g., biodiversity protection, sustainable urban infrastructure)?</p>	<p>environmental, social, and economic benefits.</p> <p><b>CR13: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section C, paragraphs 108 and 110).  The IE's response points to specific paragraphs. The proposal now clearly defines the roles of the PMU and the IPE in the screening and safeguards assessment process.</p> <p><b>CR14: Cleared</b> (Part IV, Section J, paragraph 168).  The IE's response explicitly states a "minimum quota to women's participation" of "at least 25% of the projects." The proposal confirms this, clearing the request.</p>		
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		<p><b>CR13:</b> Kindly clarify which stakeholders will be responsible for screening grant proposals for compliance with Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy. Will there be local-level screening committees to ensure that projects meet LLA criteria and effectively address community needs?</p> <p>The proposal references gender-based adaptation (GbA) and acknowledges the importance of social inclusion in adaptation planning. However, there is no explicit mechanism to ensure that funding is equitably allocated to vulnerable and underrepresented groups.</p>	<p><b>CR15: Cleared</b> (Part IV, Section J, paragraphs 168-169; Annex 4). The IE's response and the proposal itself confirm that gender is a mandatory criterion (C2 for all grants and C11 for G3) and that gender-sensitive indicators have been included in the results framework.</p> <p><b>CAR1: Cleared</b> (Annex 4). The IE's response points to Annex 4. The proposal now includes a comprehensive Annex 4 that addresses this request.</p>		
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		<p><b>CR14:</b> Could you please clarify whether there will be dedicated funding windows or quotas for projects led by women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized communities? If so, how will these groups be prioritized and supported throughout the grant process?</p> <p><b>CR15:</b> Kindly specify how the gender-based adaptation approach will be operationalized in grant selection. Will gender mainstreaming be a mandatory criterion for project funding? If so, will gender-sensitive indicators be required in the monitoring and evaluation framework?</p> <p><b>CAR1:</b> Please include a Gender Assessment and Gender Action</p>			
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		<p>Plan. The Gender Assessment should include an initial assessment of gender dynamics where feasible but, more importantly, should outline a gender mainstreaming strategy, with specific actions and indicators to track gender inclusion throughout project implementation.</p> <p><b>Please follow the link below to the Guidance Document:</b>  <a href="#">Gender Guidance Document for Implementing Entities on Compliance with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy (Updated in 2022)</a></p>			
	5. Does the programme provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed programme and	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CR16:</b> The proposal provides a strong foundation for cost-effectiveness by integrating prioritization criteria</p>	<p><b>CR16: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section H, paragraph 116). The IE's response points to an expanded section. The proposal's Section H now includes a robust</p>		

	<p>explain how the regional or multi-regional approach would support cost-effectiveness</p>	<p>(C1–C11) and aligning with existing frameworks. However, the cost-benefit rationale for each component and how these prioritization criteria translate into actual financial efficiencies is not fully detailed. Could you please provide quantitative estimates or case-based justifications on how these criteria will ensure cost-effectiveness, particularly regarding the sustainability of LLA actions beyond the grant period?</p> <p><b>CR17:</b> Component 1 outlines prioritization criteria for selecting LLA projects, but the proposal does not clearly explain how these criteria will be operationalized in decision-making. Kindly clarify how the project will ensure funding is allocated to</p>	<p>justification, citing a study with high benefit-cost ratios and explaining how the regional approach reduces costs.</p> <p><b>CR17: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section C, Figure 6). The IE's response points to Figure 9 (now Figure 6). The proposal now has a clear, phased process for grant allocation that shows how technical merit is balanced with equity considerations.</p> <p><b>CR18: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section D, paragraph 52). The IE's response points to a new paragraph. The proposal now explicitly justifies the three grant tiers (G1, G2, G3) based on project scale, timeline, and requirements.</p>		

		<p>the most impactful projects while balancing equity considerations.</p> <p><b>CR18:</b> The justification for financing strongly aligns with the Adaptation Fund's focus on locally led adaptation and its global aggregation mechanism. However, the rationale for the specific grant size categories (USD 50,000–500,000) is not fully explained. Kindly provide an explanation of how these funding tiers were determined..</p>			
	<p>6. Is the programme consistent with national, sub-national or local sustainable development strategies, national, sub-national or local development plans, poverty</p>	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p>The proposal demonstrates strong alignment with key international agreements, including the Paris Agreement, the NAP process, SDGs (specifically SDG 11), and the Kunming-Montreal</p>	<p><b>CR19: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section A, paragraph 219). The IE's response points to a new paragraph. The proposal now states that all grant recipients must submit reports demonstrating</p>		

	reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments	<p>Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p><b>CR19:</b> The proposal notes that Component 1 ensures LLA-funded projects align with local and national policy. However, the mechanism for verifying compliance with national frameworks beyond project selection is not explained. Kindly clarify how compliance will be monitored post-selection to ensure long-term policy alignment.</p>	compliance with national policies.		
	7. Does the proposal describe how it will screen small grant proposals for meeting the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CR20:</b> The proposal outlines an Environmental and Social Monitoring System (ESMS) for compliance with national and local regulations, which is a strong approach. However, concerning meeting the various technical standards in</p>	<p><b>CR20: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section J). The IE's response points to Section II.G (now Section J). The proposal now details the use of an Environmental and Social Monitoring System (ESMS) and offers capacity building to local</p>		

	<p>and Social Policy of the Fund? Does the project provide support to local actors and build their capacities to comply with the standards?</p>	<p>respective countries and sectors, please provide further detail how the programme intends to ensure compliance?</p>	<p>governments on this topic.</p>		
	<p>8. Is there duplication of programme with other funding sources? Does the programme enhance collaboration across sectors and enhance efficiencies and good practice?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> However, additional clarification is required.</p> <p><b>CR21:</b> The proposal provides a comprehensive overview of existing initiatives (C40, ICLEI, CAF, UCLG, and Mercociudades) and articulates how the programme complements, rather than duplicates, ongoing efforts. However, there is limited information on specific funding overlaps. Could you please clarify if any ongoing initiatives in LAC cities are already financing similar LLA interventions and how</p>	<p><b>CR21: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section K, paragraph 139).</p> <p>The IE's response clarifies there are no direct funding overlaps for LLA in LAC and points to the proposal's detailed articulation of complementarity with other programs like C40 and ICLEI.</p>		

		this programme will ensure complementarity?			
	<p>9. Does the programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons, in particular managing traditional and/or indigenous knowledge, where relevant? Does it contribute to building and institutionalizing local capacities? framework, and other relevant instruments?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> However, additional clarification is required.</p> <p><b>CR22:</b> Please clarify how the knowledge management system will ensure that lessons learned from LLA projects are institutionalized within participating cities? Will there be formalized mechanisms for policy uptake or integration into city planning processes?</p> <p><b>CR23:</b> Kindly provide more details on how Indigenous and local knowledge will be captured and valued within the knowledge exchange activities. Are there specific mechanisms to document and integrate traditional</p>	<p><b>CR22: Not cleared.</b> The IE's response states that "formal policy uptake or integration mechanisms are not expected." This is an explicit refusal to implement a mechanism for institutionalizing knowledge, which is a major inconsistency and leaves a gap in the program's long-term impact.</p> <p><b>CR23: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section L, paragraph 184). The IE's response points to a new section. The proposal now explicitly mentions that the knowledge database will include "indigenous peoples and local knowledge."</p>	<p><b>CR22: Cleared (Pages 45-56).</b> The IE's response and the revised proposal have successfully addressed this by explicitly outlining a new mechanism for policy uptake. The proposal now states that the program will ensure institutionalization by having funded projects produce "Evidence Briefs" with policy recommendations that will be "formally presented for the record to city officials (executive and/or legislative) and city technical staff". This provides a concrete and direct pathway for integrating knowledge into local planning processes, resolving the issue.</p>	

		<p>ecological knowledge and community-led solutions?</p> <p><b>CR24:</b> Please elaborate on how the regional exchange mechanisms (e.g., in-person meetings, cooperation cycles) will ensure that cities facing similar adaptation challenges collaborate effectively? Will there be thematic working groups, twinning mechanisms, or structured peer learning sessions?</p> <p><b>CR25:</b> Component 3 aims to strengthen regional learning through knowledge-sharing networks, but the role of national governments in integrating knowledge into national adaptation strategies is not explicitly described. Could you please elaborate on how national</p>	<p><b>CR24: Not cleared.</b> The clarification requested details on how collaboration would be ensured. The IE's response is to "be defined during programme implementation." Please provide details on the process to be followed at the very least in the proposal how this will be monitored during implementation.</p> <p><b>CR25: Not cleared.</b> The clarification requests how national policymakers would be engaged. The IE's response is that "no other mechanism for capacity building with national governments is planned." This is a significant inconsistency with the LLA principle of collaborative action</p>	<p><b>CR24, CR25, CR26: Cleared (Pages 20 -21, 23-25, 37-38).</b></p> <p>Related to CR24, the revised proposal now clarifies this by describing concrete mechanisms under Component 3. The program will implement "structured online peer learning sessions" and organize "specific knowledge-sharing online and/or presence workshops" to ensure cities facing similar challenges can collaborate effectively. This explicit detailing of the process and its components addresses the previous deferral and resolves the request.</p> <p>Related to CR25, the revised proposal has corrected this by explicitly detailing how national policymakers will be engaged. It states that program publications and policy recommendations will</p>	
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		<p> policymakers will be engaged in the learning process to ensure that local insights inform higher-level adaptation planning?</p> <p><b>CR26:</b> The proposal mentions that the MEL system will contribute to global adaptation tracking, but there is no clear mention of how local knowledge will be translated into insights that feed into national or international policy frameworks. Could you describe how lessons from LLA projects will be structured to support national adaptation reporting (e.g., NAPs, NDCs, adaptation communications)?</p>	<p> across all levels of governance.</p> <p><b>CR26: Not cleared.</b> The IE's response states that this is "part of the programme's activities." This is another deferral and inconsistency, as it fails to describe the process itself and instead promises to create one later.</p>	<p> be "formally presented for the record to city officials (executive and/or legislative) and city technical staff," as well as to "national governments, in particular UNFCCC Focal Points, AF National Designated Authorities of participating countries and national adaptation planning and/or report experts". This demonstrates a clear mechanism for engaging national policymakers.</p> <p> Related to CR26, the revised proposal now provides a clear description of this process. It states that project publications will include "references of how lessons from LLA projects can support national and international adaptation policies and frameworks" and that the program will build indicators at the local level that can "feed into the UAE-Belem Work Programme on indicators"</p>	
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				to support global adaptation tracking. This provides a concrete description of how local knowledge will be structured and disseminated to inform higher-level policy, successfully addressing the request.	
	<p>10. Has the proposal described what consultative process will take place, and how will it involve all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations? Does the consultative consider and address gender-based, economic and other inequalities in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender</p>	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CR27:</b> The proposal provides a strong foundation for stakeholder engagement through the BiodiverCities Network, ensuring broad participation in grant procurement. However, there is limited detail on how vulnerable groups—including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities—will be specifically engaged in consultation processes. <u>Could you please elaborate on mechanisms to ensure that these</u></p>	<p><b>CR27: Cleared</b> (Annex 5). The IE's response points to Annex 5. The revised ESMP and GAP detail a proactive engagement strategy that goes beyond open calls.</p> <p><b>CR28: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section J, paragraph 168; Annex 4, GAP). The IE's response points to the GAP. The proposal now confirms that gender-sensitive tools, like women-focused webinars, will be used.</p> <p><b>CR29: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section J, paragraph 168; Annex</p>	<p><b>CR30: Cleared.</b></p> <p>The implementing entity's response states that while the calls are primarily for members of the Biodivercities Network, which includes remote cities, the project acknowledges the potential for limited digital access within communities. To address this, a request will be made to participating local governments to provide digital access spaces, such as community centers, for grassroots groups to participate in project preparation and implementation. This new activity demonstrates a proactive approach to include underserved populations. <b>Please insert</b></p>	<p><b>CR30:</b></p> <p>This measure was already included in the proposal: in paragraph 87 under Principle 2, and reinforced in the ESMP under the Access and Equity principle as a mitigation measure coordinated by the PMU with local governments.</p>

	<p>Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p><u>groups have meaningful participation beyond open calls and notifications?</u></p> <p><b>CR28:</b> The proposal mentions gender balance within the Independent Panel of Experts (IPE) and the prioritization of projects with strong governance structures and participatory decision-making. However, there is no mention of how gender considerations will be integrated throughout the consultation phases. <u>Kindly clarify whether gender-sensitive engagement tools (e.g., gender-disaggregated data collection, women-focused consultation sessions, or specific quotas for women's participation) will be used.</u></p>	<p>5, ESMP). The IE's response points to Annex 5. The revised proposal now includes a new criterion (C12) and ESMP section that addresses the role of community-level actors.</p> <p><b>CR30: Not cleared.</b> The IE's response is "Does not apply" and states that calls are only addressed to members of the Biodivercities Network. However, how will the project address the very issue of accessibility for underserved communities? This needs to be clarified.</p>	<p><b>the explanation from the response sheet in the proposal main text.</b></p>	
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		<p><b>CR29:</b> The role of local civil society organizations (CSOs), grassroots networks, and community-based organizations in the consultative process is not well defined. While the Executive Committee and Network members will have input, could you please clarify whether external community groups, informal local governance structures, or marginalized populations outside municipal governance will have structured roles in the consultation process?</p> <p><b>CR30:</b> While the proposal ensures transparency through the publication of calls for proposals, it is unclear whether additional outreach efforts will be conducted in marginalized areas that may have lower</p>			
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		digital access. Could you describe any proactive engagement strategies to reach underrepresented groups, particularly in remote or underserved cities?			
	11. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?	<b>Yes.</b>	-	-	
	12. Is the programme aligned with AF's results framework?	<p><b>Yes.</b> However, amendment is required. The programme is aligned with outcomes 1,5,6,7 and 8 of the SRF.</p> <p><b>CAR2:</b> Please ensure that the grant amount is separated by outcome under each component for table at section F.</p>	<p><b>CAR2: Cleared.</b> (Page 84)</p> <p>The Implementing Entity (IE) has adjusted Table 8 in Section III.F of the proposal to show the grant amount separated by outcome under each component. This revised table successfully aligns the requested funding with specific project outcomes, directly addressing the request for this clarification.</p>	-	

	<p>13. Has the sustainability of the programme outcomes been considered when designing the programme, including in the screening of the locally-led small grants projects? Does the project/programme support long-term development of local governance processes, and improve the capacity of local institutions to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions over the long term?</p>	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CR31:</b> The justification for funding highlights the importance of direct access to adaptation finance but does not clearly explain how the program will ensure long-term financial sustainability beyond the AF grant. Could you provide more details on post-program financing strategies, including potential co-financing mechanisms, private sector engagement, or national government buy-in?</p> <p><b>CR32:</b> The proposal highlights the role of the BiodiverCities Network in extending program benefits to a broader range of cities, even those not directly funded. This is a strong approach to scalability and replication. However, there is limited</p>	<p><b>CR 31: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section P, paragraphs 192-195).</p> <p>The IE's response points to a revised section. The proposal now includes a detailed plan for a finance framework with instruments like resilience bonds and a commitment to matchmaking with donors, clearing the request.</p> <p><b>CR 32: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section P, paragraph 189). The IE's response links this to specific outputs. The proposal now connects institutionalization to the support provided for LAPs, training, and publications, demonstrating a clear pathway for embedding knowledge into government processes.</p>	-	
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		<p>information on how knowledge-sharing efforts will be institutionalized within national or municipal governments to ensure continued adaptation learning. Kindly clarify whether there will be structured mechanisms, such as policy briefs, training modules, or adaptation toolkits, to support long-term institutional capacity building?</p> <p><b>CR33:</b> The inclusion of a finance framework proposal for accessing climate finance is a key sustainability feature, but it is unclear how local governments will be supported in leveraging this framework to secure additional funding beyond the program. Please provide details on whether dedicated financial advisory</p>	<p><b>CR 33: Cleared</b> (Part II, Section P, paragraph 194). The IE's response points to a new section. The proposal now explicitly mentions that dedicated financial advisory support, guidance on accessing funds, and matchmaking will be included.</p>		
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		support, matchmaking with donors, or guidance on accessing multilateral funding will be included as part of the program's sustainability plan.			
	14. Does the programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p><b>CAR3:</b> The ESS risk screening table is not completed in line with the AF ESP requirements. Please revise using the guidance below.</p> <p>Please follow the links provided here: <a href="#">ESP</a> and <a href="#">ESP Guidance</a></p>	<b>CAR 3: Cleared (Annex 5).</b> The IE's response points to Annex 5. The proposal now includes a complete Annex 5 that provides a risk categorization, impact assessment, and ESMP.	-	
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project funding within the parameters for large grants set by the Board?	<b>Yes.</b>	-	-	
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at	<b>Yes.</b>	-	-	

	or below 10 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?				
Eligibility of IE	Is the programme submitted through an eligible Multilateral or Regional Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board? Is the programme submitted by an entity that has been invited by the Board to do so?	<b>Yes.</b> CAF accreditation is valid until 14 September 2025. CAF was invited by the Board at B.43 to submit a proposal .	-	-	
Implementation Arrangements	1. Does the proposal include adequate arrangement for programme management at the multi-regional/regional level, including	<b>No.</b> <b>CAR4:</b> Please demonstrate both in the graphic and the explanation provided please indicate how at the local level the beneficiaries of the	<b>CAR 4: Cleared (Part II, Section D).</b> The proposal's new emphasis on co-design and stakeholder involvement as a selection criterion	-	

	<p>coordination arrangements within countries and among them? Has the potential to partner with national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs), been considered, and included in the management arrangements?</p>	<p>proposed interventions have been or will be consulted and engaged and how they form part of shaping the proposed interventions. In other words, demonstrate how the local government actors indicated in the graphic has engaged or will engage with their constituents/the beneficiaries to generate these project ideas.</p> <p><b>CAR5:</b> For any participating country that has a NIE, please outline the potential engagement or role for the NIE in this process.</p> <p><b>CAR6:</b> Please ensure that the IE certification is signed.</p>	<p>(C2) addresses this request.</p> <p><b>CAR 5: Cleared (Part III, Section A, paragraph 216).</b> The IE's response points to a new paragraph. The proposal now explicitly includes a role for NIEs, stating they may act as executing entities or provide technical support.</p> <p><b>CAR 6: Cleared (Part IV, Section B).</b> The IE's response states that it's included. The proposal's certification is now signed, clearing the request.</p>		
	<p>2. Are there measures for financial and project/program</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> However, additional clarification is required.</p>	<p><b>CAR 7: Cleared (Part III, Section B, Table 5).</b> The review requested the inclusion of</p>	-	

	me risk management?	<b>CAR7:</b> Please consider procurement issues and environmental issues (hurricane disruptions for example) as risks that could also adversely impact the project and identify mitigation measures.	procurement and climate-related risks. The IE's response states that they are included. The proposal now includes new rows in the risk table for "Hiring and procurement" and "Extreme events."		
	3. Are there measures in place for the management of environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund? Are there measures in place to enhance the capacity of local actors contribute to developing and managing these measures?	<b>No.</b> <b>CAR8:</b> This Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) programme will involve a significant number of Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs). In this context, the full proposal should clearly outline the process for risk identification and management, following the Adaptation Fund's guidance for USPs.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)</li> </ul>	<b>CAR 8: Cleared (Annexes 4 and 5).</b> The IE's response points to Annexes 4 and 5. The proposal now includes a comprehensive framework for screening, assessing, and managing USP risks in line with AF guidance. <b>CAR 9: Cleared (Annex 5, ESMP).</b> The review requested a grievance mechanism and a budget. The IE's response points to the ESMP in Annex 5. The proposal now includes a detailed ESMP that outlines the grievance	-	

		<p>should detail the screening process for sub-projects, mitigation measures, monitoring arrangements, and compliance mechanisms for environmental and social safeguards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal should explicitly define how environmental and social risks will be assessed at the sub-project level, particularly for activities that may not be fully identified at the time of proposal approval.</li> <li>• Kindly clarify how compliance</li> </ul>	<p>mechanism and its integration into the program's oversight.</p>		
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		<p>with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP) will be ensured throughout the implementation of USPs.</p> <p><b>Link provided:</b>  <a href="#">Guidance Document for Project/Programme with Unidentified Sub-Projects (English, French and Spanish)</a></p> <p><b>CAR9:</b> The proposal does not include an ESMP. Please note that the ESMP must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● allocated roles and responsibilities for its implementation.</li> <li>● opportunities for consultation</li> </ul>			
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		<p>and adaptive management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● credible budget provisions, as needed, for the implementation of the ESMP.</li> <li>● clear arrangements for the IE to supervise executing entities for implementation of ESMP.</li> <li>● clear monitoring and evaluation arrangements for ESP compliance For your reference: <a href="#">ESP</a> and <a href="#">ESP Guidance</a></li> <li>● Include a Grievance Mechanism.</li> </ul>			
	4. Is a budget on the Implementing	<b>No. Please include a breakdown of the</b>	<b>CAR:</b> included in III.G	-	

	Entity Management Fee use included?	<b>Implementing Entity Management Fee. See CAR14</b>			
	5. Is an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs included?	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>The proposal mentions that CAF will be EE for C2 and C3.</p> <p><b>CAR10:</b> Given that CAF will serve as EE for components 2 and 3, please include the attribution of EC costs to CAF as no more than 1.5% of the value of those components (i.e. \$37,500). However, please note that, as necessary, exceptions can be made with valid justification</p> <p><b>All EEs need to be identified. The proposal currently states that Subnational governments, CAF and Local Governments for Sustainability</b></p>	<p><b>CAR 10: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section G, paragraph 227.</p> <p>The IE's response clarifies that CAF is an EE and that costs align with the 1.5% threshold.</p> <p><b>CAR 11: Not cleared</b> (Part III, Section A, paragraph 212). The IE's response indicates this was included. The proposal now clearly defines only CAF and ICLEI as EEs. The breakdown of the EE fees, as presented in the proposal's detailed budget (Table 9): Component 1 Coordinator (ICLEI): \$195,000. This is the salary/cost for the coordinator of the component executed by ICLEI. Coordination (CAF):</p>	<b>CAR11: Cleared (Pages 19,91-93)</b>	

		<p><b>(ICLEI) will EEs. The specific subnational governments need to be identified for the purpose of the Legal Agreement if acting as EEs. Please clarify.</b></p> <p><b>CAR11:</b> Consider including only CAF and ICLEI as the EEs.</p>	<p>\$153,000. This covers CAF's coordinator for the components it is executing (Components 2 and 3). Specialist 1 &amp; 2 (ICLEI): \$210,000 total. This covers the costs for the adaptation, environmental, and LLA specialists on the Project Management Unit (PMU) who are affiliated with ICLEI. Local travel costs of the PMU (ICLEI): \$60,000. This is for travel by the PMU team, which is staffed by ICLEI. Project financial audits: \$24,000. Administrative costs are \$350,000 which is a general bucket for administrative overhead. This is well received.</p> <p><u>The detailed breakdown of the EE fee in the excel document sums to \$992,000, which does</u></p>		

			<u>not match the total of \$1,000,000 indicated in the main project tables. This discrepancy needs to be corrected, and all budget figures should be consistently presented throughout the proposal.</u>		
	6. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?	<b>Yes.</b> See Annex 2. <b>CAR12:</b> Please include the budget in the main proposal document and not as an excel spreadsheet.	<b>CAR 12: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section G). The IE's response indicates it's included. The proposal now has the budget in the main document.	-	
	7. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and sex-disaggregated data, targets, and indicators, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund? Do	<b>No.</b> <b>CAR13:</b> Please include provisions of gender-responsive and environmental risk monitoring; an inception report and a baseline evaluation.	<b>CAR 13: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section D, paragraph 230; Annexes 4 and 5). The IE's response points to Table 7 and Annex 4. The proposal now includes new indicators, a Gender Action Plan, and an ESMP that address these monitoring needs.	-	

	monitoring and innovation arrangement enable monitoring by the community and local actors (including by deploying innovative tools)?				
	8. Does the M&E Framework include a breakdown of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the supervision of the M&E function?	<b>No.</b> <b>CAR14:</b> MTE and TE allocation is within the recommended range of 1-5% for M&E evaluations; however, the breakdown of the Implementing Entity Management Fee is missing from the main proposal. Please include this missing information.	<b>CAR 14: Cleared</b> (Part III, Section G, Table 10). The IE's response states that it's included. The proposal now has a new table with a detailed breakdown of the IE fee.	-	
	9. Does the project/program me's results framework align with the AF's results framework? Does it include at least one core outcome	<b>No.</b> <b>CAR15:</b> Please include indicators and targets that are gender responsive and disaggregated by sex as appropriate.	<b>CAR 15: Cleared (Part III, Section E, Table 7).</b> The IE's response points to Section III.E. The proposal now includes numerous new indicators that meet this requirement.	<b>CAR16: Partially cleared (Page 68, 69)</b>  <b>Baseline report arrangements are included, and the budget provision is included under the IE fee. This issue is cleared.</b>	

	<p>indicator from the Fund's results framework?</p>	<p><b>CAR16:</b> please include at least the core impact indicator "Number of beneficiaries including estimations for direct and indirect beneficiaries". A second core indicator must be added if the project includes activities targeting the areas identified in AF results framework, namely (1) Early Warning System; (2) Assets Produced, Developed; Improved, or Strengthened; (3) Increased income, or avoided decrease in income or (4) Natural Assets Protected or Rehabilitated.</p> <p><b>Please review the targets as some are not clear and/or say "X".</b></p>	<p><b>CAR 16: Not cleared.</b> The IE's response and the current proposal are inconsistent with the Adaptation Fund's Evaluation Policy. The policy mandates a baseline report with data for setting targets and monitoring, and the IE has not provided a clear plan to fulfill this requirement for its core indicators, citing the unknown nature of the sub-projects. The program needs to include a specific activity and a plan within its M&amp;E framework to collect this crucial baseline data on beneficiaries after the sub-projects are selected but before the first PPR is due. This is a mandatory component of the program's evaluation and needs to be budgeted under the IE fee.</p>	<p><b>Following the Results Knowledge and Impact Team quality check, please address the following pending comment:</b> Consider revising alignment between indicators and targets in the project results framework as appropriate. For instance, under output 1.1 the indicator "Type of gender considerations incorporated in approved adaptation pilot project proposals and communicated through progress reports" does not match with the target unit which is "All adaptation pilot project proposals progress reports included gender considerations"; output 2.3 indicator "Knowledge assessment on the adaptation policy cycle, including MEL, conducted" and the text of the target are the same, please consider rephrasing.</p> <p><b>CAR16 (b): Partially cleared (Pages 85-86).</b></p>	<p><b>CAR 16:</b> Indicators and targets have been corrected and are now aligned. The changes are indicated in the proposal comments. Accordingly, the Gender Action Plan was also adjusted to reflect these revisions.</p>
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			<p><a href="https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/evaluation-policy-of-the-adaptation-fund-graphically-edited/">https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/evaluation-policy-of-the-adaptation-fund-graphically-edited/</a></p> <p><b>CAR16 (b)</b>- While the proposal does include a results framework (Table 7) and an alignment table (Table 8) that list core indicators, these tables do not match the detailed, disaggregated templates mandated by the Adaptation Fund's methodologies for reporting. The required format includes separate tables for each core indicator, with specific rows for disaggregation (e.g., female beneficiaries, youth beneficiaries) and metrics for each reporting stage (baseline, target at approval, adjusted target, and actual at completion). This is a</p>	<p>The project currently reports just on the core indicator "number of beneficiaries", however please note that at least one additional core indicator should be added as relevant with the project scope.</p>	<p><b>CAR16 (b):</b> An additional core impact indicator has been added: "physical assets" produced under the Programme. Annex 7 updated.</p>
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			<p>formal compliance requirement for project reporting and should be addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Methodologies for reporting Adaptation Fund core impact indicators</a> (For fully-developed proposals) (Template)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Methodologies for reporting Adaptation Fund core impact indicators</a> (For fully-developed proposals) (Guidance)</li> </ul>		
	10. Is the timeframe for the proposed activities adequate?	<p><b>Not cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CAR17:</b> Given the scope of work, kindly justify why the proposed project timeframe of 3 years is considered realistic and that more time would not be required</p>	<p><b>CAR 17: Cleared (Annex 6).</b></p> <p>The clarification requested a justification for the 3-year timeline. The IE's response points to Annex 6. The proposal now includes</p>	-	

		to effectively implement this proposal.	a detailed month-by-month timeline, which provides the necessary justification.		
	11. Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?	<b>Yes.</b>	<b>Yes, page 91.</b>	-	



ADAPTATION FUND

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**FULLY DEVELOPED PROPOSAL TEMPLATE FOR  
LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION (LLA) GLOBAL AGGREGATOR  
PROGRAMMES**



ADAPTATION FUND

## FULLY DEVELOPED PROPOSAL GLOBAL LLA AGGREGATOR

### PART I: PROGRAMME INFORMATION

**Title of the Programme** : ADAPTING BIODIVERCITIES (ABC) Regional Programme for Latin American and Caribbean Cities Adapting to Climate Change through Locally-Led Actions

**Geographic Scope (Multi/Regional)** : **Global**

**Thematic Focal Area<sup>1</sup>** : Nature-based solutions, including ones that are biodiversity-supporting, in various settings (e.g. urban, peri-urban and non-urbanized), Urban adaptation and Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems

**Type of Implementing Entity** : Regional Implementing Entity

**Implementing Entity** : CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

**Executing Entities** : Subnational governments, CAF and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI).

**Amount of Financing Requested:** USD 12,000,000.00 (three years) (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

**Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries:** Yes  No

*NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities>*

**Stage of Submission:**

This proposal has been submitted before.

This is the first submission ever of the proposal at full proposal stage

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: Click or tap to enter a date.

**Please note that fully-developed proposal documents should not exceed 100 pages for the main document, and 100 pages for the annexes.**

<sup>1</sup> The programme can have a thematic focus or foci, such as the following (i.e. this is not an exhaustive list): Agriculture and food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Forests and land use management; Human health, including maternal and child health and welfare etc; Innovative adaptation financing; Local traditional ecological knowledge solutions, including harnessing or revival of indigenous, traditional solutions; Marine, fisheries, and oceans adaptation; Nature-based solutions, including ones that are biodiversity-supporting, in various settings (e.g. urban, peri-urban and non-urbanized); Urban adaptation and Water management

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## Acronyms

ABC	Adapting BiodiverCities Regional Programme
<a href="#">AdCom</a>	<a href="#">Adaptation Communication</a>
AF	Adaptation Fund
AR6	Sixth Assessment Report
CAF	Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina y el Caribe
CbA	Community-based adaptation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPAL	Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe
CFF	Cities Finance Facility
CHAMP	Coalition of High Ambition Multilevel partnerships
EbA	Ecosystem-based adaptation
ESMS	Environmental and Social Monitoring System
ESP	Environmental and Social Policy
ExComm	Executive Committee
GAP	Gender Adaptation Plan
GbA	Gender-based adaptation
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GGA	Global Goal on Adaptation
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability Network
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPE	Independent Panel of Experts
KMBF	Kuming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LAPs	Local Adaptation Plans
LLA	Locally-Led Adaptation
<a href="#">LTS</a>	<a href="#">Long Term Strategy</a>
MCR	Making Cities Resilient
MECS	Mexico, Central America and Caribbean
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans
NbS	Nature based Solutions
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NUA	New Urban Agenda
PA	Paris Agreement
PMU	Programme Management Unit
PPRs	Project Performance Reports
RED	Economy and Development Report
SAMS	South America
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ToC	Theory of Change
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USPs	Unidentified Sub-Projects

## Programme Background and Context:

1. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is one of the most urbanized regions on the planet, with more than 80% of its inhabitants living in cities, reaching 540 million people in 2020 (UN, 2018)<sup>2</sup>. The rapid urbanization experienced in the region has generated problems such as the concentration of poverty in peripheral areas, the expansion of informal settlements and pressure on urban services and infrastructure<sup>3</sup>. In the coming decades, the population in the region's cities is expected to continue to increase, reaching 650 million by 2050 (approximately 90%)<sup>4</sup>. This creates an additional challenge to the existing situation.
2. LAC is also one of the most unequal regions in the world in terms of income. Despite this, both inequality and poverty have declined in recent decades - poverty has fallen continuously from 40.9% in 2003 to 23.5% in 2014- till the trend was reversed, with slight increases in poverty and a significant jump during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, since 2022, the increasing trend has been reversed<sup>5</sup>.
3. The region is currently in a situation of high exposure to multiple climate-related threats, such as tropical cyclones, floods, droughts, coastal erosion, marine intrusion and heatwaves. For example, between 1998 and 2020, the number of climate-related events and their impacts claimed more than 312,000 lives and affected more than 277 million people<sup>6</sup>. In addition, the number of extreme weather events increased from 28 per year during the period 1980-1999 to 53 per year in the period 2000-2021<sup>7</sup>. Most of the total losses caused by disasters in Latin America occur in urban areas<sup>8</sup>. In addition, the consequences of these events affect the poorest and most socially vulnerable population to a greater extent, counteracting poverty and inequality reduction policies.
4. Greenhouse gas emissions from the region are small, accounting for only 10% globally in 2019<sup>9</sup>. Nevertheless, cities and metropolitan areas are responsible for 70% of planetary carbon emissions<sup>10</sup> and they consume between 67-76% of the energy produced globally<sup>11</sup>. Therefore, the intensification of urbanization could exacerbate climate change if measures are not taken to develop low-carbon and climate resilient urban environments.
5. Climate change comes to exacerbate the frequency and intensity of climate-related extremes and increasing slow-onset events, which combined with a high vulnerability puts at risk the achievement of sustainable development goals of the region. According to Costella *et. al*<sup>12</sup> it is

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision*. New York: United Nations.

<sup>3</sup> Aulestia, D. y Lana, B. (coords.) (2024). *Informe urbano de América Latina y el Caribe 2024*. Santiago: Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL).

<sup>4</sup> See footnote 2.

<sup>5</sup> See footnote 3.

<sup>6</sup> World Meteorological Organization (2022). *The state of the climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2021*. Geneva.

<sup>7</sup> Brassiolo, P., Estrada, R., Vicuña, S., Odrizola, J., Toledo, M., Juncosa, F., Fajardo, G., Scharrodsky, E. (2023). Global challenges, regional solutions: Latin America and the Caribbean in the face of the climate and biodiversity crisis (report). Retrieved from <https://scioteca.caf.com/handle/123456789/2136>

<sup>8</sup> World Bank (2022). *World Bank Group Roadmap for Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean 2021-2025 (English)*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099720509072258391/P17573900be08d0ce0884306730ea93908a>

<sup>9</sup> See footnote 7.

<sup>10</sup> IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, A. Al Khourdajie, R. van Diemen, D. McCollum, M. Pathak, S. Some, P. Vyas, R. Fradera, M. Belkacemi, A. Hasija, G. Lisboa, S. Luz, J. Malley, (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA. doi: 10.1017/9781009157926

<sup>11</sup> IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Edenhofer, O., R. Pichs-Madruga, Y. Sokona, E. Farahani, S. Kadner, K. Seyboth, A. Adler, I. Baum, S. Brunner, P. Eickemeier, B. Kriemann, J. Savolainen, S. Schlömer, C. von Stechow, T. Zwicker and J.C. Minx (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA.

<sup>12</sup> Costella, C., Diez, A., Beazley, R., and Alfonso, M. (2023). *Shock-responsive social protection and climate shocks in Latin America and the Caribbean: lessons from COVID-19*. Inter-American Development Bank WORKING PAPER SERIES N° IDB-WP-01428.

estimated that by 2030, between 2.4 and 5.8 million people in the region will be pushed into extreme poverty due to climate change. This is mainly attributed to the increased prevalence of vector and water-borne diseases, which disproportionately affect low-income households.

6. The region's climate has already begun to experience variations and more significant climatic changes are expected in the coming decades. To illustrate, according to the report "State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean"<sup>13</sup>, the past 9 years were the warmest ever recorded.
7. The IPCC AR6 report (2022) identifies various climate risks for the region. The frequency and intensity of extreme events such as droughts and storms are expected to increase. Droughts heighten the risk of food and water insecurity. The latter will be further exacerbated by glacier retreat, reduced snow cover, and changes in rainfall seasonality. The increase in storm frequency and intensity raises risks to human health and infrastructure due to floods and landslides. Specifically, a 1.5°C rise could result in a 100-200% increase in the population affected by floods in Colombia, Brazil, and Argentina, a 300% increase in Ecuador, and a 400% increase in Peru<sup>14</sup>. An increase in the intensity and frequency of heatwaves is also projected, raising health risks for the population, especially those living in cities.
8. Similarly, slow-onset events are projected, such as sea level rise and an increase in the reproduction, resilience, and distribution of vector-borne diseases. The former poses a significant challenge for coastal cities, especially in the Caribbean, increasing the intensity of flooding, coastal erosion, marine intrusion, and greater susceptibility to storm surges. An example of this are the countries of Suriname, Bahamas and Guyana, where more than 90% of the population lives in low-elevation terrain and is therefore highly exposed to this threat<sup>15</sup>.
9. To reduce the aforementioned climate risks, it is essential to invest in urban adaptation to ensure sustainable development. Leading and financing the transformation towards resilient cities is one of the greatest challenges of this century, thereby protecting both local communities and the global economy.
10. The 2023 CAF's Economy and Development Report (RED) "Global Challenges, Regional Solutions: Latin America and the Caribbean Facing the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis"<sup>16</sup>, not only mentions the importance of climate adaptation and the need to contribute to global mitigation, but also states the urgency of preserving natural capital as a key factor in the development process.
11. Latin America and the Caribbean is an exceptionally rich region in terms of ecosystems and biodiversity. It has a quarter of the world's forests, a third of the world's fresh water and 50% of its biodiversity. The diversity of ecosystems and species in the region provides a wide range of valuable ecosystem services at local, regional, and global scales. Globally, some of these ecosystems play a key role in mitigating climate change due to their capacity to capture and store atmospheric carbon. Meanwhile, at regional and local levels, they offer essential adaptation services (e.g., mangroves act as natural barriers against coastal flooding, while green spaces in cities help regulate temperature and reduce flood risks).
12. For this reason, it is essential that there is coordination and synergy between climate policies and biodiversity conservation policies [with gender and diversity lens](#), since the recovery of ecosystems can contribute to climate action and, at the same time, since ecosystems are affected by the effects of climate change, climate action can favor their preservation.
13. Nature-based solutions and, in particular, the ecosystem-based adaptation approach (EbA) are key to advancing the above. EbA implies the use of ecosystem management activities to increase the

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<sup>13</sup> World Meteorological Organization (2024). *The state of the climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2023*.

<sup>14</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>15</sup> See footnote 7.

<sup>16</sup> See footnote 7.

resilience and reduce the vulnerability of people and ecosystems to climate change<sup>17</sup>. It also links traditional biodiversity and ecosystem conservation approaches with sustainable socioeconomic development as part of an overall strategy for helping people adapt to shocks and risks associated with climate change<sup>18</sup>. This last element is important because ecosystem health alone does not guarantee human resilience. EbA is compatible with other approaches such as Community and Gender Based Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management.

- 14. The financing needs to meet development, climate action and biodiversity preservation goals are overwhelming. Therefore, CAF has committed to increasing green financing, including adaptation, mitigation, biodiversity conservation and restoration and other environmental goals, to a floor of 40% of its finance approvals by 2026 and to being one of the most active institutions in the region in mobilizing resources from major green funds and international allies.

**Figure 1. Distribution of CAF strategic ecosystems in Latin America and the Caribbean**



- 15. In line with the above, CAF established 14 strategic ecosystems in Latin America and the Caribbean to restore and protect. They were presented by CAF in the context of UNFCCC COP 28 in Dubai

<sup>17</sup> IPCC (2019). Annex I: Glossary [van Diemen, R. (ed.)]. In: Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.-O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi, J. Malley, (eds.)].

<sup>18</sup> The Friends of EbA Network (FEBA) (2017) Making ecosystem-based adaptation effective. A framework for defining qualification criteria and quality standards. FEBA Technical Paper for UNFCCC SBSTA 46.

and UNCDB COP16 in Cali (see Figure 1). This responds to the urgent challenges of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss affecting the continent, considered the most biodiverse in the world, including 6 of the 17 megadiverse countries and the most diverse habitat: the Amazon rainforest. Among the ecosystems chosen are the páramos, Patagonia, the Tumbes forests in the Chocó and Magdalena, the Atlantic Forest, the Mesoamerican biological corridor, mangroves, the Amazon, the Humboldt Current and the Gran Chaco and Pantanal.

16. The Amazon forest is one of the world's most important biomes, containing 10% of the world's biodiversity. Likewise, the ecosystem services it provides are essential for the absorption of emissions and the resilience of communities. Deforestation, and droughts and fires, exacerbated by climate change, are leading to the degradation and loss of Amazon forests. As this situation worsens, a threshold could be reached at which the rainfall generated by these forests will be insufficient to maintain their tropical forest condition and they will be converted into grassy savannas. To promote the sustainable, resilient and inclusive development of the Amazon, the countries of this region agreed to advance in various initiatives through the Belem Declaration of the IV Meeting of Presidents of the States Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. One of these was the creation of the Green Coalition of Development Banks for the Amazon to promote financial solutions that facilitate the development of this biome. CAF is an active part of this Coalition and at the COP28 of the UNFCCC, announced an investment of USD 2000 million until 2030 to contribute to a sustainable, inclusive, equitable and climate resilient Amazon.
17. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the fragility of our economic structures and highlighted the urgency of reassessing our relationship with nature. As we approach the ecological limits that threaten our survival, it becomes imperative to pursue an economic recovery that is resilient and sustainable. In this context, urban economies have a crucial role to play, not only because of their significant contribution to global, regional and national GDPs but also due to their impact on human well-being and the planet's sustainability. For Latin American and Caribbean cities, which already face considerable challenges in terms of climate financing, this recovery offers an opportunity to direct resources towards building resilience against climate change.
18. The territorial extension, the diversity of ecosystems and the different socioeconomic conditions existing in the countries and cities of the region, makes it a very heterogeneous territory. For this reason, exposure and vulnerability to climate threats vary significantly between countries, cities and individuals. This implies that the expected impacts of climate change and the needs for adaptation depend on their context.
19. Climate-related risks not only vary across territories but also affect social groups differently, depending on their economic, cultural, and resource access conditions. These inequalities directly constrain local adaptive capacities by limiting access, participation, and the equitable distribution of the benefits of implemented solutions.<sup>19</sup> In this context, the incorporation of a gender perspective has shown tangible results in Latin America. Projects that integrate this approach have strengthened community capacities, improved access to adaptive resources, and expanded women's participation in local climate governance.<sup>20 21</sup>
20. In line with the above, it is key to advance in the implementation of Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) actions that allow the design of context-specific interventions. The local governments are crucial to achieve the former. These entities possess deep knowledge of the specific dynamics, needs, and climate vulnerabilities of their territories and communities. Strengthening local governments' capacities to plan and implement adaptation projects ensures that solutions are contextually

<sup>19</sup> CAF (2022). CAF Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2026

<sup>20</sup> Adaptation Fund (2024). Report on the Implementation of the Adaptation Fund Gender Scorecard for FY24. (AFB.B.44.Inf.1)

[1]

<sup>21</sup> GEF. (2023). Progress Report on Advancing Gender Equality (GCF/B.36/Inf.07).

relevant and effective, fostering long-term autonomy and resilience.

21. Despite this, efforts to advance planning and adaptation at the city level are scarce in the region. According to the globally relevant study, "Climate change adaptation planning in large cities: A systematic global assessment"<sup>22</sup>, out of a total of 401 local governments in urban areas with more than one million inhabitants, only 61 cities report adaptation initiatives, and 73 cities are in the process of planning adaptation policies. The findings indicate that the major adaptors are primarily cities in high-income countries in North America, Europe, and Oceania, while cities in middle- and low-income countries tend to be in the early stages of adaptation or do not report initiatives.
22. As noted above, the approach to the problem varies depending on the context. The size and capacity of cities impacts the scale of the challenges to increase climate resilience. While major cities face significant challenges, intermediate cities encounter even greater hurdles in accessing the necessary financing for adaptation. These cities, often vital for regional development, are constrained by limited fiscal and technical capacities. Their heavy reliance on external funding or central government interventions restricts their autonomy, severely impacting their ability to implement effective adaptation projects. The lack of robust local governance systems and lower international visibility further exacerbates these challenges, making it difficult to attract crucial financial resources. As highlighted in the United Nations' New Urban Agenda, strengthening the capacity of these cities to proactively address climate change is imperative for ensuring long-term sustainable development (UN-Habitat, 2017)<sup>23</sup>.
23. CAF's Urban Development Strategy 2023-2026 aims to generate sustainable habitat in Latin America's urban systems, through greener, fairer and more prosperous cities and communities that allow for a balance between environmental regeneration, social resilience and economic prosperity, placing people at the center of the action, regardless of their differences in gender, race, culture, age, sexual orientation, income level or different abilities. Having greener cities implies rethinking the link with nature through a more comprehensive view of the territories and better urban management. In line with this, the strategy promotes the care and preservation of biodiversity, actions to reduce pollution and to adapt to and mitigate climate change at the urban level.
24. The above strategy is based on three principles for sustainable and comprehensive urban planning and development: spatial justice linked to an equitable distribution of available resources and opportunities for the benefit of all people, without exclusion; regeneration and resilience, associated with an ecosystemic approach under an ecologically based urban development model; and territorial cohesion. To translate these principles to the territory, the strategy defines six guidelines: (1) Urban management; (2) Sustainable mobility; (3) Public spaces; (4) Water security; (5) Housing and urban environments; and (6) Citizen safety.
25. As part of the Urban Management guideline and to address the challenges associated with the state capacities of local governments, CAF developed the "Value Proposal: Strengthening Subnational Governments 2022-2026". The aim of this proposal is to support the strengthening of city governance within the framework of a renewed vision of urban development to manage comprehensive multi sectoral urban operations at the local and regional levels. It includes three strategic guidelines associated with capacities, resources and knowledge. In particular, the last guideline includes the promotion of spaces for the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned.
26. In the framework of its Urban Development Strategy and its Proposal to Strengthen Subnational Governments, CAF has set out to consolidate and strengthen the BiodiverCities Network of Latin

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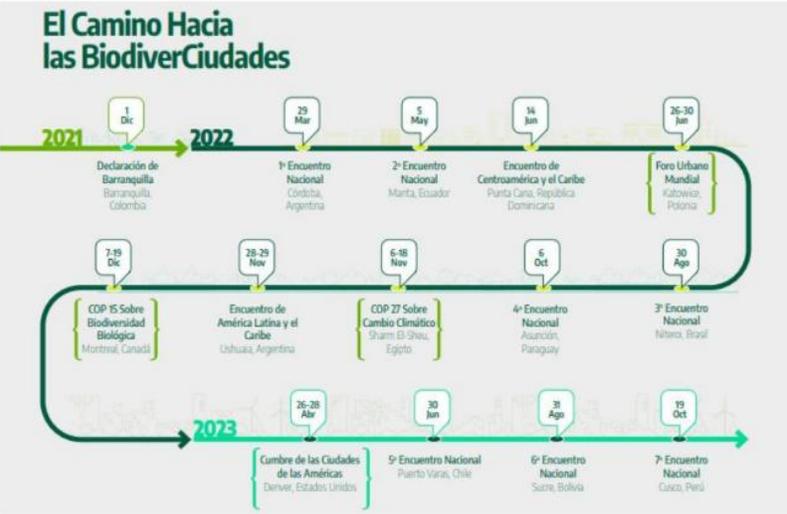
<sup>22</sup> Araos, M., Berrang-Forda, L., Forda, J.D., Austina, S.E., Biesbroekb, R. and Lesnikowskia, A. (2016). *Climate change adaptation planning in large cities: A systematic global assessment*. Environmental Science & Policy, 66: 375-382

<sup>23</sup> United Nations (2017). New Urban Agenda. Quito. UN-Habitat, 2017

America and the Caribbean with the aim of spreading and promoting the importance of establishing BiodiverCities among the cities of the region, as well as encouraging their effective integration into local planning and management frameworks as a pillar of an inclusive, productive, and sustainable urban policy.

- 27. BiodiverCities was born out of dialogue between academics and managers during meetings in Rio de Janeiro (2012), Cape Town (2014), and Marseille (2015). It was subsequently adopted by the Local Governments for Sustainability Network (ICLEI), which included it in their Convention on Biological Diversity, naming one of their urban agendas BiodiverCities.
- 28. In Latin America, Colombia has led the national BiodiverCities strategy towards 2030, alongside the Alexander Von Humboldt Institute for Biological Resources Research and the World Economic Forum. This initiative has had a significant impact in the region, as between 2021 and 2024, 198 cities have joined the Network through various national and regional meetings, where they signed the founding document (Figure 2). The cities belong to CAF member countries, namely: Colombia, Panamá, Perú, Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Costa Rica, El Salvador, México, Honduras, Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Republica Dominicana and Trinidad y Tobago.
- 29. With the Barranquilla Declaration of 2021, the region's cities committed to sharing their experiences and discussing the strategy to strengthen the BiodiverCities Network as a platform for coordinating local governments. The goal is to move from a shared aspiration to coordinated action, with a clear focus: identifying, structuring, and financing high-quality, high-impact programmes and projects at local level.
- 30. Additionally, at the end of 2021, CAF defined two major commitments with the bank's shareholder countries: to become the green bank and the bank of subnational entities in the region. In this sense, the BiodiverCities Network and Programme fulfills and integrates together both commitments.

Figure 2. Timeline of Key Events Leading to BiodiverCities



31. Therefore, it is crucial for CAF to support local governments that are advancing towards an urban

management model in harmony with biodiversity and that accelerate climate action, including adaptation [with a particular focus in the most vulnerable communities](#). CAF works with partners both within and outside the region to contribute to the incubation and acceleration of projects that promote the use of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

32. A year after the Barranquilla Declaration, the Network Strategy was validated in a meeting held in Ushuaia, Argentina, in which national and local authorities from the region participated (see Figure 3). The strategy consisted in three phases: (1) Awareness, (2) Consolidation and Strengthening, and (3) Project Structuring.
33. A first stage of the Network was defined based on disseminating and raising awareness of the BiodiverCities concept among the cities of the region. In this first stage of awareness-raising and adhesion, between 2021 and 2023, more than 180 cities joined the Network. During this first stage, support was provided by the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Biological Resources Research, which made thematic, methodological and conceptual contributions, as well as the support of UN Habitat. During this initial phase, CAF organized 14 meetings in Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia, and Peru, in addition to promoting the participation of cities from the region in international forums. In this context, it is important to highlight the focus on the Amazon that the network has worked on, in collaboration Aguarico (Ecuador); Araguaia (Brasil); and Cobija (Bolivia), to promote an urban resilience management framework in harmony with nature, which fosters greater adaptation and reduce emissions. Also the Biodivercities Network held side events and activities in UNFCCC COP 28 in Dubai, and UNCDB COP 16 In Cali, it is also expected to have an amplified and very active presence during UNFCCC COP 30 in Belem, where many Mayors of Biodivercities are planning to attend.
34. At the end of 2023, the second stage of the Network's consolidation began. The main goals are: to complete the process of joining the Network, including local governments of countries that do not yet participate or have little representation; to train authorities and technical teams that manage the participating cities in approaches that incorporate the concept of biodiversity when planning and managing urban development processes; to design and implement the Model of governance and sustainable leadership of the Network; to develop a communication and outreach plan for the cities; to consolidate an offer of products and services for member cities with six pillars: 1. Technical support 2. Capacity building. 3. Exchange of experiences and good practices. 4. Regional and global voice. 5. Incubation of key projects. 6. Financing alternatives.

**Figure 3. BiodiverCities Strategy.**

## De la propuesta a la gestión ¿Qué ofrece la Red?

Pasar de la propuesta a la gestión implica apostar por procesos de desarrollo urbano adaptados a las necesidades y contextos de los gobiernos locales. Para ello la Red pone a disposición una **amplia y variada oferta**:



35. The new stage of the Network's consolidation begins with a dialogue on the main global trends in urban development and the challenges cities face in meeting the sustainable development agendas: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), New Urban Agenda (NUA), the Paris Agreement (PA) -particularly the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation-, and the Kuming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework (KMBF). It will also introduce the governance model, the criteria for new cities to join, and the range of services offered to local governments that are members of the Network.
36. Currently, a total of 198 cities from 20 countries are part of the network, and it is expected that 100 more cities (Figure 4), will join in the next two years, representing a future commitment to promoting sustainable urban development and biodiversity protection across Latin America and the Caribbean through the BiodiverCities Network and Programme. CAF, along with partners both within and outside the region, will work to incubate and accelerate projects that foster climate resilient nature-based solutions, [with a particular focus on the most vulnerable communities and groups in each city and in accordance with the priorities of the BiodiverCities](#), the enhancement of green and blue infrastructure, ecosystem restoration, conservation and protection of ecosystem services, among others.

**Figure 4. BiodiverCities Network in 2024**

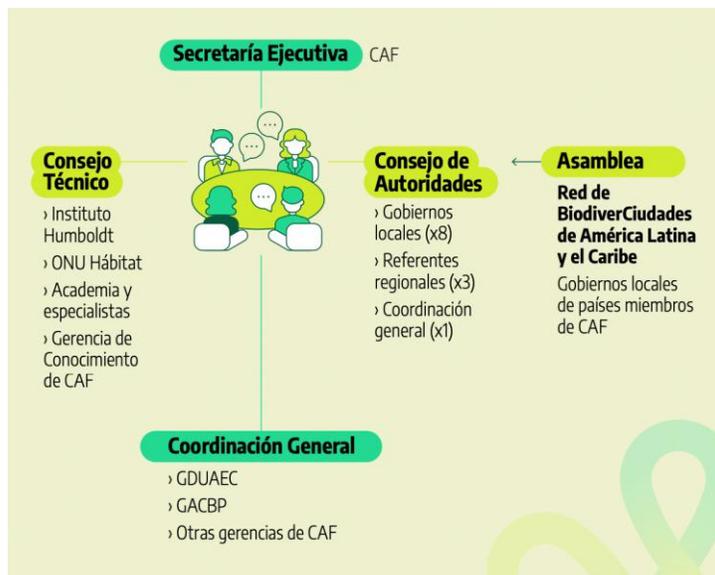


37. The **current 2024-2026 Biodiversities Network governance model** (see Figure 4) was defined on the basis of a participatory process developed within the Network. It features a solid structure, defined roles, clear functions, membership criteria, and dialogue spaces within the Network. This model, collectively built with the participating cities and experts, aims to ensure an effective and sustainable transition from the awareness phase to active management.
38. The Network's governance model incorporates the three levels (political-institutional, technical-methodological and cross-cutting-intersectoral) and seeks to generate instances of dialogue and coordination. CAF is the **Executive Secretariat** and its functions are to promote the Network's proposals within CAF; to represent the Network in global forums, local and national authorities in the region; to establish general and strategic orientations together with the General Coordination; and to approve the Network's general budget. CAF also carries out the **General Coordination**

through different areas and its objectives are: design, implement and supervise the Network's activities; communicate and disseminate the Network's progress, milestones and actions appropriately to CAF's internal public and to the Network's members; organise and participate in events and meetings of the Technical Councils and mayors and report on their results; identify opportunities for service offerings, incubation and project development among the Network's membership; manage and account for the management of funds (formulation of budgets for the approval of the Network's Executive Secretary); and identify and articulate with other national, regional and global networks and spaces.

39. The **Technical Council** is composed of the General Coordinator, 2 representatives of the Humboldt Institute, 2 representatives of UN Habitat, 2 technical representatives of the General Coordination team and ad hoc guests. The objectives of the Council are to provide technical support to local governments in the design, financing and implementation of projects; to design and develop training processes to raise awareness and update knowledge on the issues promoted by the Network; to systematise information (statistical and thematic) on the local governments that make up the Network and their work; to develop and implement a permanent mapping system of actors, networks and relationship spaces with potential for articulation and possible alliances; to propose tools for monitoring and follow-up of the work with local governments and the progress and results of the Network's strategies; and to align the development of the Network's technical content with the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.
40. The **Council of Authorities** is made up of: 8 mayors or maximum authorities of participating local governments; 8 technical referents, one for each local government participating in the Council; 3 regional referents with recognised experience; and 1 CAF representative from the Executive Secretariat or the General Coordination. The Council meets at least once (1) a year, and seeks to have an equal gender composition and a balanced geographical representation. The first Council was proposed by CAF and serves from 2024 to 2026. From 2026 onwards, the members of the Council will be elected by the Assembly and their term of office will be two years, considering that in 2025 the Governance Model must be updated. Its main objectives are: to provide the General Coordination with ideas and proposals for the proper development of the Network; to present approaches and demands of the local governments of each sub-region; to review and make contributions on the progress and perspectives of the Network; to generate common approaches and proposals on issues related to the Network; and to represent the Network in regional and international forums (spokesperson).
41. Finally, the **General Assembly** integrated by the local governments of the Network, will meet once a year from 2025 and will receive reports from the Executive Secretariat.

**Figure 5. Governance model BiodiverCities Network and Programme**



Fuente: BiodiverCiudades: Modelo de Gobernanza 2024-2026.

#### A. Programme Objectives:

##### General objective:

42. Adapting BiodiverCities Regional Programme (ABC) aims to accelerate the implementation of locally-led facilitate innovative local solutions and support the development and dissemination of local practices and knowledge that strengthen community capacities, promote inclusive and sustainable adaptation solutions, promoting gender equality, and focusing on the most vulnerable groups and communities, contribute to enhancing urban resilience to climate change in Latin American and Caribbean cities.

##### Specific objectives:

43. Provide funding through competitive grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 to support the implementation of locally-led innovative adaptation solutionactions and pilot projects across various scales, emphasising Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), Community-based Adaptation (CbA) and Gender-based Adaptation (GbA) approaches.
44. Strengthen the capacities of subnational governments within the BiodiverCities Network and participants of the Adaptation Fund Regional Program to formulate, implement, and monitor adaptation actions, pilot projects and Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs), while improving their ability to access international climate financing in order to face climate change impacts and risks.
45. Consolidate the BiodiverCities Network and AF Regional Programme by sharing experiences and innovative practices, developing tools and scaling up effective adaptation practices that help communities adapt to climate change.
46. Provide methodological contributions that serve the operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation based on LLA actions supported by the AF Regional Program and the BiodiverCities Network.

#### B. Programme Components and Financing ~~(table 1)~~:

Table 1. Project/Programme components and financing

Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)
<b>Component 1:</b> Provision of Small Grants for Implementing locally-led adaptation actions.	<b>Outcome 1.</b> BiodiverCities implement locally-led and ecosystem based adaptation solutions and improve their adaptation local policy cycle.	<b>Output 1.1.</b> Pilot adaptation projects carried out and Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of monitorable LLA solutions aligned with Adaptation Fund policies.	LAC countries, eligible to access Adaptation Fund funding, with cities involved in the BiodiverCities Network and Programme.	7,700,000.00
<b>Component 2:</b> Technical support and capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs	<b>Outcome 2.</b> Capacities of subnational governments strengthened to formulate, implement, and monitor locally-led adaptation actions and Local Adaptation Plans.	<p><b>Output 2.1.</b> LLA project proposals addressing local adaptation needs and priorities, developed and enhanced.</p> <p><b>Output 2.2</b> Virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing formulation, implementation and monitoring skills in LLA projects, conducted, including gender and diversity approaches.</p> <p><del><b>Output 2.3.</b> Reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baseline, elaborated.</del></p> <p><b>Output 2.43.</b> Assessments of local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted and reports on capacity building and knowledge needs.</p> <p><b>Output 2.54.</b> Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs supported and the improvement of the adaptation policy cycle</p> <p><b>Output 2.65.</b> Participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA, designed and implemented, considering relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups and communities.</p> <p><b>Output 2.76.</b> Support for gender mainstreaming, vulnerability and climate risks assessments, as well</p>	LAC countries, eligible to access Adaptation Fund funding, with cities involved in the BiodiverCities Network and Programme.	1,500,000.00

Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)
		<p>as for addressing social and environmental dimensions, provided.</p> <p><b>Output 2.87.</b> Virtual and in-person training for city government officials for LAPs <u>community-based organizations, grassroots networks and residents</u>, formulation, participatory process, cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc., conducted.</p> <p><b>Output 2.98.</b> Guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities, elaborated.</p>		
<b>Component 3:</b> Knowledge Management and Exchange	<p><b>Outcome 3.</b> BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme consolidated as a regional space that promotes the generation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge and facilitates the development of locally-led innovative solutions for urban adaptation.</p> <p><b>Outcome 4.</b> Operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation, strengthened at the local level.</p>	<p><b>Output 3.1.</b> BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database designed and published.</p> <p><b>Output 3.2.</b> Implementation of cooperation cycles between cities of the Network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level. This will include in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the AF Programme to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and good practices.</p> <p><b>Output 3.3.</b> Publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others), elaborated and disseminated in webinars.</p> <p><b>Output 3.4.</b> BiodiverCities Network and Programme visibility and international relevance, improved.</p> <p><b>Output 3.5.</b> Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network</p>	LAC countries, eligible to access Adaptation Fund funding, with cities involved in the BiodiverCities Network and Programme.	1,000,000.00

Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)
		developed.		
		<p><b>Output 3.6.</b>Next steps for the establishment of BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030, defined.</p> <p><b>Output 3.7.</b> A proposal with a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA, developed.</p>		
4. Project/Programme Execution cost				1,000,000.00
5. Total Project/Programme Cost				11,200,000.00
6. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				800,000.00
<b>Amount of Financing Requested</b>				<b>12,000,000.00</b>

**Commented [AP1]:** The Financing Table was corrected.

### C. Projected Calendar

Table 2. Projected calendar

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Programme Implementation	April 2026
Mid-term Review	October 2027
Programme Closing	April 2028
Terminal Evaluation	August 2028

## PART II: PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

**A.** Describe the programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities, how these activities would contribute to climate resilience. In addition, describe how they would build added value through the regional or multi-regional approach, compared to implementing similar activities in each country individually. Furthermore, show how the combination of individual small-grant activities would contribute to the overall increase in resilience.

47. The Aggregator Programme is designed to catalyse locally led and ecosystem-based adaptation solutions in urban areas of Latin America and the Caribbean. Its Theory of Change (ToC) is based on the recognition that achieving effective and inclusive climate resilience at the local level does not rely solely on the availability of financial resources. It also requires context-specific technical assistance, the strengthening of institutional and community capacities, as well as mechanisms that facilitate regional learning, the visibility of effective solutions, and their integration into public policies.
48. Component 1 provides direct financial support to subnational governments and local communities to implement concrete locally led adaptation (LLA) solutions, including pilot projects with an ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approach and the participatory design of local adaptation strategies that integrate gender and intercultural perspectives. This component seeks not only to generate tangible resilience outcomes on the ground, but also to produce evidence from the territory on what works, in which context, and for whom.
49. Component 2 fulfils a critical enabling role: it supports local actors, especially those with limited technical or institutional experience, in the formulation of Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs), the preparation of robust proposals to access resources from Component 1, and the strengthening of their capacities to implement, monitor, and report on adaptation actions. In doing so, it addresses structural barriers such as the technical limitations of subnational governments, low community participation, insufficient mainstreaming of gender, and limited integration of ecosystem criteria in urban planning. It also fosters the development of climate information systems, participatory methodologies, and governance mechanisms that legitimise and sustain adaptation processes over time.
50. Component 3 consolidates and expands the Regional BiodiverCities Network as a platform for learning, strengthens cooperation among countries in the region, and amplifies good adaptation practices. Through active knowledge management, peer exchange, and strategic visibility efforts, this component connects the learnings and progress of Components 1 and 2 to promote policy coherence, accelerate the diffusion of effective innovations, and facilitate the scaling up of context-appropriate strategies.
51. These three components function as an interconnected system: funding for local action (Component 1) becomes accessible and effective through capacity strengthening (Component 2), and is amplified through the regional circulation of knowledge and experiences (Component 3). This logic enables the programme to achieve three key outcomes: (i) expanding access to direct climate finance for subnational and community actors—especially those with limited capacities or little prior engagement with international mechanisms; (ii) strengthening institutional and community capacities to design and implement inclusive, evidence-based solutions; and (iii)

increasing the uptake, dissemination, and scaling of effective urban adaptation strategies across the region.

52. An extended version of this Theory of Change, including its key assumptions and risks, as well as a visual representation, is presented in Annex 3.

*Table 3. Activities of the programme*

<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Component 1: Provision of Small Grants for Implementing LLA Actions</b>		
<u>Outcome 1. BiodiverCities implement locally-led and ecosystem based adaptation solutions and improve their adaptation local policy cycle.</u>	<u>Output 1.1. Pilot adaptation projects carried out and Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of monitorable LLA solutions aligned with Adaptation Fund policies.</u>	<u>Activity 1.1.1. Conduct webinars to support the process of preparing proposals.</u> <u>Activity 1.1.2. Design and publication of calls for proposals on months 6, 12 and 18 of the Regional Program.</u> <u>Activity 1.1.3. Selection, provision and execution of grants as adaptation pilot interventions.</u> <u>Activity 1.1.4. Contribution to the implementation of a MEL system by CAF as a key activity of component 3 to ensure adequate implementation of LLA actions and identification of learnings to improve implementation process.</u> <u>Activity 1.1.5. Follow up on the call for BiodiverCities Network members for the incubation, acceleration and mentoring of projects.</u>
<b>Component 2: Technical support and capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs</b>		
<u>Outcome 2. Capacities of subnational governments strengthened to formulate, implement, and monitor locally-led adaptation actions and Local Adaptation Plans.</u>	<u>Output 2.1. LLA project proposals addressing local adaptation needs and priorities, developed and enhanced.</u>	<u>Activity 2.1.1. Provision of technical support for improving the implementation and/or the monitoring of LLA projects supported as part of Component 1.</u>
	<u>Output 2.2 Virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing formulation, implementation and monitoring skills in LLA projects, conducted, including gender and diversity approaches.</u>	<u>Activity 2.2.1. Organise virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams including on Biodiversity Compliance, mainstreaming gender and diversity approaches in line with the AF standards.</u> <u>Activity 2.2.2. Provision of technical support to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for grant implementation.</u>

Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Activities
	<p><b>Output 2.3.</b> Assessments of local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted and reports on capacity building and knowledge needs.</p>	<p><b>Activity 2.3.1.</b> Conduct a survey targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity-building needs, with the aim of refining capacity-building efforts and enhancing collaboration with allies and partners for technical support.</p> <p><b>Activity 2.3.2</b> Conduct needs and knowledge assessments on the adaptation iterative policy cycle, including MEL and elaborate reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baselines.</p>
	<p><b>Output 2.4.</b> Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs supported and the improvement of the adaptation policy cycle.</p>	<p><b>Activity 2.4.1.</b> Carry out studies and training processes tailored to the needs of prioritized cities to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions and local adaptation planning processes.</p> <p><b>Activity 2.4.2.</b> Support the process of developing LAPs, including readiness activities.</p>
	<p><b>Output 2.5.</b> Participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA, designed and implemented, considering relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups and communities.</p>	<p><b>Activity 2.5.1.</b> Support the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA.</p>
	<p><b>Output 2.6.</b> Support for gender mainstreaming, vulnerability and climate risks assessments, as well as for addressing social and environmental dimensions, provided.</p>	<p><b>Activity 2.6.1.</b> Provide support associated with gender mainstreaming, development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines, and LAPs' social and environmental analysis.</p>
	<p><b>Output 2.7.</b> Virtual and in-person training for city government officials, community-based organizations, grassroots networks and residents for LAPs formulation, participatory process, cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc., conducted.</p>	<p><b>Activity 2.7.1.</b> Organise virtual and in-person training for city government officials for LAPs formulation, participatory process, cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc.</p> <p><b>Activity 2.7.2.</b> Organise technical training workshops for city government officials on climate adaptation, urban planning, resilient housing policy, nature-based</p>

Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Activities
		<p><u>solutions, data management, policy labs and peer-to-peer exchanges with other municipalities to share best practices and challenges, including on MEL systems for tracking climate outcomes.</u></p> <p><u>Activity 2.7.3. Organise technical training workshops for community-based organizations, grassroots actors and vulnerable households, on project design, advocacy, and community mapping, seeking for active participation in co-design, monitoring, and delivery of local adaptation and resilience programs.</u></p>
	<p><u>Output 2.8. Guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities, elaborated.</u></p>	<p><u>Activity 2.8.1. Elaborate guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities with allies.</u></p>
<p><b>Component 3: Knowledge Management and Exchange</b></p>		
<p><u>Outcome 3. BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme consolidated as a regional space that promotes the generation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge and facilitates the development of locally-led innovative solutions for urban adaptation.</u></p>	<p><u>Output 3.1. BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database designed and published.</u></p> <p><u>Output 3.2. Implementation of cooperation cycles between cities of the Network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level. This will include in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the AF Programme to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and good practices.</u></p>	<p><u>Activity 3.1.1. Develop and publish a BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database.</u></p> <p><u>Activity 3.1.2. Organise virtual workshops to identify open knowledge database structure and content, and to validate its structure.</u></p> <p><u>Activity 3.2.1. Organise 4 in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the AF Programme to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and good practices.</u></p> <p><u>Activity 3.2.2. Implement 4 cooperation cycles between cities of the network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level, applying ICLEI's structured methodology.<sup>24</sup></u></p>

<sup>24</sup> <https://americadosul.iclei.org/documentos/quia-para-a-elaboracao-e-implementacao-de-um-ciclo-de-cooperacao-com-foco-em-sistemas-de-areas-verdes-protegidas-e-conservadas/>

Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Activities
	<p><b>Output 3.3.</b> Publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others), elaborated and disseminated in webinars.</p>	<p><b>Activity 3.3.1.</b> Elaborate at least 3 publications (each one in English, Spanish and Portuguese) with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others).</p> <p><b>Activity 3.3.2.</b> Conduct at least 3 webinars to disseminate (each one in English, Spanish and Portuguese) to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions. <del>best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions.</del></p>
	<p><b>Output 3.4.</b> BiodiverCities Network and Programme visibility and international relevance, improved.</p>	<p><b>Activity 3.4.1.</b> Promote articulations with regional and local networks related to BiodiverCities.</p> <p><b>Activity 3.4.2.</b> Organise events in regional and international climate and biodiversity related meetings to disseminate the programme's interventions (UNFCCC COPs, CBD, COPs).</p>
	<p><b>Output 3.5.</b> Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network developed.</p>	<p><b>Activity 3.5.1.</b> Develop a MEL system for the BiodiverCities Network, considering the contributions of the LLA interventions and initiatives in Components 1 and 2.</p>
	<p><b>Output 3.6.</b> Next steps for the establishment of BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030, defined.</p>	<p><b>Activity 3.6.1.</b> Identify and analyze existing funding possibilities for BiodiverCities Network members and the opportunities presented by it to lower the capital cost of adaptation for local governments.</p> <p><b>Activity 3.6.2.</b> Develop a finance framework proposal to facilitate access to climate finance for the members of the BiodiverCities Network (i.e. resilience bonds, concessional loans).</p> <p><b>Activity 3.6.3.</b> Organise virtual workshops to generate inputs for the definition of the road map for the "BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030".</p>

Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Activities
<u>Outcome 4.</u> <u>Operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation, strengthened at the local level.</u>	<u>Output 4.1.</u> A proposal with a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA, developed.	<u>Activity 4.1.1.</u> Develop and identify a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA.

The programme includes three components: **Component 1.** Provision of Small Grants for Implementing LLA Actions; **Component 2.** Technical support and capacity development for designing, implementing, and monitoring LLA solutions; and **Component 3.** Knowledge Management and Exchange.

**52. Component 1 – Focuses on the implementation of LLA options through small grants provision.**

**53.**

**54. Outcome 1.** BiodiverCities implement locally led and ecosystem, community and gender based adaptation solutions and improve their adaptation local policy cycle.

**55.**

**56. Output 1.1.** Pilot adaptation projects carried out and Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of LLA solutions aligned with Adaptation Fund policies and monitorable.

**57.** The main activities of this component are:

**58. Activity 1.1** Conduct webinars to support the process of preparing proposals;

**59. Activity 1.2** Design and publication of calls for proposals on months 6, 12 and 18 of the Regional Program;

**60. Activity 1.3** Selection and provision of grants as adaptation pilot interventions;

**53. Activity 1.4** Contribution to the implementation of a MEL system by CAF as a key activity of component 2 to ensure adequate implementation of LLA actions and identification of learnings to improve implementation process; a **Component 1 of the ABC Regional Programme** through small grants aims to promote the implementation of LLA actions in up to 50 cities of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme. An equitable geographical distribution in the provision of grants will be promoted based on the 14 CAF's strategic ecosystems of Latin America and the Caribbean. The approach seeks the protection and restoration of CAF's strategic ecosystems in the region. All the grants should be aligned with the Adaptation Fund's policies and objectives.

**Outcome 1. BiodiverCities implement locally-led and ecosystem-based adaptation solutions and improve their adaptation local policy cycle.**

**Output 1.1. Pilot adaptation projects carried out and Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of monitorable LLA solutions aligned with Adaptation Fund policies.**

To achieve this result, a set of activities will be carried out to operationalize the grant mechanism.

Activity 1.1.1. Conduct webinars to support the process of preparing proposals.

**54.** To develop this activity, a Capacity Building Plan will be developed at the start of the project. This plan will identify the technical and thematic gaps faced by local governments and community

stakeholders in formulating locally led adaptation (LLA) proposals. Based on this assessment, a structured virtual support strategy will be implemented, consisting of thematic webinars and interactive sessions designed to guide cities in preparing robust proposals aligned with Adaptation Fund policies and the strategic ecosystems prioritized by CAF. This will be led by the Program Management Unit (PMU).

55. Structure and frequency: The webinars will be organized in three rounds, aligned with the public calls scheduled for months 6, 12, and 18 of the programme. Each round will include: i) An introductory session presenting the program's objectives, the three types of grants available (G1, G2, and G3), eligibility criteria, and the evaluation and selection process; ii) Two technical seminars focusing on key aspects for the quality of proposals, such as: designing ecosystem-based adaptation solutions, climate risk and vulnerability assessment, gender and social inclusion approaches, and designing Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems; and iii) Two regional peer-to-peer dialogue sessions, which will allow cities to exchange experiences, lessons learned, and good practices, especially among those that have participated in previous calls.
56. Facilitation and coordination: To implement these sessions, the Project PMU coordinates with the CAF technical team and the executing entity ICLEI, and relies on the participation of regional experts and key stakeholders from the BiodiverCities Network. Interpretation services (English-Spanish) will be provided to ensure the inclusion of Anglophone and Francophone Caribbean cities. Content will be developed in accessible and culturally relevant formats.
57. Evaluation and Continuous Improvement: Pre- and post-session surveys will be administered to assess learning, document common technical concerns, and generate feedback for future training rounds. This information will be systematized and shared with the program team to improve the design of future activities and calls for proposals.
58. Expected Results: A total of more than 300 participants are expected to be reached, from at least 50 cities, ensuring a minimum participation of 40% women and representatives of diverse groups. Furthermore, it is anticipated that at least 60% of the proposals submitted to the calls will come from stakeholders who participated in the seminars. 51. Knowledge sustainability: The generated content will be incorporated into the BiodiverCiudades Network repository, allowing for its reuse in future phases of the program and in other CAF initiatives aimed at strengthening locally led urban adaptation.

*Activity 1.1.2. Design and publication of calls for proposals on months 6, 12 and 18 of the Regional Program.*

59. As part of the grant mechanism implementation process, three public calls for proposals will be launched in months 6, 12, and 18 of the programme. These calls will be designed to ensure ecosystem diversity, gender equity, and alignment with Adaptation Fund (AF) criteria. To this end, a territorial and participatory approach will be applied to ensure the inclusion of different urban contexts and vulnerable populations.
60. Technical and operational design: The Program Management Unit (PMU) will lead the development of the Terms of Reference (TORs) for each call, defining the eligibility criteria, the intervention scales according to G1, G2, and G3 typologies, and the technical and administrative requirements. The TORs will establish the thematic priorities, expected approaches (such as urban EbA, resilient housing, green infrastructure, among others), and the specific conditions for the submission of proposals by applicant cities. 54. Publication and Dissemination Platform: Calls for proposals will be published on the BiodiverCities Program's digital platform, as well as on the official channels of CAF, ICLEI, and the Cities Network. An accessible dissemination kit will be designed, including explanatory documents, fact sheets, and audiovisual capsules in different languages to facilitate the participation of diverse stakeholders.
61. Technical Support: In parallel with the launch of each call for proposals, the PMU will coordinate technical assistance sessions (see Activity 1.1.1) and maintain open consultation channels

throughout the application period. This support will resolve doubts, facilitate understanding of the requirements, and improve the quality of proposals.

62. Quota Allocation: Each call for proposals will establish a preliminary distribution of grants; this distribution will seek balanced and representative geographic coverage of the program. The details of the quotas will be part of the specific design of each call for proposals and will include, at a minimum, indicative quotas by ecosystem and type of grant, technical eligibility criteria by scale, and guidelines to promote the participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and communities traditionally excluded from access to climate finance.
63. The Program Management Unit (PMU), in coordination with thematic specialists, will define these criteria, considering aspects such as climate vulnerability, local technical capacity, and potential demand.
64. Transparency: Each call for proposals will have a mechanism for systematically publishing results by round, detailing the criteria applied, to strengthen the transparency of the process and encourage feedback, allowing unsuccessful applicants to understand the reasons for their selection and improve their proposals in future rounds.

*Activity 1.1.3. Selection, provision and execution of grants as adaptation pilot interventions.*

65. To operationalize this activity, the Program Management Unit (PMU) will implement a three-phase process aimed at ensuring a transparent, technically, and representative allocation of G1, G2, and G3 grants, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund policies and the criteria established by the program (see Section II.C (general process, criteria and requirements, quotas and timeline) and Section III.A (roles for grant adjudication and implementation).
66. Each round will follow the following phases: i) Eligibility assessment: Review of technical and administrative requirements according to the call for proposals; ii) Technical evaluation: Application of a standardized matrix with criteria such as territorial relevance, consistency with the AF objectives, technical and financial viability, innovation, scalability, and sustainability; and iii) Validation: Evaluation Committee comprised of CAF, ICLEI, and independent experts, including a review of compliance with the AF's environmental, social, and gender policies (see Section II.C).
67. Grants will be classified into three types:  
G1 (USD 10,000–50,000 / 6–12 months): Studies, small-scale pilots, and preconceptions.  
G2 (USD 50,000–250,000 / 12–18 months): Medium-scale pilots aligned with local adaptation plans.  
G3 (USD 250,000–500,000 / 12–18 months): Larger-scale interventions, including nature-based solutions.
- ~~64-68.~~ Up to 20% of the budget may be allocated to soft activities (risk assessments, adaptive planning, technical design, gender, and MEL). The PMU will structure grant contracts with standard clauses, disbursement schedules, and templates for technical and financial reports. Remote monitoring mechanisms and technical field visits will be enabled, prioritizing cities with G3 interventions.
69. Implementation will be monitored with indicators linked to the program's Results Framework and reported semiannually. Good practices and lessons learned will be systematized and will inform continuous improvement processes.

~~62-70.~~

~~R~~

~~The first type of small grant (G1) seeks to finance pilots or small-scale interventions or studies that contribute to the implementation of adaptation solutions in a timeframe of 6-12 months and with a funding of up to USD 50,000.~~

~~The second type of small grant (G2) included in the first component pursues to finance medium size pilots or interventions that contribute to the implementation of LLA solutions. A timeframe of 12 to 18 months for implementation and funding of USD 50,000 to 250,000 is established.~~

~~The third type of grant (G3) included in the first component of the programme is oriented to finance large pilots or interventions that contribute to the implementation of LLA solutions. A timeframe of 12 to 18 months for implementation and funding of USD 250.000 to 500.000 is established.~~

~~The three types of grants (G1, G2 and G3) may also include up to 20% of the grant amount per project for soft activities such as climate risk and vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning and adaptation technical design, gender and diversity mainstreaming, MEL systems development, etc.~~

~~63-71. The amounts correspond to three possible project levels, with different implementation timelines (6 to 12 months in G1 and 12 to 18 in G2 and G3), as well as funding requirements. Up to USD 50,000 is expected to fund pilot and small-scale projects.~~

~~64. **Component 2: Technical support and capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs.** Component 2 aims to support cities in the BiodiverCities Network and Programme to build capacity to design, implement and monitor LLA solutions. This component on capacity development also involves three types of activities.~~

~~65. **Outcome 2.** Capacities of subnational governments strengthened to formulate, implement, and monitor adaptation actions and Local Adaptation Plans.~~

~~66. **Output 2.1.** LLA project proposals addressing local adaptation needs and priorities, developed and enhanced.~~

~~67. The first type of activity is ~~technical~~ technical support and capacity building for the development of project proposals and its implementation, such as the provision of technical support for implementing or monitoring, the organization of training activities for enhancing skills of the local teams, and community-based organizations, and the provision of technical support for strengthening institutional capacities. includes:~~

~~68. **Activity 2.1** Provision of technical support for improving the implementation and/or the monitoring of LLA projects supported as part of Component 1;~~

~~69. **Output 2.2** Virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing formulation, execution and monitoring skills in LLA projects, conducted, including gender and diversity approaches.~~

~~70. **Activity 2.2** Organise virtual and in-person trainings for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams including on Biodiversity Compliance and aligned with the AF standards; and~~

~~71. **Activity 2.3** Provision of technical support to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for grant implementation.~~

~~72. **Output 2.3.** Reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baseline, elaborated~~

~~73. The second type of activity involves strengthening technical and institutional capacities for the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions, by conducting surveys, knowledge and other assessments concerning one or more stages of the adaptation iterative cycle, as well as training processes to meet the needs of cities, including the local officials, and community-based organizations, and supporting the design of participatory governance, through the following activities:~~

~~74. **Activity 2.4** Conduct a survey targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity building needs, with the aim of refining capacity building efforts and enhancing collaboration with allies and partners for technical support;~~

~~75. **Activity 2.5** Conduct a knowledge assessment on the adaptation policy cycle, including MEL and elaborate reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baseline;~~

~~76. **Output 2.4.** Assessment processes associated with local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted.~~

~~77. **Activity 2.6** Support assessment processes associated with local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs actions;~~

~~78. **Output 2.5.** Studies to improve the adaptation policy cycle of prioritised cities developed and its results presented in virtual meetings to the Network~~

~~79. **Activity 2.7** Carry out studies and training processes tailored to the needs of prioritized cities to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions and local adaptation planning~~

processes;

~~80. **Output 2.6.** Participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA, designed and implemented, considering relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups and communities.~~

~~81. **Activity 2.8** Support the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA.~~

~~82-73. **Output 2.7.** Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs, supported.~~

~~83. Finally, the third type of activity is capacity building for developing locally adaptation plans (LAPs) with readiness activities, gender and diversity mainstreaming, vulnerability and climate risks baselines, social and environmental analysis, training programmes and tools such as guidelines for LAP formulation. by the following:~~

~~84-74. **Activity 2.10** Support the process of developing LAPs, including readiness activities;~~

~~**Output 2.8** Support for gender mainstreaming, vulnerability and climate risks assessments, as well as for addressing social and environmental dimensions, provided.~~

~~**Activity 2.11** Provide support associated with gender mainstreaming, development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines, and LAPs' social and environmental analysis.~~

~~**Output 2.9.** Virtual and in-person training for city government officials for LAPs formulation, participatory process, cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc., conducted.~~

~~**Activity 2.12** Organise virtual and in-person training for city government officials for LAPs formulation, participatory process, cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc.; and~~

~~**Output 2.10.** Guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities, elaborated.~~

~~85-75. **Activity 2.13** Elaborate guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities with **Component 3** on knowledge management and exchange is based on the BiodiverCities Network and Programme managed by CAF.~~

~~**Outcome 3.** Cities within the BiodiverCities Network and Programme strengthen their knowledge on LLA actions design, planification, implementation and monitoring.~~

~~**Outcome 4.** BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme consolidated.~~

~~**Outcome 5.** Operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation, strengthened at the local level~~

~~**Output 3.1.** BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database, designed and published.~~

~~86-76. This component involves ~~it includes~~ four types of activities, where the first one is on knowledge exchange and dissemination within the BiodiverCities Network, ~~seekings to develop an open knowledge database, including indigenous peoples and local knowledge, organize virtual activities to promote lessons learnt and good practices exchange, elaborate publications and conduct webinars.~~~~

~~87. **Activity 3.1** Develop and publish a BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database;~~

~~88. **Activity 3.2** Organise virtual workshops to identify open knowledge database structure and content, and to validate its structure;~~

~~89.~~

~~90. **Output 3.2.** Implementation of cooperation cycles between cities of the network to strengthen~~

capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level. This will include in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the AF Programme to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and good practices.

91. ~~Activity 3.3~~ Organise 4 in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the AF Programme to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and good practices;

92. ~~Activity 3.3.113~~ Implement 4 cooperation cycles between cities of the network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level, applying ICLEI's structured methodology.<sup>25</sup>

93.

94. ~~Output 3.3.~~ Publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others), elaborated and disseminated in webinars.

95. ~~Activity 3.4~~ Elaborate at least 3 publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others); and

96. ~~Activity 3.5~~ Conduct at least 3 webinars to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions.

97.

98. ~~Output 4.1.~~ BiodiverCities Network and Programme visibility and international relevance, improved. The second type of activity on articulation and regional representation promotes articulation with regional and local networks and the organization of events in climate and biodiversity-related meetings. involves the following:

99. ~~Activity 3.6~~ Promote articulations with regional and local networks related to BiodiverCities; and

100. ~~Activity 3.7~~ Organise events in regional and international climate and biodiversity related meetings to disseminate the programme's interventions (UNFCCC COPs, CBD, COPs).

101.

~~102.77. Output 4.2.~~ Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network developed.

The third type of activity on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning within the BiodiverCities Network aims to :

~~103.78. Activity 3.9~~ Develop a MEL system for the BiodiverCities Network, considering the contributions of the LLA interventions and initiatives in Components 1 and 2.

~~104.79.~~ The lessons learned from the MEL system will be reintroduced into the grant support process for component 1, as well as capacity building for component 2, with specific training activities and targeted support for BiodiverCities, understanding the ABC Regional Programme as a cycle of ambition in itself. ~~Output 4.3.~~ Next steps for the establishment of BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030, defined.

105.  Finally, the fourth type of activity seeks to facilitate the definition of next steps for the **BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030** (see current governance model in III.A) by. This includes the following activities:

106. ~~Activity 3.10~~ Identifying existing funding opportunities for BiodiverCities Network members, by and the opportunities presented by it to lower the capital cost of adaptation for local governments;

107. ~~Activity 3.11~~ Developing a finance framework proposal to facilitate access to climate finance for the members of the BiodiverCities Network (i.e. resilience bonds, concessional loans); and

~~108. Activity 3.12~~ Organise virtual workshops to generate inputs for the definition of the road map for the **BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030.**

~~109.~~

<sup>25</sup> <https://americadosul.iclei.org/documentos/guia-para-a-elaboracao-e-implementacao-de-um-ciclo-de-cooperacao-com-foco-em-sistemas-de-areas-verdes-protetidas-e-conservadas/>

~~110. Output 5.1. A proposal with a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA, developed.~~

~~111.~~

~~112.80. Activity 3.8 Dand assess existing indicators etween-evelop and consider new ones identify a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA; and~~

~~113.81.~~ The components and their activities aim to strengthen the BiodiverCities Network through the promotion of concrete, achievable LLA solutions, aligned with local and national adaptation policies, as well as with the targets of the UAE Framework, monitorable and that can be shared as replicable good practices in other cities of the Network and, thus, strengthen the collective and individual resilience of cities to climate change. The ABC Regional Programme also seeks to build and strengthen institutional and city officials' capacities to design, implement and monitor LLA actions in their intersection with biodiversity as a distinctive feature in Latin America and the Caribbean, as an unequalled biodiverse region.

~~114.82.~~ While the ABC Programme will benefit up to 50 cities through component 1 by building on the BiodiverCities Network and Programme, the main purpose of component 3 is built on the resilience of cities, which will have a multiplier effect at the regional level given that climate risks are compound and transboundary, building resilience and reducing vulnerability involves much more than isolated projects and actions. Component 3 will deepen a community of practice on LLA options, including an updated database, published good practices and opportunities to exchange experiences and concerns.

~~115.83.~~ Given the relevance of developing feasible monitoring, evaluation and learning systems in dialogue with international and national processes, such as NAPs, component 3 also involves building indicators at the local level that can feed into the UAE-Belem Work Programme on indicators with a first stop at COP30 in Belém where the adoption of a set of global adaptation indicators in line with the 11 targets is expected. This process will be nurtured over the 3 years of the programme by monitoring the progress of the LLA actions under component 1, the capacity building activities under component 2 and the programme's monitoring system to be developed under component 3 as part of the database.

**D.B. Describe how the programme would contribute to the application of the eight principles of locally-led adaptation (LLA) and describe how the programme would promote new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation, such as new approaches, technologies and mechanisms.<sup>26</sup>**

~~116.84.~~ The ABC Regional Program fully aligns with the vision and principles of Locally-Lead Adaptation across its three components, as it explained as follows.

~~117.85.~~ **Principle 1: Devolving decision-making to the lowest appropriate level: Giving local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, implemented; how progress is monitored; and how success is evaluated.**

Through providing small grants to local governments (component 1), the Program *devolves decision-making to the lowest appropriate level* by ~~giving providing~~ local authorities ~~with~~ the opportunity of direct access and determining the priorities for these grants. Additionally, decentralized decision-making helps integrate local planning into existing planning processes at other levels of government. In this regard, one of the criteria designed to select proposals is related to potential contributions to local and national development priorities, climate-related plans, strategies, NDCs and/or NAPs.

<sup>26</sup>Principles for locally led adaptation: [file:///C:/Users/WB508019/Downloads/Locally\\_Led\\_Adaptation\\_Principles\\_-\\_Endorsement\\_Version.pdf](file:///C:/Users/WB508019/Downloads/Locally_Led_Adaptation_Principles_-_Endorsement_Version.pdf). Additional resource: World Resources Institute. (2023). *Locally Led Adaptation: From Principles to Practice*. World Resources Institute: <https://www.wri.org/research/locally-led-adaptation-principles-practice>

Furthermore, local authorities will receive capacity building and technical support to strengthen their ability to implement initiatives and monitor progress effectively, as part of components 2 and 3. An innovative aspect of this regional program is its Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) contributions, which draw on local experiences and processes to inform both the BiodiverCities Network and the UAE Framework. These contributions will offer diverse perspectives on evaluating success across various scales and thematic areas.

**86. Principle 2: Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people living with disabilities, the displaced, Indigenous peoples, and marginalized ethnic groups: Integrating gender-based, economic, and political inequalities that are root causes of vulnerability into the core of adaptation action and encouraging vulnerable and marginalized individuals to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions.**

The Programme will actively promote the participation of women in proposal submissions by building capacities before submission. It will also include explicit criteria in the proposal evaluation process to assess differentiated benefits for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. The Program will require projects to submit sex- and age-disaggregated indicators aligned with the MEL system; ensure that proposals avoid negative gender impacts, in compliance with the ESP and the Fund's Gender Policy; and favor women-led grants in line with the LLA Principles.

Component 1 of the programme will seek to ensure, through criteria applied for selecting proposals, that local governments put forward pilots *addressing structural inequalities faced by the most vulnerable groups that have been traditionally marginalized, including indigenous peoples*. Moreover, CAF's environmental and social safeguards seek to guarantee the physical, environmental, social and gender equality sustainability of the operations financed by the institution, regardless of whether it is full CAF's financing or co-financing. AF's and CAF's safeguards also request project proponents to ensure the participation of the actors involved, paying special attention to the participation of women and diversities.

For the purpose of communities and/or grassroots groups participation -where digital access is needed and it is not-available- in order to ensure adequate both project preparation and project implementation, a request for the local governments will be made to ensure that they can provide for digital access spaces, such as community centers or other public facilities.

Commented [AP2]: CR30

Components 2 and 3 of this Regional Program would also include gender -and social equity- focused on capacity building and training to equip local technical teams and practitioners with sufficient knowledge to address equity considerations.

**118-87. Principle 3: Providing patient and predictable funding that can be accessed more easily: Supporting long-term development of local governance processes, capacity, and institutions through simpler access modalities and longer-term and more-predictable funding horizons to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions.**

CAF's programs and actions also demonstrate alignment with LLA *principle 3 of providing patient and predictable funding that can be accessed more easily*. The Regional Programs itself, across its three components, reflects the importance of establishing a solid knowledge base as a key first step for direct access to climate financing. This foundation ensures that local actors are prepared to make informed and strategic decisions aligned with climate change adaptation priorities, while also facilitating the creation of transparent and accountable processes.

Institutional support is also a key axis that will be fostered through component 2. It will support assessment processes associated with local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, with a view of providing enough technical support to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for LLA projects implementation and LAP formulation.

**119-88. Principle 4: Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy: Improving the capabilities of local institutions to ensure they can understand climate risks and uncertainties, generate solutions, and facilitate and manage adaptation initiatives over the long term without**

**being dependent on project-based donor funding.**

Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy has been recognized as a cornerstone of climate action. This has been captured in component 2 of the Regional Program “Technical support and capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs”, but also proven by the institution’s previous work in Latin America.

CAF has a learning management platform specifically designed for flexible programming and training of local governments. Among its initiatives, CAF promotes the “Cities and Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean” training, aimed at technical officials of local governments. This training aims to strengthen the skills and competencies of public officials in climate change, enabling them to incorporate this dimension into city planning, land management, urban services, and project and infrastructure design. All of this is intended to promote climate action at the local level, in line with national, regional, and international commitments.

**120-89. Principle 5: Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty: Informing adaptation decisions through a combination of local, traditional, Indigenous, generational, and scientific knowledge that can enable resilience under a range of future climate scenarios.**

Given that risk, impact and vulnerability assessments are a key component for the design, implementation and monitoring of adaptation policies, as recognised in the UAE Framework through a specific target, the programme proposes to support the efforts of cities in the region that seek to develop or update their risk assessments, as well as to link them in a virtuous way with other stages of the adaptation policy cycle. The programme also recognises the relevance of these assessments as part of the criteria developed for the provision of grants (component 1). At the same time, it is expected to build the capacity of cities individually and collectively with regard to risk, vulnerability and impact assessments in components 2 and 3.

**121-90. Principle 6: Flexible programming and learning: Enabling adaptive management to address the inherent uncertainty in adaptation, especially through robust monitoring and learning systems, flexible finance, and flexible programming.**

The regional programme is nurtured by a process of ‘learning by doing’ insofar as all components involve co-constructive processes with the cities that are expected to sustain the leadership of the action in their territories with the support of CAF and all actors included in the governance of the programme.

At the same time, given that a key activity is the elaboration of an MEL system by CAF (component 3) compatible with the UAE Framework, all components promote the implementation of solutions that can be monitored by the cities themselves, feeding into the MEL system of the BiodiverCities Network as a contribution to the global adaptation effort.

**122-91. Principle 7: Ensuring transparency and accountability: Making processes of financing, designing, and delivering programs more transparent and accountable downward to local stakeholders.**

Approval of small grants under component 1 requires the submission of detailed documentation outlining the design and activities of LLA solutions, which must then be reviewed and approved by the Independent Panel of Experts (IPE), the Programme Management Unit (PMU) and the Executive Committee (ExComm) of the Regional Programme (see Section III.A). This process fosters downward accountability by ensuring that decision-making remains locally driven. Additionally, the criteria for selecting LLA solutions emphasize the active involvement of local stakeholders in both the design and implementation phases.

Capacity-building activities under component 3 are structured to promote transparency in financing, designing, and executing grants, regardless of their scale. Local authorities are expected to report progress in achieving results to the Regional Program’s Executive Committee, ensuring consistent oversight and accountability throughout the implementation process.

**123-92. Principle 8: Collaborative action and investment: Collaboration across sectors, initiatives, and levels to ensure that different initiatives and different sources of funding (e.g., humanitarian assistance, development, disaster risk reduction, green recovery funds) support each other, and their activities avoid duplication, to enhance efficiencies and good practice.**

LLA solutions selected for funding should demonstrate their alignment with and contributions to local and national development goals and priorities, as outlined in various policy instruments beyond those specifically focused on climate change. Even though LLA interventions must be implemented at the local level, they require the support of multiple layers of planning, policymaking, and alignment across levels of government<sup>27</sup>.

Furthermore, the regional program aims to contribute to the mainstreaming of adaptation into other sectoral policies that may not explicitly prioritize climate adaptation. By fostering LLA solutions that promote collaboration and alignment with broader initiatives, the program encourages synergies and integrated approaches to development and adaptation.

To ensure sustainability beyond the program's conclusion, LLA solutions should also demonstrate complementarity with other funding sources and outline strategies for continued implementation and impact after the closure of the regional program.

**E.C. Describe how the programme will source locally-led small grant proposals, and screen them for the potential to support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience.**

**124-93.** Cities are on the frontline of climate change, they face climate compound risks and confront the greatest difficulties in accessing funding, in particular in the LAC region. According to IPCC AR6<sup>28</sup>, the Central and South American region is the second most urbanised in the world threatened by climatic events such as extreme heat, droughts, heavy storms, floods, landslides. However, the main determinants of urban vulnerability in the region are poor and unevenly distributed infrastructure. The governance and institutional challenges deepens vulnerability conditions and makes access to adaptation finance more difficult.

**125-94.** At the same time, cities face greater constraints than states in accessing funding. These include sovereign guarantees and other conditions, which in some cases are constitutional; limited capacity to develop and implement large-scale projects; and the vagaries of political relations with national governments, which leave municipalities with intermittent access that is at best brokered by the national government when it is obtained. These are the main reasons why this programme through the BiodiverCities Network showcases the unique value of cities in building resilience and reducing vulnerability through context-specific LLA actions, enabling communities to directly access funding through small grants.

**126-95.** As indicated in Section II.A, there will be three types of grants with different amounts of financing, implementation terms, requirements and criteria for their award. The higher the amount, the greater the requirements. Three calls for proposals will be made in months 6, 12 and 18 according to the timeline of the program, in which the member cities of the Network will be able to present their proposals for funding.

**127-96.** The grant allocation process consists of [different phases indicated in Figure 6.4 phases: \(1\) Submission of proposals, \(2\) Evaluation of proposals, \(3\) Proposal for mentorship and \(4\) Grant adjudication.](#)

<sup>27</sup> World Research Institute (2022). Locally Led Adaptation: From Principles to Practice:

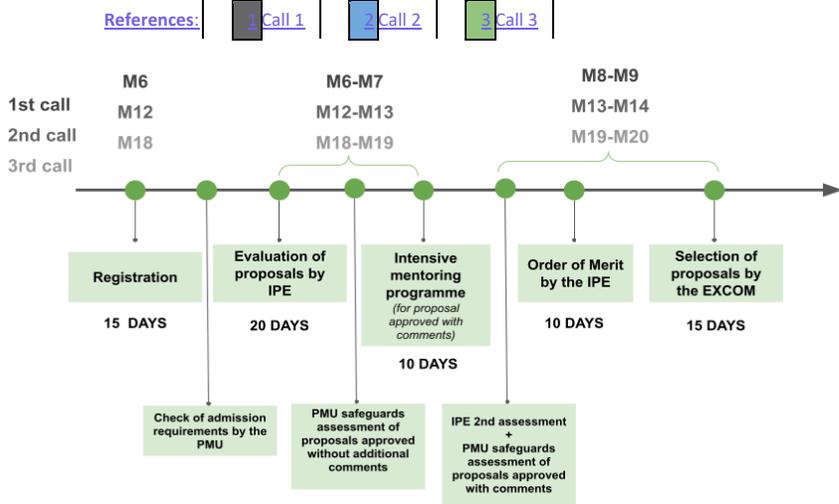
<https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/2022-07/locally-led-adaptation-from-principles-to-practice.pdf?VersionId=B9VdBK4g7LbBuglZlWCBj3dLUD7k1FW>

<sup>28</sup> IPCC, 2022: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, 3056 pp., doi:10.1017/9781009325844.



Figure 6. Call for proposals indicative timeline

Activities	Duration (Days)	Months																							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Registration	15					1	1					1	1						1	1					
Check of admission requirements by the PMU	7					1	1					1	1						1	1					
Evaluation of proposals by IPE	20					1	1					1	2						1	3					
PMU safeguards assessments of proposals approved without additional comments	10						1					1	2						1	3					
Intensive mentoring programme (for proposals approved with comments)	10						1					1	2						1	3					
IPE 2nd assessment	20						1	1				1	2	1					1	3	1				
PMU safeguards assessment of proposals approved with comments	10							1	1				1	2	1					1	3	1			
Order of Merit by IPE	10								1					1	2	1					1	3			
Selection of proposals by the EXCOM	15									1					1	2	1				1	3	1		



128.97. In the first phase the call's terms, timeline and documentation will be published by CAF in the BiodiverCities webpage, inviting cities to submit simplified online forms for registration of

concept proposals. Separate forms will be provided for each type of grant, with complexity increasing according to the grant size to facilitate evaluation against predefined criteria. The registration may include a 3 minute video describing the main vulnerabilities and adaptation actions on the ground to simplify the concept proposal submission. Interested cities will also have the opportunity to participate in webinars and online consultation workshops, designed to further improve their proposals before submission. Based on the level of participation in the first call, a second round will be considered to expand engagement and foster greater competition.

~~129-98.~~ The Programme Management Unit (PMU) will corroborate the proposals' compliance with the admission requirements. All fundable initiatives must meet the following minimum admission requirements, regardless the type of grant:

- The city submitting the proposal must be part of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme. Cities that are located in the Latin American and Caribbean region but are not part of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme may request to join the network prior to sending the form. Their membership shall be approved before proposal submission.
- The proposal must be aligned with the Adaptation Fund's [Environmental and Social Policy \(ESP\)](#), the [Gender Policy](#) and [the overall Fund' objectives](#).
- The proposal must be aligned with relevant local or national policy [and demonstrate compliance with local, national or subnational regulations, if applicable](#).
- [The proposal must not include resettlement solutions](#).
- The proposal must not be implemented in areas with unique natural values recognized at the community, national or international level, heritage recognized by 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- The city submitting the proposal is located in a country that has issued a Letter of Endorsement for this Regional Programme before the call closes.
- The proposal must be submitted by the local government's focal point to the BiodiverCities's network.
- ~~The proposal must demonstrate compliance with local, national or subnational regulations, if applicable.~~
- The proposal must demonstrate that the initiative is within the local government's competencies and jurisdiction.
- Cities can participate in all calls, but can submit only one proposal per call, and can be granted with a maximum of two proposals in the entire LLA programme. (Proposals that were presented in previous calls but were not funded can apply in a later call).
- Proposals must indicate a technical focal point within the local government for design, evaluation and implementation.
- [Selected adaptation pilot project proposals must commit to submitting progress reports that incorporate gender considerations, including sex- and age-disaggregated data.](#)

~~130-99.~~ Those that meet these requirements will be evaluated by the Independent Panel of Experts (IPE) of the programme (see Section III.A). In order to define IPE final membership, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) will identify experts specializing in program-related themes for selection by the Executive Committee (ExComm) and compensate these experts for their participation in the programme.

~~131-100.~~ The IPE will evaluate the proposals by implementing the multi-criteria analysis tool outlined in this section, and elaborate the Order of Merit following this process: proposals will be categorized as *approved without additional comments*, *approved with comments*, and *not approved*. Proposals with "approved without additional comments" will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment, those with a positive assessment will be part of the Order of Merit.

~~132-101.~~ Cities “approved with comments” proposals will be invited to participate in a two-week mentoring programme to strengthen their proposals, or withdraw their participation in the process. After the mentoring programme, the IPE and the PMU will evaluate these enhanced proposals and make a decision to finalise the Order of Merit (composed by both, proposals without additional comments previously approved and proposals with comments approved after the mentoring programme). The ExComm will select the awarded proposals, ensuring an equitable geographical distribution, trying to cover the maximum number of countries and strategic ecosystems, including giving priority to interventions in the Amazon in specific calls.

~~133-102.~~ In line with the above, a multi-criteria analysis tool was developed to evaluate the proposals that meet the minimum admission requirements. It is worth clarifying that during the implementation of the programme and prior to the first call for proposals, the ExCom will review the multi-criteria analysis tool with the aim of improving it. The score assigned to each criterion will depend on its degree of fulfillment. For doing so, the qualification ranges for each criterion are specified in Annex 1<sup>29</sup>. Likewise, based on the objectives of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme strategy, the weights of each criterion are specified in order to assess its importance.

~~134-103.~~ The prioritization criteria to be used are defined below (the grant to which each criteria applies is indicated in brackets):

- **C1. Conducts and describes risk assessments** (all grants): evaluates the extent to which the proposal was based on a risk analysis for the definition of the activities to be carried out and the quality of this analysis.
- **C2. Promotes clear and substantive stakeholder involvement and ownership** (all grants): evaluates the extent to which the proposal managed to integrate and will continue involving stakeholders at each stage of the project (diagnosis, planification, initial design, final design, implementation and monitoring). [The inclusion of a gender perspective and the meaningful participation of vulnerable and underrepresented groups should be ensured.](#)
- **C3. Provides clear and feasible objectives and components** (all grants): evaluates the extent to which the proposal articulates the relationship between the objectives, the components, the requested amount and the timeframe based on the proposed LLA action.
- **C4. Contributes to local or national development and/or climate policy** (all grants): evaluates the extent to which the proposal demonstrates the linkage between the proposed LLA action and the local and national development and climate priorities included in plans, strategies, [LTS, AdComs](#), NDCs and/or NAPs of the respective country where the city is located.
- **C5. Has in place governance structures and processes to implement the intervention** (all grants): evaluates the extent to which the proposal is framed in an existing governance structure and processes that contribute to implementation feasibility and sustainability.
- **C6. Proves the effectiveness of solution and strives for including innovative adaptation approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA)** (all grants): evaluates the extent to which the proposal provides a technical explanation of its effectiveness for the reduction of the identified main vulnerabilities and presents an innovative solution to address the identified climate risks, considering community, ecosystem or gender-based adaptation approaches.
- **C7. Demonstrates monitoring capabilities** (Grant 2 (G2) and Grant 3 (G3)): evaluates the extent to which the local government has monitoring capabilities to support and inform the PMU about the project’s progress and outcomes.
- **C8. Precise definition of the LLA action’s short to medium-term outcomes linked to long-term impacts** (G2 and G3): evaluates the extent to which the proposal demonstrates the link between the short and medium-term results of the LLA action and the long-term impacts.
- **C9. Describes vulnerability and climate-risk baselines** (G3): evaluates the extent to which the proposal describes vulnerability and climate-risk baselines related to the LLA action proposed.
- **C10. Demonstrates the sustainability of LLA actions** (G3): evaluates the extent to which the

<sup>29</sup> In some cases, the same criteria for different grants has different definitions of qualification ranges.

proposal demonstrates the sustainability of the LLA actions beyond the conclusion of the grant.

- **C11. Provides results of gender assessments ~~and details on how the needs of relevant vulnerable groups have been considered~~** (G3): evaluates the extent to which the proposal integrates the results of gender assessments ~~in the proposal design and provides details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered in the design of the proposal (including women, children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and low-income populations).~~
- **C12. Provides details on how the needs of relevant vulnerable groups have been considered (G3): provides details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered in the design of the proposal (including women, children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, indigenous peoples and low-income populations).**
- **C13. Identifies implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures** (G3): evaluates the extent to which the proposal details the implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures.

**D. Describe how the programme would source locally-led small grant proposals, and screen them for their potential to provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund.**

#### **Proposal selection mechanism and policy compliance**

~~135-104.~~ The design of the Adapting BiodiverCities Regional Program aims to support subprojects that will implement Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are yet to be selected or defined. Given this particularity, and in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (AF ESP), an Environmental and Social Monitoring System (ESMS) will be developed to ensure compliance with both the AF ESP's and CAF's social and environmental safeguards. More details of ESMS are presented in section III.C.

~~105.~~ The proposal already incorporates key AF ESP's principles and CAF's safeguards as part of the criteria—previously outlined—for selecting proposals to receive small grants under component 1. These criteria are tailored to the scale of the projects supported by the programme and will help to identify potential environmental and social risks associated with unidentified subprojects, thereby ensuring adherence to both AF's and CAF's standards.

~~106.~~ Criteria applied to Grant 1, Grant 2 and Grant 3 will request pilots or interventions to demonstrate clear and substantive stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the LLA action. Additionally, it will have to ensure compliance with local and national regulations.

~~136-107.~~ Furthermore, proposals under Grant 3 must demonstrate the existence of governance structures and processes that ensure participation, consultation, and access to public information. Given the larger scale of these interventions, which may have the potential to result in adverse environmental and social impacts, proposals are also required to identify potential risks and outline corresponding mitigation measures. This rigorous approach ensures that initiatives not only align with best practices but also minimize negative impacts while promoting inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

#### **Environmental benefits**

~~137.~~ Moreover, the program's overarching approach strongly advocates for LLA solutions that address the real, tangible needs and climate risks of communities. This focus aims to foster resilience at the local level by empowering communities and ensuring that adaptation efforts are contextually relevant and effective. This approach fully aligns with CAF's Urban Development

Strategy 2023-2026, previously presented in Section I.A.

~~138.~~ ~~Criteria applied to Grant 1, Grant 2 and Grant 3 will request pilots or interventions to demonstrate clear and substantive stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the LLA action. Additionally, it will have to ensure compliance with local and national regulations.~~

~~139-108.~~ Furthermore, proposals applying for Grants 2 and 3 will be evaluated on their incorporation of innovative ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) solutions, along with a technical justification of their effectiveness in addressing the identified vulnerabilities. Since the regional program prioritizes EbA and NbS within Locally Led Adaptation strategies, proposals must be coherent with the promotion of soil conservation, prevent land degradation, and avoid the conversion of productive lands or areas providing critical ecosystem services.

109. In line with the AF ESP principles, the ABC RP will also seek to ensure initiatives that protect natural habitats and promote biodiversity conservation. This approach aligns with CAF's safeguards, which emphasize the sustainable and efficient use of natural renewable resources, the conservation of biodiversity, and the implementation of measures and tools that uphold best practices in resource management and ecological stewardship.

### Social and economic benefits

110. Moreover, the program's overarching approach strongly advocates for LLA solutions that address the real, tangible needs and climate risks of communities. This focus aims to foster resilience at the local level by empowering communities and ensuring that adaptation efforts are contextually relevant and effective. This approach fully aligns with CAF's Urban Development Strategy 2023-2026, previously presented in Section I.A.

### Gender Benefits

~~140-111.~~ Additionally, large-scale pilots or interventions funded under Grant 3 will be required to present the results of gender assessments and provide details on how the needs of relevant vulnerable groups—including women, children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, indigenous peoples and low-income populations—have been addressed. This aligns with both CAF's and AF's safeguards, which mandate that supported initiatives promote gender equality and women's empowerment. These safeguards emphasize fostering positive differentiation for women who face vulnerability, risk, or significant inequality.

~~141-112.~~ Furthermore, proposals under Grant 3 must demonstrate the existence of governance structures and processes that ensure participation, consultation, and access to public information. Given the larger scale of these interventions, which may have the potential to result in adverse environmental and social impacts, proposals are also required to identify potential risks and outline corresponding mitigation measures. This rigorous approach ensures that initiatives not only align with best practices but also minimize negative impacts while promoting inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

~~142-113.~~ Additionally, the Regional Program will actively promote gender equality and women's empowerment by ensuring that women have equal opportunities than men to participate in consultative processes. Moreover, gender equality is an integral aspect of each phase of the adaptation policy cycle, as illustrated before for LLA large scale pilot/interventions under Grant 3-component 1, for instance.

~~143-114.~~ Moreover, there are capacity-building and technical support activities under components 2 specifically designed to support gender mainstreaming in LLA actions and in LAPs. This includes building the capacities of local technical teams to ensure equitable participation in the design and implementation of adaptation solutions.

~~144-115.~~ Simultaneously, MEL-related activities will integrate gender considerations by incorporating them into the design of monitoring mechanisms for LLA solutions and generating gender-disaggregated data throughout the Regional Program.

~~145-116. [Annex IV includes a gender assessment and a GAP. All these efforts reflect the program's strong commitment to fostering inclusive and equitable development, addressing the vulnerabilities of marginalized and disadvantaged groups, and upholding human rights principles.](#)~~

**F.E. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed programme and explain how the regional or multi-regional approach would support cost-effectiveness.**

~~146. In general terms, the program is framed within international commitments, such as those indicated in the following section, and existing initiatives such as the BiodiverCities Network and CAF's Urban Development Strategy, which are based on agreements between different actors at different scales to advance in this type of actions (it is based on previously established priorities). In particular, the program focuses especially on facilitating the implementation of local solutions for adaptation and on strengthening the capacities of local governments to implement this type of action. With regard to the former, in order to ensure that the actions are cost-effective, different prioritization criteria were determined for the initiatives to be financed. Criteria C1 and C11, associated with LLA interventions being based on climate risk analysis, considering gender-differentiated impacts and prioritizing the most socially vulnerable groups, ensure that the interventions address the main drivers of the climate risks addressed. Likewise, criteria C4 allows the prioritization of those interventions that are framed in pre-existing analyses and agreements given by climate and local and national development policies. Criteria C2 and C5 on participation and governance, respectively, encourage LLA interventions to address the problems and adopt the solutions established by the main actors involved, thus responding to real needs and facilitating ownership of the initiative. Criterion C6 seeks that the LLA interventions are innovative and amplify the benefits on ecosystems, communities and groups in situations of greater vulnerability, by adopting EbA, CbA and GbA approaches. Criteria C8 and C10 focus on the consideration of long-term impacts and sustainability, allowing the prevention of maladaptation and the implementation of solutions that are not effective over time. Finally, criteria C7 and C9 contribute both to capacity building and to the implementation of more effective direct adaptation actions, as they focus on the ease with which the intervention can be monitored, both in terms of its progress and its results and impacts. This facilitates learning and the identification of the most cost-effective solutions.~~

117. Locally led adaptation (LLA) interventions have proven to be highly cost-effective. According to the Global Commission on Adaptation (2019), investments in climate resilience generate benefit-cost ratios ranging from 2:1 to 10:1, and even higher in contexts relevant to this programme. This approach yields a "triple dividend": (1) reducing losses caused by extreme climate events; (2) unlocking economic potential through improved efficiency and risk reduction; and (3) generating social and environmental co-benefits, such as enhanced public health, gender equity, ecosystem restoration, and community cohesion. This rationale underpins the programme's focus on nature-based solutions, urban adaptation, and early warning and disaster risk reduction systems, aiming to maximise impact across multiple dimensions per dollar invested.<sup>30</sup>

118. The programme maximises the value for money by allocating over 75% of the budget directly to territorial actors (Component 1) through subnational windows and direct grant schemes. This design ensures that resources support locally prioritised measures, reducing design errors, strengthening community ownership, and lowering long-term operation and maintenance costs.

119. Instead of promoting fragmented or top-down responses, the programme leverages CAF's BiodiverCities Network as a unifying regional platform for coordinating local adaptation

<sup>30</sup> Global Commission on Adaptation (2019). *Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*. Rotterdam and Washington, DC. Available at: <https://gca.org/reports/adapt-now-a-global-call-for-leadership-on-climate-resilience>

- actions. This framework facilitates peer learning, knowledge transfer, and adoption of proven methodologies, thereby reducing the cost of technical assistance, design, and monitoring (Components 2 and 3). Cities do not need to develop tools from scratch, maximising returns per dollar invested.
- ~~147. Component 2, on the other hand, has an activity to survey the support needs of local governments, which will allow focusing the program's efforts on strengthening governments in the issues they identify as priorities, in total alignment with the program. Likewise, support will be provided to cities in the preparation and improvement of LAPs, which will allow for interventions that respond to a comprehensive approach to adaptation.~~
- ~~148. Component 3 contributes to the strengthening of the BiodiverCities Network, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned among local governments at a regional level, allowing the adoption of the most convenient solutions, methodologies and tools to advance in the effective adaptation of their cities.~~
120. Component 2 identifies subnational needs and builds capacities on priority issues defined locally. It also supports the development of Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs), aligning investments with integrated and strategic visions of adaptation, enhancing their effectiveness and relevance.
121. Component 3 promotes regional technical cooperation through the co-development and dissemination of knowledge products, planning templates, and MEL tools that are reusable across multiple cities. This strategy avoids isolated national efforts, enhances regional coherence, and significantly reduces the cost of design, implementation, and evaluation per intervention. For example, the MEL tools developed will be made available to all participating subnational governments, avoiding duplication of efforts.
122. The selection of interventions is guided by eleven prioritisation criteria (C1–C11), ensuring technical relevance, economic viability, and social and environmental sustainability. These criteria foster innovation, ecosystem-based approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA), gender equity, and meaningful participation, enhancing impact and alignment with local contexts while reducing the risk of maladaptation or ineffective outcomes.
123. The programme also reduces transaction costs by leveraging CAF's existing regional operational capacities and technical networks, enabling the efficient deployment of financial and technical support. The regional articulation ensures that lessons learned from pilot projects can be scaled and transferred to other urban contexts facing similar climate and biodiversity challenges, amplifying the return on investment.
124. Finally, the regional approach enables other BiodiverCities Network members, those not yet implementing frameworks or pilots, to access validated, context-adapted solutions ready for replication, without starting from scratch or creating new structures. Through the 50 planned pilots, representing around 28% of the Network's 198 members, the programme will generate knowledge products, MEL tools, planning frameworks, and practical methodologies that will remain available to other subnational governments.
125. This modular and collaborative architecture not only maximises return per dollar invested but also provides a concrete mechanism for institutional and technical sustainability beyond the initial funding. By leaving behind installed capacities, standardised tools, and validated solutions available across the Network, the programme enables cascade implementation, ensuring continuity, scaling, and deepening of results over the medium and long term.

**G.F. Describe how the programme is consistent with national, sub-national or local sustainable development strategies, adaptation planning processes, national or subnational development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programme of action, national adaptation plans (NAPs), nationally determined contributions (NDCs), adaptation communications, and other voluntary adaptation reports, where they exist, as well as with the UNFCCC technology framework, and other relevant instruments.**

**149-126.** The programme considers multilevel adaptation, as it is framed within the different international agreements associated with adaptation and will seek to align with national and local planning associated with the different cities participating in the program.

**150-127.** In the international framework, this program contributes to the 2030 Agenda regarding the fulfillment of SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities. In particular, this program contributes to targets 11.5 and 11.C, associated to the reduction of losses and damages due to disasters and to increase the number of cities that adopt and implement policies and plans that contribute to climate change adaptation and comprehensive disaster risk management, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the New Urban Agenda.

**151-128.** It also contributes to the fulfillment of the Paris Agreement, in terms of recognizing the different scales and dimensions of adaptation, considering the role of local governments to advance in the implementation of adaptation strategies in line with their greater understanding of local realities and needs. This enables a deeper understanding for addressing climate risks at the local scale, facilitating the achievement of commitments at the national level. For these reasons, cities play a key role in the implementation of national climate policies such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Adaptation Communications and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

**152-129.** The proposal is also aligned with the COP28 Coalition of High Ambition Multilevel partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action, whose endorse countries committed to enhance cooperation with their local, regional and subnational governments to collectively pursue efforts to achieve the Paris Agreement long-term goals.

**153-130.** The LLA interventions to be financed through the grants included in Component 1 are expected to be framed in local or national planning and respond to their development and climate priorities. In particular, the programme will encourage alignment with national climate policy (NAPs, NDCs). The multi-criteria analysis tool incorporates this dimension through criteria C4.

**154-131.** Likewise, components 2 and 3 will strengthen local capacities through technical support, training and exchange of good practices and lessons learned in order to have urban planning instruments that consider the impacts of climate change and the conservation of biodiversity, to facilitate the adequate implementation of urban policies in the territory, which are largely the responsibility of local authorities. The support to the development of Local Adaptation Plans (LAP) is key to ensure that the interventions to be financed by the program and future ones, take place within a comprehensive approach.

**155-132.** Likewise, the program will contribute to the fulfillment of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, since it will encourage biodiversity conservation through the promotion of interventions that consider ecosystem-based adaptation and will support governments and their teams to incorporate this approach in their policies.

**156-133.** Finally, CAF and ICLEI will collaborate with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in the implementation of the Making Cities Resilient (MCR 2030) initiative. This collaboration aims to strengthen resilience and enhance cooperation with regional and global partners, focusing on supporting local governments in Latin America and the Caribbean. This programme is fully aligned with MCR 2030, as it will support cities in the different stages identified by it: (1) knowledge of risks, through technical support and training for a better understanding of local adaptation; (2) planning, through technical support and financing of studies for more and

better diagnoses and adaptation plans; and (3) implementation of actions to increase resilience, achieved with the help of the grants.

**H.G. Describe how the programme would screen innovation small grant proposals for meeting the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund.**

~~157-134.~~ The ABC Regional Program will ensure alignment with relevant national and local legislation to meet relevant technical standards, in accordance with the principles of the AF ESP. As part of the Environmental and Social Monitoring System (ESMS) to be developed, the PMU will verify that each proposal complies with national technical standards, including environmental, social, and sector-specific regulations. This will be achieved through a rigorous screening process based on ESP principles and an assessment to confirm compliance with the minimum eligibility requirements.

~~158-135.~~ Additionally, the ESMS will serve as a critical tool for monitoring the compliance of funded LLA solutions throughout their lifecycle. It will help identify and mitigate risks proactively, while ensuring continuous adherence to national standards and alignment with the AF ESP. This approach fosters accountability and reinforces the program's commitment to high environmental and social performance.

~~159-136.~~ The role that capacity building and technical support plays in ensuring alignment with technical standards is key, given that component 1 will provide targeted technical support to local actors during the proposal development phase. This will include training sessions and guidance on identifying applicable standards, particularly *ISO 14090 Adaptation to climate change – Principles, requirements and guidelines*, and preparing the necessary documentation. The aim is to empower local governments with the knowledge and tools required to comply with national and international requirements.

~~160-137.~~ To promote long-term compliance with technical standards, the program will organise webinars, virtual trainings and provide resources on best practices for compliance and risk management. These initiatives will strengthen the institutional capacities of local actors, enabling them to meet national standards independently in the future.

~~161-138.~~ Capacity building is recognised of utmost importance in the “Value Proposal: Strengthening Subnational Governments 2022-2026”, given the weakness of management tools to address new forms of territorial structuring and to collaborate effectively with private and collective actions. This also reflects the lack of standardized methodologies for territorial management, as well as in the absence of monitoring, evaluation, and control systems, and the availability of quality information. This deficiency or weakness has led to evident conceptual and methodological anarchy, as there is, in many cases and at various scales (national, provincial, municipal), significant ambiguity in the concepts being used.

~~162-139.~~ As recognised in CAF's Value Proposal, capacities and innovative instruments for development must be generated, and several normative and technical tools must be strengthened. Within each country, there is a significant diversity of tools and methodologies used in various ways and for different purposes, as well as disparate regulatory frameworks that often contradict or overlap, leading to significant conflicts. Therefore, shared learning about available resources is needed, along with greater capacity for innovation in the creation of new methodologies, instruments, and techniques for territorial development management.

~~163-140.~~ This dual approach of rigorous screening and proactive capacity building will ensure that all funded LLA solutions are both compliant with national standards and effectively contribute to sustainable and inclusive adaptation efforts.

**I.H. Describe if there is duplication of the programme with other funding sources, if any.**

~~164-141.~~ The ABC Regional Programme with its components and activities aims to complement the efforts undertaken by both other stakeholders, especially those related to strengthening institutional capacities, governance processes, capacity building and knowledge sharing.

~~165-142.~~ As described in section I.A, within the BiodiverCities Network and Programme CAF's initiatives have facilitated regional and international dialogues and meetings to raise awareness and consolidate efforts aimed at the restoration, preservation, and sustainable use of urban biodiversity. The ABC Regional Program will seek to scale up these efforts to reach more cities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

~~166-143.~~ Furthermore, the 2022-2026 CAF Value Proposal for Subnational Governments will serve as a comprehensive framework for the implementation of the ABC Regional Program. This proposal aims to support institutional strengthening, promote and enhance territorial governance, provide technical and financial resources for the implementation of territorial policies, and foster the generation of knowledge based on territorial development.

~~167-144.~~ Within the synergies and experience of working with cities, there is significant precedent of the global campaign Making Cities Resilient 2030<sup>31</sup>, in which both CAF and ICLEI are active participants. In the context of CAF's collaboration, a series of tools have been jointly developed for disaster risk reduction and increased resilience<sup>32</sup>.

~~168-145.~~ C40<sup>33</sup> has extensive experience in supporting Latin American and Caribbean cities in addressing climate change challenges. For example, it provides research, analysis and implementation guides that can be also used for LLA pilots and LAPs formulation, as well as spread through learning and knowledge activities under the second and third component of the ABC Regional Program. Moreover, C40 presents three streams that also matches with the proposal of this regional program: the *High-Impact Accelerators* -a framework to help cities implement science-based solutions-; the *1.5°C Climate Action Plans* -supports cities to create and implement climate action plans- and the *Climate Budgeting Programme* - that connects cities to develop, implement, and enhance climate budgeting processes, integrating them into city governance to meet climate goals-. The ABC regional program will complement previous efforts from cities that had participated in any of these initiatives.

~~169-146.~~ Another example is the C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF)<sup>34</sup>, which collaborates with cities to design and implement transformative urban infrastructure projects that improve residents' quality of life while delivering large-scale, measurable climate impacts. The CFFs' initiative complements others by focusing on providing technical assistance and expertise rather than direct financing, helping partner cities access funding through robust project preparation. These proposals often include well-developed business cases, financial structuring, and assessments of financing options, enabling a more streamlined and efficient pathway to implementation. As such, the ABC Regional Program can capitalize on proposals previously supported by the CFF by providing any of the three types of grants under component 1 for its implementation.

~~170-147.~~ ICLEI<sup>35</sup> is another organization with vast experience in integrating biodiversity conservation into urban planning and development, and will play a key role in the ABC Regional Programme (for more details about ICLEI's role consult section III.A). Some key highlights of ICLEI's

<sup>31</sup> See <https://mcr2030.undrr.org/news/caf-and-undrr-collaborate-new-tools-comprehensive-climate-and-disaster-risk-management>

<sup>32</sup> In this regard, the ABC Regional Programme can make use and spread the applicability of the "Climate Resilience Addendum of the Scorecard". This is a self-assessment tool for city resilience capabilities, that could be used by cities to design the proposals to be implemented under the first component. Furthermore, this publication can be facilitated, explained and applied during workshops and webinars under the second and third components. It is the same case for other sources produces in the context of MCR 2030 campaign, such as "Adaptation and DRR", and two additional case studies - Panama and Ecuador- were captured into two publications "Integrated Analysis Tool for Disaster Risk and Climate Change"

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.c40.org/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://c40cff.org/apply>

<sup>35</sup> <https://americadosul.iclei.org/es/>

experience include capacity building to local governments, policy advocacy; project implementation and knowledge sharing and networking. This regional programme will synergize and articulate with ICLEI's existing capacities and activities to execute the first component of this proposal.

~~174-148.~~ The United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is another network that aims to amplify local governments' voices through collaboration, dialogue, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing. The UCLG facilitates knowledge exchange among cities, showcasing innovative practices and policies for nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, and urban resilience. The organization emphasizes the importance of multilevel governance, cross-sector collaboration, and community engagement in addressing biodiversity challenges. The ABC Regional Program will foster collaboration with UCLG LATAM in articulating priorities across the components of this proposal.

~~172-149.~~ Mercociudades<sup>36</sup> represents another well-known network of cities in the Southern Cone of Latin America, with a history of fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among municipalities to address sustainable development challenges. The network functions throughout thematic units, groups and commissions, several of them related to urban and social development, gender, environment and sustainable development, among others. The Network promotes<sup>37</sup> capacity-building programs, technical assistance, advocacy and facilitates regional dialogues and partnerships, aligning local efforts with global frameworks such as the SDGs and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

~~173-150.~~ In 2024, CAF and the Mercociudades network signed an agreement<sup>38</sup> to promote sustainable urban development, adaptation to climate change and resilience in Latin American cities. The alliance will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and access to financing for transformative projects, benefiting more than 120 million inhabitants in the region. Building on the previous agreement, the regional programme would seek to collaborate and articulate when possible, especially regarding activities under component 3.

**J.I. Describe the learning and knowledge management components designed to capture and disseminate lessons learned, particularly in a regional and locally led context.**

~~174-151.~~ The ABC Regional Program integrates learning activities across all three of its components, creating a comprehensive framework to foster local, regional, and cross-border knowledge sharing and capacity building.

~~152.~~ The component 1 not only provides small grants for LLA proposals but also facilitates technical support to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for implementing LLA projects and formulating Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs). These processes inherently trigger learning within local teams. Additionally, this component facilitates funding for studies aimed at addressing knowledge and evidence gaps in local communities. The insights gained can then inform the development or implementation of LAPs while also contributing to mainstreaming adaptation into other policy instruments. This approach ensures that knowledge is translated into actionable improvements in local adaptation strategies.

~~175-153.~~ The Programme will ensure the institutionalization of LLA lessons learned by creating dissemination spaces within participating cities, including seminars and/or workshops. In cases where the preparation of LAPs is supported by the project, it is expected that project learnings

<sup>36</sup> <https://mercociudades.org/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://mercociudades.org/descarga/plan-de-trabajo-2025-presidencia-de-mercociudades/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.caf.com/es/actualidad/noticias/caf-y-mercociudades-estrecan-lazos-para-impulsar-el-desarrollo-sostenible-en-gobiernos-locales-de-la-region/#:~:text=CAF%20y%20Mercociudades%20estrecan%20lazos.resiliencia%20en%20las%20ciudades%20latinoamerica nas.>

are formally integrated into local adaptation planning instruments. In addition, G1, G2, and G3 projects must produce at least one Evidence Brief, presenting the findings and policy recommendations (public policy action) for decision-making and will be disseminated through the Programme's knowledge base and be formally presented for the record to city officials (executive and/or legislative) and city technical staff.

~~176-154.~~ The primary goal of component 2 is to build capacities for designing, implementing and monitoring LLA solutions through three types of activities, as described in section II.A. For instance, one activity involves conducting studies to improve the adaptation policy cycle and sharing findings through virtual meetings with the BiodiverCities Network. This approach not only strengthens local capacities but also fosters regional and locally lead collective learning, enabling cities to exchange practical insights and innovations.

~~177-155.~~ Component 3 builds upon the existing BiodiverCities Network and Programme, a CAF-managed knowledge-sharing platform accessible to any interested city. This platform ensures sustainability over time and supports the dissemination of adaptation knowledge and practices. Key activities under this component include:

- **Developing an open knowledge database:** This repository will consolidate lessons learned and best practices, making them accessible to a broad audience;
- **Workshops and regional meetings:** Both virtual workshops and in-person regional meetings will facilitate the exchange of experiences and strategies among cities;
- **Publications:** Comprehensive reports and case studies will document and disseminate best practices and lessons learned; and
- **Cross-border knowledge exchange:** The program seeks to foster a culture of learning across borders by promoting collaborations with regional and local networks. Events at international climate and biodiversity forums (e.g., UNFCCC COPs, CBD COPs) will further disseminate the program's interventions and outcomes.

~~178-156.~~ Moreover, component 3 presents additional MEL-related activities, such as developing and operationalizing a set of indicators of the BiodiverCities Network to track progress and promote data-driven decision-making, that complement the activities of component 2 aimed at enhancing the climate monitoring and response capacities of LAC cities. This can strengthen the information available regarding the progress of cities in their adaptation cycle, and the effectiveness of addressing their climate risks.

~~179-157.~~ The program's MEL-focused activities will not only benefit local communities but also contribute to national-level systems. Improved capacities and local experiences in MEL will provide robust data on adaptation impacts and outcomes, strengthening national MEL systems and enhancing countries' ability to track and report on adaptation progress.

~~180-158.~~ These activities will contribute to global efforts by identifying local experience-based indicators that can support the tracking of progress toward the targets and sub-targets of the UAE Framework.

~~181-159.~~ Overall, the ABC Regional Program is designed to create a dynamic ecosystem of learning, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination. By leveraging local experiences, fostering regional collaborations, and contributing to national, regional and global adaptation efforts.

**~~K.J.~~ Describe the consultative process that would take place, and how it will involve all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations the consultative process, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.**

~~182-160.~~ The grant procurement processes will be carried out in a transparent manner and in full knowledge of all members of the BiodiverCities Network, seeking to reach as many local

governments from the region as possible, including actors of relevant agencies, platforms, networks and academia.

~~183-161.~~ As indicated in Section II.C, the calls for proposals will be published by CAF on the BiodiverCities Network website, so that all member local governments can access and even those that are not yet members can apply, with the condition of joining the Network. The publication will not only include the presentation formats but also tutorials explaining how to apply and the requirements and criteria that will be used for their evaluation. In addition, the PMU will notify in advance to the Network's city representatives about the call deadlines and will attach useful information for the presentation of proposals.

~~184-162.~~ The evaluation of the proposals will be carried out by the Program's Independent Panel of Experts (IPE), comprising a multidisciplinary team of specialized professionals and with a commitment to ensuring gender balance. The IPE will provide an Order of Merit for the proposals to the PMU, which will then evaluate the selection against the 15 ESP principles as part of the ESMS. This process ensures compliance with the ESP and enables the identification and mitigation of any environmental and social risks. The PMU will submit the Order of Merit along with the ESP assessment to the Executive Committee, formed by CAF, ICLEI and the *Council of Authorities* of the BiodiverCities Network. The ExCom will make the final selection of awarded proposals, ensuring an equitable geographical distribution of LLA interventions. The extensive experience and capacity of ICLEI and CAF to coordinate and implement actions at the sub-national level are crucial to the successful execution of this process.

~~185-163.~~ To ensure that the proposals to be financed represent the needs of local stakeholders, prioritization criteria associated with participation and governance were incorporated. Priority will be given to those that involve stakeholders in all stages of the project and also, but to a lesser extent, to those that have governance structures and processes that facilitate transparent and participatory decision-making.

~~186-164.~~ Moreover, at least 25% of the projects approved under each type of grant will be allocated to projects led by women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized communities. This seeks to empower these groups to coordinate the implementation of the adaptation pilot projects.

~~187-165.~~ Both the BiodiverCities Network, through its participation in the Executive Committee, and each of the member cities of the network will be consulted about the capacity building actions so that they respond to the needs of the territory.

**~~L.K.~~ Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.  
Baseline Scenario: Climate Adaptation Financing Gap.**

~~188-166.~~ Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions most exposed to climate risks, facing extreme events such as cyclones, floods, droughts, and rising sea levels, which affect health, livelihoods, and ecosystems. Rapid urbanization, especially in intermediate and small cities, increases vulnerability by limiting adaptation capacity. To address these challenges, financing for nature-based solutions and green infrastructure is essential to strengthen urban resilience and protect both communities and ecosystems, contributing to the region's sustainable development.

~~189-167.~~ Climate change adaptation requires context-specific solutions for each community, yet its financing faces structural barriers such as limited access to international funds, lack of accreditation at local levels, and inequalities that marginalize vulnerable groups, including women and Indigenous communities. Despite these challenges, strengthening direct access to financing for locally led adaptation (LLA) is key to enhancing climate resilience and ensuring that communities can implement their own solutions.

**Barriers to Private Financing for Adaptation**

~~190-168.~~ Access to climate adaptation financing in intermediate and small cities across Latin America and the Caribbean faces multiple challenges. Despite their key role in regional development, these cities have limited fiscal and technical capacities, making them reliant on external funds or central government interventions, which restricts their autonomy and ability to implement adaptation projects.

~~191-169.~~ The lack of international visibility and the absence of local climate finance mechanisms further hinder resource mobilization. Additionally, local organizations, social enterprises, and community actors face significant barriers to accessing financing, as they often lack accreditation or financial track records required to participate in international funds. This highlights the need for an innovative approach to channel resources directly to local levels, strengthening their capacities and ensuring effective and sustainable adaptive solutions.

#### **Justification for the Requested Funding**

~~192-170.~~ In response to the Adaptation Fund's identified need to strengthen locally led adaptation (LLA) and channel financing to non-accredited entities, the Adapting BiodiverCities program aligns with these priorities by enhancing local capacities and promoting solutions tailored to specific contexts. Through the implementation of innovative actions, the program contributes to generating and documenting evidence on the impact of these interventions, facilitating their replication and scalability across different territories.

~~193-171.~~ The Adaptation Fund's global aggregation mechanism has been specifically designed to address barriers to accessing financing at subnational levels, enabling communities and local actors to define, prioritize, and implement their own adaptation strategies. This model shifts decision-making to the local level and improves access to financial resources, fostering inclusive and sustainable solutions. Additionally, adopting LLA principles ensures that interventions respond to the specific needs of each community while strengthening their institutional capacities to manage long-term initiatives.

~~194-172.~~ Given the context of vulnerability and existing financing gaps, the requested investment will help close the adaptation gap, ensuring that the most exposed communities have the necessary resources to implement resilient and sustainable solutions.

#### **Baseline Scenario**

~~195-173.~~ Without the implementation of the Adapting BiodiverCities programme, intermediate and small cities in Latin America and the Caribbean will continue to face significant barriers to climate change adaptation. The lack of direct access to financing, limited technical capacities, and the absence of effective local planning will prevent the implementation of nature-based adaptation solutions.

~~196-174.~~ As a result, the impacts of extreme climate events, such as floods, heatwaves, and coastal erosion, will intensify, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable communities. The absence of knowledge-sharing mechanisms and capacity-building efforts will also limit the replication of best practices, slowing the region's response to climate challenges.

#### **Scenario with Adaptation Fund Support**

~~197-175.~~ With the implementation of the Adapting BiodiverCities programme, cities will be better equipped to design and execute locally led adaptation strategies. Through competitive grants, technical training, and the consolidation of the BiodiverCities Network, local governments will be able to implement innovative solutions aligned with ecosystem-based adaptation, community participation, and gender equity.

~~198-176.~~ This will reduce cities' vulnerability to extreme climate events, improve urban planning, and facilitate access to climate finance at the local level. Additionally, documenting and

disseminating experiences will enhance the scalability and replicability of initiatives, promoting a sustainable and resilient approach across the region.

~~199-177.~~ Through a structured financing mechanism based on intervention packages, beneficiary cities will receive individual support while also being part of an interconnected network that amplifies the impact of investments through shared learning and the replication of solutions.

~~200-178.~~ This model maximizes the efficiency and scalability of adaptation efforts, generating synergies among cities facing similar challenges and promoting the coordinated implementation of nature-based solutions. The BiodiverCities Network will facilitate the integration of knowledge, experiences, and financing strategies, strengthening urban resilience sustainably.

#### **Additionality: Added Value of the Requested Funding**

~~201-179.~~ CAF's extensive presence and regional experience represent a key added value for the program, facilitating its scalability and consolidation. With offices in 20 countries and initiatives across its 26 member states, CAF brings expertise in climate adaptation and urban development, supported by initiatives such as the training program "Cities and Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean," the Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Index (2014), and the RED 2023 Report, which analyzes regional solutions to the climate and biodiversity crisis.

~~202-180.~~ CAF's role is particularly relevant in Component 3, which focuses on knowledge management and exchange within the BiodiverCities Network, where its in-kind support will be essential to ensuring the network's effective operation and sustainability.

~~203-181.~~ While co-financing is not a requirement, the program is designed with the flexibility to explore partnerships with strategic actors, such as the private sector, donors, and relevant networks. These contributions, though optional, will enhance the program's impact, improve its sustainability, and strengthen its alignment with the goal of fostering resilience in vulnerable communities.

#### **~~M-L.~~ L. Describe how the programme draws on multiple perspectives on innovation from e.g., communities that are vulnerable to climate change, research organizations, or other partners in the innovation space, in the context in which the project/programme would take place.**

~~204-182.~~ The ABC Regional Program embraces a comprehensive and innovative approach to designing and implementing inclusive climate adaptation solutions. Under Component 1, the program supports small grant proposals that foster innovation by encouraging cities to apply not only new physical tools but also innovative processes, skills, and approaches to address local climate risks and impacts effectively.

~~205-183.~~ By incorporating ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), community-based adaptation (CbA), gender-based adaptation (GbA) approaches, the programme provides valuable frameworks for understanding and tackling local climate challenges. Cities are encouraged to adopt these approaches to design inclusive solutions that address the real needs of diverse stakeholders, including unconventional actors such youth, women, disabled people, researchers, civil society, and the private sector.

~~206-184.~~ The programme seeks to scale up proven local EbA solutions while testing and developing new, cost-effective EbA and CbA measures in BiodiverCities. This approach bridges the unique biodiversity of the LAC region with the escalating climate challenges faced by urban areas. By doing so, the program catalyzes local processes that encourage cities to delve deeply into their environmental and social challenges, framing them within the broader context of climate change adaptation and fostering collaborative, solution-driven efforts among local governments.

~~207-185.~~ The ABC regional programme promotes innovation by changing the way in which local planning and community impact initiatives are conceptualized and executed. It achieves this in

several ways.

~~208-186.~~ The program facilitates a dynamic learning platform tailored to address the specific capacity-building and institutional development needs of cities. This iterative learning environment enables cities to reframe problems and develop feasible, LLA solutions that integrate traditional knowledge with cutting-edge scientific research.

~~209-187.~~ This knowledge ecosystem generated will be used to further strengthen a community of practice on LLA options, and it will be manifested in an updated database. The development of such a database will be made through consultation of stakeholders involved in the BiodiverCities Network with a view of making it fit for purpose and user friendly.

~~210-188.~~ The program fosters partnerships with research organizations, universities, adaptation experts, and regional institutions to co-create scalable, evidence-based solutions. These collaborations promote spillover effects at both city and regional levels, highlighting the interconnected and transboundary nature of climate risks and the importance of coordinated, rather than isolated, efforts.

~~211-189.~~ Furthermore, partnerships with international climate and biodiversity organizations ensure that the program also makes contributions to the adaptation' global efforts. In this regard, one of the program's innovative features lies in its provision of evidence-based indicators to advance the implementation of UAE Framework For Global Climate Resilience. These indicators support various targets, including the adaptation policy cycle and ecosystem-related goals and others, offering a localized perspective to inform global adaptation efforts.

**~~N.M.~~ Describe how the sustainability of the programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the programme.**

~~212-190.~~ The sustainability of the ABC Regional Program outcomes has been central in its design in a way it ensures that benefits extend beyond the program's duration.

~~213-191.~~ Under component 2, the program prioritizes building the capacities of local governments to develop, implement, and monitor LLA solutions. It places a strong emphasis on the formulation and integration of Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs) into broader municipal and national planning policy instruments. These processes are bolstered through targeted technical assistance, as well as virtual and in-person training sessions for city government officials. This approach ensures alignment with local and national adaptation strategies, fostering coherence across planning instruments.

~~214-192.~~ Additionally, the program extends its reach through activities within the BiodiverCities Network, engaging cities that may not directly participate in components 1 or 2. This effort equips a broader range of local governments to autonomously manage adaptation actions and access additional resources in the future. For example, the development of a finance framework proposal is a key activity aimed at facilitating access to climate finance for members of the BiodiverCities Network. Additionally, the programme leverages the BiodiverCities Network as a long-term institutional platform to support continuity and replication beyond the project lifespan. By engaging cities not directly involved in pilot activities, the programme ensures wider ownership and readiness for future investments. The development of a dedicated finance framework proposal (under Output 3.6.2) will guide these cities in accessing long-term climate finance—via CAF's own green instruments or international funds—ensuring financial sustainability and scale-up opportunities across the region

~~215-193.~~ The program underscores the importance of building technical capacities among local teams while empowering communities and diverse stakeholders. These participatory processes ensure that communities actively contribute to identifying, designing, and implementing adaptation initiatives, embedding ownership and sustainability into the outcomes.

~~194.~~ To enhance sustainability in the long run the program encourages the identification of opportunities of collaboration and the establishment of partnerships with different stakeholders

~~with a view of diversifying funding sources. Proposals under component 1 are specifically evaluated for their potential to sustain initiatives beyond the program's funding period, requiring clear strategies for continued impact. To ensure long-term sustainability, the programme incorporates a financial and institutional strategy that goes beyond the Adaptation Fund grant period. As part of Activity 3.6.2, a financial framework proposal will be developed to facilitate access to climate finance for members of the BiodiverCities Network, including already identified instruments such as resilience bonds and concessional loans.~~

~~195. AF may consider the integration of validated pilot projects—those demonstrating high impact and technical feasibility—into its institutional pipeline, under its Cities with a Future initiative and Urban Development Strategy 2023–2026. The identification of these initiatives will be supported by the monitoring and evaluation system (MEL, Activity 3.5.1), which will help prioritise interventions with the highest potential for replicability and sustainability.~~

~~196. To ensure local governments can effectively leverage the finance framework beyond the programme, dedicated support will be provided. This includes financial advisory services, access to user-friendly guidance on multilateral and bilateral funding, and matchmaking with donors during regional and global events (Activities 3.6.2, 3.1.1 and 3.4.2). These tools and services will be integrated into the post-programme sustainability strategy and made available through the BiodiverCities governance and MEL platform.~~

~~197. This strategy will be strengthened through the development of a financing roadmap (2027–2030, Activity 3.6.3), in collaboration with national and regional partners, aimed at facilitating access to multi-annual investments aligned with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). In this context, CAF, as an accredited entity to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), will be able to channel international resources towards interventions prioritised through the MEL system.~~

~~216-198. Furthermore, the programme leverages institutional platforms that ensure its continuity beyond the project's duration. The BiodiverCities Network, hosted by CAF, will remain active as a regional platform for peer learning, knowledge exchange, and access to finance. Likewise, ICLEI, as a long-standing strategic partner in Latin America and co-creator of the BiodiverCities approach, contributes global methodologies, technical assistance, and planning tools that reinforce local ownership and institutional scaling. Together, these mechanisms will ensure that successful results are not only sustained, but also replicated and scaled across the region.~~

~~**Q.N.** Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the programme.~~

~~217-199. All LLA proposals submitted for funding consideration under Component 1 will be screened and evaluated in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's environmental, social, and gender policies, as mentioned in Section II. D, G and III.C. of this document.~~

~~200. Additionally, the Executive Committee of the regional program will establish a grievance and complaints mechanism to address petitions, grievances, or claims that may arise at any stage of the Program cycle in an appropriate and effective manner. To this end, information on how to submit a petition will be made available for stakeholders consultation. Periodically, the outcomes of the cases addressed will be disseminated, and this information will also serve as feedback to improve Program practices.~~

~~218. For more information regarding environmental and social risks identification and categorization, see Annex 5.~~

~~219-201.~~

~~Table 4. Check list environmental and social impacts and risks~~

*Table 4. Check list environmental and social impacts and risks*

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
<i>Compliance with the Law</i>	<p><a href="#">The programme will be implemented in alignment with the Adaptation Fund and CAF rules and regulations. Alignment with national and subnational laws and regulations of pilot adaptation projects will be ensured through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94).</a></p> <p><a href="#">Local project activities must comply with applicable national and international environmental, social, and human rights legislation.</a></p>	See paragraph 161.
<i>Access and Equity</i>		<p><a href="#">There is a risk that either women, minorities or representatives of other vulnerable groups have no access to pilot adaptation projects benefits because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).See paragraph 161.</a></p>
<i>Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups</i>		<p><a href="#">There is a risk that representatives of marginalized and most vulnerable groups have no access to pilot adaptation projects benefits because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).See paragraph 161.</a></p>
<i>Human Rights</i>	<p><a href="#">The goal of the programme focuses on urban adaptation for socio-economic development and people's quality of life improvement. CAF's environmental and social safeguards seek to guarantee the physical, environmental, social and gender equality sustainability of the operations financed by the institution. Approved proposals of pilot adaptation projects compliance with AF ESP and CAF's environmental and social safeguards will be assessed prior to grant approval.</a></p>	See paragraph 161.
<i>Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment</i>		<p><a href="#">There is a risk that either women have unequal opportunities to participate in pilot adaptation projects because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).</a></p>

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
		The program is aimed primarily at local governments where teams may not be gender diverse (Components 2 and 3). See paragraph 161.
<i>Core Labour Rights</i>	The programme will be executed by CAF's standards, which apply all core labour standards as identified by the International Labour Organization (ILO).	See paragraph 161.
<i>Indigenous Peoples</i>		There is a risk that indigenous peoples have unequal opportunities to participate in pilot adaptation projects because of in-existent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1). See paragraph 161.
<i>Involuntary Resettlement</i>	The programme will not fund any projects looking at resettlement solutions (see minimum admission requirements in Section II.C, par. 91).	See paragraph 161.
<i>Protection of Natural Habitats</i>	No further assessment required for compliance. No risk is foreseen involving unjustified conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected; (b) officially proposed for protection; (c) recognized by authoritative sources for their high conservation value, including as critical habitat; or (d) recognized as protected by traditional or indigenous local communities as the programme aims to enhance biodiversity-friendly urban adaptation and will be aligned with the AF and CAF's safeguards. Protection of natural habitats will be screened through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94). Environmental impact assessments of pilot adaptation projects will be conducted if needed to ensure that such risk is avoided.	See paragraph 161.
<i>Conservation of Biological Diversity</i>	No risk is foreseen involving significant or unjustified reduction or loss of biological diversity or the introduction of known invasive species as the programme aims to enhance biodiversity-friendly urban adaptation and will be aligned with the AF and CAF's safeguards. Conservation of Biological Diversity will be screened through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par.	See paragraph 161.

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
	<p><a href="#">92 to 94</a>.  <a href="#">Environmental impact assessments of pilot adaptation projects will be conducted if needed to ensure that such risk is avoided.</a></p>	
<i>Climate Change</i>		<p><a href="#">Pilot adaptation projects under Component 1 could be affected by climate change related hazards, which could affect their timely implementation. See paragraph 161.</a></p>
<i>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	<p><a href="#">The programme will be implemented in alignment with the Adaptation Fund and CAF rules and regulations.</a>  <a href="#">Pollution prevention and resource efficiency will be screened through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94).</a>  <a href="#">Environmental impact assessments of pilot adaptation projects will be conducted if needed to ensure that such risk is avoided.</a></p>	<p><a href="#">See paragraph 161.</a></p>
<i>Public Health</i>	<p><a href="#">No risk to public health is foreseen due to the nature of the pilot adaptation projects. Nevertheless, public health will be screened through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94).</a>  <a href="#">Environmental impact assessments of pilot adaptation projects will be conducted if needed to ensure that such risk is avoided.</a></p>	<p><a href="#">See paragraph 161.</a></p>
<i>Physical and Cultural Heritage</i>	<p><a href="#">There is no finding that the project could cause any alteration, damage, or removal of physical or cultural resources, cultural sites, and sites with unique natural values recognized as such at the community, national or international level. Projects will not interfere with existing access and use of such physical and cultural resources in a permanent way.</a>  <a href="#">The programme will not fund any projects to be implemented in areas with unique natural values recognized at the community, national or international level, heritage recognized by 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (see minimum admission requirements in Section II.C, par. 91).</a>  <a href="#">Nevertheless, physical and cultural heritage will be screened through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will</a></p>	<p><a href="#">See paragraph 161.</a></p>

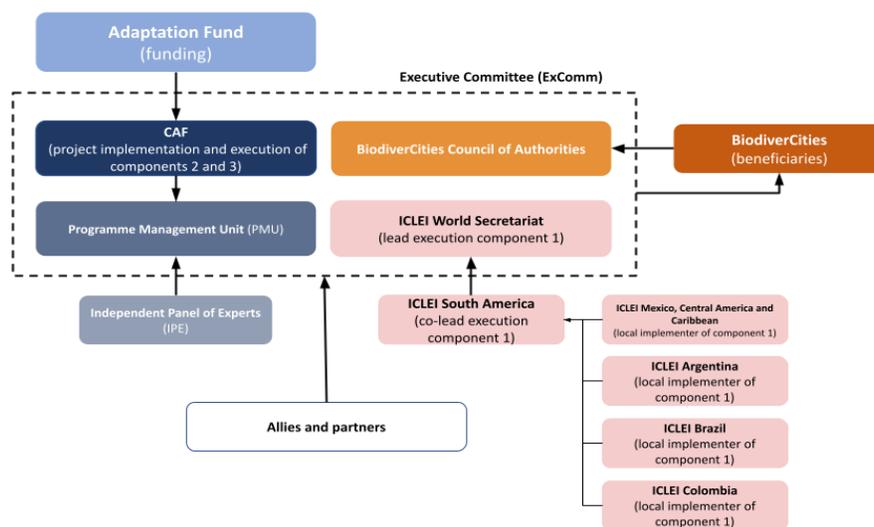
Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
	<a href="#">undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94).</a>	
<i>Lands and Soil Conservation</i>	<p><a href="#">No further assessment required for compliance. The programme will be implemented in alignment with the Adaptation Fund and CAF rules and regulations.</a></p> <p>Lands and soil conservation will be screened through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94).</p> <p><a href="#">Environmental impact assessments of pilot adaptation projects will be conducted if needed to ensure that such risk is avoided.</a></p>	<a href="#">See paragraph 161.</a>

## PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

- A. Describe the arrangements for project / programme management at the regional and multi-regional level, including coordination arrangements within countries and among them. Describe how the potential to partner with national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs), has been considered, and included in the management arrangements.

220-202. The governance model of the BiodiverCities Network and the proposed governance model for the ABC Regional Programme have different intersections. The roles of the different actors that are part of the program's governance structure are detailed below (see Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Governance Model Programme**



221-203. **Latin-American Development Bank (CAF).** As the implementation partner in this grant, CAF will be responsible for overall coordination, oversight of the implementation of activities, and evaluation of the Programme activities, which will be done in coordination with the Executive Committee (ExComm) and the Programme Management Unit (PMU). Additionally, CAF will be responsible for i) the implementation of the activities under this grant, ii) fiduciary and financial management of the funds provided by the AF, iii) execution of Components 2 and 3 which include the procurement of any goods and services under them, following CAF's Manual on Good and Services Procurement, as reviewed by the AF during CAF's Accreditation process, iv) monitoring

and reporting implementation progress; and v) publishing the calls' different phases and results in the Biodivercities webpage.

~~222-204.~~ CAF will ensure the transparent use of grant resources, assuring that they are in accordance with the budget previously presented to the AF and that the contracting, purchases, and disbursements, generally, be carried out under its manuals, procedures, and regulatory guidelines. It will also submit Project Performance Reports (PPRs) to the AF under the terms of the Framework Agreement.

~~223-205.~~ CAF will be responsible for conflict resolution and for ensuring the application of the AF environmental and social safeguards.

~~224-206.~~ In close coordination with CAF's AF Focal Point, CAF Executives from the Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Regional Management and the Urban Development, Water and Creative Economies Regional Management will be responsible for project oversight and supervision and ensuring consistency with AF and CAF policies and procedures.

~~225-207.~~ The functions of this Executive will include, but will not be limited to the following:

- I. Co-Chairing ExComm meetings.
- II. Undertaking the technical review of project deliverables.
- III. Preparing requests for disbursements and any other requests related to project implementation.
- IV. Clearing and delivering the PPRs to the AF.

~~226-208.~~ **ICLEI World Secretariat (WS).** As Component 1 lead executor, the ICLEI World Secretariat will manage the overall coordination and management of Component 1 execution. It will ensure the integration of Component 1 objectives and provide central guidance, resource management, robust procurement processes, support the PMU to implement the Programme's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system, and high-level oversight across all ICLEI offices involved. ICLEI World Secretariat's main role is the administrative and financial management and controlling. This involves the procurement of any goods and services for grant implementation (including studies, infrastructure works, etc.), reporting to CAF with regard to its execution and the design of webinars and/or other activities to support cities seeking to apply for grants. This will be done in coordination with the ExComm and the PMU. ICLEI will not transfer funds to the local governments. It will also supervise Component 1 execution, support ICLEI South America, responsible for the technical execution, and co-chair the ExComm.

~~227-209.~~ **ICLEI South America (SAMS).** As Component 1 co-lead executor, ICLEI South America is responsible for coordinating the methodological and technical execution of Component 1. This role encompasses standardizing the execution, providing technical support, and supervising strategies and tools that facilitate local implementer stacks. ICLEI South America will work closely with ICLEI World Secretariat to guarantee a coherent execution in all Latin America.

~~228-210.~~ **ICLEI Mexico, Central America and Caribbean (MECS).** As one of Component 1 local implementers, ICLEI Mexico, Central America and Caribbean is responsible for the local execution of Component 1 across Mexico and Central American and Caribbean countries, following the methodological and technical frameworks established by ICLEI South America and the administrative guidance of ICLEI World Secretariat. This role includes adapting to the local contexts of these countries and applying the appointed strategies to support the execution of the projects.

~~229-211.~~ **ICLEI Argentina.** As one of Component 1 local implementers, ICLEI Argentina is responsible for the local execution of Component 1 in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, following the methodological and technical frameworks established by ICLEI South America and the administrative guidance of ICLEI World Secretariat. This role includes adapting to the local contexts of these countries and applying the appointed strategies to support the execution of the projects.

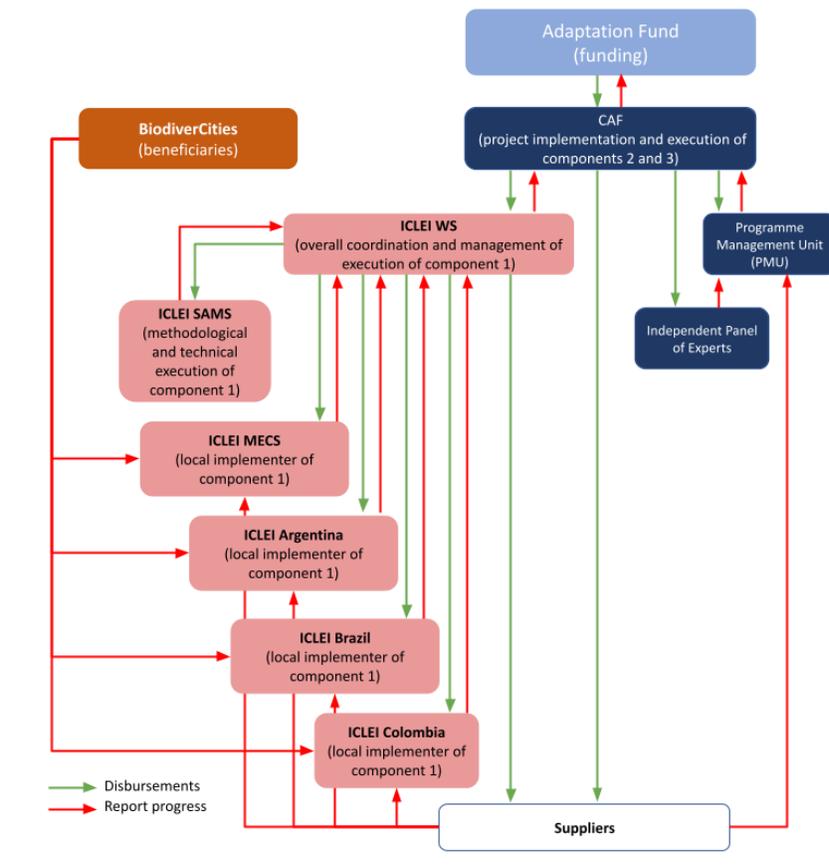
~~230-212.~~ **ICLEI Brazil.** As one of Component 1 local implementers, ICLEI Argentina is responsible for the local execution of Component 1 in Brazil, following the methodological and technical

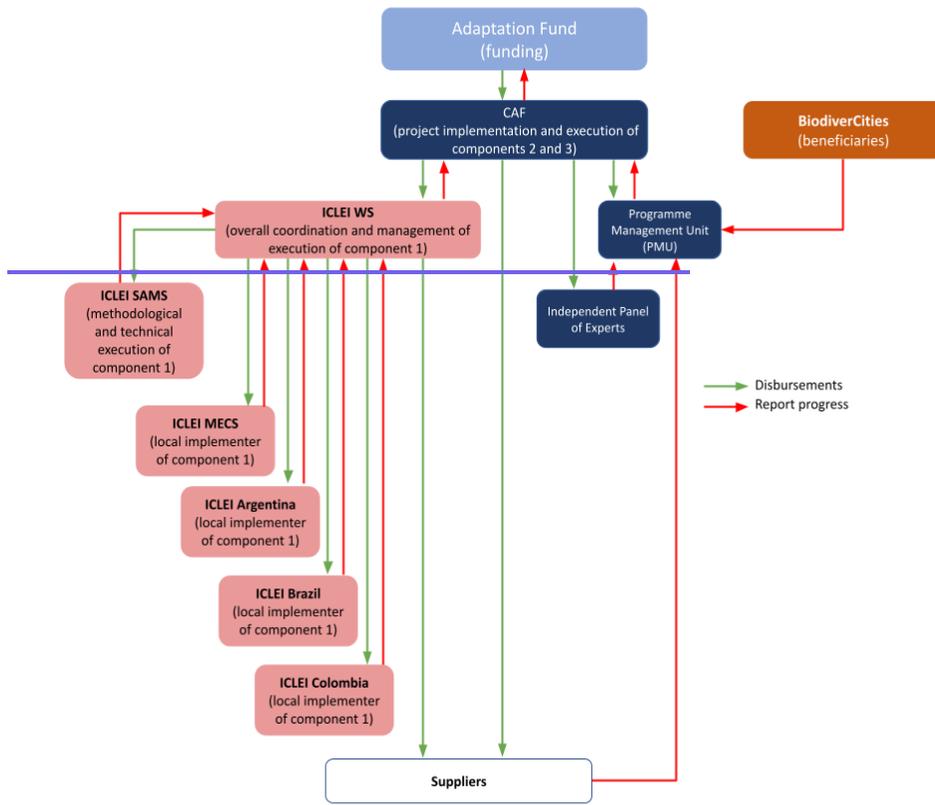
frameworks established by ICLEI South America and the administrative guidance of ICLEI World Secretariat. This role includes adapting to the local contexts of these countries and applying the appointed strategies to support the execution of the projects.

**231-213. ICLEI Colombia.** As one of Component 1 local implementers, ICLEI Argentina is responsible for the local execution of Component 1 in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Venezuela, following the methodological and technical frameworks established by ICLEI South America and the administrative guidance of ICLEI World Secretariat. This role includes adapting to the local contexts of these countries and applying the appointed strategies to support the execution of the projects.

**232-214.** ICLEI WS will be contracted by CAF to execute activities 2.2 (partly) and 3.13 (completely), with specific arrangements different from the ones of Component 1 execution. ICLEI SAMS will be responsible for the technical execution of these activities.

**Figure 8. Programme disbursements and reporting process**





**233-215. Council of Authorities of BiodiverCities.** It will participate in all the activities assigned to the ExComm along with CAF as lead and ICLEI, and it will be the main link of the programme to the BiodiverCities Network and its governance. As indicated in Section I.A, the board is composed of 8 BiodiverCities mayors or maximum authorities; 8 technical referents, one for each local government participating in the Council; 3 regional referents with recognised experience; and 1 CAF representative from the Executive Secretariat or the General Coordination. The BiodiverCities mayors or maximum authorities of the Council may define one person to represent them in the ExComm.

**234-216. Executive Committee (ExComm).** It will be established to avoid duplication of efforts, increase the effectiveness of the programme, maintain complementarity with other activities, and ensure coherence with the BiodiverCities Network priorities. The ExComm will be co-chaired by representatives of CAF, ICLEI World Secretariat and the *Council of Authorities* of the BiodiverCities Network, and the PMU Coordinator will act as secretariat, ensuring the correct operation of the ExComm. It will be responsible for defining rules and additional criteria for grants acquisition, and decide on the final proposals to be awarded; monitoring the general implementation of the program, defining IPE conformation, and adjusting budget and activities of the programme.

~~235-~~ **Independent Panel of Experts (IPE).** Recognised adaptation experts in the region and other external specialists will be selected to participate and a fee will be paid for their services. IPE could include representatives of Von Humboldt's Institute, UN-Habitat, and experts from local universities, and/or other relevant institutions, acting on a personal basis. In any case, they cannot be related to specific funding proposals, nor be part of CAF or ICLEI or public servants of Biodivercities municipalities.

~~217.~~ The IPE will evaluate the grant proposals by applying the multi-criteria analysis tool included in Annex 1 and elaborate the Order of Merit. It will also categorize the proposals as follows: approved without additional comments, approved with comments, and not approved.

~~236-218.~~ CAF has identified that some eligible countries participating in the programme have National Implementing Entities (NIEs) accredited by the Adaptation Fund, which may serve as strategic partners during implementation. In cases where local governments lack the necessary capacity to directly receive and manage programme funds and if requested by local governments, the option of NIEs acting as executing entities will be considered. Additionally, NIEs may provide support in: (i) the technical formulation of local proposals, (ii) capacity-building activities, and (iii) the monitoring of lessons learned to inform national strategies.

~~237-219.~~ **Programme Manager Unit (PMU).** The PMU is responsible for carrying out operational and administrative tasks. It will be formed by two co-coordinators (2); one for component 1 related to ICLEI and another for component 2 and 3 related to CAF; an administrative staff (1), a specialist in urban planning and adaptation with knowledge on environmental and social safeguard (1) and a specialist in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) (1). The PMU will act as a key liaison, facilitating communication and coordination between the ExComm and the IPE. It will also coordinate the programme's budgetary components (including organising 4 regional meetings) and identify the possible specialists that will make up the IPE.

~~238-220.~~ Regarding the grant implementation process, PMU will notify local governments through each process phases, corroborate the proposals' compliance with the minimum admission requirements, screen proposals against the 15 ESP principles as part of the ESMS, elaborate the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the grant implementation with ICLEI South America, oversee grant execution ~~alongside the local government and with ICLEI's offices supervision~~, and ensure compliance with the deadlines and quality specifications of the contracts.

~~239-221.~~ **Allies and partners.** All components will also benefit from cooperation with various allies and partners that are already working in urban, climate and biodiversity initiatives. They will provide technical advice on LAPs development and the implementation of LLA actions, as appropriate, publications and open database development, and support specific activities such as webinars, specific studies, research activities, surveys, that contribute to the capacity building process.

~~240-222.~~ A potential list of allies is included as reference:

- o Networks : Mercociudades, UCLG, C40, Red de Ciudades Resilientes (MCR2030)
- o Technical and scientific institutions: ,Instituto SARAS, Uruguay, Humboldt Institute, Colombia CIEFAP - Centro de Investigación y Extensión Forestal Andino Patagónico, Argentina Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), IISD - International Institute for Sustainable Development, The Nature Conservancy
- o Agencies: ONU Habitat, NAP Global Network, UNDRR, United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

~~241-223.~~ **Local governments.** They are the beneficiaries of the three components who are members of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme. Both the PMU, the ExComm and its individual members acting as component implementers (ICLEI of component 1 and CAF of components 2 and 3) will liaise with cities through focal points nominated by each city for communications, receiving and providing information associated with the programme and its implementation.

~~242-224.~~

G

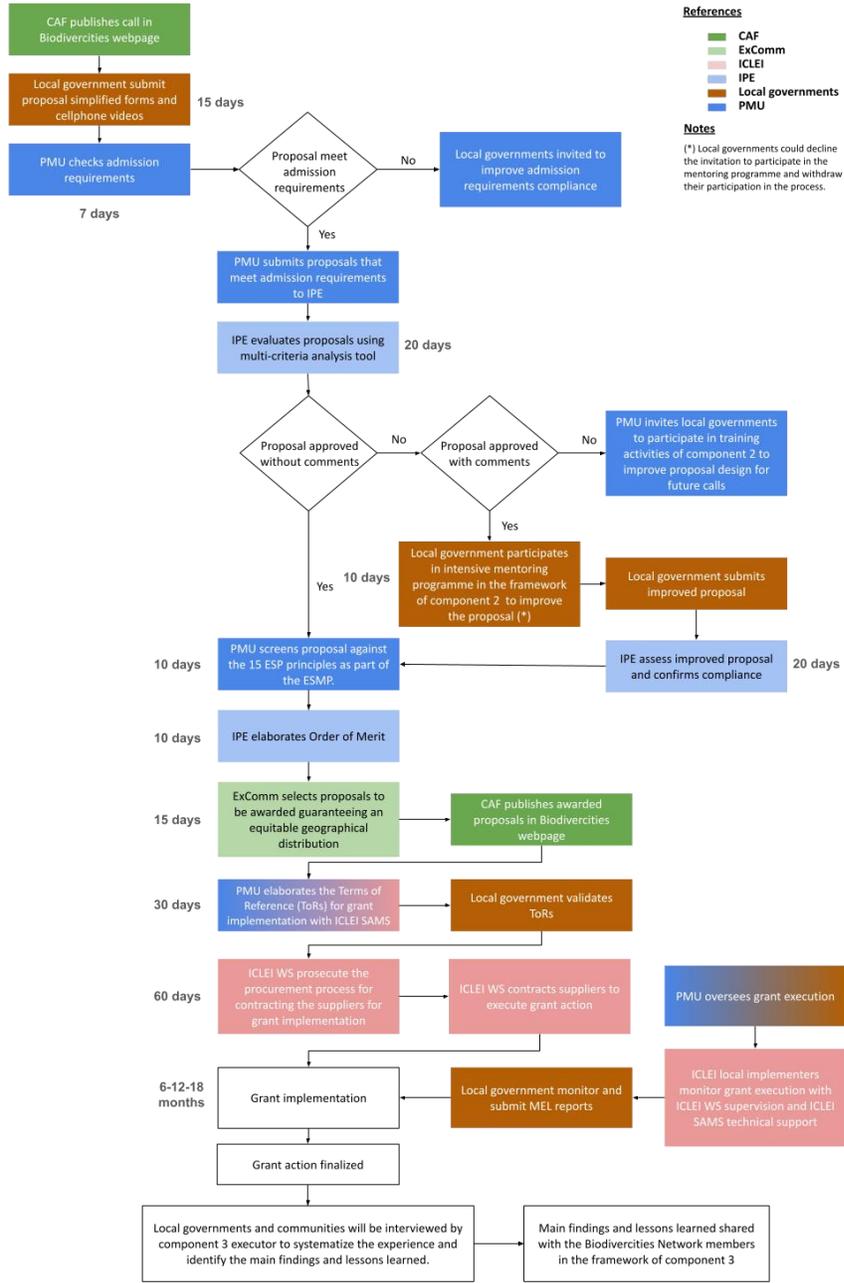
grant awarded local governments will validate the terms of reference for the procurement of goods and services for its implementation by ICLEI. They will also [elaborate monitoring reports on pilot adaptation project implementation, as stated in Section III.D](#) and be interviewed by a Component 3 executor to systematize the experience and identify the main findings and lessons learned. These will be shared with the Biodivercities Network members.

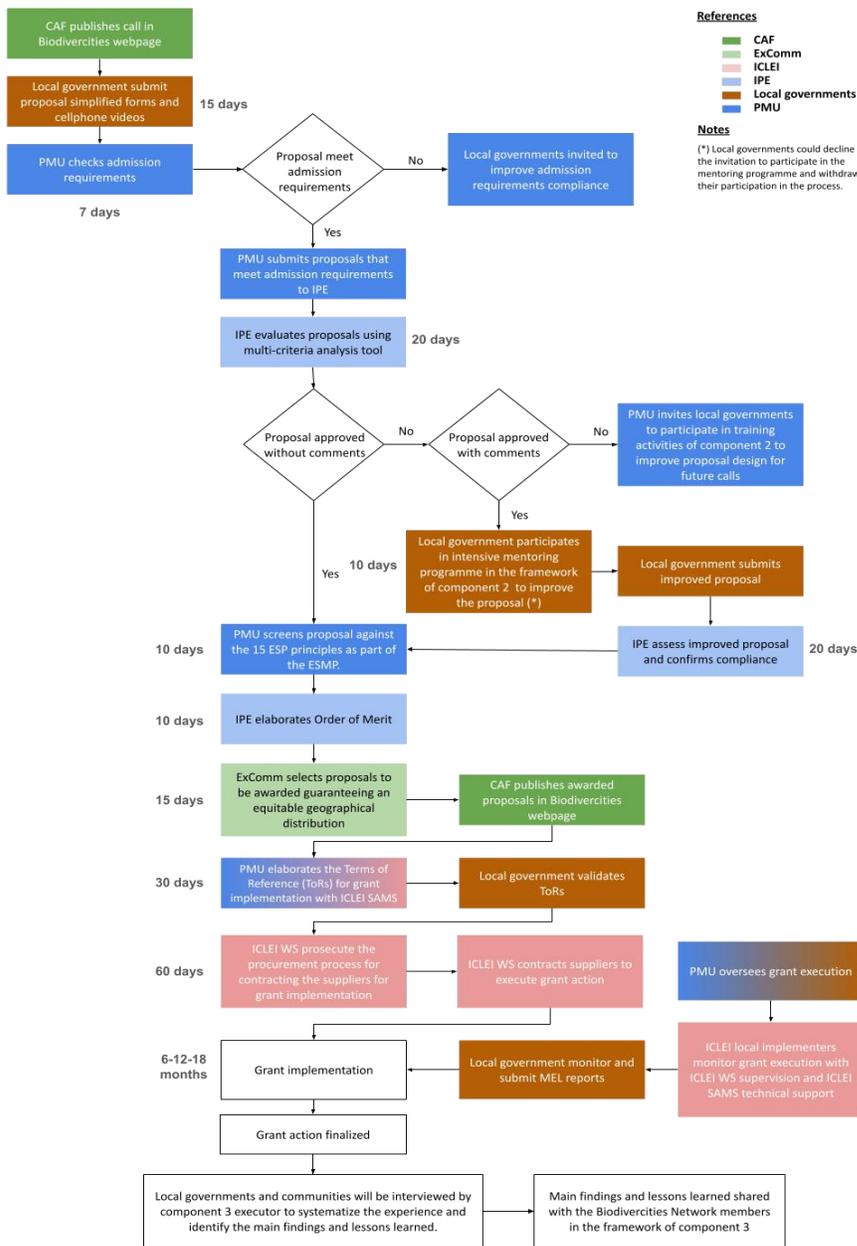
~~243-225.~~

F

or a better understanding of the grant implementation process, (SEE Figure 9) details the roles for the acquisition, implementation and monitoring of LLA interventions.

Figure 9. Grant implementation process roles





**B. Describe the measures for financial and programme risk management.**

244-226. The ABC Regional Program incorporates a comprehensive approach to financial and program risk management, ensuring effective implementation and sustainability.

Table 5. Financial and programme risk management strategy

Table 5. Financial and programme risk management strategy

Potential Risk	Type	Risk Level	Risk Management Strategy
LLA pilots and interventions don't make progress on the time allocated for its disbursement and implementation.	Programmatic Financial	Low	-Proposals will include risk mitigation plans as part of the application process, which will be assessed by the <a href="#">IPE ICE</a> and monitored by the PMU and <a href="#">ICLEI</a> . -Proposals are required to clearly define and align their objectives and components, ensuring they are supported by a well-structured budget and realistic timeframe to facilitate effective and efficient execution. -Interested cities applying to small grants under component 1 will be supported through training in risk identification, assessment, and mitigation. This will be useful to identify early LLA pilot potential risks but also for the entire ABC regional programme implementation.
The ABC Regional Programme fails to meet planning, implementation and knowledge' cities gaps and needs for innovative climate resilience responses.	Programmatic	Low	-Regular progress reports by the ExComm will be elaborated and made public. This will include a risk management section, ensuring ongoing dialogue among beneficiaries. Their contributions will be used to improve the regional programme implementation performance. -MEL activities proposed under component 3 will serve as a safe and experimental space in which cities can learn about project risk management as well as reflect and provide feedback about the implementation of the regional programme. It can be used as an opportunity to check with cities on the programme expectations and to consequently adjust its activities.
The ABC Regional Program lacks a cohesive governance to ensure articulation across its three components.	Programmatic	Medium	-The governance framework includes an ExComm made up of stakeholders that are key for a proper functioning of each component: CAF, ICLEI, Council of Authorities, PMU.

Potential Risk	Type	Risk Level	Risk Management Strategy
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The governance framework includes PMU to oversee decision-making and risk management processes.</li> <li>- The PMU will consult beneficiaries on challenges for advancing in LLA options and LAP design and implementation in order to report to the ExComm.</li> <li>-The ExComm will regularly assess financial and programmatic risks and guide mitigation strategies.</li> </ul>
Changes in government at the national, provincial and/or departmental level may cause loss of support for the regional programme activities.	Programmatic Political	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cities participating in the ABC Regional Programme will be requested to demonstrate the LLA proposal' contributions to other national and/or subnational climate or development related strategies, plans, etc.</li> <li>- Cities will have to present Letters of Endorsement from countries where they are located.</li> </ul>
LLA pilots and interventions fail to address vulnerabilities and climate risks and are disconnected from planning processes.	Programmatic	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Regional Program will secure resources for developing LAPs as part of its component 1 focus on implementation.</li> <li>- Activities under component 2 aims to support cities to build capacity to design, implement and monitor LLA solutions.</li> <li>-A survey will be conducted in order to identify cities' information and capacity-building needs, with the aim of refining capacity-building efforts and enhancing collaboration with allies and partners for technical support.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Extreme events affect pilot adaptation project implementation.</a>	<a href="#">Operational</a>	<a href="#">Low</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Proposals will include risk mitigation plans as part of the application process, which will be assessed by the IPE and monitored by the PMU and ICLEI.</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">In case extreme events would impact any of the pilot adaptation projects, the Excomm and the local governments involved will define together realistic mitigation measures..</a></li> </ul>
<a href="#">Hiring and procurement delay project implementation.</a>	<a href="#">Financial</a>	<a href="#">Low</a>	<a href="#">A six-month inception period has been considered at the start of the project to mitigate the risk of significant delays in</a>

Potential Risk	Type	Risk Level	Risk Management Strategy
			<a href="#">project execution. During this time, CAF will advance in hiring the PMU consultants and the Excomm will agree on procurement processes.</a>

**C. Describe the measures for environmental and social risk management, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.**

227. In line with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund and CAF's safeguards framework, the Programme has developed a preliminary Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), included in Annex 5. Although the specific sub-projects under Component 1 are yet to be defined, a precautionary approach has been applied to identify potential risks and outline mitigation measures, roles, and indicative budgets

228. Screening and risk categorization of sub-projects will be carried out during the proposal selection phase by the PMU, following the criteria established in the ESMS and using the checklist aligned with AF's 15 ESP principles. The current assessment confirms that the Programme falls under Category C (low risk), as no significant or irreversible environmental or social impacts are anticipated at the programme level.

229. Key Measures and Responsibilities for Environmental and Social Risk Management throughout the Programme Cycle

· Screening of Environmental and Social Risks: All grant proposals under Component 1 will be screened using a standardized checklist based on the 15 principles of the Adaptation Fund's ESP. The screening will be led by the PMU in collaboration with national focal points and local stakeholders. Screening results will inform the level of assessment required (see Annex 5).

· Process Programme Activities: Screening of Environmental and Social Risks All grant proposals under Component 1 will be screened using a standardized checklist based on the 15 principles of the Adaptation Fund's ESP. The screening will be led by the PMU in collaboration with national focal points and local stakeholders. Screening results will inform the level of assessment required (see Annex 5).

· Environmental and Social Assessment: Depending on screening results, sub-projects may undergo simplified assessments focused on risks related to land use, vulnerable groups, indigenous peoples, and gender equity. Local actors and applicants will be supported to conduct these assessments. The PMU will include safeguards specialists to provide technical backstopping.

· Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP): Where required, tailored ESMPs will be developed for sub-projects to address specific risks and define mitigation measures, implementation responsibilities, timelines, and estimated budgets. For small-scale activities at community level, simplified templates will be used to ensure accessibility.

· Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation: ESMPs will be integrated into the programme's MEL system. Local actors and implementing entities will report progress on safeguard actions using disaggregated data collection tools and the programme's semi-annual reporting formats (G1, G2, G3).

. Public Disclosure and Consultation: The programme will apply the stakeholder engagement strategy described in Annex 5. It includes participatory processes, accessible formats, and mechanisms to ensure inclusive consultation with women, youth, indigenous and marginalized groups.

. Grievance Mechanism : El Programa utilizará el mecanismo institucional de quejas de CAF para gestionar las quejas tanto a nivel nacional como local. Se proporcionará a las partes interesadas una guía clara sobre los procedimientos de acceso y presentación. Se publicarán periódicamente resúmenes de los casos resueltos para informar sobre las mejoras del programa y garantizar la transparencia. -The Program will use CAF's institutional grievance mechanism to manage complaints at both the national and local levels. Stakeholders will be provided with clear guidance on access and submission procedures. Summaries of resolved cases will be published periodically to report on program improvements and ensure transparency.

See Annex 5. Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy compliance. CAF employs a comprehensive framework that ensures transparency and accountability throughout all project stages. This framework includes the identification and mitigation of environmental and social risks, the adoption of environmental and social safeguard policies, and rigorous monitoring of compliance with gender policies. Additionally, CAF promotes stakeholder engagement and ensures that environmental and social management practices align with international standards. The Adapting BiodiverCities Regional Program aims to support subprojects that will implement LLA solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are yet to be selected or defined. Due to this and in line with the AF's ESP, the environmental and social risk management will be carried out during the implementation of the program as part of the LLA solutions selection process.

Once proposals are pre-selected by the TCE based on the criteria outlined above, they will undergo a screening process against the 15 ESP principles as part of the ESMS. This screening ensures compliance with the ESP and is followed by a thorough assessment to identify and address any environmental and social risks. Identified risks will be managed through the development of tailored management plans or by making necessary adjustments to the proposed LLA solution to ensure full alignment with safeguard requirements.

Furthermore, information about the project and the safeguards that must be met will be disclosed to the public and relevant stakeholders for their information and engagement, and local authorities will be trained on the Adaptation Fund's environmental and social safeguards as part of activities included in component 2. This will guarantee local actors fulfilment of safeguard policies of the Fund and CAF, as well.

Additionally, periodic monitoring of compliance with the required environmental and social management plan will be conducted and documented in annual progress reports. The program team will encourage stakeholders to report any potential compliance issues and grievances. It should also be highlighted that CAF has a grievance redress mechanism.

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

245-230. M

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) activities are critical for assessing the progress of the Regional Programme and achieving core objectives under all the components. To ensure effective implementation, CAF will hire a dedicated MEL specialist within the PMU. The MEL specialist, the inclusion of a specialist must have demonstrable knowledge and experience in gender mainstreaming, to ensure effective implementation will be evaluated as needed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of MEL activities, the Gender Action Plan and inclusive approaches.

246-231. The MEL specialist will oversee the implementation of the M&E plan, which includes design of appropriate data collection tools and the construction of databases to capture and

process information. This also involves supervising data collection efforts, conducting progress analysis and generating inputs for timely decision making to ensure the programme's success.

~~247-232.~~ G  
 Gender-disaggregated data collection and analysis will be integral to the monitoring and evaluation processes for all programme activities and results. These measures, as outlined in Sections II.D (Paragraph 101) and III.E and Annex IV, will ensure the programme remains inclusive and equitable in its approach.

~~248-233.~~ T  
 The MEL specialist will play a pivotal role in developing the MEL system within the BiodiverCities Network under component 2 and 3. This includes working closely with local authorities and technical teams to strengthen capacities in M&E and follow-up of LAPs and adaptation pilots under components 1 and 2.

~~249-234.~~ A  
 A key responsibility of the MEL specialist is to lead the development of a suite of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme, contributing to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) at the local level. This effort will ensure synergies with the UNFCCC process, encouraging cities to utilize and report these indicators, thereby contributing to the global adaptation community's knowledge base.

235. The ABC Regional programme requires all BiodiverCities that have accessed grants under component 1 to submit reports to ICLEI as the grant implementer. For G1, a single report will be completed at the end of the grant implementation. For G2 and G3, a midterm report as well as a final report must be completed. The reports must demonstrate compliance with all programme criteria according to each category, compliance with the primary objective for which the grant was requested and provided, as well as with the AF's ESP and gender policy. Templates will be developed by ICLEI for validation by the PMU.

~~250-236.~~ The ABC Regional Programme requires CAF to submit annual Programme Performance Reports (PPR) to the AF, which includes the Adaptation Fund Results Tracker. The MEL specialist will compile all necessary data and inputs for these reports, ensuring compliance with the AF Evaluation Framework and reporting requirements. By tracking progress against the indicators and planned targets in the results framework, the specialist will provide actionable recommendations to the PMU.

~~251-237.~~ The MEL specialist will also ensure timely reporting to identify deviations from planned targets and make recommendations for corrective actions.

~~252-238.~~ P  
 Progress monitoring and data collection will occur at least quarterly. The MEL activities under Component 3 will provide a platform for cities to reflect on and provide feedback regarding the implementation of the Regional Programme. This feedback will serve as valuable input for both monitoring and adjusting activities and for preparing required reports.

~~253.~~ Finally, the programme will include an independent mid-term evaluation and a final independent evaluation. The assessments will evaluate progress and extract lessons learned, ensuring continuous improvement throughout the programme's implementation.

~~254-239.~~ **Table 6. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan**

*Tabla 6. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan*

MEL activity	Responsible Party	Budget USD	Frequency
Baseline Report	CAF	30,000	At the beginning of the Project

MEL activity	Responsible Party	Budget USD	Frequency
		<a href="#">(included in the Fees EI)</a>	<a href="#">and annual update with each call. Local governments to provide baseline data on beneficiaries after the sub-projects are selected, to be compiled under the Programme Baseline Report before the first PPR is due.</a>
Conduct a survey targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity-building needs.	- PMU MEL specialist	33,000 (included in the programme budget)	- At the beginning of the programme.
Conduct a knowledge assessment on the adaptation policy cycle, including MEL and elaborate a report on capacity building needs and knowledge baseline.	- PMU MEL specialist	33,000 (included in the programme budget)	- At the beginning of the programme. Report available one month after each survey and knowledge assessment closing.
Develop the BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database	- PMU MEL specialist -IT external consultants (Firm 3)	130,000 (included in the programme budget)	-According to the schedule programme implementation
Identify inputs (indicators) derived from the design and implementation of LAPs and pilots projects within the ABC RP as contributions based on local experiences to inform the UAE Framework	- PMU MEL specialist - Consultant team (Firm 3)	30,000 (included in the programme budget)	-According to the schedule programme implementation
Monitor activities of output/outcome indicators	- PMU MEL specialist	71,850 (included in the programme budget as PMU cost)	- Quarterly data collection for monitoring progress of activities: monitoring of outputs and outcomes  - Semestral monitoring of progress on results framework indicators
Elaborate six monthly reports	- PMU MEL specialist	85,000 (included in the programme budget as PMU cost)	-Reports submitted to CAF from the project coordination on a semi-annual and annual basis
Elaborate 3 annual programme performance	- CAF - PMU MEL	100,800 (included in the	-Reports shall be submitted annually (no later than

MEL activity	Responsible Party	Budget USD	Frequency
reports (PPR) to the Adaptation Fund	specialist - PMU general coordinator	programme budget as PMU cost)	two months after the end of the reporting year.  -The first PPR shall be submitted one year after the start of project implementation.  -The final PPR shall be submitted no later than two months after the end of the reporting year.
Follow-up missions to the programme	CAF PMU specialists MEL Specialist	21,000	They are carried out annually. USD 7,000 per year.
Conduct an external mid-term evaluation	Independent consultants hired to conduct the assessments	50,000	-Approximately one and a half years after the initiation of the ABC RP (anticipated around February 2027).
Conduct an external final evaluation	Independent consultants hired to conduct the assessments	50,000	-Four months after ABC RP closing (estimated in August 2028)
<b>Total MEL costs</b>		604,650	

E. Include a results framework for the project/programme proposal, including milestones, targets and indicators (table 7).

Table 7. Framework for the project/programme proposal

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
<p><u>Objective: Accelerate the implementation of locally-led adaptation solutions, and focusing on the most vulnerable groups and communities, contribute to enhancing urban resilience to climate change in Latin American and Caribbean cities.</u></p>	<p><u>Number of beneficiaries (people) reached through Programme activities. (CORE INDICATOR)</u></p>	0	<p><u>Direct:</u> At least 650,000 people. (50% woman, 30% young)</p> <p><u>Indirect:</u> At least 1,000,000 people. (50% woman, 30% young)</p>	<p><u>Programme monitoring system data.</u></p>	<p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The national governments sign the endorsement letters of the Programme.</li> <li>- Subnational governments show interest and participate in programme activities.</li> </ul> <p>For physical assets, the indicator will be measured in verifiable units (e.g. ha, km, m<sup>2</sup>, m<sup>3</sup>), depending on the type of intervention. When it is not possible to define absolute units, changes will be reported qualitatively using a 1–5 scale. Consolidation will take place at the end of the first year and after each.</p> <p><u>Risks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LLA pilots and interventions don't make progress on the time allocated for its disbursement and implementation.</li> <li>- LLA pilots and interventions fail to address vulnerabilities and climate risks and are disconnected from planning processes.</li> <li>- The ABC Regional Program lacks a cohesive governance to ensure articulation across its three components.</li> <li>- The ABC Regional Programme fails to meet planning, implementation and knowledge' cities gaps and needs for innovative climate resilience responses.</li> <li>- Changes in government at the national, provincial and/or departmental level may cause</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Number of physical assets produced through Programme activities</u></p>	0	50 physical assets		
	<p><u>Number of cities with locally-led adaptation solutions implemented.</u></p>	0	50 cities		
	<p><u>Number of cities with improved institutional capacity and access to tools for locally-led adaptation</u></p>	0	At least 50% of the 198 cities		
	<p><u>Number of direct beneficiaries (people) reached through Programme activities.</u></p>		At least 600,000 people		
	<p><u>Number of indirect beneficiaries (people) reached through Programme activities.</u></p>		At least 1,200,000 people		
	<p><u>Number of institutional stakeholders participating in training, planning or co-design activities.</u></p>	0	300 institutional stakeholders		

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Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
					<a href="#">loss of support for the regional programme activities.</a> <a href="#">- Extreme events affect pilot adaptation project implementation.</a> <a href="#">- Hiring and procurement delay project implementation.</a>
<a href="#">Component 1COMPONEN</a>					
<b>Outcome 1. BiodiverCities implement locally-led and ecosystem <del>community and gender</del> based adaptation solutions and improve their adaptation local policy cycle.</b>	Number of BiodiverCities that implement locally led and ecosystem, community and gender based adaptation solutions through competitive grants.	0	Up to 50 BiodiverCities implement locally led and ecosystem, community and gender based adaptation solutions through competitive grants.	Monitoring of grant interventions progress.	<b>Assumptions:</b> <a href="#">- The national governments sign the endorsement letters of the Programme.</a> <a href="#">- Pilot adaptation projects respond to local community adaptation needs.</a> <a href="#">- Half of the cities that develop grant proposals get awarded.</a> <a href="#">- Cities are interested and participate in the 3 calls for proposals.</a> <del>Cities are interested and participate in the 3 calls for proposals. The national governments sign the endorsement letters of the Programme.</del>  <b>Risks:</b> - LLA pilots and interventions don't make progress on the time allocated for its disbursement and implementation. - Changes in government at the national, provincial and/or departmental level may cause loss of support for the regional programme activities.
<b>Output 1.1.</b> Pilot adaptation projects carried out and Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of LLA solutions aligned with	Number of grants adjudicated to implement pilot adaptation projects.  <a href="#">Number of grants adjudicated to</a>	0  <u>0</u>	Up to 50 grants were adjudicated to implement pilot adaptation projects.  Up to 10 grants	Programme monitoring system data  Monitoring of grant interventions progress.	<b>Assumptions:</b> <a href="#">- Half of the cities that develop grant proposals get awarded.</a> <a href="#">- Cities are interested and participate in the 3 calls for proposals.</a>

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
Adaptation Fund policies and monitorable.	<p><u>develop, improve or update Local Adaptation Plans.</u></p> <p>Number of criteria developed to assess gender considerations in adaptation pilot projects proposals.</p> <p>Type <del>Inclusion</del> of gender considerations incorporated in approved adaptation pilot project proposals and communicated through progress reports.</p> <p>Percentage of direct beneficiaries included in progress reports by the cities that are women.</p> <p>Percentage of direct beneficiaries included in progress reports by the cities who are youth.</p> <p>Percentage of resources allocated to projects led by women.</p> <p>Percentage of adaptation pilots led by women.</p> <p>Number of invitations issued that promote gender-responsive and diverse participation.</p> <p>Number of webinars organized per year to address gender considerations in adaptation pilot projects proposals.</p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>adjudicated to develop, improve or update Local Adaptation Plans.</p> <p>At least two criteria included gender considerations.</p> <p>100% of progress reports of approved <del>At</del> adaptation pilot project proposals <del>progress reports</del> included gender considerations.</p> <p>At least 50% of direct beneficiaries reported by participating cities are women.</p> <p>At least 30% of direct beneficiaries reported by participating cities are youth.</p> <p>At least 25% of total resources should be allocated to projects led by women.</p> <p>At least 25% of implemented pilot adaptation projects are led by women.</p> <p>100% of invitations to programme activities are gender-responsive and explicitly encourage participation from diverse gender groups.</p> <p>At least 3 webinars are carried out including gender considerations.</p>		<p>- Cities receive technical guidance and resources for gender mainstreaming into adaptation pilot project proposals.</p> <p>-Cities receiving invitations to programme activities are gender-responsive and explicitly encourage participation from diverse gender groups.</p> <p>-Cities being invited to webinars specifically targeting women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized community representatives, with the aim of supporting their engagement in the preparation and submission of adaptation pilot project proposals.</p>

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Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
			<a href="#">At least one of these webinars will specifically target women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized community representatives, with the aim of supporting their engagement in the preparation and submission of adaptation pilot project proposals.</a>		
<b>COMPONENTE 2</b>					
<b>Outcome 2. Capacities of subnational governments strengthened to formulate, implement, and monitor adaptation actions and Local Adaptation Plans.</b>	Percentage of cities within the BiodiverCities Network that receive capacity building, technical support and strengthen its institutional capacities for developing and implementing adaptation actions and LAPs.	0.5 % (1 city)	At least 50% of the cities involved in the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme receive capacity building, technical support and strengthen its institutional capacities for developing and implementing LAPs.	Programme monitoring system data Programme deliverables Participant registration	<b>Assumption:</b> <a href="#">- Strong technical and institutional capacities of subnational governments for climate adaptation action facilitates local implementation and monitoring of adaptation initiatives.</a> <a href="#">- Subnational governments show interest and participate in programme activities.</a>  <b>Risk:</b> The ABC Regional Programme fails to meet planning, implementation and knowledge' cities gaps and needs for innovative, <a href="#">inclusive and gender-responsive</a> climate resilience <a href="#">solutions</a> <del>responses</del> .
<b>Output 2.1.</b> LLA project proposals addressing local adaptation needs and priorities, developed and enhanced.	Number of proposals resulting from the technical support provided through the programme.  <a href="#">Number of adaptation pilot projects proposals that effectively included gender.</a>  <a href="#">Gender-responsive LAPs</a>	0  0  0	100 BiodiverCities supported for the development of grant proposals. <a href="#">At least 50% of proposals effectively included gender considerations in their project proposals.</a>  <a href="#">At least 3 cities received</a>	Programme monitoring system data	<b>Assumptions:</b> cities engage on technical support to develop and enhance new or existing proposals, as appropriate.

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
	<u>developed, incorporating participatory analysis and actions that address the distinct needs and contributions of all genders.</u>		<u>tailored technical support for gender integration in LAP development.</u>		
<b>Output 2.2.</b> Technical support and training for developing and enhancing formulation, execution and monitoring skills in LLA projects, conducted, <u>including gender and diversity approaches.</u>	<p>Number of cities supported for the development of grant proposals.</p> <p>Number of cities supported for the implementation of grant proposals.</p> <p><u>Number of virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams that included gender mainstreaming and diversity approaches.</u></p> <p><u>Percentage of women, young people and indigenous peoples participated in the training programmes.</u></p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>100 BiodiverCities supported for the development of grant proposals.</p> <p>50 BiodiverCities supported for the implementation of grant proposals.</p> <p><u>At least 50% of training sessions include content on gender and diversity approaches.</u></p> <p><u>At least 50% of the training programmes implemented in participating cities ensure the active participation of women, young people, and indigenous peoples.</u></p>	<p>Programme monitoring system data</p>	<p><b>Assumptions:</b> half of the cities that develop grant proposals get awarded. All the cities that develop grant proposals are supported in its presentation.</p>
<b>Output 2.3.</b> <u>Assessments of local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted and reports on capacity building and knowledge needs, Reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baseline, elaborated.</u>	<p>Number of conducted surveys for targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity-building needs.</p> <p><u>Number of Knowledge assessment on the adaptation policy cycle, including MEL, conducted.</u></p>	<p>0</p> <p>No</p>	<p>1 survey conducted for targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity-building needs.</p> <p><u>1 Knowledge assessment on the adaptation policy cycle, including MEL,</u></p>	<p>Programme monitoring system data</p> <p>Programme deliverables</p> <p>Participant registration</p>	<p><b>Assumption:</b> local governments show interest and respond to the survey.</p>

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Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
	<p><del>Type of gender capacity building responses implemented for each type of needs identified through the survey.</del></p> <p><del>Resources implemented to address identification of key knowledge gaps and relevant gender mainstreaming tools across the different phases of the adaptation policy cycle.</del></p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p><del>conducted.</del></p> <p><del>At least one resource (e.g., guideline, checklist, video) and/or capacity-building activity is developed and implemented for each type of gender capacity building need identified by the survey.</del></p> <p><del>At least one resource (e.g., guideline, checklist, video) and/or capacity-building activity is developed and implemented to address each knowledge gap identified for gender mainstreaming in the adaptation policy cycle.</del></p>		
<p><del>Output 2.4. Assessment processes associated with local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted.</del></p>	<p><del>Number of conducted assessment processes associated with local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs.</del></p>	<p>0</p>	<p><del>10 assessment processes associated with local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted.</del></p>	<p><del>Programme monitoring system data</del></p> <p><del>Programme deliverables</del></p>	
<p><del>Output 2.54. Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs supported and the improvement of the adaptation policy cycle. Studies to improve the adaptation policy cycle of prioritised cities developed and its results presented in virtual meetings to the Network.</del></p>	<p><del>Number of conducted studies or training processes tailored to the needs of prioritized cities to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions.</del></p> <p><del>Number of cities supported for developing and implementing LAPs.</del></p> <p><del>Gender-responsive LAPs developed, incorporating participatory analysis and actions that address the distinct needs and contributions of all genders.</del></p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p><del>10 studies or training processes tailored to the needs of prioritized cities to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions, conducted.</del></p> <p><del>20 cities supported for developing and implementing LAPs.</del></p> <p><del>At least 3 cities received tailored technical support for gender integration in LAP development.</del></p>	<p><del>Programme monitoring system data</del></p> <p><del>Programme deliverables</del></p>	<p><del>Assumption: local governments priorities and needs are in line with the proposed thematic activities (risk baselines, governance, gender mainstreaming, etc.)</del></p>

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Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
	<p><u>Number of training processes that include gender and diversity approaches.</u></p> <p><u>Number of gender-responsive studies conducted.</u></p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p><u>At least 1 training session included gender and diversity approaches.</u></p> <p><u>At least 1 gender-responsive study conducted in support of LAP process design carried out by cities under the project.</u></p>		
<p><b>Output 2.65.</b> Participatory governance schemes <u>climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA, designed and implemented, considering relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups and communities, associated with LLA, designed and implemented.</u></p>	<p>Number of cities supported for the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes associated with LLA.</p> <p><u>Participatory governance schemes developed with programme support that incorporate gender-responsive considerations.</u> <u>Level of integration of gender perspectives in participatory governance schemes developed by local governments supported through the programme.</u></p> <p><u>Percentage of women, young people, and representatives of indigenous peoples, as appropriate, participated in governance structures.</u></p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>10 cities supported for the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes associated with LLA.</p> <p><u>100% of participatory governance schemes presented by local governments incorporate gender-responsive considerations.</u></p> <p><u>At least 40% of participants in governance structures in participating cities are women, young people, and, as appropriate, representatives of indigenous peoples</u></p>	<p>Programme monitoring system data</p> <p>Programme deliverables</p>	<p><b>Assumption:</b> local governments priorities and needs are in line with the proposed thematic activities (risk baselines, governance, gender mainstreaming, etc.)</p>
<p><b>Output 2.7.</b> Local climate finance strategies, instruments and tools for the implementation of LLA actions, designed and implemented.</p>	<p>Number of cities supported for the design and implementation of local climate finance strategies, instruments and tools for the implementation of LLA actions.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>10 cities supported for the design and implementation of local climate finance strategies, instruments and tools for the implementation of LLA actions.</p>	<p>Programme monitoring system data</p> <p>Programme deliverables</p>	<p><b>Assumption:</b> local governments priorities and needs are in line with the proposed thematic activities (risk baselines, governance, gender mainstreaming, etc.)</p>

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Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
<b>Output 2.8.</b> Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs, supported.	Number of cities supported for developing and implementing LAPs.	0	10 cities supported for developing and implementing LAPs.	Programme monitoring system data Programme deliverables	<b>Assumption:</b> local governments priorities and needs are in line with the proposed thematic activities (risk baselines, governance, gender mainstreaming, etc.)
<b>Output 2.96.</b> Support for gender mainstreaming, vulnerability and climate risks assessments, as well as for addressing social and environmental dimensions, provided. Gender mainstreamed in LAPs.	<del>Type of support provided for gender mainstreaming, development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines, and LAPs' social and environmental analysis. Number of cities supported in gender mainstreaming in LAPs. LAPs supported that received gender mainstreaming support.</del>	0	<del>All 100% of projects that asked for support to mainstream gender into their proposals received at least 1 gender specific resource (guideline, checklist, video, etc.) or technical guidance provided by the IE and local implementers. 5 cities supported in gender mainstreaming in LAPs.</del>	Programme monitoring system data Programme deliverables	<b>Assumption:</b> local governments priorities and needs are in line with the proposed thematic activities (risk baselines, governance, gender mainstreaming, etc.)
<b>Output 2.10.</b> Vulnerability and climate risk baselines reports, elaborated.	Number of cities supported in the development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines.	0	5 cities supported in the development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines.	Programme monitoring system data Programme deliverables	<b>Assumption:</b> local governments priorities and needs are in line with the proposed thematic activities (risk baselines, governance, gender mainstreaming, etc.)
<b>Output 2.711.</b> Virtual and in-person training for city government officials, community-based organizations, grassroots networks and residents, for LAPs formulation, participatory process, cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc., conducted.	Number of city officials trained in LAP associated themes.  Percentage of women and youth participants in government official training programs.  Number of community-based organizations trained in climate adaptation workshops.	0  0  0	300 city officials trained in LAP associated themes.  At least 40% of the total participants in government officials' training programmes in participating cities are women and youth.  50 organizations trained in climate adaptation workshops.	Programme monitoring system data Programme deliverables Participant registration	<b>Assumption:</b> local governments priorities and needs are in line with the proposed thematic activities (risk baselines, governance, gender mainstreaming, etc.)  At least 2 per country organizations in each Biodiversity are part of training workshops
<b>Output 2.811.</b> Guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities,	Number of elaborated publications with guidelines for LAP	0	1 publication with guidelines for LAP	Programme monitoring system data	<b>Assumption:</b> local governments priorities and needs are in line

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Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
elaborated.	formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities.  <u>Number of LAP formulation guidelines developed and disseminated that include gender integration components.</u>	0	formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities, elaborated.  <u>At least one guideline including gender integration is developed and disseminated during the programme.</u>	Programme deliverables	with the proposed thematic activities (risk baselines, governance, gender mainstreaming, etc.)
<del>Outcome 3. BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme consolidated as a regional space that promotes the generation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge and facilitates the development of locally-led innovative solutions for urban adaptation.</del> <del>Outcome 3. Cities within the BiodiverCities Network and Programme strengthen their knowledge on LLA actions design, planification, implementation and monitoring.</del>	<del>Number of cities participating in the BiodiverCities Network and Programme activities during Regional Programme implementation.</del>  <del>Number of cities being members of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme.</del> <del>Number of city government teams that strengthen their knowledge on the adaptation policy cycle, including MEL.</del>	<del>0</del>  <del>1980</del>	<del>200 cities participate in the BiodiverCities Network and Programme activities during Regional Programme implementation.</del>  <del>300 cities are members of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme.</del> <del>100 city government teams that strengthen their knowledge on the adaptation policy cycle, including MEL.</del>	<del>Programme monitoring system data</del>  <del>Participant registration</del> <del>Programme monitoring system data</del>  <del>Programme deliverables.</del>  <del>Beneficiaries interviews.</del>	<del><b>Assumption:</b> International visibility of the region's cities facilitates international climate resource mobilization towards locally-led activities.</del>  <del><b>Risk:</b> The ABC Regional Programme fails to meet planning, implementation and knowledge' cities gaps and needs for innovative climate resilience responses.</del>
<b>COMPONENTE 3</b>					
<del>Output 3.1. BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database, designed and published.</del>	<del><u>BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database published.</u></del> <del><u>Number of knowledge databases developed.</u></del>  <del><u>Knowledge database includes gender-related information.</u></del> <del><u>Type and extent of gender integration in the knowledge database.</u></del>	<del>No</del>  <del>No</del>	<del><u>One (1) BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database published.</u></del>  <del><u>At least one section of the knowledge database includes gender-related information, supported by a clear and appropriate methodology.</u></del>	<del>Programme monitoring system data</del>  <del>Programme deliverables</del>	<del><b>Assumptions:</b> Cities are interested and participate in the webinars and in-person meetings.</del>
Output 3.2. Implementation of cooperation cycles	Number of cooperation cycles	4	4 cooperation cycles	Programme monitoring	<b>Assumptions:</b> Cities are

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Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
between cities of the network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level. This will include In-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the AF Programme to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and good practices.	<p>between cities conducted.</p> <p>Number of in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the Regional Programme to share lessons learned and good practices, held.</p> <p>Number of city officials participating in regional meetings.</p> <p><u>Percentage of women participating in regional meetings and cooperation cycles.</u></p> <p><u>Percentage of women serving as speakers in regional meetings and cooperation cycles.</u></p> <p><u>Percentage of young people participating in regional meetings and cooperation cycles.</u></p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>between cities conducted.</p> <p>4 in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the Regional Programme to share lessons learned and good practices, held.</p> <p>80 city officials participated in regional meetings.</p> <p><u>At least 50% of participants and speakers in regional meetings and cooperation cycles are women.</u></p> <p><u>At least 50% of speakers in regional meetings and cooperation cycles are women.</u></p>	<p>system data</p> <p>Programme deliverables</p> <p>Participant registration</p>	<p>interested and participate in the webinars and in-person meetings.</p>
<b>Output 3.3.</b> Publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others), elaborated and disseminated in webinars.	<p>Number of webinars to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the Regional Programme actions, held.</p> <p>Number of city officials participating in regional meetings and webinars to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the Regional Programme actions.</p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>3 webinars to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the Regional Programme actions, held.</p> <p>300 city officials participating in regional meetings and webinars to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the Regional Programme actions.</p>	<p>Programme monitoring</p> <p>system data</p> <p>Programme deliverables</p> <p>Participant registration</p>	<p><b>Assumptions:</b> Cities are interested and participate in the webinars and in-person meetings.</p>

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
	<p>Number of elaborated publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others).</p> <p><u>Number of publications elaborated that included gender and diversity approaches, methodologies and tools.</u></p>	<p>0</p> <p><u>0</u></p>	<p>3 publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others).</p> <p><u>80% of the publications elaborated under the programme included meaningful content gender and diversity approaches, methodologies and tools.</u></p>		
<b>Outcome 4. BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme consolidated.</b>	<p>Number of cities participating in the BiodiverCities Network and Programme activities during Regional Programme implementation.</p> <p>Number of cities being members of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme.</p>	<p>0</p> <p>198</p>	<p>200 cities participate in the BiodiverCities Network and Programme activities during Regional Programme implementation.</p> <p>300 cities are members of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme.</p>	<p>Programme monitoring system data</p> <p>Participant registration</p>	<p><b>Risk:</b> The ABC Regional Programme fails to meet planning, implementation and knowledge cities gaps and needs for innovative climate resilience responses.</p>
<b>Output 3.4.4-1.</b> BiodiverCities Network and Programme visibility and international relevance, improved.	<p>Number of alliances with regional and local networks and partners facilitated with the BiodiverCities Network.</p> <p>Number of events organized in regional and international climate and biodiversity related meetings to disseminate the programme's interventions .</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2</p>	<p>8 alliances with regional and local networks and partners facilitated with the BiodiverCities Network.</p> <p>8 events organized in regional and international climate and biodiversity related meetings to disseminate the programme's interventions .</p>	<p>Programme monitoring system data</p> <p>Key informant interviews</p>	<p><b>Assumptions:</b> Programme results are achieved and its success facilitates its international relevance.</p>

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
	<p><a href="#">Number of partnerships or alliances established with regional and local networks focused on gender-related topics.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Percentage of project-organized events that ensure the meaningful participation of women.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Percentage of event content and outcomes that include gender-diverse stakeholders and explicitly integrate gender equality perspectives.</a></p>	<p>2</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p><a href="#">At least 3 formal alliances or collaborations are established with gender-focused regional and/or local networks during the programme period.</a></p> <p><a href="#">At least 80% of in-person and virtual events organized under the project include gender-balanced participation (minimum 40% women/gender-diverse participants) and incorporate gender equality themes in agendas, presentations, or discussion outcomes.</a></p> <p><a href="#">At least 50% of the in-person and virtual events organized under the project incorporate gender equality themes in agendas, presentations, or discussion outcomes.</a></p>		
<b>Output 3.5.4.2.</b> Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network developed.	<p><del>Existence of a</del> <a href="#">MEL system within the BiodiverCities Network developed.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Number of gender responsive indicators included in the MEL BiodiverCities system.</a></p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p><a href="#">One (1) MEL system within the BiodiverCities Network developed .</a></p> <p><a href="#">At least five (5) gender related indicators are included in the MEL system.</a></p>	<p>Programme monitoring system data</p> <p>Programme deliverables</p>	
<b>Output 3.6.4.3.</b> Next steps for the establishment of BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030, defined.	<p><del>Governance framework document implemented.</del> <a href="#">Finance framework proposal to facilitate access to climate finance for the members of the BiodiverCities Network , developed.</a></p>	No	<p>Finance framework proposal to facilitate access to climate finance for the members of the BiodiverCities Network , developed.</p>	<p>Programme monitoring system data</p> <p>Programme deliverables</p> <p>Participant registration</p>	<p><b>Assumptions:</b> Programme results are achieved and its success facilitates its regional relevance.</p>

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Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
	<p><a href="#">Number of gender-transformative or women-focused climate adaptation financing sources identified and documented.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Inclusion of gender-responsive budgeting principles and tools in the final climate finance framework document.</a></p> <p>Number of workshops held to define a roadmap for the BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030.</p>	<p>0</p> <p>No</p> <p>0</p>	<p><a href="#">At least 5 financing sources mapped and categorized.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Gender-responsive budgeting principles fully integrated and reflected in 100% of relevant budget lines and guidance sections of the climate finance framework.</a></p> <p>1 online workshops held to define a roadmap for the BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030.</p>		
<p>Outcome 45. Operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation, strengthened at the local level.</p>	<p><del>Contribution report of the Programme and the BiodiverCities Network to the UAE Framework. BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme contributes to the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation.</del></p>	No	<p><del>One (1) contribution report to the UAE Framework produced and submitted.</del></p> <p><del>BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme contributes to the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation.</del></p>	<p>Programme monitoring system data</p>	<p><a href="#">Assumption: The alignment of adaptation initiatives with the UAE Framework makes them more effective and facilitates local climate action monitoring regarding the fulfillment of the GGA, visibilising local climate action relevance.</a></p>

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Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Risks and assumptions
<p><b>Output 54.1.</b> A proposal with a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA, developed.</p>	<p>Document with a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA, developed and published.</p> <p><a href="#">Number of gender responsive indicators included in the MEL BiodiverCities system that could be potentially aligned with the UAE Framework targets.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Percentage of indicators included in the MEL BiodiverCities system that collect and report data disaggregated by sex and age; analyze differentiated needs, roles, access and benefits between women, men and other gender groups; and track changes in participation, leadership and empowerment outcomes.</a></p>	<p>No</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>Document with a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA, developed and published.</p> <p><a href="#">At least 2 gender-responsive indicators are developed and integrated into the MEL BiodiverCities system, aligned with the UAE Framework on the GGA.</a></p> <p><a href="#">The MEL system includes at least one gender-related indicator to collect sex-disaggregated data, at least one to analyze differentiated needs, roles, and access, and at least one to track changes in participation, leadership, and empowerment.</a></p>	<p>Programme monitoring system data</p> <p>Programme deliverables</p>	

**F. Demonstrate how the programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund**

Programme results	Programme results Indicators	Fund results	Fund result Indicators	Grant Amount (USD)
<b>Outcome 1.</b> BiodiverCities implement locally led and ecosystem, community and gender-based adaptation solutions and improve their adaptation local policy cycle.	Number of BiodiverCities that implement locally led and ecosystem, community and gender based adaptation solutions through competitive grants.	<b>Outcome 5:</b> Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability induced stress	<b>5.</b> Ecosystem services and natural resource assets maintained or improved under climate change and variability induced stress	7,700,000.00
		<b>Outcome 6:</b> Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	<b>6.2.</b> Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods	
		<b>Outcome 7:</b> Improved policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures	<b>7.</b> Climate change priorities are integrated into national development strategy	
		<b>Outcome 8:</b> Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies	<b>8.</b> Innovative adaptation practices are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated at regional, national and/or subnational level.	
<b>Outcome 2.</b> Capacities of subnational governments strengthened to formulate, implement, and monitor adaptation actions and Local Adaptation Plans.	Percentage of cities within the BiodiverCities Network that receive capacity building, technical support and strengthen its institutional capacities for developing and implementing LAPs.	<b>Outcome 1:</b> Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats	<b>1.</b> Relevant threat and hazard information generated and disseminated to stakeholders on a timely basis	1,500,000.00
		<b>Outcome 2:</b> Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate induced socioeconomic and environmental losses.	<b>2.1.</b> Capacity of staff to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related events from targeted institutions increased	
<b>Outcome 3.</b> Cities within the BiodiverCities Network and Programme strengthen their knowledge on LLA actions design, planification, implementation and monitoring.	Number of city government teams that strengthen their knowledge on the adaptation policy cycle, including MEL.	<b>Outcome 2:</b> Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate induced socioeconomic and environmental losses <b>Outcome 3:</b> Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level.	<b>2.1.</b> Capacity of staff to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related events from targeted institutions increased <b>3.1.</b> Percentage of targeted population aware of predicted adverse impacts of climate change, and of appropriate responses <b>3.2.</b> Percentage of targeted population applying appropriate adaptation responses	1,000,000.00
<b>Outcome 4</b> BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme consolidated.	Number of cities participating in the BiodiverCities Network and Programme activities during Regional Programme implementation. Number of cities being members of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme.			
<b>Outcome 5.</b> Operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation, strengthened at the local level.	BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme contributes to the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation.			

Table 8. Programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

Objective(s)	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicators	Grant Amount (USD)
Adapting BiodiverCities Regional Programme (ABC) aims to accelerate the implementation of locally-led adaptation solutions, to enhance urban resilience to climate change in Latin American and Caribbean cities.	<u>Number of direct beneficiaries (people) reached through Programme activities.</u> Number of beneficiaries (people) reached through Programme activities. (CORE INDICATOR)	<u>Impact: Increased adaptive capacity of communities</u> <u>Impact: Increased adaptive capacity of communities</u>	<u>Core Indicator: Number of direct beneficiaries</u> <u>Core Indicator: Number of direct beneficiaries and Number of indirect beneficiaries</u> <u>Core Indicator: Number of indirect beneficiaries</u>	10,200,000.00
	<u>Number of indirect beneficiaries (people) reached through Programme activities.</u>	<u>Impact: Increased adaptive capacity of communities</u>		
	<u>Number of cities with improved institutional capacity and access to tools for locally-led adaptation</u>	<u>Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate change</u>	<u>2.1.2 Number of targeted institutions with increased capacity to minimize exposure to climate risks</u>	
	<u>Number of physical assets produced through Programme activities (Core Indicator)</u>	<u>Outcome 4: Increased adaptive capacity within relevant development sector services and infrastructure assets</u>	<u>4.2. Physical infrastructure improved to withstand climate change and variability-induced stress</u>	
	<u>Number of institutional stakeholders participating in training, planning or co-design activities.</u>	<u>Outcome 3: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation at the local level</u>	<u>3.2.1 Number of tools and guidelines developed and shared with relevant stakeholders</u>	
<u>Number of cities with locally-led adaptation solutions implemented.</u>	<u>Outcome 8: Development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies</u>	<u>8.1 Number of innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies accelerated, scaled up, and/or replicated</u>		
Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Output	Fund Output Indicators	Grant Amount (USD)
<u>Outcome 1. BiodiverCities implement locally-led and ecosystembased adaptation solutions and improve their adaptation local policy cycle.</u>	<u>Number of BiodiverCities that implement locally led and ecosystem, community and gender based adaptation solutions through competitive grants.</u>	<u>Output 8: Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated.</u>	<u>8.1. No. of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up and/or replicated</u>	7,700,000.00
		<u>Output 4: Vulnerable development sector services and infrastructure assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability</u>	<u>4.1.2. No. of physical assets strengthened or constructed to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by sector and scale)</u>	
<u>Outcome 2. Capacities of subnational governments strengthened to formulate, implement, and monitor adaptation actions and Local Adaptation Plans.</u>	<u>Percentage of cities within the BiodiverCities Network that receive capacity building, technical support and strengthen its institutional capacities for developing and implementing LAPs.</u>	<u>Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning</u>	<u>3.2.2 No. of tools and guidelines developed (thematic, sectoral, institutional) and shared with relevant stakeholders</u>	1,500,000.00

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<p><u>Outcome 3. BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme consolidated as a regional space that promotes the generation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge and facilitates the development of locally-led innovative solutions for urban adaptation.</u></p>	<p><u>Number of cities participating in the BiodiverCities Network and Programme activities during Regional Programme implementation.</u></p> <p><u>Number of cities being members of the BiodiverCities Network and Programme.</u></p>	<p><u>Output 2.2: Increased readiness and capacity of national and sub-national entities to directly access and program adaptation finance</u></p>	<p><u>2.2.1 No. of targeted institutions benefitting from the direct access and enhanced direct access modality</u></p>	<p><u>975,000.00</u></p>
<p><u>Outcome 4. Operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation, strengthened at the local level.</u></p>	<p><u>BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme contributes to the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation.</u></p>	<p><u>Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning</u></p>	<p><u>3.2.2 No. of tools and guidelines developed (thematic, sectoral, institutional) and shared with relevant stakeholders</u></p>	<p><u>25,000.00</u></p>

**F.G.** Include a detailed budget with budget notes, broken down by country as applicable, a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use, and an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs.

Table 9. Detailed budget

Outputs	Activities	Budget account description	Type of deliverable	TOTAL AMOUNT (USD)	Notes and assumptions
<b>Component 1: Provision of Small Grants for Implementing LLA Actions</b>					
<b>Output 1.1.</b> Pilot adaptation projects carried out and Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of monitorable LLA solutions aligned with Adaptation Fund policies.	<b>Activity 1.1.1.</b> Conduct webinars to support the process of preparing proposals.	Training, workshops, and conference	Training module	7,000	Contracting of a consultant to elaborate a training module to support the process of preparing proposals. (ICLEI)
	<b>Activity 1.1.2.</b> Design and publication of calls for proposals on months 6, 12 and 18 of the Regional Program.	Professional/ Contractual Services	Document with terms and forms of calls.	21,000	Contracting of a consultant to elaborate the terms and forms of the calls for its publication in the BiodiverCities webpage. (ICLEI)
	<b>Activity 1.1.3.</b> Selection, provision and execution of grants as adaptation pilot interventions.	Professional/ Contractual Services	Document with pre-selection of proposals. Document with proposal evaluation and order of merit.	72,000	Contracting of 3 consultants for proposal evaluation (gender specialist, adaptation specialist and EbA specialist). (ICLEI)
	<b>Activity 1.1.4.</b> Contribution to the implementation of a MEL system by CAF as a key activity of component 3 to ensure adequate implementation of LLA actions and identification of learnings to improve implementation process.	International consultants	LLA interventions, LAP development, improvement or update.	7,600,000	Contracting of products and services related to BiodiverCities awarded proposals (LLA interventions and technical support for LAPs). (ICLEI) 1st call: 3.200.000 USD (Y1: 60%; Y2: 40%) 2nd call: 2.700.000 USD (Y2: 100%). 3rd call: 1.700.000 USD (Y2: 60%; Y3: 40%). The budget allocated for each type of grant per call/year may be reallocated to a different grant category or carried over to the next call. (include a Public Brief)
	<b>Activity 1.1.5.</b> Follow up on the call for BiodiverCities Network members for the incubation, acceleration and mentoring of projects.	International consultants	Monitoring report of grant implementation.	-	PMU responsibility. Within the MEL system the final reports of the funded projects will include a Public Brief with lessons learned including the reference to the contribution of the project to the international and national adaptation policies and frameworks. (The final project report Public Brief will be made public available online and be formally presented to the UNFCCC Focal Point and the AF National Designated Authority).
<b>Subtotal Component 1</b>	-	-	-	7,700,000	-
<b>Component 2: Technical support and capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs.</b>					
<b>Output 2.1.</b> LLA project proposals addressing local adaptation needs and priorities, developed and enhanced.	<b>Activity 2.1.1.</b> Provision of technical support for improving the implementation and/or the monitoring of LLA projects supported as part of Component 1.	Professional/ Contractual Services	High quality grant proposals.	54,000	Contracting of 2 consultants for technical support for improving the implementation and/or the monitoring of LLA projects supported as part of Component 1 (EbA specialist, adaptation specialist). 3 months each per proposal call (ICLEI)
<b>Output 2.2.</b> Virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing formulation.	<b>Activity 2.2.1.</b> Organise virtual and in-person trainings for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams.	Training, workshops, and conference	Virtual training for enhancing implementation skills.	90,000	4 in-inperson training. 1 per CAF region.

Outputs	Activities	Budget account description	Type of deliverable	TOTAL AMOUNT (USD)	Notes and assumptions
implementation and monitoring skills in LLA projects, conducted, including gender and diversity approaches.	including on Biodiversity Compliance and aligned with the AF standards.				
	<b>Activity 2.2.2.</b> Provision of technical support to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for grant implementation.	Professional/ Contractual Services	Document with results of technical support to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for grant implementation.	<u>27,000</u>	Contracting of 1 consultant for technical support for to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for grant implementation. 3 months per proposal call (ICLEI)
<b>Output 2.3.</b> Assessments of local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted and reports on capacity building and knowledge needs.	<b>Activity 2.3.1.</b> Conduct a survey targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity-building needs, with the aim of refining capacity-building efforts and enhancing collaboration with allies and partners for technical support.	Professional/ Contractual Services	Document with survey results.	<u>30,000</u>	Contract a firm to develop the survey. (Firm 1)
	<b>Activity 2.3.2.</b> Conduct needs and knowledge assessments on the adaptation iterative policy cycle, including MEL and elaborate reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baselines.	Professional/ Contractual Services	Document with assesment results and baseline.	<u>33,000</u>	Contract a firm to develop knowledge assesments. (Firm 1)
<b>Output 2.4.</b> Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs supported and the improvement of the adaptation policy cycle.	<b>Activity 2.4.1.</b> Carry out studies and training processes tailored to the needs of prioritized cities to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions and local adaptation planning processes.	Professional/ Contractual Services	10 studies or training processes.	<u>180,000</u>	Contrat a firm to develop the studies or trainings. (Firm 1)
	<b>Activity 2.4.2.</b> Support the process of developing LAPs, including readiness activities.	Professional/ Contractual Services	LAP related documents.	<u>870,000</u>	Contracting of consultant team to support BiodiverCities to develop LAPs.(Firm 2)
<b>Output 2.5.</b> Participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA, designed and implemented, considering relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups and communities.	<b>Activity 2.5.1.</b> Support the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA.	Professional/ Contractual Services	Participatory governance schemes and finance strategies for BiodiverCities.	<u>23,000</u>	Contracting of 2 consultants to support the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes and climate finance strategies associated with LLA. 6 months (Firm 1)
<b>Output 2.6.</b> Support for gender mainstreaming, vulnerability and climate risks assessments, as well as for addressing social and environmental dimensions, provided.	<b>Activity 2.6.1.</b> Provide support associated with gender mainstreaming, development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines, and LAPs' social and environmental analysis.	Professional/ Contractual Services	Gender mainstreaming reports; vulnerability and climate risk baselines reports; environmental and social analysis.	<u>130,000</u>	Contracting of consultant team to support BiodiverCities to carry out gender mainstreaming, climate risks assessments, and environmental & social analysys in LAPs. (Firm 2)
<b>Output 2.7.</b> Virtual and in-person training for city government officials for LAPs formulation, the local teams, and community-based organizations, participatory process, cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc., conducted.	<b>Activity 2.7.1.</b> Organise virtual and in-person training for city government officials for LAPs formulation, participatory process, cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc.	Training, workshops, and conference	Virtual trainings modules.	<u>3010,000</u>	Contracting of consultant team to develop and conduct specific trainings in LAP related themes. (Firm 2)

Outputs	Activities	Budget account description	Type of deliverable	TOTAL AMOUNT (USD)	Notes and assumptions
	<u>Activity 2.7.2. Organise technical training workshops for city government officials on climate adaptation, urban planning, resilient housing policy, nature-based solutions, data management, policy labs and peer-to-peer exchanges with other municipalities to share best practices and challenges, including on MEL systems for tracking climate outcomes.</u>	<u>Training, workshops, and conference</u>	<u>Virtual training modules.</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>Contracting of consultant team to develop and conduct specific trainings in urban adaptation related themes. (</u>
	<u>Activity 2.7.3. Organise technical training workshops for community-based organizations, grassroots actors and vulnerable households, on project design, advocacy, and community mapping, seeking for active participation in co-design, monitoring, and delivery of local adaptation and resilience programs.</u>	<u>Training, workshops, and conference</u>	<u>Virtual training modules.</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>Contracting of consultant team to develop and conduct specific trainings in LAP related themes addressed to community-based organizations, grassroots actors and vulnerable households. (Firm 2)</u>
<u>Output 2.8. Guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities, elaborated.</u>	<u>Activity 2.8.1. Elaborate guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities with allies.</u>	<u>Professional/ Contractual Services</u>	<u>Publication of Guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities.</u>	<u>33,000-33,000</u>	<u>Contracting of consultant team to develop and conduct specific trainings in LAP related themes. (Firm 2)</u>
<b>Subtotal Component 2</b>	-	-	-	<u>1,500,000</u>	-
<b>Component 3: Knowledge Management and Exchange</b>					
<u>Output 3.1. BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database designed and published.</u>	<u>Activity 3.1.1. Develop and publish a BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database.</u>	<u>Professional/ Contractual Services</u>	<u>Open knowledge database published in BiodiverCities webpage.</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>Contracting of consultant team to develop open knowledge database. (Firm 3)</u>
	<u>Activity 3.1.2. Organise virtual workshops to identify open knowledge database structure and content, and to validate its structure.</u>	<u>Professional/ Contractual Services</u>	<u>Document with workshops results for open knowledge database development and validation.</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>Contracting of consultant team to held workshops for open knowledge database development. (Firm 3)</u>
<u>Output 3.2. Implementation of cooperation cycles between cities of the Network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level. This will include in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the AF Programme to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and good practices.</u>	<u>Activity 3.2.1. Organise 4 in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the AF Programme to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and good practices.</u>	<u>Training, workshops, and conference</u>	<u>4 two-days regional meetings for 40 people. The total value of the meeting is intended to cover hall rent, food and audiovisual expenses.</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>4 two-days regional meetings for 40 people. The total value of the meeting is intended to cover hall rent, food and audiovisual expenses. Including peer-to-peer specific technical workshops learning sessions regarding i.e., similar climate threats and impacts; similar ecosystems; and/or similar urban scale. Before and after the specific technical workshops at least 2 online structured peer learning sessions will be performed including the same peer cities.</u>
		<u>Travel</u>	<u>40 international trips.</u>	<u>560,000</u>	<u>40 international trips.</u>
	<u>Activity 3.2.2. Implement 4 cooperation cycles between cities of the network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level, applying ICLEI's structured methodology.</u>	<u>Training, workshops, and conference</u>	<u>4 cooperation cycles.</u>	<u>80,000</u>	-

Outputs	Activities	Budget account description	Type of deliverable	TOTAL AMOUNT (USD)	Notes and assumptions
<b>Output 3.3.</b> Publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others), elaborated and disseminated in webinars.	<b>Activity 3.3.1.</b> Elaborate at least 3 publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others).	Professional/ Contractual Services	3 publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others).	90,000	Contracting of consultant team to develop publications (Firm 3) The publications will include references of how lessons from LLA projects can support national and international adaptation policies and frameworks. The publications will also be made available online and formally presented to the Biodivercities network cities, international and regional partners organizations, and to relevant national government institutions, including UNFCCC Focal Points and AF National Designated Authorities.
	<b>Activity 3.3.2.</b> Conduct at least 3 webinars to disseminate (each one in English, Spanish and Portuguese) the publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions.	Training, workshops, and conference	3 webinars to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions.	15,000	Contracting of consultant team to held webinars (Firm 3) The Programme will invite all the Biodivercities Network cities, international and regional partners organizations, and will formally invite national governments, in particular UNFCCC Focal Points, AF National Designated Authorities of participating countries and national adaptation planning and/or report experts and technical
<b>Output 3.4.</b> BiodiverCities Network and Programme visibility and international relevance, improved.	<b>Activity 3.4.1.</b> Promote articulations with regional and local networks related to BiodiverCities.	International consultants	PMU responsibility.	-	PMU responsibility.
	<b>Activity 3.4.2.</b> Organise events in regional and international climate and biodiversity related meetings to disseminate the programme's interventions (UNFCCC COPs, CBD, COPs).	Training, workshops, and conference	4 organized events in relevant international meetings (UNFCCC COPs, CBD COPs)	30,000	4 organized events in relevant international meetings (UNFCCC COPs, CBD COPs)
<b>Output 3.5.</b> Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network developed.	<b>Activity 3.5.1.</b> Develop a MEL system for the BiodiverCities Network, considering the contributions of the LLA interventions and initiatives in Components 1 and 2.	Professional/ Contractual Services	MEL system of the BiodiverCities Network published.	30,000	Contracting of consultant team to develop MEL system (Firm 3)
<b>Output 3.6.</b> Next steps for the establishment of BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030, defined.	<b>Activity 3.6.1.</b> Identify and analyze existing funding possibilities for BiodiverCities Network members and the opportunities presented by it to lower the capital cost of adaptation for local governments.	Professional/ Contractual Services	Report with identification and analysis of existing funding possibilities for BiodiverCities Network members and the opportunities presented by it to lower the capital cost of adaptation for local governments.	5,000	Contracting of a consultant to identify and analyze funding possibilities for BiodiverCities Network members (Firm 3)
	<b>Activity 3.6.2.</b> Develop a finance framework proposal to facilitate access to climate finance for the members of the BiodiverCities Network (i.e. resilience bonds, concessional loans).	Professional/ Contractual Services	Document with a finance framework proposal to facilitate access to climate finance for the members of the BiodiverCities Network (i.e. resilience bonds, concessional loans).	10,000	Contracting of a consultant to develop a finance framework proposal (Firm 3)
	<b>Activity 3.6.3.</b> Organise virtual workshops to generate inputs for the definition of the road map for the "BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030".	Training, workshops, and conference	Virtual workshops results.	5,000	2 virtual workshops open to the BiodiverCities network.

Outputs	Activities	Budget account description	Type of deliverable	TOTAL AMOUNT (USD)	Notes and assumptions
<u>Output 4.1. A proposal with a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA, developed.</u>	<u>Activity 4.1.1. Develop and identify a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA.</u>	<u>Professional/ Contractual Services</u>	<u>Document with set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA.</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>Contracting of consultant team to develop set of indicators to contribute to the UAE framework on the GGA (Firm 3)</u>
<b>Subtotal Component 3</b>	-	-	-	<u>1,000,000</u>	-
<b>Total Activities</b>				<u>10,200,000</u>	
Programme Manager Cost (PMC)	<u>Component (1) coordinator (ICLEI)</u>	<u>International consultants. 100% availability.</u>		<u>195,000</u>	<u>Covers the payment of the Executing Entity Coordinator, who is responsible for the overall management of Component 1, including the design, organization, compliance, and closure of all grants.</u>
	<u>Coordination (CAF)</u>	<u>International consultants. 100% availability.</u>		<u>153,000</u>	<u>Covers coordination with CAF offices, including liaison with the country office and government counterparts for calls and strategic processes (C1), as well as communications management through the CAF Network. Responsible for implementing all planned activities under C1 and C2.</u>
	<u>Specialist 1 - Adaptation and Environmental Safeguards Specialist (EAyAA) (ICLEI)</u>	<u>International consultants. 50% availability</u>		<u>105,000</u>	<u>Covers the international specialist responsible for ensuring compliance with the project's Environmental and Social Policy.</u>
	<u>Specialist 2 - LLA specialist (ICLEI)</u>	<u>International consultants. 50% availability</u>		<u>105,000</u>	<u>Covers the international specialist responsible for the integration of locally-led adaptation (LLA) and gender approaches throughout the project.</u>
	<u>Local travel costs of the PMU (ICLEI)</u>	<u>Travel</u>		<u>60,000</u>	<u>International travels (BNP meetings, 6 COPs, regional events)</u>
	<u>Project financial audits</u>	<u>Administrative fees</u>		<u>24,000</u>	<u>Financial statement annual audits</u>
	<u>Administrative costs</u>	<u>Administrative fees</u>		<u>350,000</u>	<u>Administrative costs (35% of PMC). It charges cover the costs to the organization that are not directly attributable to specific projects or services, but are necessary to fund the corporate structures, management and oversight costs of the organization.</u>
	<u>Translations</u>	<u>Translations document and reports</u>		<u>8,000</u>	
<b>TOTAL PMC</b>				<u>1,000,000</u>	
<u>Total Programme Cost</u>	<u>Total programme (components + PMC)</u>			<u>11,200,000</u>	
<u>Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)</u>				<u>800,000</u>	
<b>Amount of Financing Requested</b>				<u>12,000,000</u>	

*Table 10. IE management fee*

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Assumptions and estimates</b>
<u>Inception/closure workshop</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>Covering venue rental, catering, transportation, speaker fees, and training materials.</u>
<u>Baseline Report</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>The Programme Baseline Report will be updated in each of the competitive call cycles.</u>
<u>Financial administration of project funds and accounting services</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>It is considered administrative costs.</u>
<u>Audits</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>It is considered administrative audit costs</u>
<u>Project oversight. Include Portfolio Manager, and overseeing independent evaluations</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>Visits to project sites to verify quality of deliverables, and overseeing independent evaluations</u>
<u>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</u>	<u>220,000</u>	<u>M&amp;E Specialist, Independent Mid Term Review, Independent Final Project Evaluation, Inception Report, Final Project Report, annual reports to the AF (PPR, AF Environmental, Social and Gender Policy fulfilment overview by CAF)</u>
<u>CAF AF Corporate cost*</u>	<u>260,000</u>	<u>Includes costs related to overall AF CAF related activities; including CAF AF country engagement and/or capacity building; activities related to CAF AF project cycles, including proposal originations; CAF AF overall administrative staff contracts and information management systems; overall CAF AF ESS activities; participation in AF activities, including travel.</u>
	<u>800,000</u>	

**H. Include a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones<sup>39</sup>.**

*Table 11. Disbursement schedule*

Schedule date	Upon signature of Agreement	One Year after Programme Start	Year 3	Total
Programme Funds	\$2,500,000.00	\$5,500,000.00	\$3,200,000.00	\$ 11,200,000.00
Implementing Entity Fees	\$250,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$800,000.00
Total	\$2,750,000.00	\$5,850,000.00	\$3,400,000.00	\$12,000,000.00

<sup>39</sup> Disbursement Schedule Template <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Disbursement-schedule-template-3Aug2017.xlsx>

## PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

### A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government

Letters of Endorsement will be provided at a later stage. Following the approval of the program proposal by the AF, CAF will share the details with the 20 Latin American and the Caribbean countries that are CAF's members. An invitation to participate in a meeting will also be extended to these countries, in order to provide further explanation of the program and its objectives. Sufficient time will be allocated for countries to evaluate the proposal and decide whether they wish to participate in the ABC Regional Program.

While cities submitting proposals must be located in a country that has issued a Letter of Endorsement for the ABC Regional Program, local governments may still apply and initiate the selection process in alignment with the phases outlined in Section II.C. This approach ensures inclusivity and provides an opportunity for all interested local governments to engage.

### B. Implementing Entity certification

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board 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.



Ignacio LORENZO ARANA  
 Director for Technical Advisory on Climate and Biodiversity  
 Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Department  
 AF CAF Coordinator

Date: ~~February~~ July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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## Annex 1. Indicative Multi-criteria analysis tool to evaluate proposals.

Tabla 12. Evaluate proposals

Criteria	Type of grant	Unsatisfactory (0 -2 points)	Moderately unsatisfactory (3-4 points)	Moderately satisfactory (5-6 points)	Satisfactory (7-8 points)	Highly satisfactory (9-10 points)	Weight
<b>C1. Conducts and describes risk assessments</b>	<b>G1, G2</b>	The project cannot demonstrate that it relies on a vulnerability or risk assessment as a basis for the LLA solution, nor does it propose to develop one.	The project can barely demonstrate that it relies on a vulnerability or risk assessment as a basis for the LLA solution, and it does not propose to develop one.	The project can barely demonstrate that it relies on a vulnerability or risk assessment as a basis for the LLA solution, or it proposes to develop one.	The project can demonstrate that it is based on a vulnerability or risk assessment as a basis for the LLA solution, even if it is not recent, or proposes its elaboration.	The project is based on a recently conducted vulnerability or risk assessment as a basis for the LLA solution or proposes its elaboration, making explicit the methodological assumptions used or to be used.	10
	<b>G3</b>	The project does not involve a climate risk assessment nor does it consider climate projections to justify the LLA action proposed.	The project barely involves a climate risk assessment and considers climate projections to justify the LLA action proposed.	The project involves moderately satisfactory climate risk assessment and climate projections to justify the LLA action proposed.	The project involves a climate risk assessment and considers climate projections to justify the LLA action proposed.	The project involves a recent climate risk assessment and integrates more than satisfactorily climate projections to justify the LLA action proposed.	
<b>C2. Promotes clear and substantive stakeholder involvement and ownership</b>	<b>G1, G2, G3</b>	The project does not propose or does not adequately explain the involvement of stakeholders in the proposed LLA action.	The project demonstrates how it will promote stakeholder involvement in the monitoring of the proposed LLA action, including at least progress communication during implementation.	The project demonstrates how it will promote stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the proposed LLA action and in its monitoring process.	The project explains the involvement of stakeholders in the definition of the priority to move forward with the proposal (planification) and demonstrates how it will promote stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the proposed LLA action and in its monitoring process.	The project explains the involvement of stakeholders in the definition of the priority to move forward with the proposal (planification) and in its design, and demonstrates how it will promote stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the proposed LLA action and in its monitoring process.	9
<b>C3. Provides clear and feasible objectives and components</b>	<b>G1, G2, G3</b>	The objectives and components of the project based on an LLA solution are not feasible or not clearly explained. The required amount and time frame are not appropriate for the proposed action.	The objectives, the time frame or the amount required are not clearly explained or are not appropriate for the proposed action.	The objectives, the time frame and the amount required are moderately in line with the proposed action.	The project involves an LLA action with feasible and clearly explained objectives and components in line with the requested amount and the timeframe specified.	The project articulates more than satisfactorily the relationship between the objectives, the components, the requested amount and the timeframe on the basis of the proposed LLA action.	10

Criteria	Type of grant	Unsatisfactory (0-2 points)	Moderately unsatisfactory (3-4 points)	Moderately satisfactory (5-6 points)	Satisfactory (7-8 points)	Highly satisfactory (9-10 points)	Weight
<b>C4. Contributes to local or national development or climate policy</b>	<b>G1, G2, G3</b>	The project finds difficulties when proving the linkage with local development priorities- <u>and the national climate priorities included in plans, strategies, LTS, AdComs, NDCs and/or NAPs of the respective country where the city is located.</u>	The project moderately demonstrates the linkage between the proposed LLA action and the local development priorities- <u>and the national climate priorities included in plans, strategies, LTS, AdComs, NDCs and/or NAPs of the respective country where the city is located.-</u>	The project demonstrates more than satisfactorily the linkage between the proposed LLA action and the local measures included in local climate or development policy instruments, <u>and the national climate priorities included in plans, strategies, LTS, AdComs, NDCs and/or NAPs of the respective country where the city is located.-</u>	The project demonstrates satisfactorily the linkage between the proposed LLA action and the national climate priorities included in plans, strategies, <u>LTS, Adcoms, NDCs and/or NAPs of the respective country where the city is located.</u>	The project demonstrates more than satisfactorily the linkage between the proposed LLA action and national climate adaptation measures included in plans, strategies, <u>LTS, Adcoms, NDCs and/or NAPs of the respective country where the city is located.</u>	8
<b>C5. Has in place governance structures and processes to implement the intervention</b>	<b>G1, G2, G3</b>	The city does not have governance structures and processes in place to implement the pilot or intervention proposed.	The city does not have and the project barely demonstrates the establishment of governance structures and/or processes to implement the pilot or intervention proposed.	The city has or the project develops a moderately satisfactorily governance structure and/or processes to implement the pilot or intervention proposed.	The city has governance structures and processes in place to implement the pilot or intervention proposed that are described in the project.	The project describes that the city has permanent governance structures and processes in place that make implementation of the pilot or the intervention feasible and sustainable.	7
<b>C6. Proves the effectiveness of solution and strives for including innovative adaptation approaches</b>	<b>G1, G2, G3</b>	The project or the LLA solution does not mention the link between the proposed action and the reduction of the main vulnerabilities to climate change identified in the proposal, nor does it innovate with adaptation approaches.	The project does not strive for including innovative approaches such as EbA, CbA and GbA but demonstrates the linkage between the LLA action and the reduction of the main vulnerabilities identified by the proposal.	The project shows the linkage between the LLA action and the reduction of the main vulnerabilities identified by the proposal, and strives for including one innovative approach (EbA, CbA or GbA).	The project shows the linkage between the LLA action and the reduction of the main vulnerabilities identified by the proposal, and strives for including two innovative approaches (EbA, CbA or GbA).	The project shows the linkage between the LLA action and the reduction of the main vulnerabilities identified by the proposal, and strives for including three innovative approaches (EbA, CbA or GbA).	7
<b>C7. Demonstrates monitoring capabilities</b>	<b>G2, G3</b>	The project does not demonstrate monitoring capabilities of the LLA action proposed.	The project can barely demonstrate monitoring capabilities of the LLA action proposed.	The project demonstrates moderate satisfactorily monitoring capabilities of the LLA action proposed.	The project demonstrates satisfactorily monitoring capabilities of the LLA action proposed.	The project demonstrates more than satisfactorily monitoring capabilities of the LLA action proposed.	6
<b>C8. Precise definition of the LLA action's short to medium-term outcomes linked to long-term impacts</b>	<b>G2, G3</b>	The project does not demonstrate a precise link between short and medium term results of the LLA action and long	The project only demonstrates short and medium term results of the LLA action without referring to long term	The project only demonstrates short and medium term results and long term impacts of the LLA action, by listing them	The project satisfactorily demonstrates the link between the short and medium term results of the LLA action and the long term impacts, by	The project demonstrates more than satisfactorily the link between the short and medium term results of the LLA action and the long term impacts, by providing a detailed description	6

Criteria	Type of grant	Unsatisfactory (0 -2 points)	Moderately unsatisfactory (3-4 points)	Moderately satisfactory (5-6 points)	Satisfactory (7-8 points)	Highly satisfactory (9-10 points)	Weight
		term impacts.	impacts.	without further explanations..	providing a detailed description of each of them, ensuring maladaptation prevention.	of each of them and justifying their connection to the project components, ensuring maladaptation prevention.	
<b>C9. Describes vulnerability and climate-risk baselines</b>	<b>G3</b>	The project does not describe vulnerability and climate-risk baselines related to the LLA action proposed.	The project can barely describe vulnerability and climate-risk baselines related to the LLA action proposed.	The project describes moderately satisfactorily vulnerability and climate-risk baselines related to the LLA action proposed.	The project describes satisfactorily vulnerability and climate-risk baselines related to the LLA action proposed.	The project describes more than satisfactorily vulnerability and climate-risk baselines related to the LLA action proposed.	6
<b>C10. Demonstrates the sustainability of LLA actions</b>	<b>G3</b>	The project does not demonstrate the sustainability of the LLA actions beyond the conclusion of the grant.	The project barely demonstrates the sustainability of the LLA actions beyond the conclusion of the grant.	The project moderately demonstrates the sustainability of the LLA actions beyond the conclusion of the grant.	The project demonstrates the sustainability of the LLA actions beyond the conclusion of the grant.	The project demonstrates highly satisfactorily the sustainability of the LLA actions beyond the conclusion of the grant.	6
<b>C11. Provides results of gender assessments and details on how the needs of relevant vulnerable groups have been considered</b>	<b>G3</b>	The project does not provide results of gender assessments and details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.	The project barely provides results of gender assessments and details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.	The project moderately satisfactorily provides results of gender assessments and details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.	The project provides results of gender assessments and details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.	The project more than satisfactorily integrates to the project the results of gender assessments and provides details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.	5
<b>C12. Provides details on how the needs of relevant vulnerable groups have been considered</b>	<b>G3</b>	The project does not provide details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.	The project barely provides details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.	The project moderately satisfactorily provides details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.	The project provides details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.	The project more than satisfactorily provides details on how the needs of the relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.	5
<b>C13. Identifies implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures</b>	<b>G3</b>	The project does not identify intervention implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures.	The project barely identifies intervention implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures.	The project identifies moderately satisfactorily intervention implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures.	The project identifies satisfactorily intervention implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures.	The project identifies highly satisfactorily intervention implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures.	5

## **Annex 33. Theory of change**

The Theory of Change indicates and describes how objectives are to be achieved over different time horizons. It explains the changes through cause-effect relationships, determines the assumptions adopted for their fulfilment and identifies their risks. It also makes it possible to clearly establish the scope of the project and its influence on the sequence of changes necessary to achieve the long-term objectives<sup>40</sup>. In the case of this programme, its influence is limited to the Programme Goal to be achieved in the medium term.

The programme aspires in the long-term to support the fulfilment of the following impact: Latin American and Caribbean cities have adequate levels of urban resilience to climate change, facilitating biodiversity-friendly socio-economic development and improving people's quality of life.

In line with the above, the main objective of the Adapting BiodiverCities Regional Programme (ABC) is to ~~accelerate the implementation of promote gender equality and effective, inclusive and monitorable~~ locally-led adaptation, ~~focusing on the most vulnerable communities and groups~~, to enhance urban resilience to climate change in Latin American and Caribbean cities.

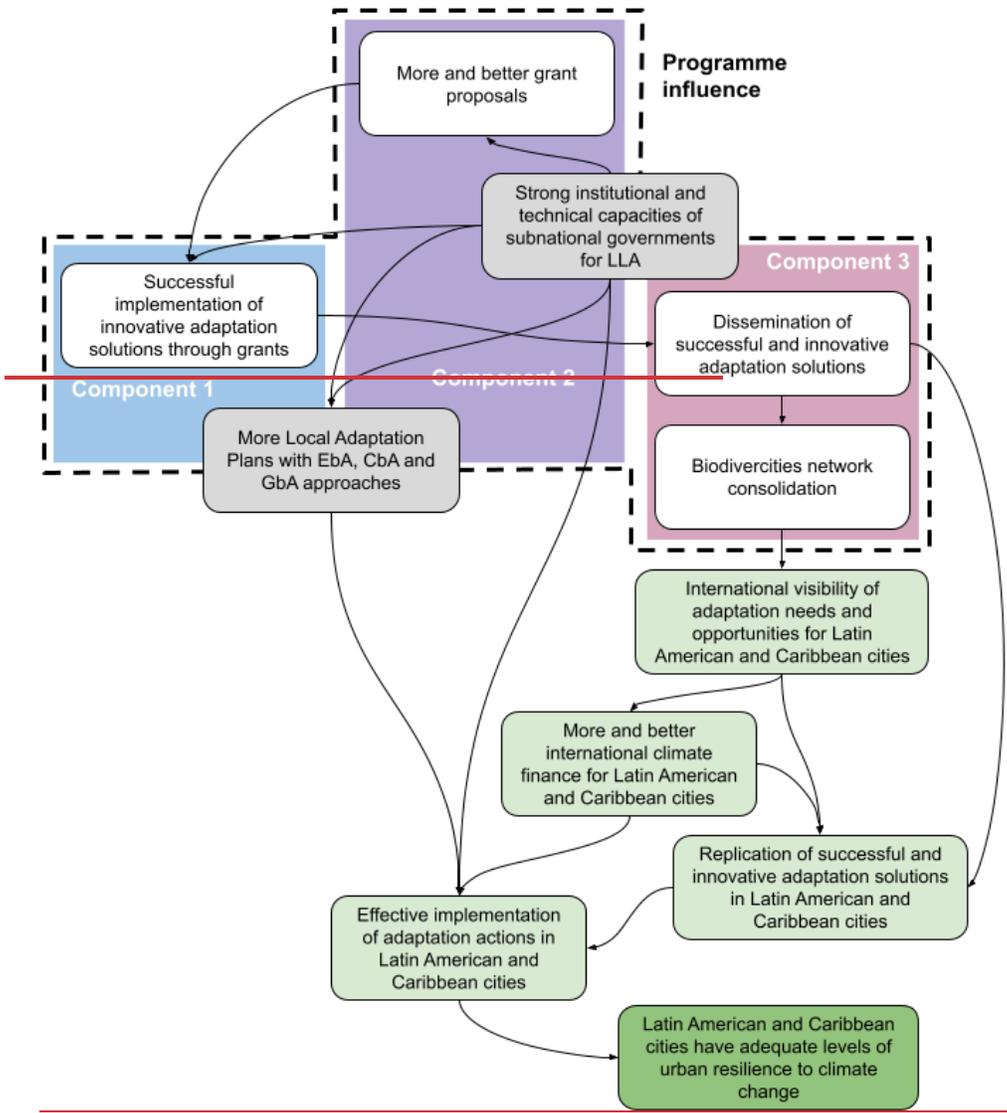
The programme aims to support the implementation of innovative adaptation actions and pilot projects across various scales through the provision of competitive grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), Community-based Adaptation (CbA) and Gender-based Adaptation (GbA) approaches will be promoted to achieve more inclusive, effective and biodiversity friendly adaptation. The implementation of successful innovative adaptation solutions and the subsequent dissemination of these through the Biodivercities Network and AF Programme will promote its replication in the region.

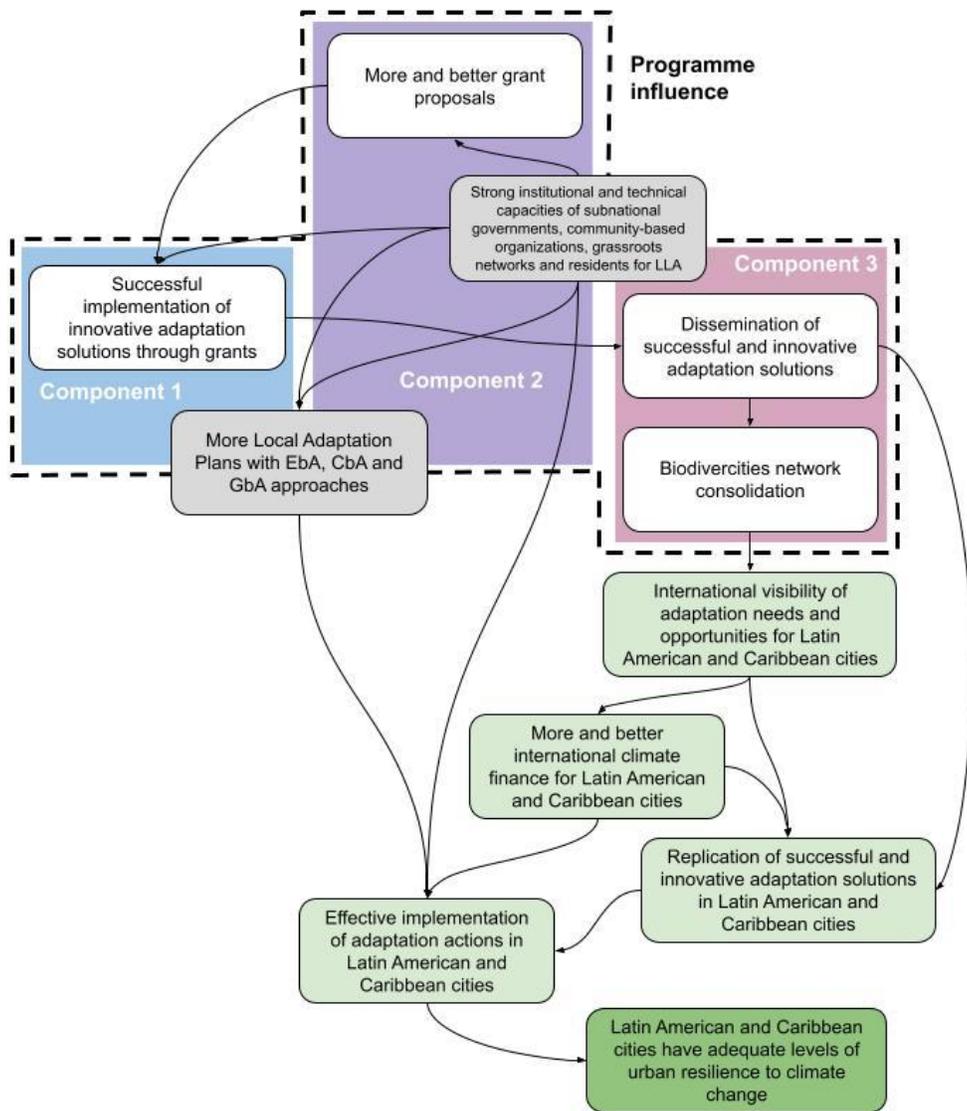
The programme will also strengthen the capacities of subnational governments within the BiodiverCities Network and participants of the Adaptation Fund Regional Program to formulate, implement, and monitor adaptation actions, pilot projects and Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs), while improving their ability to access international climate financing in order to face climate change impacts and risks through locally-led adaptation actions. The capacity building activities of the programme will facilitate the planification, implementation and monitoring of adaptation actions included in the programme and of those that go beyond it.

According to the above, the programme will consolidate the BiodiverCities Network by sharing experiences and innovative practices, developing tools and scaling up effective adaptation practices that help communities adapt to climate change. This will enhance the international visibility of the region's cities to facilitate international climate resource mobilization towards locally-led adaptation activities. Lastly, it will provide methodological contributions that serve the operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation based on LLA actions supported by the AF Regional Program and the BiodiverCities Network. The alignment of adaptation initiatives with the UAE Framework makes them more effective and facilitates local climate action monitoring regarding the fulfillment of the GGA, making local climate action relevance visible.

### **Figure 10. Programme's simplified theory of change**

<sup>40</sup> Bours, D. & McGinn, C. & Pringle, P. (2014). Guidance Note 3: Theory of Change approach to climate change adaptation programming.





[The goal statement of the ABC Regional Programme is:](#)

[IF pilot adaptation projects carried out and Local Adaptation Plans are developed; trainings and technical support regarding LLA projects and adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring, addressed to city governments are conducted; BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database is](#)

designed and published; cooperation cycles between cities are implemented; LLA related publications are elaborated and disseminated in webinars; BiodiverCities Network and Programme visibility and international relevance is improved; next steps for the establishment of BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030 are defined; Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network is developed; and a proposal with a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA is developed THEN ~~inclusive, effective and monitorable~~ locally led adaptation solutions will be accelerated ~~will be promoted~~ to enhance urban resilience to climate change in Latin American and Caribbean cities BECAUSE BiodiverCities will implement locally-led and ecosystem, community and gender based adaptation solutions and improve their adaptation local policy cycle; capacities of subnational governments will be strengthened to formulate, implement, and monitor adaptation actions and Local Adaptation Plans, including LLA actions; BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme will be consolidated; and operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation will be strengthened at the local level.

In line with the above, the ABC Programme have 4 outcomes to fulfil its goal:

- Outcome 1. BiodiverCities implement locally-led and ecosystem, ~~community and gender~~ based adaptation solutions and improve their adaptation local policy cycle.
- Outcome 2. Capacities of subnational governments strengthened to formulate, implement, and monitor locally-led adaptation actions and Local Adaptation Plans.
- Outcome 3. BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme consolidated as a regional space that promotes the generation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge and facilitates the development of locally-led innovative solutions for urban adaptation.
- Outcome 4. Operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation, strengthened at the local level.

The ABC Programme includes the following 18 outputs:

- Output 1.1. Pilot adaptation projects carried out Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of monitorable LLA solutions aligned with Adaptation Fund policies. (Act. 1.1.1., 1.1.2., 1.1.3., 1.1.4. and 1.1.5.)
- Output 2.1. LLA project proposals, developed and enhanced. (Act. 2.1.1., 2.1.2. and 2.1.3.)
- Output 2.2. Virtual and in-person training in LLA projects, conducted, including gender and diversity approaches. (Act. 2.2.1. and 2.2.2.)
- Output 2.3. Assessments of local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted and reports on capacity building and knowledge needs. (Act. 2.3.1. and 2.3.2.)
- Output 2.4. Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs supported and the improvement of the adaptation policy cycle. (Act. 2.4.1. and 2.4.2.)
- Output 2.5. Participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA, designed and implemented, considering relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups and communities. (Act. 2.5.1.)
- Output 2.6. Support for gender mainstreaming, vulnerability and climate risks assessments, as well as for addressing social and environmental dimensions, provided. (Act. 2.6.1.)
- Output 2.7. Virtual and in-person training ~~for city government officials and community-based organizations, grassroots networks and residents~~ for LAPs formulation, participatory process,

cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc., conducted. (Act. 2.7.1.)

- Output 2.8. Guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities, elaborated. (Act. 2.8.1.)
- Output 3.1. BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database, designed and published. (Act. 3.1.1. and 3.1.2.)
- Output 3.2. Implementation of cooperation cycles between cities of the network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level. (Act. 3.2.1. and 3.2.2.)
- Output 3.3. Publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions, elaborated and disseminated in webinars. (Act. 3.3.1. and 3.3.2.)
- Output 3.4. BiodiverCities Network and Programme visibility and international relevance, improved. (Act. 3.4.1. and 3.4.2.)
- Output 3.5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network developed. (Act. 3.5.1.)
- Output 3.6. Next steps for the establishment of BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030, defined. (Act. 3.6.1., 3.6.2. and 3.6.3.)
- Output 4.1. A proposal with a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA, developed. (Act. 4.1.1.)

These outputs address the following barriers to urban adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean, as stated in through the main text of the proposal:

- **Barrier 1. Limited access to international funds at the local level:** local actors lack accreditation or financial track records required to participate in international funds, which prevents adaptation financing.
- **Barrier 2. Limited fiscal and technical capacities of intermediate and small city governments to implement adaptation projects:** this makes them reliant on external funds or central government interventions, which restricts their autonomy and ability to implement adaptation projects.
- **Barrier 3. Lack of international visibility:** international funds prioritise other regions and themes for their interventions.
- **Barrier 4. Absence of local climate finance mechanisms:** this further hinder resource mobilization which prevents adaptation financing.
- **Barrier 5. Absence of effective local planning:** the lack of planning does not facilitate the implementation of adaptation initiatives that are prioritised and necessary according to the local context and risk identification.

Some of the outputs facilitate or support other outputs from the same or another component:

- Output 2.1. extends the scope of Output 1.1. and improves its effectiveness, by facilitating the formulation of more project proposals in line with the local governments needs.
- Output 2.2. facilitates the implementation and monitoring of Output 1.1. activities, by strengthening government officials LLA skills.

- By defining a baseline, Output 2.3. facilitates the monitoring of capacity building activities associated with Outcome 2. Also, the survey of capacity needs facilitates the definition of activities associated with Outputs 2.4., 2.5., 2.6. and 2.7., in line with local needs and priorities.
- Output 2.8. (LAP guidelines) facilitates the implementation of Output 1.1. and 2.4. by establishing clear guidelines for its development.
- Outcome 3.1. (Biodivercities open knowledge database) enables Outcome 2. products to be disseminated to broaden their outreach.
- Outcome 3.3. (publications) facilitate Outcome 2. training activities development by making available material with useful information for a better learning process.

On the other hand, the assumptions are the necessary and sufficient conditions for the programme's success that are beyond its control. These are the identified assumptions related to the programme's outputs:

- General:
  - National governments sign the endorsement letters of the Programme.
  - Subnational governments show interest and participate in programme activities.
- Output 1.1.
  - Proposals meet the minimum requirements to be awarded.
  - Half of the cities that develop grant proposals get awarded.
  - Cities are interested and participate in the 3 calls for proposals.
- Output 2.3:
  - Local governments show interest and respond to the survey.
- Outputs 2.4., 2.5., 2.6. and 2.7.:
  - Local governments priorities and needs are in line with the proposed thematic activities.
- Output 4.1:
  - Programme results are achieved and its success facilitates its international relevance.

Finally, as stated in Section 3.B., the programme's activities face the following risks:

- **Risk 1.** LLA pilots and interventions don't make progress on the time allocated for its disbursement and implementation. (Programmatic and Financial)
- **Risk 2.** LLA pilots and interventions fail to address vulnerabilities and climate risks and are disconnected from planning processes. (Programmatic)
- **Risk 3.** The ABC Regional Program lacks a cohesive governance to ensure articulation across its three components. (Programmatic)
- **Risk 4.** The ABC Regional Programme fails to meet planning, implementation and knowledge' cities gaps and needs for innovative climate resilience responses. (Programmatic)
- **Risk 5.** Changes in government at the national, provincial and/or departmental level may cause loss of support for the regional programme activities. (Programmatic and Political)
- **Risk 6.** Extreme events affect pilot adaptation project implementation. (Operational)
- **Risk 7.** Hiring and procurement delay project implementation. (Financial)

**Figure 11. Programme's Theory of Change**

**Long-term impact.** Latin American and Caribbean cities have adequate levels of urban resilience to climate change, facilitating **biodiversity-friendly** socio-economic development and improving people's quality of life.

Innovative adaptation solutions replicated at the local level.

The region's subnational governments count with Local Adaptation Plans and the institutional and technical capacities which allows them to plan, implement and monitor locally-led, effective and ecosystem, community and gender based adaptation solutions.

Region's visibility increased and climate adaptation international funding at the local level, enhanced.

**Programme goal (mid-term).** Inclusive, effective and monitorable locally-led adaptation promoted to enhance urban resilience to climate change in Latin American and Caribbean cities.

**Outcome 1.** BiodiverCities implement locally-led and ecosystem, community and gender based adaptation solutions and improve their adaptation local policy cycle.

**Outcome 2.** Capacities of subnational governments strengthened to formulate, implement, and monitor adaptation actions and Local Adaptation Plans.

**Outcome 3.** BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme consolidated as a regional space that promotes the generation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge and facilitates the development of locally-led innovative solutions for urban adaptation.

**Outcome 4.** Operationalization of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the Global Goal on Adaptation, strengthened at the local level.

**Output 1.1.** Pilot adaptation projects carried out Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of monitorable LLA solutions aligned with Adaptation Fund policies (Act. 1.1.1., 1.1.2., 1.1.3., 1.1.4. and 1.1.5.)

**Output 2.1.** LLA project proposals, developed and enhanced. (Act. 2.1.1., 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.)

**Output 2.2.** Virtual and in-person training in LLA projects, conducted, including gender and diversity approaches. (Act. 2.2.1. and 2.2.2.)

**Output 2.3.** Assessments of local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted and reports on capacity building and knowledge needs. (Act. 2.3.1. y 2.3.2.)

**Output 2.4.** Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs supported and the improvement of the adaptation policy cycle. (Act. 2.4.1. and 2.4.2.)

**Output 2.5.** Participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA, designed and implemented. (Act. 2.5.1.)

**Output 2.6.** Support for gender mainstreaming, vulnerability and climate risks assessments (Act. 2.6.1.)

**Output 2.7.** Virtual and in-person training for city government officials for LAPs formulation, participatory process, cross-cutting approaches, MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc., conducted. (Act. 2.7.1.)

**Output 2.8.** Guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities, elaborated. (Act. 2.8.1.)

**Output 3.1.** BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database, designed and published. (Act. 3.1.1. and 3.1.2.)

**Output 3.2.** Implementation of cooperation cycles between cities of the network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level. (Act. 3.2.1. and 3.2.2.)

**Output 3.3.** Publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions, elaborated and disseminated in webinars. (Act. 3.3.1. and 3.3.2.)

**Output 3.4.** BiodiverCities Network and Programme visibility and international relevance, improved. (Act. 3.4.1. and 3.4.2.)

**Output 3.5.** Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network developed. (Act. 3.5.1.)

**Output 3.6.** Next steps for the establishment of BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030, defined. (Act. 3.6.1., 3.6.2. and 3.6.3.)

**Output 4.1.** A proposal with a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA, developed. (Act. 4.1.1.)

**Output 1.1 assumptions:**  
 - Proposals meet the minimum requirements to be awarded.  
 - Half of the cities that develop grant proposals get awarded.  
 - Cities are interested and participate in the 3 calls for proposals.

**Output 2.1 and 2.2 assumptions:**  
 - All the cities that develop grant proposals are supported in its presentation.  
 - Cities engage on technical support to develop and enhance new or existing proposals, as appropriate.

**Output 2.3 assumptions:**  
 Local governments show interest and respond to the survey.

**Outputs 2.5, 2.6, 2.8 and 2.9 assumptions:**  
 Local governments priorities and needs are in line with the proposed thematic activities.

**Barrier 1.** Limited access to international funds at the local level: local actors lack accreditation or financial track records required to participate in international funds, which prevents adaptation financing.

**Barrier 2.** Limited fiscal and technical capacities of intermedial and small city governments to implement adaptation projects: this makes them reliant on external funds or central government interventions, which restricts their autonomy and ability to implement adaptation projects.

**Barrier 3.** Lack of international visibility: international funds prioritise other regions and themes for their interventions.

**Barrier 4.** Absence of local climate finance mechanisms: this further hinder resource mobilization which prevents adaptation financing.

**Barrier 5.** Absence of effective local planning: the lack of planning does not facilitate the implementation of adaptation initiatives that are prioritised and necessary according to the local context and risk identification.

**Risk 1.** LLA pilots and interventions don't make progress on the time allocated for its disbursement and implementation.

**Risk 2.** LLA pilots and interventions fail to address vulnerabilities and climate risks and are disconnected from planning processes.

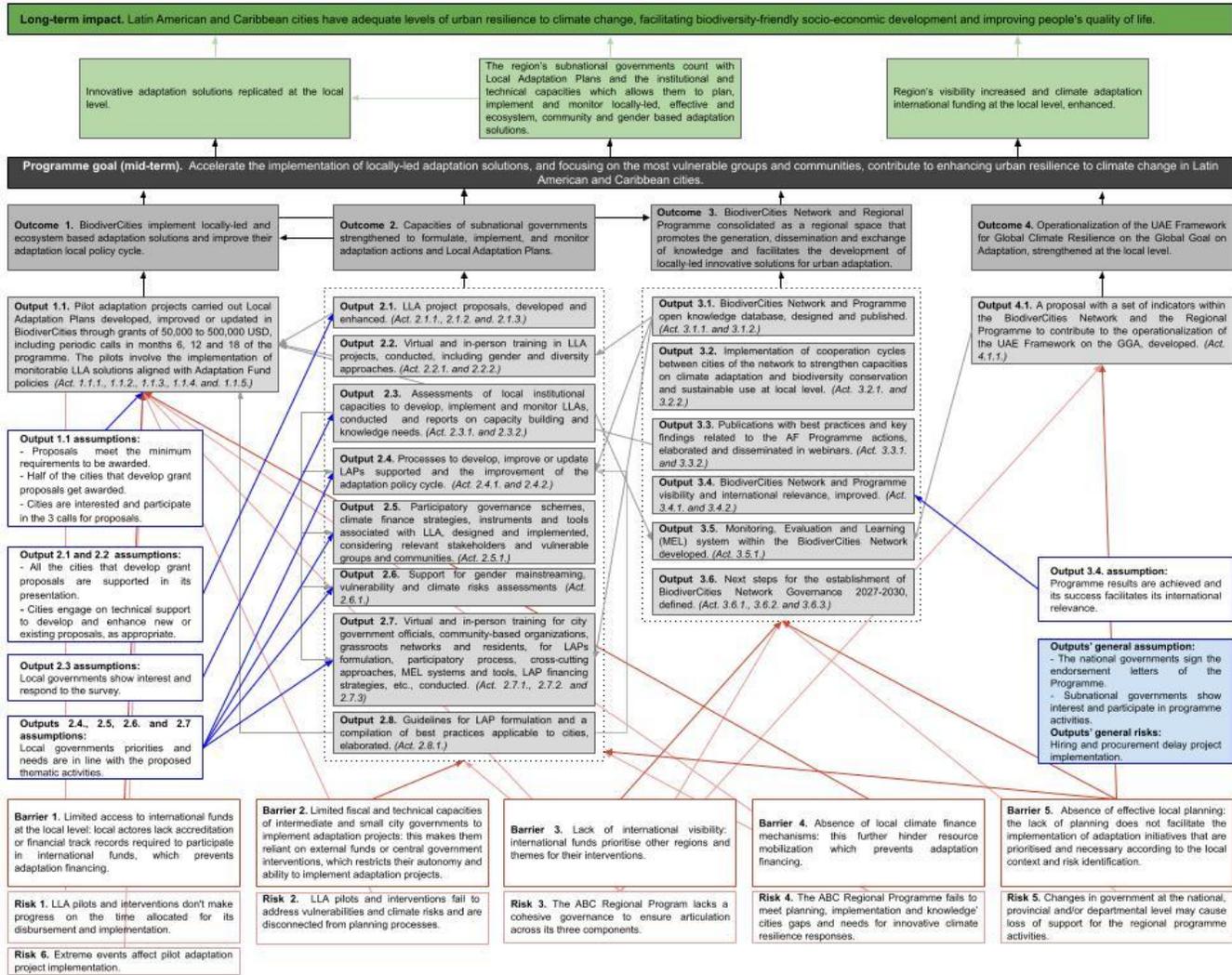
**Risk 3.** The ABC Regional Program lacks a cohesive governance to ensure articulation across its three components.

**Risk 4.** The ABC Regional Programme fails to meet planning, implementation and knowledge/ cities gaps and needs for innovative climate resilience responses.

**Risk 5.** Changes in government at the national, provincial and/or departmental level may cause loss of support for the regional programme activities.

**Output 4.1 assumption:**  
 Programme results are achieved and its success facilitates its international relevance.

**Outputs' general assumption:**  
 - The national governments sign the endorsement letters of the Programme.  
 - Subnational governments show interest and participate in programme activities.



## **Annex 44. Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan**

### **Gender Assessment**

According to the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy, a gender assessment is requested to be conducted at the early stage of the programme development to inform the proposal development. As an iterative process, this should be considered a living document, since gender assessment will be updated and revised throughout implementation based on monitoring progress reporting.

A gender assessment and a gender action plan have been developed following guidance provided in the Document for implementing entities on compliance with the Adaptation Fund gender policy updated in August 2022. This gender assessment is done at Adapting BiodiverCities programme level, tailored to the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Climate change disproportionately affects women and girls, amplifying existing inequalities, and further challenging their livelihoods, health, and development. The gender-unequal impacts of climate change are linked to socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty. According to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, there **were 112.7 women for every 100 men living in poor households before the COVID pandemic**. This is exacerbated under a climate change context that affects biological diversity and economies with pattern production well relied on extraction of natural resources and fossil energy. This accentuates inequalities faced by women, and even more those from rural and indigenous communities. In the cities of Latin America and the Caribbean, poverty has a female face: 1 in 4 households (the highest rate in the world) is headed by a woman<sup>41</sup>.

The repeated economic crisis in the region deepens poverty and inequality, and women are particularly affected by the decline of economic activities and sectors that are key for female employment, such as tourism, manufacturing, commerce and paid domestic work<sup>42</sup>. **Even when between 8% and 30% of exports are managed by a woman in the region, women have less access to ownership of the lands in comparison to men, as well as less access to irrigation water, ownership of agricultural equipment and ownership of larger animals<sup>43</sup>. For example, in LAC, women's land tenure security is much lower than that of men, representing only 25% of landowners in the region<sup>44</sup>.**

The relationship between gender dynamics and natural resources in the region is also characterized by the impact of the latter on food security, health and income generation. Biodiversity and natural resources decline under the climate crises undermain even more the access to and control over biodiversity and ecosystem services. Hence it reduces resilience and capacity to adapt, causing more dependency and vulnerability among women and more disadvantaged groups, especially rural and indigenous communities, but also elderly people without many options to diversify their income sources. From an intersectional lens, it is important to highlight that the speed of population aging that is observed in most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean is seen in few countries in the world. Moreover, the

<sup>41</sup> García, A.C. (2022) Women as leaders of urban climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean. <https://blogs.iadb.org/ciudades-sostenibles/en/women-as-leaders-of-urban-climate-action-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean/>

<sup>42</sup> Aguilar Revelo, L. (2022). Women's autonomy and gender equality at the centre of climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean. Project Documents (LC/TS.2022/64), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

<sup>43</sup> FAO (2023). Aumenta el porcentaje de mujeres a cargo de explotaciones agropecuarias en América Latina y el Caribe. Nota de política sobre las mujeres rurales 1. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/22bf4b33-e0d0-49aa-9b46-6a51091ebc04/content>

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid* 1.

population over 65 in Latin America and the Caribbean will double in the next 25 years.<sup>45</sup>

This is important in the context of the maintenance of sexual division of labour and unfair social organization of care<sup>46</sup>. Women tend to receive lower pensions than men, both in terms of coverage and benefits, when these are based on employment history, salary, and contributions. In this regard, at a global scale women spend 2.6 times more time on unpaid domestic and care work than men, and in the LAC region this is slightly higher, with women working 2.8 hours for every hour of unpaid work that men perform (ECLAC, 2020)<sup>47</sup>.

Domestic work and overload of care work leads to less opportunities for women to find other job opportunities in already restrictive and patriarchal markets. In fact, of total rural employment in Latin America and the Caribbean, just over a third is female (35%)<sup>48</sup>, and is characterized by high rates of informality -absence of contracts, low wages or in kind payment that increases even more social vulnerability.

From an intersectional approach, indigenous women, who in their role as environmental defenders suffer from gender-based violence, also depend heavily on natural resources for their survival. In 2024 the British human rights NGO Global Witness Global Witness published its last report that recorded at least 196 land and environmental defenders were killed last year while trying to protect the planet from extractive industries. 85% percent of these murders occurred in Latin America, particularly in Colombia, Mexico, and Honduras, and will particularly affect Indigenous peoples (6%)<sup>49</sup>. Taking this into consideration, instruments such as the Escazú Agreement become vitally important. The agreement seeks to guarantee the right to a healthy environment and sustainable development through access to environmental information, the promotion of citizen participation in environmental decision-making, access to justice in environmental matters, the protection of environmental defenders, and the promotion of international cooperation. As a key agreement for human rights, it also places women at the center of attention as key environmental advocates and defenders in their communities and as holders of all the principles and rights that the agreement seeks to guarantee.

Since 2022, CAF has implemented a Strategy for Gender Equality focused on empowering women and girls through three key pillars: economic autonomy, to facilitate women's access to financial resources, basic services, and employment opportunities; physical autonomy to strengthen countries' capacity to combat gender-based violence, femicide, and teenage pregnancy; and finally, autonomy in Decision-Making, promoting women's participation in decision-making spaces. To achieve this, CAF strategy is based on mobilizing resources, managing knowledge, providing technical cooperation, strengthening institutional capacities, updating regulations, creating instruments to implement gender equality perspectives, designing policies that respond to women's needs, supporting educational and technical-vocational training systems and supporting financial institutions.

<sup>45</sup>Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). (2021). Etapas del proceso de envejecimiento demográfico de los países de América Latina y el Caribe y desafíos respecto del cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y el Consenso de Montevideo sobre Población y Desarrollo. <https://www.cepal.org/es/enfoques/etapas-proceso-envejecimiento-demografico-paises-america-latina-caribe-desafios-respecto#:~:text=El%20peso%20relativo%20de%20la,acciones%20inherentes%20a%20este%20tema>

<sup>46</sup>Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (LC/CRM.13/5), Santiago, 2017.

<sup>47</sup>ECLAC (2021) Implications of gender roles in natural resource governance in Latin America and the Caribbean. <https://www.cepal.org/en/insights/implications-gender-roles-natural-resource-governance-latin-america-and-caribbean>

<sup>48</sup>ECLAC (2021) Implications of gender roles in natural resource governance in Latin America and the Caribbean. <https://www.cepal.org/en/insights/implications-gender-roles-natural-resource-governance-latin-america-and-caribbean>

<sup>49</sup>Global Witness. (Septiembre 2024). Voces silenciadas LA VIOLENCIA CONTRA LAS PERSONAS DEFENSORAS DE LA TIERRA Y EL MEDIOAMBIENTE. [https://gw.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Global\\_Witness\\_Land\\_And\\_Environmental\\_Defenders\\_Sep\\_2024\\_Report\\_Spanish\\_GAJ01m\\_iIU8a7.pdf](https://gw.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Global_Witness_Land_And_Environmental_Defenders_Sep_2024_Report_Spanish_GAJ01m_iIU8a7.pdf)

## **Programme gender responsive activities**

1. Gender-responsive actions have been integrated into the activities designed at programme level, as can be seen in the following table. Moreover, each activity will be monitored through qualitative indicators that are defined under the Gender Action Plan below.

*Table 13. Gender responsive activities within the programme*

Expected Outcomes	Activities defined in the programme	Does this activity integrate gender mainstreaming actions?
<b>Component 1:</b> Provision of Small Grants for Implementing LLA Actions	<b>Activity 1.1.1.</b> Conduct webinars to support the process of preparing proposals.	Ensure that all webinars organized to support the preparation of adaptation pilot project proposals are gender-responsive, actively promote women's leadership, and provide a safe and inclusive space for their meaningful participation.
	<b>Activity 1.1.2.</b> Design and publication of calls for proposals on months 6, 12 and 18 of the Regional Program.	Develop criteria for proposal selection that incorporate gender considerations and meaningful stakeholder engagement.
	<b>Activity 1.1.3.</b> Selection and provision of grants as adaptation pilot interventions.	Ensure, through criteria applied for selecting proposals, that local governments put forward pilots that are grounded in inclusive and participatory process, and aligned with the gender policies and Environmental and Social Policies (ESP) of the AF and CAF.
	<b>Activity 1.1.4.</b> Contribution to the implementation of a MEL system by CAF as a key activity of component 3 to ensure adequate implementation of LLA actions and identification of learnings to improve implementation process.	Integration of gender and diversity approaches into the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network.
	<b>Activity 1.1.5.</b> Follow up on the call for BiodiverCities Network members for the incubation, acceleration and mentoring of projects.	Ensure, through criteria applied for selecting proposals, that local governments put forward pilots that are grounded in inclusive and participatory process, and aligned with the gender policies and Environmental and Social Policies (ESP) of the AF and CAF.
<b>Component 2:</b> Technical support and	<b>Activity 2.1.1.</b> Provision of technical support for improving the implementation and/or the monitoring of LLA projects supported as part of Component 1.	Provision of guidance on gender mainstreaming to adaptation pilot projects proposals.

Expected Outcomes	Activities defined in the programme	Does this activity integrate gender mainstreaming actions?
<p>capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs</p>	<p><b>Activity 2.2.1.</b> Organise virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams including on Biodiversity Compliance, mainstreaming gender and diversity approaches in line with the AF standards.</p>	<p>Organise virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams including on mainstreaming gender and diversity approaches in line with the AF standards.</p>
	<p><b>Activity 2.3.1.</b> Conduct a survey targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity-building needs, with the aim of refining capacity-building efforts and enhancing collaboration with allies and partners for technical support.</p>	<p>Assess gender capacity building needs through a survey.</p>
	<p><b>Activity 2.3.2.</b> Conduct needs and knowledge assessment on the adaptation iterative policy cycle, including MEL and elaborate reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baselines.</p>	<p>Assess gender knowledge and gender mainstreaming tools to support its mainstreaming into the adaptation iterative policy cycle.</p>
	<p><b>Activity 2.4.1.</b> Carry out studies and training processes tailored to the needs of prioritized cities to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions and local adaptation planning processes.</p>	<p>Integrate a gender perspective into studies and training processes by assessing gender-specific vulnerabilities, capacities, and roles in climate adaptation, to strengthen the capacity of local actors in developing gender-responsive LAPs.</p>
	<p><b>Activity 2.4.2.</b> Support the process of developing LAPs, including readiness activities.</p>	<p>Ensure the integration of gender considerations throughout the development of LAPs by conducting participatory gender analyses during readiness activities, and by supporting the inclusion of gender-responsive objectives, actions, and indicators in LAPs.</p>
	<p><b>Activity 2.5.1.</b> Support the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA.</p>	<p>Support the implementation of participatory governance schemes that fosters gender balance and ensures equal participation of relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups and communities.</p>
	<p><b>Activity 2.6.1.</b> Provide support associated with gender mainstreaming, development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines, and LAPs' social and environmental analysis.</p>	<p>Provide support for gender mainstreaming, the development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines, and LAPs' social and environmental analysis.</p>

Expected Outcomes	Activities defined in the programme	Does this activity integrate gender mainstreaming actions?
	<p><u>Activity 2.7.1. Organise virtual and in-person training for city government officials for LAPs formulation, participatory process, cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc.</u></p>	<p><u>Ensure the integration of gender considerations throughout the development of LAPs by conducting participatory gender analyses during readiness activities, and by supporting the inclusion of gender-responsive objectives, actions, and indicators in LAPs.</u></p>
	<p><u>Activity 2.7.2. Organise technical training workshops for city government officials on climate adaptation, urban planning, resilient housing policy, nature-based solutions, data management, policy labs and peer-to-peer exchanges with other municipalities to share best practices and challenges, including on MEL systems for tracking climate outcomes.</u></p>	<p><u>Ensure women’s representation among speakers, and invitations to programme activities are gender-responsive and promote broad and inclusive participation.</u></p>
	<p><u>Activity 2.7.3. Organise technical training workshops for community-based organizations, grassroot actors and vulnerable households, on project design, advocacy, and community mapping, seeking for active participation in co-design, monitoring, and delivery of local adaptation and resilience programs.</u></p>	<p><u>Ensure women’s representation among speakers, and invitations to programme activities are gender-responsive and promote broad and inclusive participation.</u></p>
	<p><u>Activity 2.8.1. Elaborate guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities with allies.</u></p>	<p><u>Develop and disseminate guidelines for LAP formulation that include guidance on gender integration.</u></p>
<p><b>Component 3:</b> <u>Knowledge Management and Exchange</u></p>	<p><u>Activity 3.1.1. Develop and publish a BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database.</u></p>	<p><u>Ensure the knowledge database incorporates gender-disaggregated data and gender-relevant information, when possible and appropriate.</u></p>
	<p><u>Activity 3.1.2. Organise virtual workshops to identify open knowledge database structure and content, and to validate its structure.</u></p>	<p><u>Ensure that invitations to programme activities are gender-responsive and promote broad and inclusive participation.</u></p>
	<p><u>Activity 3.2.1. Organise 4 in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the AF Programme to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and good practices.</u></p>	<p><u>Ensure women’s representation among participants and speakers in regional meetings and city-to-city cooperation cycles. , including peer-to-peer specific technical workshops learning sessions regarding i.e., similar climate threats</u></p>

Expected Outcomes	Activities defined in the programme	Does this activity integrate gender mainstreaming actions?
	<b>Activity 3.2.2.</b> Implement 4 cooperation cycles between cities of the network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level, applying ICLEI's structured methodology. <sup>50</sup>	and impacts; similar ecosystems; and/or similar urban scale. Before and after the specific technical workshops at least 2 online structured peer learning sessions will be performed including the same peer cities.
	<b>Activity 3.3.1.</b> Elaborate at least 3 publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others).	Inclusion of gender and diversity approaches, methodologies and tools in the publications elaborated under the programme. The publications will include references of how lessons from LLA projects can support national and international adaptation policies and frameworks. The publications will also be made available online and formally presented to the Biodivercities network cities, international and regional partners organizations, and to relevant national government institutions, including UNFCCC Focal Points and AF National Designated Authorities
	<b>Activity 3.3.2.</b> Conduct at least 3 webinars to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions.	Ensure that invitations to programme activities are gender-responsive and promote broad and inclusive participation. The Programme will invite all the Biodivercities Network cities, international and regional partners organizations, and will formally invite national governments, in particular UNFCCC Focal Points, AF National Designated Authorities of participating countries and national adaptation planning and/or report experts and technical staff
	<b>Activity 3.4.1.</b> Promote articulations with regional and local networks related to BiodiverCities.	Engage gender-focused regional and local networks when promoting coordination and collaboration efforts.
	<b>Activity 3.4.2.</b> Organise events in regional and international climate and biodiversity related meetings to disseminate the programme's	Ensure the meaningful participation and representation of women and gender-diverse stakeholders in both in-person and virtual events organized under the

<sup>50</sup> <https://americadosul.iclei.org/documentos/guia-para-a-elaboracao-e-implementacao-de-um-ciclo-de-cooperacao-com-foco-em-sistemas-de-areas-verdes-protegidas-e-conservadas/>

Expected Outcomes	Activities defined in the programme	Does this activity integrate gender mainstreaming actions?
	<a href="#">interventions (UNFCCC COPs, CBD, COPs).</a>	<a href="#">project, while promoting the integration of gender equality perspectives into event content, discussions, and outcomes.</a>
	<a href="#">Activity 3.5.1. Develop a MEL system for the BiodiverCities Network, considering the contributions of the LLA interventions and initiatives in Components 1 and 2.</a>	<a href="#">Integration of gender and diversity approaches into the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network.</a>
	<a href="#">Activity 3.6.1. Identify and analyze existing funding possibilities for BiodiverCities Network members and the opportunities presented by it to lower the capital cost of adaptation for local governments.</a>	<a href="#">Map financing sources that specifically support gender-transformative or women-focused climate adaptation initiatives.</a>
	<a href="#">Activity 3.6.2. Develop a finance framework proposal to facilitate access to climate finance for the members of the BiodiverCities Network (i.e. resilience bonds, concessional loans).</a>	<a href="#">Integrate gender-responsive budgeting principles into the climate finance framework proposal.</a>
	<a href="#">Activity 3.6.3. Organise virtual workshops to generate inputs for the definition of the road map for the “BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030”.</a>	<a href="#">Ensure the meaningful participation and representation of women and gender-diverse stakeholders in both in-person and virtual events organized under the project, while promoting the integration of gender equality perspectives into event content, discussions, and outcomes.</a>
	<a href="#">Activity 4.1.1. Develop and identify a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA.</a>	<a href="#">Inclusion of gender in the set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA.</a>

## Gender Action Plan.

### **Impact Statement:**

(Describe here the main goals of the project/programme-level GAP. The impact statement should briefly summarize the contribution the project/programme aims to make to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as part of the project/programme implementation. This should note the difference the project/programme will make over time. It also should state, as applicable, the long-term changes in gender power relations and gender norms to which the project/programme aims to contribute.)

*Example: Increased food security for differentiated gender groups and gender sub-groups in the project/programme area through better access to improved climate resilient agricultural inputs and extension services.*

- Biodiversity and urban resilience projects in LAC cities participating in the programme more effectively address the distinct needs of women, girls, and gender-diverse groups by strengthening climate risk assessments and building local capacity to carry out gender analyses and implement gender-responsive adaptation strategies.

### **Outcome Statement:**

(Write here the project/programme outcome statement; it should be specific and measurable (through qualitative or quantitative indicators and targets) and describe specific changes and improvements in attitudes, knowledge, awareness, capacity, skill or behavior that will result due to the actions of the projects/programme.)

*Example: An estimated X number/increased percentage (against a baseline) of female subsistence farmers have improved their agricultural productivity in a climate resilient way, taking into account traditional local and indigenous knowledge.*

- 100% of locally-led adaptation solutions planned and implemented under Component 1 of the BiodiverCities Programme are gender-responsive, incorporating gender analyses, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and gender-equitable adaptation actions.
- Technical capacities at the local level to mainstream gender in locally-led adaptation solutions have improved by at least 50% relative to the established baseline.

### **Output(s) Statement(s):**

(Write here the output statement; in many cases (often corresponding to multiple project/programme components) there will be more than one output for a project or programme. Each output statement should be followed by a separate row with details of associated activities under the GAP; gender and sexdisaggregated indicators and targets, timeline and responsibilities)

*Example: Indigenous female subsistence farmers in the project/programme*

**Output 1.1.1.** Webinars conducted addressing gender in adaptation proposals.

**Output 1.1.2.** Criteria developed to assess adaptation pilot project proposals, including gender considerations.

**Output 1.1.3 & 1.1.5.** Adaptation pilot project proposals supported with gender mainstreaming guidance.

**Output 1.1.4. & 3.5.1.** Gender-responsive indicators integrated into the BiodiverCities MEL system.

**Output 2.1.1 & 2.2.1.** Technical guidance and training sessions delivered to LLA project teams on implementation skills, including gender and diversity mainstreaming.

**Output 2.3.1: & 2.3.2.** Gender capacity-building needs identified and addressed through tailored resources or activities.

**Output 2.4.1, 2.4.2. & 2.7.1.** Local actors community-based organizations, grassroots networks and residents have strengthened the capacity to develop gender-responsive LAPs.

**Output 2.5.1.** Participatory governance schemes developed by local governments with integrated gender-responsive considerations.

**Output 2.5.1.** Tailored technical support provided for gender mainstreaming, vulnerability and climate risks assessments, and social and environmental analysis in LAPs.

**Output 2.6.1:** Gender mainstreaming is strengthened, and vulnerability, climate risk baselines, and social and environmental analyses are developed to support the preparation of gender-responsive Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs).

**Output 2.8.1.** LAP formulation guidelines developed and disseminated, incorporating gender integration components.

**Output 3.1.1:** Gender-disaggregated data and gender-relevant information integrated into the knowledge database.

**Output 3.1.2 & 3.2.2.** Gender-responsive invitations issued for programme activities promoting inclusive participation.

**Output 3.3.1.** Gender and diversity approaches, methodologies, and tools are systematically integrated into the publications produced under the programme.

**Output 3.3.2.** Women’s representation among participants in regional meetings and cooperation cycles.

**Output 3.4.1.** Partnerships or alliances with gender-focused regional and local networks.

**Output 3.4.2 & 3.6.3.** Women and gender-diverse stakeholders meaningfully participate in project events, and gender equality perspectives are integrated into the content, discussions, and outcomes of both in-person and virtual engagements.

**Output 4.1.1.** Gender-responsive indicators integrated into the MEL system of the BiodiverCities Network and Regional Programme, supporting the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA.

Activities	Indicators	Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Costs
<b>Activity 1.1.1.</b> Ensure that all webinars organized to support the preparation of adaptation pilot project proposals are gender-responsive, actively promote women's leadership, and provide a safe and inclusive space for their meaningful participation.	Number of webinars organized per year to address gender considerations in adaptation pilot projects proposals.	At least 3 webinars are carried out including gender considerations.  At least one of these webinars will specifically target women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized community representatives, with the aim of supporting their engagement in the preparation and submission of adaptation pilot project proposals.	Once per year	Contracting of a consultant to elaborate a training module to support the process of preparing proposals. (ICLEI)	7,000 (included in the programme budget)
<b>Activity 1.1.2.</b> Develop criteria for	Number of criteria	At least two criteria	At the	CAF	Included in the programme budget

proposal selection that incorporate gender considerations and meaningful stakeholder engagement.	developed to assess adaptation pilot projects proposals.	include gender considerations.	beginning of the programme		
<b>Activity 1.1.3. &amp; 1.1.5.</b> Ensure, through criteria applied for selecting proposals, that local governments put forward pilots that are grounded in inclusive and participatory process, and aligned with the gender policies and Environmental and Social Policies (ESP) of the AF and CAF.	<p><u>Inclusion</u> type of gender considerations incorporated in approved adaptation pilot project proposals and communicated through progress reports.</p> <p>Percentage of direct beneficiaries included in progress reports by the cities that are women.</p> <p>Percentage of direct beneficiaries included in progress reports by the cities who are youth.</p> <p>Percentage of adaptation pilots led by women.</p> <p>Percentages of resources allocated to projects led by women.</p>	<p><u>100% of progress reports of approved</u> All adaptation pilot project proposals <del>progress reports</del> include gender considerations, <u>particularly includes sex and age disaggregated data</u>.</p> <p><u>At least 50% of direct beneficiaries reported by participating cities are women.</u></p> <p><u>At least 30% of direct beneficiaries reported by participating cities are youth.</u></p> <p>At least 25% of implement pilot adaptation projects are led by women.</p> <p><u>At least 30% of direct beneficiaries reported by participating cities are youth.</u></p>	Throughout the programme	Contracting of 3 consultants for proposal evaluation (gender specialist, adaptation specialist and EbA specialist). (ICLEI)	7,672,000 (included in the programme budget)
<b>Activity 1.1.4. &amp; Activity 3.5.1.</b>	Percentage of indicators	The MEL system includes	According to	Contracting of	30,000

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Integration of gender and diversity approaches into the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network.	included in the MEL BiodiverCities system that collect and report data disaggregated by sex and age; analyze differentiated needs, roles, access and benefits between women, men and other gender groups; and track changes in participation, leadership and empowerment outcomes.	at least one gender-related indicator to collect sex-disaggregated data, at least one to analyze differentiated needs, roles, and access, and at least one to track changes in participation, leadership, and empowerment.	the schedule programme implementation	consultant team to develop MEL system (Firm 3)	(included in the programme budget)
<b>Activity 2.1.1.</b> Provision of guidance on gender mainstreaming to adaptation pilot projects proposals.	Number of adaptation pilot projects proposals that effectively included gender.	At least 50% of proposals effectively include gender considerations in their project proposals.	Throughout the programme	Contracting of 2 consultants for technical support for improving the implementation and/or the monitoring of LLA projects supported as part of Component 1 (EbA specialist, adaptation specialist). 3 months each per proposal call (ICLEI)	54,000 (included in the programme budget)

<p><b>Activities 2.2.1., 2.7.1., 2.7.2. and 2.7.3.</b>  <b>Activity 2.2.1.</b> Organise virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams including on mainstreaming gender and diversity approaches in line with the AF standards ; and for developing and enhancing urban adaptation related skills in city government officials, community-based organizations, grassroots networks and residents.-</p>	<p>Number of virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams that included gender mainstreaming and diversity approaches.</p> <p>Percentage of women, young people and indigenous peoples participated in the training programmes.</p> <p>Percentage of women and youth participants in government official training programs</p>	<p>At least 50% of training sessions include content on gender and diversity approaches.</p> <p><u>At least 50% of the training programmes implemented in participating cities ensure the active participation of women, young people, and indigenous peoples.</u></p> <p><u>At least 40% of the total participants in government officials' training programmes in participating cities are women and youth</u></p>	<p>Throughout the programme</p>	<p>PMU</p>	<p>90,000 (included in the programme budget)</p>
<p><b>Activity 2.3.1.</b> Assess gender capacity building needs through a survey.</p>	<p><u>Type of g</u>Gender capacity building responses implemented for each type of needs identified <u>through the</u>by survey.</p>	<p>At least one resource (e.g., guideline, checklist, video) and/or capacity-building activity is developed and implemented for each type of gender capacity building need identified by the survey.</p>	<p>-At the beginning of the programme. Report available one month after each</p>	<p>Contract a firm to develop the survey. (Firm 1)</p>	<p>30,000 (included in the programme budget)</p>

			survey and knowledge assessment closing.		
<b>Activity 2.3.2.</b> Assess gender knowledge and gender mainstreaming tools to support its mainstreaming into the adaptation iterative policy cycle.	<del>Resources implemented to address identification of key knowledge gaps and relevant gender mainstreaming tools across the different phases of the</del> in adaptation policy cycle.	At least one resource (e.g., guideline, checklist, video) <del>and/or capacity building activity</del> is developed and implemented to address each knowledge gap identified for gender mainstreaming in the adaptation policy cycle.	-At the beginning of the programme. Report available one month after each survey and knowledge assessment closing.	Contract a firm to develop capacity assessments. (Firm 1)	33,000 (included in the programme budget)
<b>Activity 2.4.1.</b> Integrate a gender perspective into studies and training processes by assessing gender-specific vulnerabilities, capacities, and roles in climate adaptation, to strengthen the capacity of local actors in developing gender-responsive LAPs.	Number of training processes that include gender and diversity approaches.  Number of gender-responsive studies conducted.	At least 1 training session includes gender and diversity approaches.  At least 1 gender-responsive study is conducted in support of LAP process design carried out by cities under the project.	One per year	Contract a firm to develop the studies or training. (Firm 1)	180,000 (included in the programme budget)
<b>Activity 2.4.2. &amp; Activity 2.7.1.</b> Ensure the integration of gender considerations throughout the development of LAPs by conducting participatory gender analyses during readiness activities, and by supporting the inclusion of gender-responsive objectives, actions, and indicators in	Gender-responsive LAPs developed, incorporating participatory analysis and actions that address the distinct needs and contributions of all genders.	At least 3 cities receive tailored technical support for gender integration in LAP development.	One per year	Contracting of consultant team to support BiodiverCities to develop LAP and conduct specific training in LAP related themes.	900,000 (included in the programme budget)

LAPs				(Firm 2)	
<p><b>Activity 2.5.1.</b> Support the implementation of participatory governance schemes that fosters gender balance and ensures equal participation of relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups and communities.</p>	<p><del>Participatory governance schemes developed with programme support that incorporate gender-responsive considerations. Level of integration of gender perspectives in participatory governance schemes developed by local governments supported through the programme.</del></p> <p>Percentage of women, young people, and representatives of indigenous peoples, as appropriate, participated in governance structures.</p>	<p>100% of participatory governance schemes presented by local governments incorporate gender-responsive considerations.</p> <p><u>At least 40% of participants in governance structures in participating cities are women, young people, and, as appropriate, representatives of indigenous peoples</u></p>	Throughout the programme	<p>Contracting of 2 consultants to support the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes and climate finance strategies associated with LLA. 6 months (Firm 1)</p>	23,000 (included in the programme budget)
<p><b>Activity 2.6.1.</b> Provide support for gender mainstreaming, the development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines, and LAPs' social and environmental analysis.</p>	<p><del>Type of support provided for gender mainstreaming, development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines, and LAPs' social and environmental analysis. LAPs supported that received gender mainstreaming support.</del></p>	<p><u>All 100% of</u> projects that asked for support to mainstream gender into their proposals receive at least 1 gender specific resource (guideline, checklist, video, etc.) or technical guidance provided by the IE and local implementers.</p>	Throughout the programme	<p>Contracting of the consultant team to support BiodiverCities to carry out gender mainstreaming, climate risks assessments, and environmental &amp; social analysis in LAPs. (Firm 2)</p>	130,000 (included in the programme budget)

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<b>Activity 2.8.1.</b> Develop and disseminate guidelines for LAP formulation that include guidance on gender integration.	Number of LAP formulation guidelines developed and disseminated that include gender integration components.	At least one guideline including gender integration is developed and disseminated during the programme.	Throughout the programme	Contracting of consultant team to develop open knowledge database. (Firm 3)	100,000 (included in the programme budget)
<b>Activity 3.1.1.</b> Ensure the knowledge database incorporates gender-disaggregated data and gender-relevant information, when possible and appropriate.	<del>Knowledge database includes gender-related information type and extent of gender integration in the knowledge database.</del>	<del>At least one section of the</del> <u>One (1)</u> knowledge database includes gender-related information, supported by a clear and appropriate methodology.	According to the schedule programme implementation	Contracting of consultant team to hold workshops for open knowledge database development. (Firm 3)	10,000 (included in the programme budget)
<b>Activity 3.1.2 &amp; Activity 3.3.2.</b> Ensure that invitations to programme activities are gender-responsive and promote broad and inclusive participation.	Number of invitations issued that promote gender-responsive and diverse participation.	100% of invitations to programme activities are gender-responsive and explicitly encourage participation from diverse gender groups.	Throughout the programme	PMU	Included in the programme budget
<b>Activity 3.2.1. &amp; Activity 3.2.2.</b> Ensure women's representation among participants and speakers in regional meetings and city-to-city cooperation cycles.	Percentage of women participating in regional meetings and cooperation cycles.  Percentage of women serving as speakers in regional meetings and cooperation cycles.	At least 50% of participants and speakers in regional meetings and cooperation cycles are women.  <u>At least 50% of speakers in regional meetings and cooperation cycles are women.</u>	Throughout the programme	PMU	680,000 (included in the programme budget)
<b>Activity 3.3.1.</b> Inclusion of gender and diversity approaches, methodologies and tools in the publications elaborated under the programme.	Number of publications elaborated that included gender and diversity approaches,	80% of the publications elaborated under the programme include meaningful content on	According to the schedule programme implementation	Contracting of consultant team to develop publications and to	105,000 (included in the programme budget)

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	methodologies and tools.	gender and diversity approaches, methodologies and tools.	ion	held webinars (Firm 3)	
<b>Activity 3.4.1.</b> Engage gender-focused regional and local networks when promoting coordination and collaboration efforts.	Number of partnerships or alliances established with regional and local networks focused on gender-related topics.	At least 3 formal alliances or collaborations are established with gender-focused regional and/or local networks during the programme period.	One per year	PMU	Included in the programme budget
<b>Activity 3.4.2 &amp; 3.6.3.</b> Ensure the meaningful participation and representation of women and gender-diverse stakeholders in both in-person and virtual events organized under the project, while promoting the integration of gender equality perspectives into event content, discussions, and outcomes.	Percentage of project-organized events that ensure the meaningful participation of women.  Percentage of event content and outcomes that include gender-diverse stakeholders and explicitly integrate gender equality perspectives.	At least 80% of in-person and virtual events organized under the project include gender-balanced participation (minimum 40% women/gender-diverse participants)  At least 50% of the in-person and virtual events organized under the project incorporate gender equality themes in agendas, presentations, or discussion outcomes.	According to the schedule programme implementation	PMU	Included in the programme budget
<b>Activity 3.6.1.</b> Map financing sources that specifically support gender-transformative or women-focused climate adaptation initiatives.	Number of gender-transformative or women-focused climate adaptation financing sources identified and documented.	At least 5 financing sources mapped and categorized.	According to the schedule programme implementation	Contracting of a consultant to identify and analyse funding possibilities for BiodiverCities Network members (Firm 3)	5,000 (included in the programme budget)

<p><b>Activity 3.6.2.</b> Integrate gender-responsive budgeting principles into the climate finance framework proposal.</p>	<p>Inclusion of gender-responsive budgeting principles and tools in the final climate finance framework document.</p>	<p>Gender-responsive budgeting principles fully integrated and reflected in 100% of relevant budget lines and guidance sections of the climate finance framework.</p>	<p>According to the schedule programme implementation</p>	<p>Contracting of a consultant to develop a finance framework proposal (Firm 3)</p>	<p>10,000 (included in the programme budget)</p>
<p><b>Activity 4.1.1.</b> Inclusion of gender in the set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA.</p>	<p>Number of gender responsive indicators included in the MEL BiodiverCities system that could be potentially aligned with the UAE Framework targets.</p>	<p>At least 3 gender-responsive indicators are developed and integrated into the MEL BiodiverCities system, aligned with the UAE Framework on the GGA.</p>	<p>According to the schedule programme implementation</p>	<p>Contracting of consultant team to develop set of indicators to contribute to the UAE framework on the GGA (Firm 3)</p>	<p>25,000 (included in the programme budget)</p>

### **Gender-responsive adaptation approach integrated into grant selection and programme delivery**

The adaptation pilot proposals supported under component 1 of the ABC Regional programme will be screened by the Programme Management Unit (PMU) to corroborate if they meet all admission requirements. Within the minimum admission requirements, **regardless of the type of grant, compliance with the AF' Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy should be demonstrated.**

Moreover, as part of the criteria for selecting the proposals, there are two relevant criteria for gender mainstreaming applied to all grants: **C2. Promotes clear and substantive stakeholder involvement and ownership** and **C6. Proves the effectiveness of solutions and strives for including innovative adaptation approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA)**. The first one should ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective and the meaningful participation of vulnerable and underrepresented groups at each stage of the project (diagnosis, planification, initial design, final design, implementation and monitoring). **The second one encourages** proposals to mainstream innovative approaches in their projects, such as gender-based adaptation solutions. There are two specific criteria applied to the third type of grant (G3): C11. Provides results of gender assessments and C12. Provides details on how the needs of relevant vulnerable groups have been considered.

Additionally, the Regional Program will actively promote gender equality and women's empowerment by ensuring that women have equal opportunities than men to participate in consultative processes. Gender-sensitive engagement tools will be systematically applied during all phases of consultation, including women-focused webinar sessions -as mentioned in the GAP- and a minimum quota to women's participation. In this regard, at least 25% of the projects approved under each type of grant will be allocated to projects led by women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized communities. This seeks to empower these groups to coordinate the implementation of the adaptation pilot projects.

To ensure compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy throughout the implementation of the local adaptation pilot projects, yet to be selected under the regional programme, the GAP outlines several key mechanisms. These include: the submission of progress reports by the selected cities, incorporating gender considerations; the provision of guidance for mainstreaming gender in pilot project proposals; the support for the development of participatory governance schemes presented by local governments that incorporated gender-responsive considerations; technical support for developing gender-responsive climate risk baselines; and the delivery of virtual and in-person training sessions aimed at strengthening implementation skills in LLA project teams, with a focus on gender and diversity approaches aligned with AF standards.

## Annex 5. Adaptation Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy compliance

### Introduction

The Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund allow the implementing entities to identify and manage the environmental and social risks of their activities, by assessing potential environmental and social harms and identifying and implementing steps to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those harms<sup>51</sup>. To do this, the AF requires the programme to be assessed against the 15 principles listed in Table 14.

The peculiarity of this programme is that some of its activities will be defined during its implementation, making it difficult to identify in advance the social and environmental risks associated with these activities. These activities are defined as Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs) by the AF and are linked to the grant facility of Component 1 which selects various projects proposed by local governments for funding. Therefore, at the time of submission of this programme, the projects to be financed are unknown, as they will be selected during the implementation of the programme on the basis of a pre-established competitive process. However, it is necessary to define in advance how to ensure that these USPs comply with the ESP.

This annex provides a risk identification and categorization, impact assessment and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). This was done in accordance with the AF guidelines indicated in the publications “Guidance document for Implementing Entities on compliance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy”<sup>52</sup> and “Projects/programmes with Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs): compliance with the ESP and GP”<sup>53</sup>. The ESMP will describe how the identified risks will be addressed and how to conduct the risk identification, impact assessment and subsequent measures regarding USPs included in Component 1.

Finally, this annex provides a description of the monitoring and evaluation arrangements for ESP compliance.

*Tabla 14. Adaptation Fund ESP principles*

Principle	Description
Compliance with the Law	Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall be in compliance with all applicable domestic and international law.
Access and Equity	Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall provide fair and equitable access to benefits in a manner that is inclusive and does not impede access to basic health services, clean water and sanitation, energy, education, housing, safe and decent working conditions, and land rights. Projects/programmes should not exacerbate existing inequities, particularly with respect to marginalized or vulnerable groups.
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups	Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall avoid imposing any disproportionate adverse impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups including children, women and girls, the elderly, indigenous people, tribal groups, displaced people, refugees, people living with disabilities, and people living with HIV/AIDS. In screening

<sup>51</sup> Adaptation Fund (2016). Environmental and Social Policy. Available in: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Amended-March-2016-OPG-ANNEX-3-Environmental-social-policy-March-2016.pdf>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ESP-Guidance-Revised-in-June-2016-Guidance-document-for-Implementing-Entities-on-compliance-with-the-Adaptation-Fund-Environmental-and-Social-Policy.pdf>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/AFB.B.32-33.7-Compliance-with-ESP-Update-of-PPR-and-Guidance-for-USPs-revised.pdf>

Principle	Description
	<u>any proposed project/programme, the implementing entities shall assess and consider particular impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups.</u>
Human Rights	<u>Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall respect and where applicable promote international human rights.</u>
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	<u>Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall be designed and implemented in such a way that both women and men (a) have equal opportunities to participate as per the Fund gender policy; (b) receive comparable social and economic benefits; (c) receive comparable social and economic benefits; and (c) do not suffer disproportionate adverse effects during the development process.</u>
Core Labour Rights	<u>Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall meet the core labour standards as identified by the International Labor Organization.</u>
Indigenous Peoples	<u>The Fund shall not support projects/programmes that are inconsistent with the rights and responsibilities set forth in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other applicable international instruments relating to indigenous peoples.</u>
Involuntary Resettlement	<u>Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids or minimizes the need for involuntary resettlement. When limited involuntary resettlement is unavoidable, due process should be observed so that displaced persons shall be informed of their rights, consulted on their options, and offered technically, economically, and socially feasible resettlement alternatives or fair and adequate compensation.</u>
Protection of Natural Habitats	<u>The Fund shall not support projects/programmes that would involve unjustified conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected; (b) officially proposed for protection; (c) recognized by authoritative sources for their high conservation value, including as critical habitat; or (d) recognized as protected by traditional or indigenous local communities.</u>
Conservation of Biological Diversity	<u>Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids any significant or unjustified reduction or loss of biological diversity or the introduction of known invasive species.</u>
Climate Change	<u>Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall not result in any significant or unjustified increase in greenhouse gas emissions or other drivers of climate change.</u>
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	<u>Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall be designed and implemented in a way that meets applicable international standards for maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing material resource use, the production of wastes, and the release of pollutants.</u>
Public Health	<u>Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids potentially significant negative impacts on public health.</u>
Physical and Cultural Heritage	<u>Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids the alteration, damage, or removal of any physical cultural resources, cultural sites, and sites with unique natural values recognized as such at the community, national or international level. Projects/programmes should also not permanently interfere with existing access and use of such physical and cultural resources.</u>
Lands and Soil Conservation	<u>Projects/programmes supported by the Fund shall be designed and implemented in a way that promotes soil conservation and avoids degradation or conversion of productive lands or land that provides valuable ecosystem services.</u>

#### ESP screening and categorization

The ABC Programme is categorized as C, because it has no adverse environmental or social impacts.

Tabla 15. Risk identification and categorization

Environmental and social principles	Risk Identification	Categorization of the risks (A, B, C)
<a href="#">Compliance with the Law</a>	No further assessment required for compliance. The programme will be implemented in alignment with the Adaptation Fund and CAF rules and regulations. <a href="#">Alignment with national and subnational laws and regulations of pilot adaptation projects will be ensured through the criteria for grant selection and process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94).</a>	C
<a href="#">Access and Equity</a>	There is a risk that either women, minorities or representatives of other vulnerable groups have no access to pilot adaptation projects benefits because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).	C
<a href="#">Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups</a>	There is a risk that representatives of marginalized and most vulnerable groups have no access to pilot adaptation projects benefits because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).	C
<a href="#">Human Rights</a>	No further assessment required for compliance. The goal of the programme focuses on urban adaptation for socio-economic development and people's quality of life improvement. CAF's environmental and social safeguards seek to guarantee the physical, environmental, social and gender equality sustainability of the operations financed by the institution. <a href="#">Approved proposals of pilot adaptation projects compliance with AF ESP and CAF's environmental and social safeguards will be assessed prior to grant approval.</a>	C
<a href="#">Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment</a>	There is a risk that either women have unequal opportunities to participate in pilot adaptation projects because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1). The program is aimed primarily at local governments where teams may not be gender diverse (Components 2 and 3).	C
<a href="#">Core Labour Rights</a>	No further assessment required for compliance. The programme will be executed by CAF's standards, which apply all core labour standards as identified by the <a href="#">International Labour Organization (ILO)</a> .	C
<a href="#">Indigenous Peoples</a>	There is a risk that indigenous peoples have unequal opportunities to participate in pilot adaptation projects because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).	C
<a href="#">Involuntary Resettlement</a>	No further assessment required for compliance. The programme will not fund any projects looking at resettlement solutions (see minimum admission requirements in <a href="#">Section II.C, par. 91</a> ).	C
<a href="#">Protection of Natural Habitats</a>	No further assessment required for compliance. No risk is foreseen involving unjustified conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected; (b) officially proposed for protection; (c) recognized by authoritative sources for their high conservation value, including as critical habitat; or (d) recognized as protected by traditional or indigenous local communities as the programme aims to enhance biodiversity-friendly urban adaptation and will be aligned with the AF and CAF's safeguards. Protection of natural habitats will be screened through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see <a href="#">Section II.C, par. 92 to 94</a> ). Environmental impact assessments of pilot adaptation projects will be conducted if needed to ensure that such risk is avoided.	C
<a href="#">Conservation of Biological Diversity</a>	No further assessment required for compliance. No risk is foreseen involving significant or unjustified reduction or loss of biological diversity or the introduction of known invasive species as the programme aims to enhance biodiversity-friendly urban adaptation and will be aligned with the AF and CAF's safeguards. Conservation of Biological Diversity will be screened through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see <a href="#">Section II.C, par. 92 to 94</a> ).	C

Environmental and social principles	Risk identification	Categorization of the risks (A, B, C)
	<u>Environmental impact assessments of pilot adaptation projects will be conducted if needed to ensure that such risk is avoided.</u>	
Climate Change	<u>Pilot adaptation projects under Component 1 could be affected by climate change related hazards, which could affect their timely implementation.</u>	C
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	<u>No further assessment required for compliance. The programme will be implemented in alignment with the Adaptation Fund and CAF rules and regulations. Pollution prevention and resource efficiency will be screened through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94). Environmental impact assessments of pilot adaptation projects will be conducted if needed to ensure that such risk is avoided.</u>	C
Public Health	<u>No further assessment required for compliance. No risk to public health is foreseen due to the nature of the pilot adaptation projects. Nevertheless, public health will be screened through the criteria for grant selection, and <del>process, in which</del> approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94). Environmental impact assessments of pilot adaptation projects will be conducted if needed to ensure that such risk is avoided.</u>	C
Physical and Cultural Heritage	<u>No further assessment required for compliance. There is no finding that the project could cause any alteration, damage, or removal of physical or cultural resources, cultural sites, and sites with unique natural values recognized as such at the community, national or international level. Projects will not interfere with existing access and use of such physical and cultural resources in a permanent way. The programme will not fund any projects to be implemented in areas with unique natural values recognized at the community, national or international level, heritage recognized by 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (see minimum admission requirements in Section II.C, par. 91). Nevertheless, physical and cultural heritage will be screened through the grant selection process, and <del>in which</del> approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94).</u>	C
Lands and Soil Conservation	<u>No further assessment required for compliance. The programme will be implemented in alignment with the Adaptation Fund and CAF rules and regulations. Lands and soil conservation will be screened through the grant selection process, in which approved proposals will undergo the PMU safeguards assessment (see Section II.C, par. 92 to 94). Environmental impact assessments of pilot adaptation projects will be conducted if needed to ensure that such risk is avoided.</u>	C

## Environmental and social impact assessment

Tabla 16. Impact assessment of identified risks

AF ESP principles	Potential Risks identified	Impact assessment of the risks identified	Impact of Risk (1-5)	Probability of Risk (1-5)	Significance of Risk (1-5) <sup>54</sup>
Access and Equity	<u>There is a risk that either women, minorities or representatives of other vulnerable groups have no access to pilot adaptation projects benefits because of</u>	<u>The impact of this risk will be significant, as women, minorities, and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by climate change. If these groups are not actively involved in the implementation of projects or do not equitably benefit from them,</u>	4	1	2

<sup>54</sup> 1-2: Low; 3: Medium; 4-5: High.

AF ESP principles	Potential Risks identified	Impact assessment of the risks identified	Impact of Risk (1- 5)	Probability of Risk (1- 5)	Significance of Risk (1- 5) <sup>54</sup>
	<u>inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).</u>	<u>community resilience will either fail to improve or will do so unevenly. Innovative and inclusive approaches to locally-led adaptation will not be effectively applied, and the Regional Programme will fall short of achieving its core objective.</u>			
<u>Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups</u>	<u>There is a risk that representatives of marginalized and most vulnerable groups have no access to pilot adaptation projects benefits because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).</u>	<u>The impact of this risk will be significant, as women, minorities, and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by climate change. If these groups are not actively involved in the implementation of projects or do not equitably benefit from them, community resilience will either fail to improve or will do so unevenly. Innovative and inclusive approaches to locally-led adaptation will not be effectively applied, and the Regional Programme will fall short of achieving its core objective.</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</u>	<u>There is a risk that either women have unequal opportunities to participate in pilot adaptation projects because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1). The program is aimed primarily at local governments where teams may not be gender diverse (Components 2 and 3).</u>	<u>The impact of this risk will be significant, as women, minorities, and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by climate change. If these groups are not actively involved in the implementation of projects or do not equitably benefit from them, community resilience will either fail to improve or will do so unevenly. Innovative and inclusive approaches to locally-led adaptation will not be effectively applied, and the Regional Programme will fall short of achieving its core objective.</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Indigenous peoples</u>	<u>There is a risk that indigenous peoples have unequal opportunities to participate in pilot adaptation projects because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).</u>	<u>The impact of this risk will be significant, as indigenous peoples are disproportionately affected by climate change. If these groups are not actively involved in the implementation of projects or do not equitably benefit from them, community resilience will either fail to improve or will do so unevenly. Also, the programme will not benefit from traditional and ancestral knowledge. Innovative and inclusive approaches to locally-led adaptation will not be effectively applied, and the Regional Programme will fall short of achieving its core objective.</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Climate Change</u>	<u>Pilot adaptation projects under Component 1 could be affected by climate change related hazards.</u>	<u>As the programme will be implemented in countries that are witnessing severe climate change impacts, the pilot adaptation projects' implementation could be affected by climate</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

<u>AF ESP principles</u>	<u>Potential Risks identified</u>	<u>Impact assessment of the risks identified</u>	<u>Impact of Risk (1-5)</u>	<u>Probability of Risk (1-5)</u>	<u>Significance of Risk (1-5)<sup>54</sup></u>
	<u>which could affect their timely implementation.</u>	<u>conditions. This implies deadline delays and possible material damage.</u>			

### Environmental and Social Management Plan

CAF employs a comprehensive framework that ensures transparency and accountability throughout all project stages. This framework includes the identification and mitigation of environmental and social risks, the adoption of environmental and social safeguard policies, and rigorous monitoring of compliance with gender policies. Additionally, CAF promotes stakeholder engagement and ensures that environmental and social management practices align with international standards.

Furthermore, information about the project and the safeguards that must be met will be disclosed to the public and relevant stakeholders for their information and engagement, and local authorities will be trained on the Adaptation Fund's environmental and social safeguards as part of activities included in component 2. This will guarantee local actors fulfilment of safeguard policies of the Fund and CAF, as well.

As stated in the Annex introduction, the Adapting BiodiverCities Regional Programme aims to support sub-projects that will implement LLA solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are yet to be selected or defined. Due to this and in line with the AF' ESP, the environmental and social risk identification, impact assessment and subsequent measures regarding USPs included in Component 1 will be carried out during the implementation of the program as part of the LLA solutions selection process.

Once proposals are pre-selected by the Independent Panel of Experts (IPE) based on the criteria outlined in Annex 1, the PMU will ensure their compliance with the ESP by following AF ESP Guidelines and these steps:

- Identification of environmental and social risks according to the 15 ESP principles following an evidence-based, comprehensive and commensurate process.
- Assessment of anticipated impacts for those risks that have been identified.
- Identification of adequate measures to avoid, minimise or manage such impacts. This step could involve making necessary adjustments to the proposed LLA solution to ensure full alignment with safeguard requirements.
- Formulation of a tailored plan to apply and implement these measures.
- Update the ESMP with the previous outcomes.

Lastly, as stated in Section II.N the Executive Committee of the regional program will establish a grievance and complaints mechanism to address petitions, grievances, or claims that may arise at any stage of the Program cycle in an appropriate and effective manner.

**Table 17. Environmental and Social Management Plan**  
Table 17. Environmental and Social Management Plan

<u>AF ESP principles</u>	<u>Risks identified</u>	<u>Negative impacts expected</u>	<u>Mitigation measures</u>	<u>Measures implementation responsibilities and roles</u>	<u>Funding of measures</u>	<u>Data to monitor and report</u>
<u>Access and Equity</u>	<u>There is a risk that either women, minorities or representatives of other vulnerable groups have no access to pilot adaptation projects benefits because of in-existent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).</u>	<u>The impact of this risk will be significant, as women, minorities, and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by climate change. If these groups are not actively involved in the implementation of projects or do not equitably benefit from them, community resilience will either fail to improve or will do so unevenly. Innovative and inclusive approaches to locally-led adaptation will not be effectively applied, and the Regional Programme will fall short of achieving its core objective.</u>	<u>Criteria developed to assess adaptation pilot project proposals should ensure the inclusion of gender perspective and meaningful participation of vulnerable and underrepresented groups. In particular, for larger grants (G3) the consideration of relevant vulnerable groups' needs will be assessed through the multi-criteria analysis tool as well as the provision of gender assessments. For these grants, the extent to which the proposal details the implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures will also be assessed. Approved sub-project proposals by the IPE will undergo an EPS compliance assessment in accordance with the AF EPS guidelines and CAF safeguards. Proposals for adaptation pilot projects will also be supported to ensure the participation of women, minorities or representatives of other vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, in the design of the proposals. For improving proper participation during sub-project implementation and monitoring, technical guidance and training sessions will be delivered to LLA project teams. Participatory governance schemes developed by local governments with integrated gender-responsive considerations, will be supported. LAP formulation guidelines will be developed and disseminated, incorporating vulnerable groups engagement and needs considerations. Methods and tools for involving vulnerable groups and taking their needs into account will</u>	<u>IPE is responsible for pilot adaptation project proposals assessments. PMU is responsible for pilot adaptation project EPS compliance and general monitoring. CAF is responsible for Components 2 and 3 activities related to the mitigation measures.</u>	<u>Funds allocated to Component 1 for IPE contracting. Funds allocated to Component 2 and 3 activities related to the mitigation measures.</u>	<u>Sub-project proposals, Annual PPR, M&amp;E Semi-annual reports, Local governments reports.</u>

AF ESP principles	Risks identified	Negative impacts expected	Mitigation measures	Measures implementation responsibilities and roles	Funding of measures	Data to monitor and report
			<p>be systematically integrated into the programme's publications. For gender related mitigation measures, see Annex 4.</p> <p>To address potential barriers related to limited digital connectivity during calls for proposals, the PMU will coordinate with participating local governments to establish digital access spaces (e.g., community centers or municipal facilities).</p>			
<p>Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups</p>	<p>There is a risk that representatives of marginalized and most vulnerable groups have no access to pilot adaptation projects benefits because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).</p>	<p>The impact of this risk will be significant, as women, minorities, and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by climate change. If these groups are not actively involved in the implementation of projects or do not equitably benefit from them, community resilience will either fail to improve or will do so unevenly. Innovative and inclusive approaches to locally-led adaptation will not be effectively applied, and the Regional Programme will fall short of achieving its core objective.</p>	<p>Criteria developed to assess adaptation pilot project proposals should ensure the inclusion of gender perspective and meaningful participation of vulnerable and underrepresented groups. In particular, for larger grants (G3) the consideration of relevant vulnerable groups' needs will be assessed through the multi-criteria analysis tool as well as the provision of gender assessments. For these grants, the extent to which the proposal details the implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures will also be assessed.</p> <p>Approved sub-project proposals by the IPE will undergo an EPS compliance assessment in accordance with the AF EPS guidelines and CAF safeguards.</p> <p>Proposals for adaptation pilot projects will also be supported to ensure the participation of women, minorities or representatives of other vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, in the design of the proposals.</p> <p>For improving proper participation during sub-project implementation and monitoring, technical guidance and training sessions will be delivered to LLA project teams.</p> <p>Participatory governance schemes developed by</p>	<p>IPE is responsible for pilot adaptation project proposals assessments.</p> <p>PMU is responsible for pilot adaptation project EPS compliance and general monitoring.</p> <p>CAF is responsible for Components 2 and 3 activities related to the mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Funds allocated to Component 1 for IPE contracting.</p> <p>Funds allocated to Component 2 and 3 activities related to the mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Sub-project proposals. Annual PPR. M&amp;E Semi-annual reports. Local governments reports.</p>

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<a href="#">AF ESP principles</a>	<a href="#">Risks identified</a>	<a href="#">Negative impacts expected</a>	<a href="#">Mitigation measures</a>	<a href="#">Measures implementation responsibilities and roles</a>	<a href="#">Funding of measures</a>	<a href="#">Data to monitor and report</a>
			<p><a href="#">local governments with integrated gender-responsive considerations, will be supported.</a></p> <p><a href="#">LAP formulation guidelines will be developed and disseminated, incorporating vulnerable groups engagement and needs considerations.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Methods and tools for involving vulnerable groups and taking their needs into account will be systematically integrated into the programme's publications.</a></p> <p><a href="#">For gender related mitigation measures, see Annex 4.</a></p>			
<a href="#">Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</a>	<p><a href="#">There is a risk that either women have unequal opportunities to participate in pilot adaptation projects because of inexistent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).</a></p> <p><a href="#">The program is aimed primarily at local governments where teams may not be gender diverse (Components 2 and 3).</a></p>	<p><a href="#">The impact of this risk will be significant, as women, minorities, and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by climate change. If these groups are not actively involved in the implementation of projects or do not equitably benefit from them, community resilience will either fail to improve or will do so unevenly.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Innovative and inclusive approaches to locally-led adaptation will not be effectively applied, and the Regional Programme will fall</a></p>	<p><a href="#">See Annex 4. Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan.</a></p>	<p><a href="#">See Annex 4. Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan.</a></p>	<p><a href="#">See Annex 4. Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan.</a></p>	<p><a href="#">See Annex 4. Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan.</a></p>

<a href="#">AF ESP principles</a>	<a href="#">Risks identified</a>	<a href="#">Negative impacts expected</a>	<a href="#">Mitigation measures</a>	<a href="#">Measures implementation responsibilities and roles</a>	<a href="#">Funding of measures</a>	<a href="#">Data to monitor and report</a>
		<a href="#">short of achieving its core objective.</a>				
<a href="#">Indigenous Peoples</a>	<a href="#">There is a risk that indigenous peoples have unequal opportunities to participate in pilot adaptation projects because of in-existent mechanisms to ensure equal participation in project design, implementation and monitoring (Component 1).</a>	<a href="#">The impact of this risk will be significant, as indigenous peoples are disproportionately affected by climate change. If these groups are not actively involved in the implementation of projects or do not equitably benefit from them, community resilience will either fail to improve or will do so unevenly. Also, the programme will not benefit from traditional and ancestral knowledge. Innovative and inclusive approaches to locally-led adaptation will not be effectively applied, and the Regional Programme will fall short of achieving its core objective.</a>	<a href="#">Criteria developed to assess adaptation pilot project proposals should ensure the inclusion of gender perspective and meaningful participation of vulnerable and underrepresented groups, including indigenous peoples. In particular, for larger grants (G3) the consideration of relevant vulnerable groups' needs will be assessed through the multi-criteria analysis tool as well as the provision of gender assessments. For these grants, the extent to which the proposal details the implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures will also be assessed. Approved sub-project proposals by the IPE will undergo an EPS compliance assessment in accordance with the AF EPS guidelines and CAF safeguards. Proposals for adaptation pilot projects will also be supported to ensure the participation of women, minorities or representatives of other vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, in the design of the proposals. For improving proper participation during sub-project implementation and monitoring, technical guidance and training sessions will be delivered to LLA project teams. Participatory governance schemes developed by local governments with integrated gender-responsive considerations, will be supported. LAP formulation guidelines will be developed and disseminated, incorporating indigenous peoples engagement and needs considerations. Methods and tools for involving indigenous peoples and taking their needs into account will</a>	<a href="#">IPE is responsible for pilot adaptation project proposals assessments. PMU is responsible for pilot adaptation project EPS compliance and general monitoring. CAF is responsible for Components 2 and 3 activities related to the mitigation measures.</a>		<a href="#">Sub-project proposals. Annual PPR. M&amp;E Semi-annual reports. Local governments reports.</a>

<a href="#">AF ESP principles</a>	<a href="#">Risks identified</a>	<a href="#">Negative impacts expected</a>	<a href="#">Mitigation measures</a>	<a href="#">Measures implementation responsibilities and roles</a>	<a href="#">Funding of measures</a>	<a href="#">Data to monitor and report</a>
			<a href="#">be systematically integrated into the programme's publications, in accordance with Convention n.°169 of the ILO.</a>			
<a href="#">Climate Change</a>	<a href="#">Pilot adaptation projects under Component 1 could be affected by climate change related hazards, which could affect their timely implementation.</a>	<a href="#">As the programme will be implemented in countries that are witnessing severe climate change impacts, the pilot adaptation projects' implementation could be affected by climate conditions. This implies deadline delays and possible material damage.</a>	<a href="#">In case climate change related hazards would impact any of the pilot adaptation projects, the Excomm and the local governments involved will define together realistic mitigation measures. Monitoring of the sub-projects will be ensured through the M&amp;E plan of the programme (see Section III.D). Also, lessons learned and recommendations will be taken forward to improve further pilot adaptation projects implementation. Also, for larger grants (G3), the extent to which the proposal details the implementation risks and their possible mitigation measures will also be assessed.</a>	<a href="#">ExComm is responsible for response plan design and supervision throughout implementation. ICLEI and local governments involved will be responsible for mitigation measures implementation.</a>	<a href="#">Funds allocated to Component 1 will be used to implement the mitigation measures.</a>	<a href="#">Annual PPR, M&amp;E Semi-annual reports, Local governments reports.</a>

### ESMP monitoring and evaluation arrangements

Periodic monitoring of compliance with the required environmental and social management plan will be conducted and documented in annual progress reports. The program team will encourage stakeholders to report any potential compliance issues and grievances. It should also be highlighted that CAF has a grievance redress mechanism.

The ABC programme requires all BiodiverCities to submit reports to ICLEI as the implementer of component 1. For G1, a single report will be completed at the end of the grant. For G2 and G3, a midterm report and a final report must be completed. The reports must demonstrate compliance with all programme criteria according to each category, compliance with the primary objective for which the grant was requested, and with the AF Environmental, Social and Gender Policies. Templates will be developed by ICLEI for validation by the PMU.

As stated in Section III, BiodiverCities with sub-projects that will implement LLA solutions will submit reports to ICLEI as the implementer of Component 1. The report templates will be developed by ICLEI and validated by the PMU. These reports should at least include the following information, as stated in the USPs compliance guidance:

- A brief description of the fully formulated USP, with details on (i) the characteristics of the USP and (ii) the specific environmental and social setting in which the USP will be implemented. This information needs to be provided to an extent sufficient to appreciate the effectiveness of the risk identification that was carried out.
- The outcome of the ESP risks identification process following the structure of Table 15, identifying risks according to each of the 15 ESP principles, justifying the risk findings, and showing that this is the outcome of an evidence-based and comprehensive effort.
- For each of the identified risks, a description of the subsequent impact assessment that was undertaken and the findings thereof, showing that the assessment was commensurate with the risks identified.
- The findings of the impact assessments, and the safeguard measures that have been formulated to avoid, mitigate or manage undesirable impacts.
- The updated detailed safeguard arrangements in the implementation component of the ESMP, identifying and allocating roles and responsibilities to implementation partners for the application of the ESMP. This should include an assessment or a confirmation of the required capacity and skills with the relevant implementation partners.
- Information on the consultations that were held on the risks identification and impact assessments outcome as well as on any proposed management measures, and how any feedback was responded to.
- Gender-disaggregation of the information used in the risks identification and subsequent safeguards actions.
- Information on disseminating information to stakeholders on the grievance mechanism.

Finally, annual PPR reports will include the updated ESMP, including UPSs EPS compliance assessments and plans.



Outputs	Activities	Months																																				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
<b>Component 1: Provision of Small Grants for Implementing LLA Actions</b>																																						
Output 1.1. Pilot adaptation projects carried out and Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of LLA solutions aligned with Adaptation Fund policies.	Activity 1.1.1. Conduct webinars to support the process of preparing proposals.																																					
	Activity 1.1.2. Design and publication of calls for proposals on months 6, 12 and 18 of the Regional Program.																																					
	Registration																																					
	Check of admission requirements by the PMU																																					
	Evaluation of proposals by IPE																																					
	PMU safeguards assessments of proposals approved without additional comments																																					
	Intensive mentoring programme (for proposals approved with comments)																																					
	IPE 2nd assessment																																					
	PMU safeguards assessment of proposals approved with comments																																					
	Order or intent by IPE																																					
Activity 1.1.3. Selection, provision and execution of grants as adaptation pilot interventions by the EXCOM																																						
Activity 1.1.4. Contribution to the implementation of a MEL system by CAF as a key activity of component 3 to ensure adequate implementation of LLA actions and identification of learnings to improve implementation process.																																						
Activity 1.1.5. Follow up on the call for BiodiverCities Network members for the incubation, acceleration and mentoring of projects.																																						
<b>Component 2: Technical support and capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs.</b>																																						
Output 2.1.1. LLA project proposals addressing local adaptation needs and priorities, developed and enhanced.	Activity 2.1.1. Provision of technical support for improving the implementation and/or the monitoring of LLA projects supported as part of Component 1.																																					
Output 2.2. Virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing formulation, implementation and monitoring skills in LLA projects conducted, including gender and diversity approaches.	Activity 2.2.1. Organise virtual and in-person trainings for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams including on Biodiversity Compliance, mainstreaming gender and diversity approaches in line with the AF standards.																																					
	Activity 2.2.2. Provision of technical support to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for grant implementation.																																					
Output 2.3. Assessments of local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted and reports on capacity building and knowledge needs.	Activity 2.3.1. Conduct a survey targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity-building needs, with the aim of refining capacity-building efforts and enhancing collaboration with allies and partners for technical support.																																					
	Activity 2.3.2. Conduct needs and knowledge assessments on the adaptation iterative policy cycle, including MEL and elaborate reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baselines.																																					
Output 2.4. Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs supported and the improvement of the adaptation policy cycle.	Activity 2.4.1. Carry out studies and training processes tailored to the needs of prioritized cities to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions and local adaptation planning processes.																																					
	Activity 2.4.2. Support the process of developing LAPs, including readiness activities.																																					
Output 2.5. Participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA, designed and implemented, considering relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups and communities.	Activity 2.5.1. Support the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA.																																					

Outputs	Activities	Months																																							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36				
<b>Component 1: Provision of Small Grants for Implementing LLA Actions</b>																																									
Output 1.1. Pilot adaptation projects carried out and Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of LLA solutions aligned with Adaptation Fund policies.	Activity 1.1.1. Conduct webinars to support the process of preparing proposals.																																								
	Activity 1.1.2. Design and publication of calls for proposals on months 6, 12 and 18 of the Regional Program.																																								
	Registration																																								
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	PMU safeguards assessments of proposals approved without additional comments																																								
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	PMU safeguards assessment of proposals approved with comments																																								
	Order of Merit by IPE																																								
<b>Component 2: Technical support and capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs.</b>																																									
Output 2.1. LLA project proposals addressing local adaptation needs and priorities, developed and enhanced.	Activity 2.1.1. Provision of technical support for improving the implementation and/or the monitoring of LLA projects supported as part of Component 1.																																								
Output 2.2. Virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing for formulation, implementation and monitoring skills in LLA projects conducted, including gender and diversity approaches.	Activity 2.2.1. Organise virtual and in-person trainings for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams including on Biodiversity Compliance, mainstreaming gender and diversity approaches in line with the AP standards.																																								
	Activity 2.2.2. Provision of technical support to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for grant implementation.																																								
Output 2.3. Assessments of local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted and reports on capacity building and knowledge needs	Activity 2.3.1. Conduct a survey targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity-building needs, with the aim of refining capacity-building efforts and enhancing collaboration with allies and partners for technical support.																																								
	Activity 2.3.2. Conduct needs and knowledge assessments on the adaptation iterative policy cycle, including MEL and elaborate reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baselines.																																								
Output 2.4. Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs supported and the improvement of the adaptation policy cycle.	Activity 2.4.1. Carry out studies and training processes tailored to the needs of prioritized cities to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions and local adaptation planning processes.																																								
	Activity 2.4.2. Support the process of developing LAPs, including readiness activities.																																								
Output 2.5. Participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA, designed and implemented, considering relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups and communities.	Activity 2.5.1. Support the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA.																																								

Table 18. Regional Programme timeline.

Outputs	Activities	Months																																				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
<b>Component 1: Provision of Small Grants for Implementing LLA Actions</b>																																						
<b>Output 1.1.</b> Pilot adaptation projects carried out and Local Adaptation Plans developed, improved or updated in BiodiverCities through grants of 50,000 to 500,000 USD, including periodic calls in months 6, 12 and 18 of the programme. The pilots involve the implementation of LLA solutions aligned with Adaptation Fund policies.	<b>Activity 1.1.1.</b> Conduct webinars to support the process of preparing proposals.																																					
	<b>Activity 1.1.2.</b> Design and publication of calls for proposals on months 6, 12 and 18 of the Regional Program.																																					
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	Check of admission requirements by the PMU																																					
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	<b>Activity 1.1.3.</b> Selection, provision and execution of grants as adaptation pilot interventions by the EXCOM																																					
	<b>Activity 1.1.4.</b> Contribution to the implementation of a MEL system by CAF as a key activity of component 3 to ensure adequate implementation of LLA actions and identification of learnings to improve implementation process.																																					
	<b>Activity 1.1.5.</b> Follow up on the call for BiodiverCities Network members for the incubation, acceleration and mentoring of projects.																																					

Outputs	Activities	Months																																				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
<b>Component 2: Technical support and capacity development for implementing national or regional LLA programs.</b>																																						
<b>Output 2.1.</b> LLA project proposals addressing local adaptation needs and priorities, developed and enhanced.	<b>Activity 2.1.1.</b> Provision of technical support for improving the implementation and/or the monitoring of LLA projects supported as part of Component 1.																																					
<b>Output 2.2.</b> Virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing formulation, implementation and monitoring skills in LLA projects, conducted, including gender and diversity approaches.	<b>Activity 2.2.1.</b> Organise virtual and in-person trainings for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams including on Biodiversity Compliance, mainstreaming gender and diversity approaches in line with the AF standards.																																					
	<b>Activity 2.2.2.</b> Provision of technical support to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for grant implementation.																																					
<b>Output 2.3.</b> Assessments of local institutional capacities to develop, implement and monitor LLAs, conducted and reports on capacity building and knowledge needs.	<b>Activity 2.3.1.</b> Conduct a survey targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity-building needs, with the aim of refining capacity-building efforts and enhancing collaboration with allies and partners for technical support.																																					
	<b>Activity 2.3.2.</b> Conduct needs and knowledge assessments on the adaptation iterative policy cycle, including MEL and elaborate reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baselines.																																					
<b>Output 2.4.</b> Processes to develop, improve or update LAPs supported and the improvement of the adaptation policy cycle.	<b>Activity 2.4.1.</b> Carry out studies and training processes tailored to the needs of prioritized cities to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions and local adaptation planning processes.																																					
	<b>Activity 2.4.2.</b> Support the process of developing LAPs, including readiness activities.																																					





Outputs	Activities	Months																																							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36				
	<p>LLA projects can support national and international adaptation policies and frameworks. The publications will also be made available online and formally presented to the Biodivercities network cities, international and regional partners organizations, and to relevant national government institutions, including UNFCCC Focal Points and AF National Designated Authorities.</p> <p><b>Activity 3.3.2.</b> Conduct at least 3 webinars (each one in English, Spanish and Portuguese) to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions. The Programme will invite all the Biodivercities Network cities, international and regional partners organizations, and will formally invite national governments, in particular UNFCCC Focal Points, AF National Designated Authorities of participating countries and national adaptation planning and/or report experts and technical staff.</p>																																								
<b>Output 3.4.</b> BiodiverCities Network and Programme visibility and international relevance improved.	<p><b>Activity 3.4.1.</b> Promote articulations with regional and local networks related to BiodiverCities.</p> <p><b>Activity 3.4.2.</b> Organise events in regional and international climate and biodiversity related meetings to disseminate the programme's interventions (UNFCCC COPs, CBD, COPs).</p>																																								
<b>Output 3.5.</b> Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system within the BiodiverCities Network developed.	<b>Activity 3.5.1.</b> Develop a MEL system for the BiodiverCities Network, considering the contributions of the LLA interventions and initiatives in Components 1 and 2.																																								
<b>Output 3.6.</b> Next steps for the establishment of BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030, defined.	<b>Activity 3.6.1.</b> Identify and analyze existing funding possibilities for BiodiverCities Network members and the opportunities presented by it to lower the capital cost of adaptation for local governments.																																								



## ANNEX 7: Table of AF core impact indicators

Adaptation Fund Core Impact Indicator "Number of Beneficiaries"					
	Quantitative value				Qualitative description
	Baseline ( <i>absolute number</i> )	Target at project approval ( <i>absolute number</i> )	Adjusted target first year of implementation ( <i>absolute number</i> )	Actual at completion[1] ( <i>absolute number</i> )	
Direct beneficiaries supported by the project	0	600,000			Direct beneficiaries were estimated based on the three grant typologies (G1, G2, G3). Each typology corresponds to an average number of people directly reached by pilot adaptation interventions (e.g., drainage systems, parks, risk management systems). Beneficiaries were converted from households to people using a coefficient of 4.1 inhabitants per dwelling, resulting in an aggregated target of 600,000 direct beneficiaries. It is assumed that 40% are women and 10% are youth (ages 15–24), in line with regional demographic distributions and the project's inclusion objectives.  Indirect beneficiaries were calculated by applying typology-specific multipliers to direct beneficiaries (G1=0.5×; G2=1.0×; G3=1.5×), reflecting medium-intensity spillover benefits such as neighboring users of ecosystem services, downstream populations protected from floods, and citizens covered by early warning systems. This produces an estimated 1,000,000 indirect beneficiaries, with the same gender and youth proportions (40% women, 10% youth). These estimates will be validated and refined during the project baseline using local government data, spatial analysis of intervention polygons, and beneficiary surveys.  Additional beneficiaries from trainings, webinars, regional meetings, and governance workshops are reported at the activity level but are not added to the total of the core indicator. These complementary beneficiaries mainly include government officials, network members, and community organizations that contribute to institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination, thereby enhancing the quality and sustainability of project outcomes.
<i>Female direct beneficiaries</i>	0	50%			
<i>Youth direct beneficiaries</i>	0	30%			
Indirect beneficiaries supported by the project	0	1,000,000			
<i>Female indirect beneficiaries</i>	0	50%			
<i>Youth indirect beneficiaries</i>	0	30%			

[1] At project completion, the proponent could report on % targeted population reached or successfully supported (the absolute numbers could then be deduced from that figure)

Adaptation Fund Core Impact Indicator "Assets Produced, Developed, Improved, or Strengthened "					
	Baseline	Target at project approval	Adjusted target first year of implementation	Actual at completion	Description
Sector: Urban development					Since this Programme will finance 50 Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs) through a competitive grant mechanism, the type, location and unit of measurement of the physical assets cannot be determined at the approval stage. These will be progressively identified during each call for proposals and consolidated at the end of the first year of implementation (Y1) and in each subsequent call. All assets will be reported under the Adaptation Fund core indicator as physical assets produced, measured quantitatively in verifiable physical units (number of installations, hectares, square meters, kilometers or cubic meters), depending on the nature of each approved intervention whenever possible, and qualitative using a 1–5 scale when the nature of the sub-project does not allow the definition of absolute units.
Targeted Asset: : Physical assets	0	50			
Changes in Asset: <i>Quantitative</i> <i>It is measured in physical units according to the nature of each intervention.</i> <i>units will be defined per intervention (ha, m<sup>2</sup>, km, m<sup>3</sup>, #).</i> In addition, when absolute units cannot be determined ex-ante, changes will also be reported qualitatively using a 1–5 scale to capture the extent of improvement (1 = Not improved, 5 = Fully improved)	-	-			

**Beneficiaries estimations**

Activities	indicator	target	People reached	Targeted (yes/No)	Intensity	Assumptions	Direct beneficiaries	Indirect beneficiaries
Activity 1.1.1. Conduct webinars to support the process of preparing proposals.				No				
Activity 1.1.2. Design and publication of calls for proposals on months 6, 12 and 18 of the Regional Program.				No				
Activity 1.1.3. Selection, provision and execution of grants as adaptation pilot interventions.	Number of grants adjudicated to implement pilot adaptation projects.	50	650,000	YES	Hight/Medium	Although the cities receiving the grants have not yet been selected, it is estimated that, based on the grant typologies (G1, G2, and G3) and considering a scale from neighborhood to whole-city interventions, 650,000 people could directly benefit. The conversion to housing units uses a coefficient of 4.1 inhabitants per dwelling (2 adults + TFR = 2.1*): G1: 2,500 people (≈ 610 housing units); G2: 10,000 people (≈ 2,439 housing units); G3: 40,000 people (≈ 9,756 housing units). The interventions will benefit at least 1,000,000 people indirectly, based on typology-specific multipliers (G1=0.5x; G2=1.0x; G3=1.5x). This is an ambitious target, grounded in the multifunctional nature of the measures, whose impact extends beyond the immediate area by generating environmental, social, and risk-management co-benefits at neighborhood, district, and metropolitan scales. The Project Baseline will refine these figures using information from local governments and the delimitation of the intervention polygons for each UPS	650,000	1,000,000
Activity 1.1.4. Contribution to the implementation of a MEL system by CAF as a key activity of component 3 to ensure adequate implementation of LLA actions and identification of learnings to improve implementation process.				NO				
Activity 1.1.5. Follow up on the call for BiodiverCities Network members for the incubation, acceleration and mentoring of projects.				NO				
Activity 2.1.1. Provision of technical support for improving the implementation and/or the monitoring of LLA projects supported as part of Component 1.				NO				
Activity 2.2.1. Organise virtual and in-person trainings for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams, including on Biodiversity Compliance and aligned with the AF standards.	Number of virtual and in-person training for developing and enhancing implementation skills in LLA projects teams that included gender mainstreaming and diversity approaches.	50	50	YES	Hight		50	-
Activity 2.2.2. Provision of technical support to establish or strengthen institutional arrangements for grant implementation.				NO				
Activity 2.3.1. Conduct a survey targeting BiodiverCities Network members to identify their information and capacity-building needs, with the aim of refining capacity-building efforts and enhancing collaboration with allies and partners for technical support.				NO				
Activity 2.3.2. Conduct needs and knowledge assessments on the adaptation iterative policy cycle, including MEL and elaborate reports on capacity building needs and knowledge baselines.				NO				
Activity 2.4.1. Carry out studies and training processes tailored to the needs of prioritized cities to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of LLA actions and local adaptation planning processes.	Number of cities supported for developing and implementing LAPs.	20	10,020	YES	Medium		-	10,020
Activity 2.4.2. Support the process of developing LAPs, including readiness activities.				NO				
Activity 2.5.1. Support the design and implementation of participatory governance schemes, climate finance strategies, instruments and tools associated with LLA.				NO				
Activity 2.6.1. Provide support associated with gender mainstreaming, development of vulnerability and climate risk baselines, and LAPs' social and environmental analysis.				NO				
Activity 2.7.1. Organise virtual and in-person training for city government officials for LAPs formulation, the local teams, and community-based organizations participatory process, cross-cutting approaches (EbA, CbA, GbA, etc.), MEL systems and tools, LAP financing strategies, etc.	Number of city officials trained in LAP associated themes.	300	300	YES	Hight	300 government staff	300	-

<b>Activity 2.7.2.</b> Organise technical training workshops for city government officials on climate adaptation, urban planning, resilient housing policy, nature-based solutions, data management, policy labs and peer-to-peer exchanges with other municipalities to share best practices and challenges, including on MEL systems for tracking climate outcomes.	Percentage of women and youth participants in government official training programs.	120	120	YES	Hight	At least 40% of the total participants are women and youth.	-	
<b>Activity 2.7.3.</b> Organise technical training workshops for community-based organizations, grassroot actors and vulnerable households, on project design, advocacy, and community mapping, seeking for active participation in co-design, monitoring, and delivery of local adaptation and resilience programs	Number of community-based organizations trained in climate adaptation workshops.	50	1	YES	Hight	50 organizations (At least 1 person by igranization)	50	
<b>Activity 2.8.1.</b> Elaborate guidelines for LAP formulation and a compilation of best practices applicable to cities with allies.				NO				-
<b>Activity 3.1.1.</b> Develop and publish a BiodiverCities Network and Programme open knowledge database.				NO				-
<b>Activity 3.1.2.</b> Organise virtual workshops to identify open knowledge database structure and content, and to validate its structure.				NO				-
<b>Activity 3.2.1.</b> Organise 4 in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the AF Programme to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and good practices.	Number of cooperation cycles between cities conducted.	4	400	YES	Hight	400 members of the BioDiverCities network	400	-
	Number of city officials participating in regional meetings.	80	80	YES	Hight	80 government staff	80	-
<b>Activity 3.2.2.</b> Implement 4 cooperation cycles between cities of the network to strengthen capacities on climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at local level, applying ICLEI's structured methodology.	Number of in-person regional meetings with BiodiverCities Network and Programme members involved in the Regional Programme to share lessons learned and good practices, held	4	400	YES	Hight	Work with the 400 members of the BioDiver Cities network and an additional 20% will be organizations and community members	80	-
<b>Activity 3.3.1.</b> Elaborate at least 3 publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions (considering themes such as climate governance, EbA, CbA, GbA, MEL, among others).				NO				-
<b>Activity 3.3.2.</b> Conduct at least 3 webinars to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the AF Programme actions.	Number of webinars to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the Regional Programme actions, held.	3	300	YES	Hight	Convene community members benefited by interventions and differently trained members of the citizen network. (3 webinars with an estimated 100 people each)	300	-
	Number of city officials participating in regional meetings and webinars to disseminate the publications with best practices and key findings related to the Regional Programme actions.	300	300	YES	Hight	300 government staff	300	-
<b>Activity 3.4.1.</b> Promote articulations with regional and local networks related to BiodiverCities.				NO				
<b>Activity 3.4.2.</b> Organise events in regional and international climate and biodiversity related meetings to disseminate the programme's interventions (UNFCCC COPs, CBD, COPs).				NO				
<b>Activity 3.5.1.</b> Develop a MEL system for the BiodiverCities Network, considering the contributions of the LLA interventions and initiatives in Components 1 and 2.				NO				
<b>Activity 3.6.1.</b> Identify and analyze existing funding possibilities for BiodiverCities Network members and the opportunities presented by it to lower the capital cost of adaptation for local governments.				NO				
<b>Activity 3.6.2.</b> Develop a finance framework proposal to facilitate access to climate finance for the members of the BiodiverCities Network (i.e. resilience bonds, concessional loans).				NO				
<b>Activity 3.6.3.</b> Organise virtual workshops to generate inputs for the definition of the road map for the "BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030".	Number of workshops held to define a roadmap for the BiodiverCities Network Governance 2027-2030.	1	100	YES	Hight/Medium	80% members of the biodiversity network and 20% of invited communities outside the network, (organizations, universities)	80	20
<b>Activity 4.1.1.</b> Develop and identify a set of indicators within the BiodiverCities Network and the Regional Programme to contribute to the operationalization of the UAE Framework on the GGA.				NO				